

Couples forego pomp and circumstance for courthouse nuptials

By Scott Silvestri
THE LANSING TIMES

MARKHAM, Ill. — Dressed in a gray suit, Kerwin Holman empties his pockets onto a tray and walks through a metal detector.

He's then searched by a Cook County sheriff's deputy before collecting his belongings.

Today, he's going to get married.

Thousands of couples will be married in courthouses this year. They come from all walks of life, rich and poor, appearing in all manners of dress, from full wedding gowns and tuxedos to denim.

Why would anyone want such a hallowed ceremony performed in a courthouse?

"It's quick," Holman said. "We just wanted to get it out of the way."

Some choose courthouse nuptials for the smart pricing, and others have no religious obligation to fill through a church service.

With 10 bucks, some basic personal information and 15 minutes from a judge, a couple can get married any day of the week.

All 23 judges at the 6th District courthouse in Markham take turns performing the brief ceremonies either in a courtroom or in chambers.

"Most of us absolutely love it," said Judge Sheila Murphy, presiding judge of the 6th District. "It's one of the most satisfying things we do."

Murphy said she spent \$80 on a bouquet of silk flowers, which she keeps at the ready should any brides-to-be want to borrow it.

"It's been used about 800 times," she said. "I think it's a cheap investment to make people happy."

Some judges provide tape-recorded wedding music to

enhance the wedding. Murphy performs her ceremonies in front of a large angel in chambers. "Hopefully, they'll be blessed by it."

Over the weekend, after judges are through presiding over felony bond hearings for anything from armed robbery to murder, they shift responsibilities and become justices of the peace.



Styles By **Dy'Ann** **spalon**
FULL SERVICE SALON
DIANE ERVIN, OWNER
Hair Stylist & Esthetician

ELMA ELLISON
Hair Stylist & Esthetician
HELEN RIO
Massage Therapist
(National Certified)
CONSTANCE MELTON
Manicurist

1600 Fulton Street
Charlotte, NC 28205
704-333-3031

CARIBBEAN CORNER
MENU

APPETIZERS
Jamaican Hot Wings • Jamaican Beef Patties
Jamaican Chicken Patties & Vegetable Patties
Roti (your choice of filling)

SIDE DISHES
Macaroni & Cheese • Rice & Peas
Fried Dumplings • Greens • Plantains
Mixed Vegetable • Calypso Salad

DAILY MEALS
Brown Stew • Jerk & Curry Chicken • Pepper Steak
Curry Goat & Shrimp • Ox Tails • Fish to Order • BBQ Ribs

DRINKS
WASH (Lemonade) • Jamaican Sodas • Irish Moss

Inside Freedom Mall • FAX 394-9162 • 394-9161

For Your Special Day Make It One To Remember with
Classy
Troutman's Florist & Gift Shop

800 North Long Street
Salisbury, NC 28144
704-636-9900

Owners:
Lorenzo C. Troutman & Company
1-800-892-8059

Odessa's Home Made Cakes
"Reasonable Prices"
BIRTHDAYS • WEDDINGS
SPECIAL OCCASIONS
749 Bilmark Avenue
Charlotte, N.C. 28216
597-1895 - Home

Where Wedding Dreams do Come True...

- Rehearsal Dinners
- Elegant Weddings
- Receptions

Holiday Inn WOODLAWN

Wendy Walker
Director of Catering
ext. 730

212 Woodlawn Rd. Charlotte, N.C. 28217 704/525-8350

PRATT TRAVEL & TOURS
(704) 556-1988

Call Us For Your Honeymoon & Travel Needs

- CRUISES
- CARRIBEAN
- HONEYMOON PACKAGES

(704) 556-1988

Book Your Honeymoon Package by April 7, 1996
and get a **5%** Discount

HOLLOWAYS MENS SHOP
ONE STOP SHOPPING FOR...
Weddings Easter Proms

Boys Suits
Sizes 2T - 20 Husky
\$39.95 up

Mens Suits
Wide Variety of colors
Hard to find White, Creme, Beige, Navy, Taupe & Black

New Addition "Tryon Street Only"
Girls Dresses
6 months to 6x
Great Savings

• DOUBLE BREASTED COLLAR LESS
• NERU COLLAR
• 3pc Vest Sets pants vest shirt

• SHAW COLLARS
• DOUBLE BREASTED
• NERU COLLAR
• Cumberbunds
• Bow Ties
• White Parade Gloves
• Socks
• Kangol Caps

HOLLOWAYS
5430 N. Tryon 597-8153
James Holloway, Master Tailor
Freedom Mall 391-9436

Put a smile on your face... and the Buffalo under your car for Safe Honeymoon Travel

Shop One Of Our Convenient Locations To Assure Safe Travel
We Accept Most Major Credit Cards • Hours: 8AM - 5:30M-F, 8AM - 3:00PM Sat.

BUFFALO TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE

Buffalo Tire Pineville
10000 Pineville Matthews Rd.
(Across From Burger King)
889-4042

Buffalo Tire East
4001 Monroe Rd.
(At Eastway Blvd.)
376-7481

Buffalo Tire West
4438 South Blvd.
(Above Woodlawn)
523-1304

BIG IDEAS

Get INSIDE OUT, the little book with INSIDE TIPS for your Afrocentric health and beauty. And check out these CASH coupons on the very best brands.

1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON
Dark & Lovely
No-Lye Creme Relaxer System
Regular or Plus
\$4.99 LESS 1.00 COUPON-YOU PAY CASHIER
\$3.99
WITH COUPON

50c MANUFACTURER'S COUPON
MoistureMax
Oil Moisturizing Hair Lotion
8 oz. size
\$2.99 LESS 50c COUPON-YOU PAY CASHIER
\$2.49
WITH COUPON

1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON
Beautiful Beginnings
No-Lye Children's Relaxer
\$4.49 LESS 1.00 COUPON-YOU PAY CASHIER
\$3.49
WITH COUPON

50c MANUFACTURER'S COUPON
Blue Velvet
Hair & Scalp Conditioners
12.5 oz sizes
\$1.49 LESS 50c COUPON-YOU PAY CASHIER
\$0.99
WITH COUPON

1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON
Dark & Natural
Texture Enhancer Kits
\$4.27 LESS 1.00 COUPON-YOU PAY CASHIER
\$3.27
WITH COUPON

75c MANUFACTURER'S COUPON
Sta-Sof-Fro
Oil Sheen & Comb Out Hair Spray
8 oz. size
\$2.39 LESS 75c COUPON-YOU PAY CASHIER
\$1.64
WITH COUPON

1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON
Dark & Natural
Hair Color for Men
\$2.99 LESS 1.00 COUPON-YOU PAY CASHIER
\$1.99
WITH COUPON

Today's mart
Everything we do is built around you.

Charlotte
2701 Freedom Dr, 2401 North Sardis Rd,
6025 South Blvd., 8147 University City Blvd.

Monroe
2120 W. Roosevelt Blvd.

Statesville
1530 East Broad St.

Gastonia
3580 E. Franklin