

New Fashioned Weddings Are in the Sea or Sky

Some Go Up in the Air, Some Stand on Ocean Floor While They Take Their Vows—
Other New Styles in Ushering In Matrimony Are Adopted by Modern Couples—
Even Little Flower Girls Are Added to Airplane Ceremonies

A double wedding "in" the sea— Mayor Bader of Atlantic City performed the double ceremony in the surf. The principals, as they came to land, were the former Marie E. O'Keefe and her husband, Frank J. Fisher, and the former Emma Cassady and her husband, Howard T. Detwiler. Below is a wedding group just down from the air. Left to right— Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Schlafke, the Rev. Belvin W. Maynard, the "Flying Parson," and Bert Acosta, the pilot. The little girl is Mary Louise Bobb, the aerial flower girl.



Arthur Quincy, the California author, landing with his bride, who was Miss Demini Redfern of Kansas City, from a seaplane in which they were married twenty miles out over the ocean by Capt. Anderson, the pilot, who exercised his authority as a "master mariner in command at sea." Below is the Statue of Liberty as maid of honor at the night wedding of Chester Wadsworth Williams, an overseas veteran, and Frances Charlotte Dunham. Chaplain E. Banks Smith of Governors Island performed the ceremony, reading the service by the light from Liberty's torch.



and inmates of the jail furnished a number of witnesses to this most unusual service. Just a week previously Wheeling, W. Va., had a marriage in its Criminal Court room. The groom was William J. Elliot, who was being held on a robbery charge, but his fiancée believed so strongly in his innocence that she consented to the performance of the ceremony while he was still a prisoner. Both the prosecuting and the defense attorneys were witnesses as the prisoner and his bride stood in the position that he would occupy at the trial, while the minister stepped up into the judge's bench and conducted the service.

On May 22, 1920, the rose room of the Plaza Hotel furnished New York with an unusual wedding, at which the bride used the sword of the groom to cut the wedding cake. The principals were Miss Helen Wilcox and Major John F. Corby. After the Rev. William B. Martin had pronounced them man and wife the bridal pair marched under an arch of swords, held by the best man and a number of ushers. Just a year later in Middletown, N. Y., another bride cut the wedding cake with a sword that had been carried by the groom's father and later by the groom during their service in the navy. The bride, Miss Caroline Seward, wore the dress in which her grandmother was wedded and the ceremony was performed in the same room where the bride's mother took her marriage vows.

Even an automobile accident could not frustrate the wedding plans of Miss Henrietta Greenberg and Jack S. Diamond. About 7 o'clock on the night of February 12 the happy party was on its way to meet Rabbi Sallig at Temple Adath Israel, when the big inclosed car skidded and dashed into an elevated pillar. The seven occupants were cut by glass, but an ambulance surgeon soon reached them and after taking six stitches in the bride's cheek, bandaging the groom's hand and patching up the minor injuries of the others he calmly announced that the wedding could take place in a few days. But both the bride and groom insisted that the ceremony be performed as planned, so the rabbi was telephoned to wait a few minutes, another car was secured and the wedding soon went through without a hitch while comparatively few New Yorkers were aware of this marriage that just wouldn't be postponed.

WHEN Miss Marie O'Keefe and Frank Fisher of Brooklyn and Miss Emma Cassady and Howard Detwiler of Philadelphia recently were married in the ocean, off Atlantic City, the ceremony was the only one of its kind ever performed. The entire wedding party was clad in specially designed safety suits that enabled them to bob about like sea gulls as the heavy swells came rolling in. Misses Margaret O'Keefe and Mary Eagle were the bridesmaids, while Mayor Edward L. Bader of Atlantic City swam out into the ocean to give the brides away. City Recorder Clarence L. Goldenberg performed the unique ceremony as thousands of persons lined the pier, the beach and the Boardwalk, with their marine glasses trained on the unusual happening, while movie cameras clicked off their pictorial version of the affair from boats anchored near by. The principals were more calm than the waves that continually dashed shoreward, and those on the Boardwalk knew that the ceremony had concluded when the flower girl swam around and scattered roses on the water.

Just three days before this sea wedding Miss Sarah Cockefair and Albert P. Schlafke were the principals in the latest airplane ceremony. They were married by the "Flying Parson," the Rev. Belvin W. Maynard, while 5,000 feet above Hazelhurst Field, Mineola, L. I. Radio telephones and amplifiers enabled those on the field below to hear every word of the service. After the ceremony was over Pastor Maynard donned his leather coat and helmet, pointed the nose of his five passenger Fokker northward and soon landed the newlyweds at their camp in the Adirondacks, where the honeymoon was spent.

But the first airplane wedding ever sol-

emized will be remembered as that which united Miss Milly K. Schaeffer and Lieut. George S. Burgess on July 26, 1919, as they flew above Sheephead Bay Speedway while the Police Department field days were being celebrated. More than 200,000 persons witnessed this ceremony, that also featured the first use of the amplifier to broadcast the words sent out to the vast throng. However, the amplifier was then so crude—think of it, less than three years ago—that only those nearest to it could hear anything. The bride and bridegroom circled around in one plane, while the minister, the Rev. Alexander Wouters, and the best man, Lieut. Eugene H. Barkadale, were in another. The contracting words were easily heard by Gov. Smith and Mayor Hylan, also thirty-two members of the bridal party, who had wireless telephone receivers. Dr. Wouters conducted the entire service by radio as the two airplanes circled the field.

