

# Mr., Mrs. Arnold Beerkens At Home After Holland Wedding, Paris Trip

Probably the most married couple in Murphy today are newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Beerkens who arrived here last week to make their home.

After an unofficial engagement of one year, a formal engagement period of five months, a civil ceremony in December and finally the big church wedding May 11, the Beerkens are making their home in Murphy on Bayless St.

Mr. Beerkens, who is associated in business at Timber Products Company, has lived in Murphy for several years—but his radiant bride, the former Helen Gockel, is a newcomer to the United States and the North Carolina mountains.

The bride and bridegroom are both Hollanders and their wedding—the real one on May 11—took place at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hilversum, Holland home town of the bride.

The couple have known each other for four years, having met at a party on Helen's graduation from high school. (She is now 21.) Shortly after their meeting, Arnold came to the U. S., but they kept in touch with one another through correspondence.

Their unofficial engagement lasted for about a year. About one month prior to the formal engagement announcement—which was made at a party at the bride's home—the engagement was announced by law. At this time application for marriage license was made and the names of the prospective bride and bridegroom were "pinned up in a box" where everyone could see them—and protest, if they had a protest.

At this time Arnold was still in the U. S. and so his part was done by proxy and over the telephone all the way from Murphy to Holland.

About a week after they were "pinned up in the box", the names of the couple were called out in church. After this came a period known as the "time of the bride", when friends called on the bride-to-be, wished her well and she in turn offered them refreshments of special "sweets" used by brides during this time.

**ENGAGEMENT PARTY**  
About three weeks later—during Christmas time—while Arnold was at home in Holland, on vacation—the formal engagement party was held. Two days later the civil marriage ceremony, required by law, was conducted.

The formal and final wedding ceremony was held May 11, at 9:30 a. m., followed by high mass. As is customary in Holland, the bride was not given away as she is in this country. About an hour before the ceremony, the bridegroom went to the home of the bride, carrying the bridal bouquet. In Helen's case the bouquet was a cascade arrangement of lilies of the valley. The bride descended the stairs and accepted the bouquet. All this time, and until after the I do's, the bride wore a veil over her face. The veil was lifted after "I do."

The couple went to the church together.

**BOYS CHOIR**  
For the mass there was special music by a boy's choir from the church in Haarlem, home town of the bridegroom. The entire ceremony lasted around an hour and a half.

Following mass the wedding party and relatives—numbering around 75 persons—were entertained at breakfast in the auditorium of the school, adjoining the church. In the family of the bridegroom are the parents and six sons, including twin boys who live



THE GOCKEL-BEERKENS WEDDING PARTY, photographed in the garden of the bride's home. Left to right are Gneke, Leonie, Mr. and Mrs. Beerkens, Carola and Elizabeth. All of the bridesmaids are sisters of the bride, except Carola, who is a cousin.

ed in Murphy for a while.

The bride's family are the mother (father deceased) and 11 children—seven daughters and four sons.

The breakfast was over about noon and the wedding party went to the home of the bride—"Kansheuveil"—to be photographed.

From 1:30 until 3:30 p. m. the bride's mother entertained at a reception at the home with some 150 guests. After the reception the couple grabbed about an hour of rest before being off on the next lap of the wedding day.

About 5 p. m. they went to Amsterdam (about 20 miles away) to the Anstel Hotel for a brief drop-in followed by a dinner party in the ballroom. After dinner the couple were entertained with skits by members of their families depicting scenes from the couple's courtship.

All day the bride wore her wedding dress which was designed of brocade satin with appliqued flowers. The gown had long sleeves and a cathedral length train. Her veil, also of cathedral length, was of Brussels lace and was attached to a small band of lilies of the valley. She also wore long white kid gloves.

The bridesmaids wore long full dresses of white embroidered or gandy over bluish pink tulle. They wore Dutch bonnets and carried gathered handbags matching their frocks. They also had nosegays of lilies of the valley.

**THE MOTHERS**  
Mrs. Gockel, mother of the bride, wore a full length gown of royal blue lace. Mrs. Beerkens, mother of the bridegroom, wore a full length light blue brocade satin dress.

Hans Beerkens, brother of the bridegroom and Rudolf Brennkneyer, cousin of the bride, were ushers.

Baskets and altar vase arrangements of white flowers were used in decorations at the church.

