

December 2, 1959

**Fathers, Take Heed
To Wedding Expenses**

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn.--(BP)--How much does the old man have to cough up to pay for daughter's wedding?

Two professors at a Baptist college in this eastern Tennessee city sent their students surveying to find out. Their findings: That a middle-class wedding, in the Southeast anyway, costs anywhere from \$1000 to \$2000.

Students of Professors Herbert J. Miles and Ray F. Koonce undertook the survey as part of their class assignment at Carson-Newman College. They assembled costs on 70 formal weddings. Only formal weddings were included in their survey.

Factors considered in deciding it was a formal wedding were: (1) formal invitations, (2) formal dress, (3) formal decorations, (4) formal ceremony, and (5) formal reception.

Optional items covered use of a wedding consultant, a rehearsal dinner, a luncheon for bridesmaids, and services of a photographer.

"Since Carson-Newman students come, very largely, from middle-class homes, we may assume that their friends were of this class; and, therefore, the weddings measured were largely middle-class weddings," the professors announced.

The couples lived in the Southeast.

The average total cost ranged from \$1300 to \$1400. The preacher who tied the knot got an average fee of \$17.65, while the organist and soloist averaged a fee of just under \$10 each.

The cost of the wedding dress in the 70 ceremonies averaged \$138 plus the veil, an additional \$28.

The wedding rings averaged \$201.

The \$1300-\$1400 figure did not represent the total cost, the professors added. There were, in some cases, such hidden costs as transportation, hotel bills, and medical fees.

With the hidden costs and top expenses on wedding components, plus the inclusion of all the optional items, the cost of a middle-class wedding very probably approached \$1800 to \$2000.

Doing a bit of moralizing about the "lavish use" of flowers and decorations, the professors asked: "Could not the large amount of money wasted at many formal weddings be used more wisely to purchase a lot on which to build a home, to buy furniture, to further education, or to start a savings account?"

Professors Miles and Koonce lauded the trend "toward more public weddings. However, they questioned spending \$220 on receptions after weddings and the \$150-plus spent for a wedding dress that is very seldom ever worn again.

Professors Miles and Koonce described the "social pressure" prevailing over the couple and their families.

A certain family was "not over the financial shock of their first daughter's wedding when the second daughter was ready for marriage.

"In a family conference," the professors said, "it was agreed that the parents would give the daughter a check for the difference between the cost of the simple wedding and her sister's large formal wedding, which would be somewhere between \$1000 and \$1500. Everyone concerned was happy with the decision.

"However, when this decision became public, the social pressure and tyranny that descended on the family was so great that they were forced to capitulate and splurge on a big formal wedding."

Missouri Officer
Suffers Fatal Attack

CALIFORNIA, Mo.--(BP)--Two weeks after presiding as recording secretary of Missouri Baptist Convention, Wayne Rosecrans, pastor of First Baptist Church here, passed away at Memorial Hospital in Jefferson City. Death followed a heart attack.

Rosecrans had been active in church, civic, and political affairs. He was chaplain of the senate during the last session of Missouri General Assembly.

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Roy F. Sutton Called
To State Office Post

(12-3-59)

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--Roy F. Sutton, superintendent of Southern Baptist missions in Tucson, Ariz., has been called to a position here with the Baptist General Convention of Arizona.

Sutton will be secretary of stewardship and director of the trust and memorial fund. His new duties begin Jan. 1.

He is not new to this work, having served in a similar capacity with the Convention more than 10 years ago. He returned to the state in 1957 to become superintendent of missions in Tucson after having served in both New Mexico and Colorado.

In 1946 he moved from Texas, where he had been pastor in Dallas, to be a field worker for the Baptist General Convention.

In 1948 he was elected associate executive secretary, and in 1950 became pastor of the College Park Baptist Church here. He was called to be vice president of Grand Canyon College in 1951.

He left this position in 1952 to become secretary of Brotherhood and Foundation for Baptists in New Mexico. In 1954 he went to Denver to be pastor of the South Denver Baptist Church.

Sutton will replace E. W. Hunke in this field. Hunke was elected associate executive secretary some months past and has continued to do the stewardship work until he could be replaced. Hunke will continue to serve as superintendent of missions.

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Folks & facts.....

.....Clayborn E. Landers, pastor of Kansas City's Michigan Ave. Baptist Church, has accepted the work of city missionary in St. Joseph, Mo., to begin Jan. 1. Cecil Franks, present city missionary, will be pastor of Patee Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph.

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November Significant
Month In Contributions

NASHVILLE--(BP)--November was one of those "red letter" months for Southern Baptists.

Not only did the Convention meet the basic section of its 1959 Cooperative Program budget, but the month's gifts through the Cooperative Program topped all previous months in history.

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Treasurer Porter Routh announced that Cooperative Program receipts during November totalled \$1,680,312. It brought the total receipts via Cooperative Program for the year to date to \$15,564,728.

The \$15 million goal for meeting budgets of Convention agencies, reached during the month, was thus exceeded by over a half-million dollars. This over-and-above, known as the Advance section, is divided between only the Convention's Home and Foreign Mission Boards. Foreign missions gets three-fourths of the receipts through Dec. 31.

The goal for the Advance section is \$2½ million.

The Convention treasurer's office received \$122,418 during November in specially-designated gifts. Unlike Cooperative Program funds, which are shared by a percentage scale among all agencies, designated gifts go directly to a particular object named by the donor.

Cooperative Program receipts at Southern Baptist Convention offices are running 8.54 per cent ahead of the like period in 1958, while designations (which now total \$10,249,791 for 11 months) are up 12.69 per cent.

Total receipts, \$25,814,519, have increased 10.15 per cent.

Routh's report does not include the more than half of all Cooperative Program funds retained in states for Baptist work there, nor the even larger amounts used by local churches for their own programs.

Gifts from two states gave the big boost to Cooperative Program receipts during November. Alabama's contribution of \$384,051 was highest, followed by Texas' of \$317,468.

Five states have given more than \$1 million through the Cooperative Program to Southern Baptist Convention missions, education, and benevolent work this year. Texas has given slightly over \$3 million. Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Alabama follow in that order.

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40-Year Accumulation Of Sermons Stolen

SAN DIEGO, Calif.--(BP)--Preachers now and then "steal" each other's sermons, but they do it in a perfectly legal manner by recording them at pastors' conferences.

But whoever took the sermons of Baptist Editor Floyd Looney wasn't so polite. He broke into Looney's car here during the session of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

When he left, the burglar had taken Looney's sermon outlines and notes, which the editor had accumulated over a 40-year period. In fact, he stole the preacher's clothes as well.

Since the clothes were missing, too, Looney is convinced it was a professional burglar rather than some friend desperate for next Sunday's sermon outline.

Meantime, Editor Looney is preaching without notes and is spending spare time trying to remember what he has preached about for the last four decades.

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