Atlantic City was the scene of the first seaplane wedding. On October 30, 1920, Mrs. Louisa P. Wolf became the wife of Samuel L. Bader in the cabin of a seaplane which was gliding down toward the water from a height of 3,000 feet. The pilot had stopped the motor so that its noise would not interfere with the ceremony in the cabin and had volplaned to within 1,000 feet when the big flying boat's siren signalled that the service was over. City Recorder Clarence L. Goldenberg, who officiated at the recent safety suit ocean wedding, also performed this first seaplane ceremony, while Mayor Edward L. Bader was the first person to congratulate the bride and bridegroom after the plane had taxied to the beach. Miss Louise Brickley and George Orr, a chief petty officer in the United States Navy, won distinction by their wedding aboard a motor boat in Ambrose Channel. Determined not to be outdone by the air-

plane ceremony of Miss Schaeffer and Lieut. Burgess on the previous day, they boarded the motor boat Tschuma and sailed down to the middle of Ambrose Channel, where they were met by Chaplain Charles L. Marks of the United States Navy in a navy gig. After climbing into the tossing motor boat Chaplain Marks performed the marriage ceremony for Miss Brickley and Mr. Orr, as the entire wedding party clung to every available projection to avoid being thrown down by the rolling craft. Lieut. Warren Brown and Mrs. C. L. Bruno were best man and matron of honor.

Passing on from sea and sky weddings it is found that old mother earth has had more than her share of odd marriage ceremonies. The only transcontinental marriage ever performed was that of Mrs. Marie J. West, in Denver, and James A. Horne, a Denver inventor, on a business trip in New York. The Rev. O. E. Anderson, at the Denver end of a long distance telephone, conducted the service, and when the time came for the presentation of the ring a friend, who had acted as the best man, became the bridegroom's proxy and slipped the gold band on the bride's finger.

Bedloes Island had its first wedding ceremony when Miss Frances Dunham and Chester C. Williams were married at the base of the Statue of Liberty on the night of December 16, 1920. The arc lamps that flood the base of the monument furnished illumination for the service, which took place on the terrace just outside America's huge emblem of liberty. The contracting parties also had the unusual experience of having procured the first marriage license ever issued to a resident of the reservation, the bride

having made her home with her sister, the wife of Lieut. H. Paddock, stationed at Fort Wood. Mrs. Paddock acted as bridesmaid. The Rev. Edmund B. Smith, chaplain at Governors Island, officiated in this unique ceremony, which took away the single liberty of both participants as the Statue of Liberty towered above them.

Miss Evelina Simon and James Verplanck had visited the Arizona reservation, the ritual of the Navajo Indians being used. This peculiar marriage custom requires that the bride and bridegroom eat cornmeal mush, which signifies that they shall be together whenever they eat throughout their lives. The mush eating preceded the Unitarian marriage ceremony, used to tie the legal knot. Several months before the wedding Mr. Verplanck had visited the Arizona reservation of the Navajo Indians and became interested in the quaint marriage they observe. From this came the idea for the cornmeal eating at his own nuptials, to which his prospective bride willingly agreed.

What is claimed to be the first wedding to take place in an oil service station had Portland, Ore., as its location. Miss Verna Tompkins and Edwin Nelsen stood among the oil cans and heard the Rev. T. H. Gallagher read the marital traffic laws that would govern them during the rest of their lives. The whole thing came about because M. B. Wilson, uncle of the bride, could not leave his position as tender of the station and insisted that he must see the ceremony. Mrs. Wilson attended the bride, while Clyde Tompkins, brother of the bride, was the bridegroom's mechanic. After the service was over the Rev. Gallagher warned the

newlyweds to always heed the rules of the road in their tour along life's highway, and the young couple happily announced that they would park in an apartment until they could find a cottage built for two out in the suburbs.

New York often has marriages among persons of different nationalities, but the bride and groom understand each other enough to avoid the use of an interpreter. Yet, when an Italian liner docked at the foot of West Fifty-seventh street October 28, 1920, Miss Anita Madalena Sabalo, in lieu of words, was waving a tiny handkerchief and throwing kisses to William B. Gilben, who had come to meet her. Mr. Gilben, a rancher, of Miles City, Mont., had met Miss Sabalo in Milan four years previously and had sent for her to come to America and marry him. Neither could understand the other, but they ordered a taxi and went to the Municipal Building, where they were married by City Clerk Michael Cruise. An interpreter from the Marriage Bureau came to the rescue and repeated each word of the ceremony in both English and Italian, after which the sixty-nine-year-old groom and his twenty-six-year-old bride left the room hand in hand, bound for Grand Central Station to catch the first train for Miles City.

Not long ago Hugo, Okla., had the first wedding that ever took place in the city jail. Maggie Bailey, arrested on a vagrancy charge and confined in the jail because she could not pay a fine, was married to M. F. York, who then paid the amount necessary to release his bride. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Stroud, while two policemen