There was beautiful weather—the first in days—for the wedding. At the end of the entertainment after dinner, the couple changed at the hotel, to their traveling clothes. Helen's traveling outfit was a light gray spring suit and a small green straw hat. Arnold wore a green sports outfit.

**GOING AWAY**  
After they were ready to leave, the couple returned to the ballroom and opened the dancing and then left. (There was an orchestra for dancing, and the rest of the party remained at the hotel.) The couple went first to the bride's home to pick up their luggage. By this time it was around 1 a. m. They spent the first night in a small town not far from Hilversum.

The next day they went to

## Folk School Folks

### LAST WEEK

The second week of the annual short course is recreation is now under way at the John C. Campbell Folk School. There are about 35 full-time registrations, which include people from Colorado, New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia and North Carolina. Twenty-two of the community young people are also registered.

A high light of the course was the 25th Anniversary Day, held on Saturday, with many former short courseurs taking part in the festivities. After a tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Georg Bidstrup, a buffet supper was served at Keith House. This was followed by an evening of folk songs and games.

The regular community night will be held on Friday, and will feature a special program, with folk songs, a puppet play, exhibition dances and games for everyone. All are invited to attend.

### SHORT COURSE IN HANDICRAFTS

The annual short course in handicrafts will be held at the John C. Campbell Folk School from June 21 to July 3. The following crafts will be offered: vegetable dyeing, weaving, pottery, wood carving, and simple furniture making. There will be tea every afternoon and recreation at night. Call the Folk School for further information.

### COUNTRY DANCING

May Gadd, Director of the Country Dance Society of America, is now at the Folk School as instructor in English country dancing. Miss Gadd, formerly of London, England, has been in this country many years, and is one of the outstanding leaders of this traditional folk art. She is well known to many of the recreation workers of the southern mountain area, having been on the staff of the Christmas Country Dance School at Berea for a number of years.

Phillip Merrill, the musician for the Country Dance Society of America, will be at the Folk School until the middle of July. He is playing for the Danish folk games and the evening folk parties during the course in recreation, and will be one of the leaders for the Little Folk School during July. This is his fifteenth year at the Folk School.

### PROGRAM

W. M. Landis of the Tennessee Valley Authority, with his headquarters in Knoxville, and Mrs. Rosslyn Wilson of the University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension Service, presented a program at the Folk School in connection with the short course in recreation. Using slides, and quoting from the writings of men concerned about the enrichment of rural living, they discussed the relationship of the land with the quality of living. Special emphasis was placed on the contribution of the Folk School, with its adaptation of the Danish folk school philosophy of adult education.

## Visitors Tour Berkshire Mill

Berkshire Mill executives and distributors toured the Andrews plant Tuesday afternoon as part of a three-day meeting in Asheville.

The party arrived at the mill in time for lunch in the plant cafeteria and inspected the modern Andrews mill before starting back for dinner at the Nantahala Inn.

The distributors' meeting started in Asheville at 9:15 a. m. Monday and ended Wednesday afternoon.



RAY B. ROWLAND

Pvt. Ray B. Rowland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne H. Rowland, Marble, has completed eight weeks of basic training at the Camp Gordon Replacement Training Center.

### TAYLOR'S GUESTS

Mrs. Mattie A. Taylor and son Frank had as their guests last week Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Ruffner of Dandridge, Tenn., and Mrs. F. T. Grozier of Corpus Christi, Texas. Mrs. Grozier will remain until Sunday when she will return to her home.

Mrs. Mattie A. Taylor, Frank, Mrs. F. T. Grozier spent Sunday at Topton with Mrs. John E. Nelson and family.

Other guests of Mrs. Nelson on Sunday were her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Nelson and daughters, Rose Mary and Susan of Chamberlens, Ga.

### SMITH IN KOREA

Army Cpl. Henry P. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith, Route 3, Murphy, N. C., is now serving with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea.

Men of the "Bayonet" division are undergoing intensive training to maintain the peak combat efficiency displayed by the unit from Pusan to the Yalu river.

Corporal Smith, a wireman, entered the Army in October 1952 and arrived in Korea during May 1953. He formerly served with the 40th Infantry Division which returned to the U. S. last month.

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Murphy, N. C.

Fri.-Sat., June 25-26



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