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your wedding



Lauren Morrow, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. D.B. Morrow, RR 1 Norval, married Edward (Bud) Fraser, son of Mr. and Mrs. B.A. Fraser at Grace Anglican Church in Milton on Oct. 14, 1978.

Modern brides owe a romantic debt to diamond-wise Austrian duke of yore

Five hundred years ago, an Austrian archduke proposed to a French duchess—and made life more romantic for millions of women everywhere, reports the Jewelry Industry Council.

When Maximilian of Austria popped the question to Mary of Burgundy back in 1477, he dazzled her with history's first diamond engagement ring. Today, thanks to Max's bright idea, an estimated four out of five American brides-to-be receive this sparkling symbol of eternal love.

Many of these girls have no idea how lucky they really are. If they had lived in ancient times, they might have had to settle for engagement rings of iron, stone, bone, or even grass!

A real catch

When the caveman captured his "intended," he bound her wrists and ankles with ropes of braided rushes or grasses. Later on, a woven grass ring for the lady's finger was considered sufficiently binding.

Still later, Stone Age swains gave out rings of amber, ivory or bone. Some lucky gals had a real "rock" to show off—a ring made of flint!

According to the Jewelry Industry Council, the bride-to-be in ancient Rome wore an iron ring. Often it was ornamented with a miniature key to show that she would soon be mistress of her own household.

In Maximilian's time, the most popular ring was a gold hoop or band engraved with the couple's names. That wasn't good enough for Max, who wanted to impress Mary's wealthy and powerful family. His diamond ring succeeded brilliantly—and a new courtship custom was born. The diamond engagement ring became a necessity for rich and royal ladies throughout Europe.

Well-to-do settlers brought the romantic custom to



THE ROMANTIC DIAMOND RING was "invented" by Archduke Maximilian of Austria in 1477—an epoch-making idea that changed wedding traditions.

America. In colonial times, engaged girls often wore "hoop rings"—gold circlets edged with tiny diamonds. The more pretentious princess ring, with its row of diamonds across the top, thrilled the Victorian girl whose fiancé could afford it.

But the diamond engagement ring remained out of reach for most women—until the discovery of South Africa's fabulous diamond mines made the gems more plentiful and affordable.

Wooden spoon

Although the ring, diamond or otherwise, is the favorite engagement token, many others have been used through the ages. At one time, a Welsh girl was considered engaged if she accepted a wooden spoon from her boyfriend.

In parts of Spain, a suitor proposed marriage by putting his money where his mouth was; he gave his beloved thirteen coins!

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