

# Court Action: Woodward Weds

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By William Gildea

Bob Woodward, whose investigative reporting was instrumental in the uncovering of Watergate scandals, was married yesterday afternoon to 28-year-old Frances Barnard, Washington correspondent for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The 4½-minute ceremony in the D.C. Superior Court chambers of Chief Judge Harold H. Greene was the second marriage for both and came on short notice.

Woodward's colleague, Carl Bernstein, who found out the secret location for the wedding only an hour before, borrowed two small white flowers from a Madison Hotel lobby pot.

The best man, Scott Armstrong, a former Senate Watergate Committee investigator and friend of the 31-year-old Woodward's from their hometown of Wheaton, Ill., picked up a box of minute rice from a delicatessen on a hurried taxi ride to the court house.

"It was convenient that they decided while I was here visiting," said the bride's mother, Mrs. Clinton Bagwell of El Paso, Tex., the only relative of the bride or groom among seven witnesses.

"How long does this take?" Woodward wondered as the small group awaited the judge. "He's got nice chambers," Bernstein allowed. Woodward suggested that a photographer wait outside during the ceremony

but the photographer was invited in by Judge Greene.

"I'll give you a couple minutes to think it over," the judge advised Woodward. Serious and to the point, Woodward responded, "We've thought it over." He added, "We decided a couple of days ago. We've been thinking about it a couple of months."

"We're all glad they waited 'til now," said Nora Ephron of Esquire, who replaced Armstrong's and Bernstein's borrowed boutonnières with white carnations.

With that, Judge Green put on his robe and the couple, who met over lunch with a group of reporters two years ago, straightened up before him, he wearing a fairly well-wrinkled blue suit, she a brown tweed knit suit. Following the double-ring ceremony, the bride and her mother and maid of honor Sally Wings of Dallas cried briefly; Woodward, smiling widely, accepted congratulations.

Woodward, who will be played by Robert Redford in the film version of the book "All the President's Men" and who is on leave from The Washington Post while writing a second book with Bernstein, said there would be no honeymoon immediately, "maybe in December."

"We're both going to stay here," he added. "We have work to do."



By Douglas Chevalier—The Washington Post

Bob Woodward and Frances Barnard, following their brief wedding ceremony at the D.C. Superior Court.