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something old, something new, something borrowed,



## Something beautiful!

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PORTRAIT BY PAULETTE

On Saturday April 21st at Holy Cross Church, Gail Butler, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A. Butler of 84 Charles St., married Bruce Cartwright, son of Mr. & Mrs. A.D. Cartwright of 71 Mc Intyre Cresc.

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

Five hundred years ago, an Austrian archduke proposed to a French duchessand made life more romaintic 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 carptured 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 annber, ivory or hone, Sonne lucky gals had a real "rock" to show off - a ring macle of flint!

According to the Jewelry Industry Council, the brideto-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 neces-

sity for rich and royal ladies throughout Europe,

Well-to-do settlers brought the romantic custom to America, In colonial times, engaged girls often wore "hoop rings" -- gold circlets edged with tiny diamonds. The more pretentious prin-cess ring, with its row of diamonds across the top, thrilled the Victorian girl whose fiance 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 boytriend. · In parts of Spain, a suitor proposed marriage by put-ting his money where his mouth was; he gave his be-

loved thirteen coins! Engagement gifts from family and friends have also varied widely through the years. During the Middle Ages, the future bride's friends customarily gave her a white hen. A gift like that would certainly lay an egg at

a modern shower! Other good old-fashioned engagement gifts included slightly used pots and pans from the giver's own kitchen, Centuries ago, an engaged girls neighbors would donate utensils from their own households to help her set

up housekeeping. Biscuit harrels The most popular presents in the early 1900's according to the Jewelry Industry Council, were jam and jelly dishes, cake baskets, cruet

sets - and would you believe biscuit barrels?

Pity the poor girl who got duplicates and triplicates of these items. After all, you can always roast that spare white hen - but what do you do with sixteen biscuit barrels?

Modern girls can avoid such dilemmas with the handy Bridal Registry. The bride-to-be simply lists her choice of china, crystal and silver patterns with a local jeweler. Friends can check to see which items have already heen purchased - so they needn't fear giving the bride her unipteenth gravy spoon.

Five hundred years ago, only a princess could hope for silver spoons, crystal goblets and a diamond ring. Today, millions of girls get this royal treatment from family, friends and fiance,

And it all began with one man's bright idea. Thanks a million, Maximilian!

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