PALO ALTO ODYSSEY

Christi gets ready to marry the billionaire

WHEN Christi and JJ finally made the decision to have their wedding at Stanford Memorial Church, Christi went into wedding planning overdrive and loved it.

At her suggestion, the two decided to have their reception at Stanford's Faculty Club, since it was next door to Kingscote Gardens, a campus residence where JJ had lived as a Stanford student.

"That's great," he said. "It will be like a homecoming for me!"

Christi interviewed several caterers. She went to a custom wedding cake maker, and ordered a cake in the design of a laptop computer and screen.

"This is the groom's cake," she explained to JJ.

In addition Christi had a more traditional cake made, with statuettes of a bride and groom at the top.

This is part 40 of a 48-part fictionalized serial appearing in the Daily Post, written by John Angell Grant.

She spent a lot of time with a custom dress maker, designing her dress. After much back and forth, the dress ended up being white, with some slightly peach overtones, and a shoulder shawl and sash. It looked good, and was unusual.

Since JJ was a billionaire tech startup celebrity, the wedding columnist from a local paper interviewed them about their upcoming nuptials, and asked why they planned to marry.

Christi said that when she met JJ she fell immediately in love with him and knew that he was the man for her. JJ said he was the luckiest guy in the world.

Assembling their guest list was challenging. They both had many

friends. But if they were going to have a reception at the Stanford Faculty Club, they would have to limit their guest list to 200 people.

That was difficult. JJ wanted to have 14 groomsmen.

"You can't have 14 groomsmen," explained Christi. "Nobody does that. It's way too many."

"I'll offend important people in my business life if I don't ask them to be groomsmen," said JJ.

"Weddings don't work like that," pouted Christi. So they had their first argument over how many groomsmen JJ could have.

"I don't see what the big deal is," JJ continued. "It's our wedding, we can do it the way we want to do it."

"That's not the way it's done," said

Christi. "If you have 14 groomsmen, then I have to have 14 bridesmaids."

"Why is that?" asked JJ.

"You don't know anything, do you?" said Christi.

"When the groomsmen and the bridesmaids walk down the aisle together in the opening ceremony, they have to be paired. So there has to be the same number of groomsmen as bridesmaids."

"Why don't we just grab a few extra women from the audience if we're short," suggested JJ.

This infuriated Christi. She came running to Miranda.

"He wants to have 14 groomsmen," Christi wailed to her aunt. "This is a nightmare. What should I do?"

Tomorrow, the wedding.