

Announcing Your Engagement

By Joe Thomas

After you have told your parents, close relatives and best friends in person, or by telephone or a note in the mail it is time to announce your engagement in the hometown newspaper of both you and your fiancé. Before submitting your announcement you need to check policies for publication. Some papers limit photographs and announcements to weddings only. Many papers have a form you must fill out to submit information and photographs for engagement announcements. Check their web site for on-line submissions. A few will accept information over the phone but this is risky. This is the easiest way for mistakes to take place. If the paper does not supply a form you should type your submission check-

ing it carefully yourself for typos and misspelled words. Keep the announcement short and on one piece of paper. At the top of the page insert the name, address and telephone number of a local family member who can be phoned to verify information.

Include full names of you and your fiancé, hometown, parent's names, information about schools, employment, military service, club memberships, community or school associations and military service. If you are submitting this announcement to a paper in your former hometown be sure to mention your connection to the local area of the paper's distribution. i.e.: graduated from high school, formerly of this town, your parents live in this town, etc. If you submit a photo with your announce-

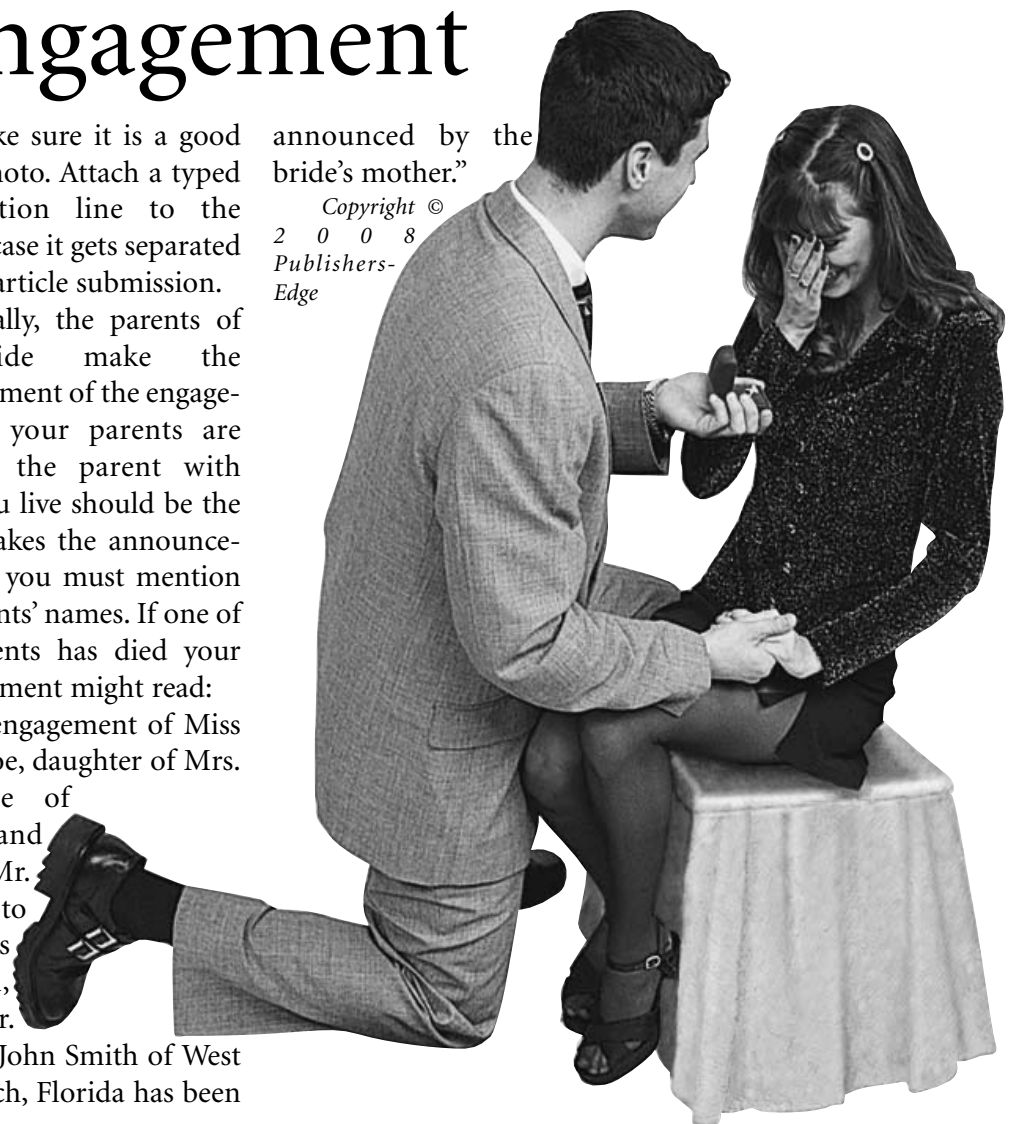
ment make sure it is a good quality photo. Attach a typed identification line to the photo in case it gets separated from the article submission.

Generally, the parents of the bride make the announcement of the engagement. If your parents are divorced, the parent with whom you live should be the parent makes the announcement but you must mention both parents' names. If one of your parents has died your announcement might read:

"The engagement of Miss Jane S. Doe, daughter of Mrs. Jean Doe of Detroit and the late Mr. John Doe to Mr. James A Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith of West Palm Beach, Florida has been

announced by the bride's mother."

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