

Steve's Report

A look at Mormon weddings

Getting married is a big deal; ideally, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Weddings are rich with traditions: the invitations, the flowers, the wedding gown - with "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue;" the color scheme for the bridesmaids dresses; the ceremony itself, with the wedding march, the vows, the exchanging of the rings, and "you may now kiss the bride;" the reception with the cutting of the cake, the toasts, the first dance, the removing of the garter, the throwing of the bouquet, ending with the couple departing for their honeymoon in a big limousine. As beautiful as these traditions are, it's easy to get so wrapped up in the planning and execution of the event that it can overshadow the reason for the ceremony in the first place.

In last week's column, I wrote about my daughter Sarah's engagement. Naturally, many of our friends were excited, anticipating many of the standard wedding traditions. Many of you know already know that we are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or Mormons, but may not be familiar with some of our religious practices, including weddings.

The Church's official pronouncement states, "...marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children." Weddings, therefore, are considered the most sacred of all religious ordinances. For this reason, Latter-Day Saint (LDS) weddings are conducted in temples, special buildings dedicated exclusively as places where such sacred ordinances may be performed. Because temples are considered sacred, they are not open to the public. In order to enter the temple, members of the Church must be interviewed by their bishop or one of his counselors to confirm their worthiness and to receive a "temple recommend." They must also be eligible to attend the temple - one requirement, for example, is that they must have been members of the Church for at least one year. In other words, only eligible, worthy members of the Church in possession of a temple recommend may enter the temple, even to witness the wedding ceremony. Temple weddings are more properly referred to as "sealings," in which couples do not wed "till death do you part," but rather, are sealed together



Steve's Report By Steve Seal

emony provides words of counsel as directed by the Spirit of the Lord. He then instructs the couple to take each other by the right hand across the altar and asks if they are willing to accept each other as their lawfully wedded spouse, and to enter into a covenant before God to remain faithful to this covenant and to obey God's law. The sealer then states his authority and seals the couple as husband and wife for time and all eternity. Although LDS couples may be disappointed that some family members - such as younger siblings - and many of their close friends are not allowed to attend the temple ceremony, they believe the sacred, eternal nature of the temple sealing will help them establish an eternal bond that will form the foundation for a happier, stronger family - and for this reason is well worth the sacrifice. After the ceremony, LDS couples usually hold receptions that any invited guest may attend. These receptions often include many of the standard wedding reception traditions familiar to all of us - with the notable exception of alcoholic beverages, from which Mormons are instructed to abstain. I hope this brief introduction has helped familiarize everyone with Sarah's forthcoming wedding and to appreciate the simple beauty of the LDS temple ceremony. And that's my two cents, Steve Seal

"For time and all eternity." The ceremony is generally small; the sealing room's capacity is usually less than 50. The central feature of the sealing room is the altar. Everyone participating in the ceremony, not just the bride, is dressed completely in white. The bride and groom kneel on opposite sides of the altar with the individual performing the ceremony standing at its head. Symbolically representing the eternal nature of the ceremony, the opposite walls behind both the bride and the groom are covered with mirrors, so as they view their reflection they see their image repeating endlessly, extending into eternity. The individual performing the ceremony provides words of counsel as directed by the Spirit of the Lord. He then instructs the couple to take each other by the right hand across the altar and asks if they are willing to accept each other as their lawfully wedded spouse, and to enter into a covenant before God to remain faithful to this covenant and to obey God's law. The sealer then states his authority and seals the couple as husband and wife for time and all eternity. Although LDS couples may be disappointed that some family members - such as younger siblings - and many of their close friends are not allowed to attend the temple ceremony, they believe the sacred, eternal nature of the temple sealing will help them establish an eternal bond that will form the foundation for a happier, stronger family - and for this reason is well worth the sacrifice. After the ceremony, LDS couples usually hold receptions that any invited guest may attend. These receptions often include many of the standard wedding reception traditions familiar to all of us - with the notable exception of alcoholic beverages, from which Mormons are instructed to abstain. I hope this brief introduction has helped familiarize everyone with Sarah's forthcoming wedding and to appreciate the simple beauty of the LDS temple ceremony. And that's my two cents, Steve Seal



Photo courtesy of LDS Church. The altar in the sealing room of an LDS Temple. Here families are sealed together, not just "till death do you part," but for time and all eternity.

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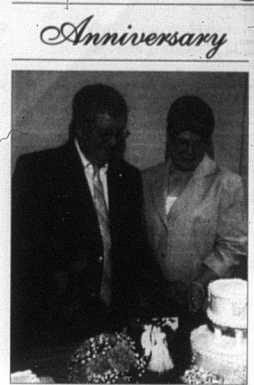
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NIGHTLY STEAK SPECIALS

GENERAL NEWS



Mr. & Mrs. Mattox

Buddy Junior and Nancy Lyons Mattox of Paris, formerly of Nicholas County, observed their golden-wedding anniversary with a reception given by their children at Paris Church of Christ on Sunday, July 12, 2009. The couple was married on July 2, 1959 in Jeffersville, IN.



Ewing Fleming County Fair Winner Hannah Lynn Clark was the winner of the Ewing County Fair baby show, 10-18 months, on Friday, July 10, 2009. She is the daughter of Nick and Tabitha Clark of Carlisle.

Hannah is the granddaughter of Harvey and Wilma Clark of Carlisle, Paul Toomey and the late Kim Toomey of Georgetown, Ky. Her brother Hayden Lee is also very proud of his little sister.

Fair pageants cancelled

By Charles Mattox News Reporter

If you're wondering who will be among the pageant contestants and winners in the various categories and age groups during the 2009 Nicholas County Fair, you might as well forget about it because there won't be any pageants during this year's fair.

Although profits total... Among the fair events still scheduled for this year are:

- A Mud Run August 4, with the floral Hall being open and a sheep show taking place.
- Admission will be free August 5, with a goat and swine show.
- An admission fee will be charged Aug. 7 for the beef show and demolition derby.
- Admission is \$10 for the truck and tractor pull on Aug. 8.

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2009 Nicholas County Fair Events

Saturday, August 1 Admission \$8.00

8 pm Mud Run

Tuesday, August 4 Admission Free

8 am - 12 pm Accept Floral Hall Entries

1 pm Floral Hall Closed for judging

6 pm Floral Hall open for viewing

4-H/FFA Sheep Show

Wednesday, August 5 Admission Free

6 pm Floral Hall Open for viewing

8:00 pm 4-H/FFA Goat Show

7 pm 4-H/FFA Swine Show

Friday, August 7 Admission \$8.00

6 pm Floral Hall Open for Viewing

6 pm 4-H/FFA Open Beer Show

8 pm Demo Derby

Saturday, August 8 Admission Free

10 am Pick up Floral Hall Items

10 am 4-H/FFA & Open Poultry Show

Saturday, August 8 Admission \$10

7 pm Truck and Tractor Pull

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