

# Flowers Say it All



Since ancient times when bunches of herbs were carried by brides under their veils, flowers have been an integral part of the wedding ceremony. They add welcome color, beauty, freshness and a hint of sweet perfume to the joyous festivities.

Traditionally, they were symbols of fertility; however, many flowers also have significances all their own.

The rose is a symbol of love, the orchid of beauty and the carnation of distinction. The white daisy symbolizes innocence and the orange blossom, purity and loveliness. Blue violets symbolize faithfulness, and the blue bell, constancy.

Forget-me-nots mean true love; lily of the valley, happiness. The white lilac is a symbol of youthful innocence, red chrysanthemums of sharing, and the gardenia of joy.

Since flowers are such an important element in

decorating and creating atmosphere, planning well in advance of the wedding day will insure picture perfect floral arrangements and set the scene in a most becoming manner.

Experts suggest that you consult a florist at least one month in advance, and decide on colors and price. Also make sure you find out what flowers will be in season, since these will cost less. Seasonal flowers can also influence the choice of color schemes. A midwinter wedding scheduled sometime in December may use all red and white flowers to tie in with the Christmas holidays. A fall wedding, on the other hand, may incorporate shades of yellow, gold and bronze with assorted dry foliage and pods.

Don't forget flowers for the mother of the bride and the groom's mother, boutonnieres for the men, bouquets for any female attendants and flowers for the altar and reception hall.

# The Rings of Today

Today's bride is observing all the old wedding traditions but when it comes to her diamond engagement ring, she wants the new designs of the '80s.

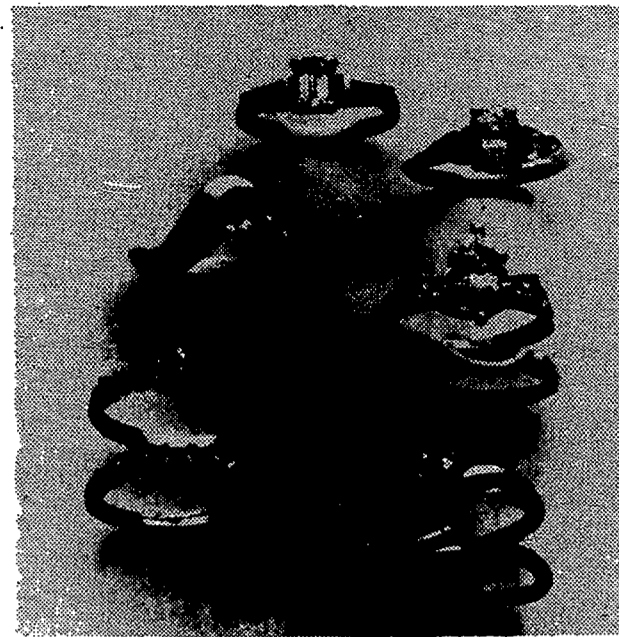
Jewelry designers have updated the classic styles for contemporary taste with geometric and delicate free-form mountings that feature two-tone white and yellow gold combinations accenting smaller diamonds and channel setting — a stone-on-stone design.

Also popular are coordinated bridal sets that emphasize a total fashion look. And, for the sophisticate who wants high style in her diamond engagement ring, the fancy cuts — marquise, oval, pear and emerald — are the favorites.

This year, because there is more variety in styling than ever before, with each ring appearing prettier than the next, a final choice won't be easy.

Most diamonds contain flaws — spots, bubbles, lines. These inclusions were present in the stone when it was formed by nature millions of years ago. If a flaw can be seen by the naked eye, it may mar the beauty of the diamond and will certainly reduce its value.

However, flaws that do not interfere with a diamond's brilliance or fire,



## Fashion Designs

Clockwise from upper left: an emerald-cut diamond set with tapered baguettes; an oval diamond; a marquise center diamond; a new romantic design; a design reminiscent of 1940s styling; a pear-shaped cut is accented with channel-set baguettes on each side.

nor endanger its durability, are of minor importance. They should not affect the enjoyment of the stone but will affect the price.

The shape of a diamond and the arrangement of its facets is also a determinant in value. A full-cut diamond contains 58 facets. The placement and proportion of these facets affects the brilliancy of the stone. A properly cut diamond obtains a maximum play of light, which creates more

brilliance and fire. Cut can also mean the popular shapes of diamonds — round, oval, marquise, pear, heart and emerald. Choice of shape is a matter of personal taste.

The fancy cuts — oval, marquise, pear, heart, emerald — tend to look larger than a round cut of the same weight; yet, the traditional round cut, which has more brilliancy than the other shapes, is still the overwhelming favorite.

## The Bridal Registry

A visit to a local wedding registry to help the bride coordinate and register her fine china, crystal and silver choices is a good idea.

The professional service, offered by most department, gift and jewelry stores, will

record the bride's preferences in tableware as well as kitchen and other home furnishings items, without any obligation to the bride-to-be.

Registration with a wedding gift consultant

enables friends and relatives buying wedding gifts to know what the bride wants and will use.

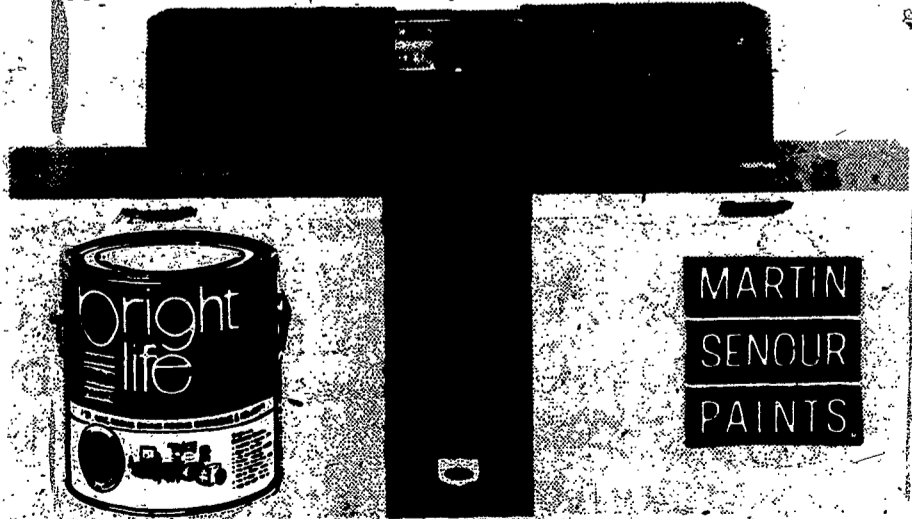
The consultant keeps up-to-date records as gifts are purchased and helps eliminate the problem of duplicate gifts.



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