

gy or a Judge or Justice of the Peace who will travel to your chosen location.

Arrange for music for the ceremony and the reception. In the case of an at-home wedding, some common options are a guitar/flute or harp/flute duo, or a keyboardist who could play the family piano or organ. For the reception, maybe a disc jockey or a small band for the background music and, later on, the dancing. Make sure you have a surface for dancing and plenty of safe electrical connections for the entertainers.

A rental company or party planner can set you up with everything you'll need in the way of tents, canopies, tables, chairs, even a portable dance floor, and depending on how much you rely

on your caterer, they could also provide your place settings and serving paraphernalia. From paper plates and plastic cups to sterling silver and fine crystal, every style and budget can be well-served by your professional liaison and you can leave the worries behind. If you take care of everything yourself, make sure you've covered every detail including how the rental items will be returned because there'll be no one to take care of these things on your wedding day. You'll be on your own.

Decorations are important, too. Remember, whatever the location, you'll need a few touches to remind people they're at a wedding. Flowers in some form are a must - arrangements on the tables, wreaths or garlands spread around. Some western

gear if you're on a ranch, some nautical items if you're at the beach. Do it yourself or hire a decorator to put on this finishing touch.

Make sure there's enough room for your guests to park. Is your neighborhood congested and difficult to find a spot in? Consider running a shuttle from a central location. Ditto for a more rural location such as a park or beach. Perhaps some of the younger guys would act as valet parkers for your guests and spread the cars around the area wherever there's a space.

Restrooms/bathroom facilities are an important consideration. The general rule of thumb is one facility per 50 people. Do you have more than one bathroom at your house? Or are you 🐾 94



Photo courtesy of Bradshaw Photo