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VOUR WEODING

Bride of the Month



Patti Styles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Hardman of 29 Market St., Georgetown, became the bride of Gary McFadyen, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. McFadyen of 43 McGilvray Crescent, August 25 at St. Andrew's United Church. - Portrait by Paulette.

The pearl: nature's mystery, fashion's star

What's today's most popular fashion accessory, one of history's most treasured gems and one of the wisest investments any collector, jewelry lover or financier can make?

The answer to all of these questions lies in nature's most beautiful mystery-the pearl. Since before the days of Alexander the Great the pearl has been praised and coveted. The powers of wisdom and happiness have been attributed to it, and the glowing sphere has even been ground for use as an aphrodisiac.

Gem for all Modern man no longer fondles the pearl as a talisman of wisdom, nor is the pearl strictly a gem of royalty as in earlier times. Thanks to the course of history and the development of the cultured pearl, the beautiful and radiant entured pearl is now available to every enlight-

ened consumer. Enlightened? Yes, unfortunately, with the advent of mini skirts, mod fashions and madeap lifestyles, the simple and elegant cultured pearl was overlooked in favor of scads of jangles and bangles

and big, clunky beads. But with today's return to elegance and simplicity in fashion and the new respect

for quality in fabric, design and all their accessories, cultured pearls have once again taken their rightful place as the gem to add that final touch of beauty to any wardrobe-and any woman.

No substitute Consumers must, however, be re-educated in a

sense to the true value of cultured pearls. There are many "fakes" on the market, some of them very beautiful, some of them quite costly. But once one has learned the story of the cultured pearl and seen the miracle of nature in its luminescence, any imitation or substitute will seem dult as chalk in com-

A cultured peatl is a true jewel of the sea, created by the joint efforts of nature. man and the pearl oyster.

The radiant splendor of the pearl has a very humble beginning. Imagine an oyster dormant on the bottom of the sea, moving its shell just enough to filter plankton from the surrounding waters.

Then, one day by chance, a foreign substance—a grain of sand or a tiny piece of sea shell--accidentally finds its way into an area of the oyster's body where it cannot be

In an effort to ease the irritation caused by this foreign object, the oyster's body takes a defensive action. Body cells surrounding the irritant start secreting a smooth hard substance around the irritant. This substance is called nacre, and layer after layer of nacre build up around the tiny invader to form, after several years, a lovely pearl.

How precious pearls are formed from what an oyster regards as merely protection against irritation is one of nature's most prized secrets. for the nacre is not just a soothing substance. It is composed of microscopic crystals, each crystal aligned

perfectly with the others so that light passing along the axis of one is reflected and refracted by the others to produce a rainbow glow of light and color.

Nature's mystery If nature were to scatter the crystals haphazardly, the layers of nacre would be dulf and lifeless. But with the mystery of this perfect arrangement, the pearl emerges as a gent of incomparable beauty and radiant perfec-

Cultured pearls are formedby pearl oysters in much the same way as natural pearls. The only difference is that man implants the irritant in

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the oyster, then steps aside to let nature take its course while the oysters are protected as much as possible

from harmful pollution and rough weather in the calm hays of an oyster farm. As for the finished product, only a jeweler using x-ray equipment would be able to distinguish the difference between a natural and a

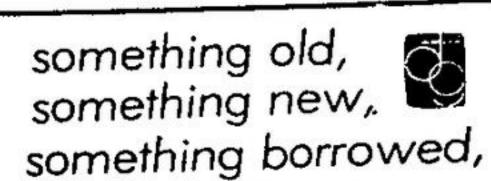
cultured pearl. To judge the value of pearls, just remember that the closer they come to being perfect in all respects, the more they are worth. For example, the more perfectly round a pearl is, the more it

The most important value point of pearls of equal size. however, is undoubtedly lustre. That is what gives a cultured pearl its unique

feetly round, pure and clear in color, and silky smooth with no blemishes. Yet if it is fustreless it may as well be a plastic bead. On the other hand, a Justrous pearl of irregular shape can

beauty. A pearl can be per

have great value. When judging lustre, look at the shadow area of a pearl. not the reflective highlight area. Do not confuse surface shine with the deep-seated SOCIAL STATIONERY glow that is lastre.





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