

Bridal registries: practical and fun

(NC) — As spring approaches, many prospective brides and grooms are busily preparing for the single most important event in their lives: their wedding day. Now that the traditional wedding is back in vogue, so is the Bridal Registry, the sensible solution to gift-giving dilemmas.

"Today's bridal couples tend to be more mature than they were even a decade ago," says Sandra Skhor, Manager of Public Relations for Royal Doulton Canada Inc. "They are often well established in careers and plan to entertain a great deal in their new home. Beautiful tableware is therefore both a sensible and much appreciated wedding gift."

It is recommended that the bride-to-be and her fiancé choose tableware patterns and register them as soon as possible after the engagement is announced. Perhaps nowhere in the broad spectrum of personal expression can style be more elegantly revealed than in our choice of tableware. A reputable china retailer will provide expert advice on coordinating china, crystal and flatware to create an attractive tabletop setting. The Bridal Consultant will combine various patterns in a realistic tabletop setting, enabling the couple to achieve the desired effect and choose patterns best suited to their tastes and lifestyle.

Style is imagination and individuality expressed on one's actions and taste. It results from a series of carefully thought out choices creating a collection of beautiful and pleasing pieces.

"Most couples are choosing two sets of china: an informal look for everyday and a more formal set of English fine bone china for special occasions and entertaining," says Short, and cautions couples to "register for patterns which are designated open stock. This will allow your guests to purchase individual items

Sharing the first bathroom: Is the honeymoon over?

This year, an estimated 2.5 million couples will marry in the United States and, according to figures gathered by JCPenney, \$22 million will be spent to outfit the bathrooms of these newlyweds. Why are bath items such a popular pre-wedding purchase?

Aside from the bedroom, the bath is perhaps the most intimate area in a couple's home. "And today, more often than not," says Cele Lalli, editor in chief of

Modern Bride magazine, "bathroom space is a problem for newlyweds."

Consequently, bath accessories have become increasingly important as brides and grooms try to achieve both luxury and efficiency in a bathroom suited to both their styles.

In order to "come to a meeting of the minds in terms of decorating and accessorizing," she counsels the couple to go to the store together, walk through,

touch and talk about the items.

Will a new husband feel comfortable in a floral bath? The salespeople are trained to help couples refine and coordinate their tastes.

For example, if his choice of towels rubs her the wrong way, Maggie Phillips, director of home fashion for JCPenney suggests: "The couple might look for terry cloth towels in complementary colors such as white and vanilla. Each could

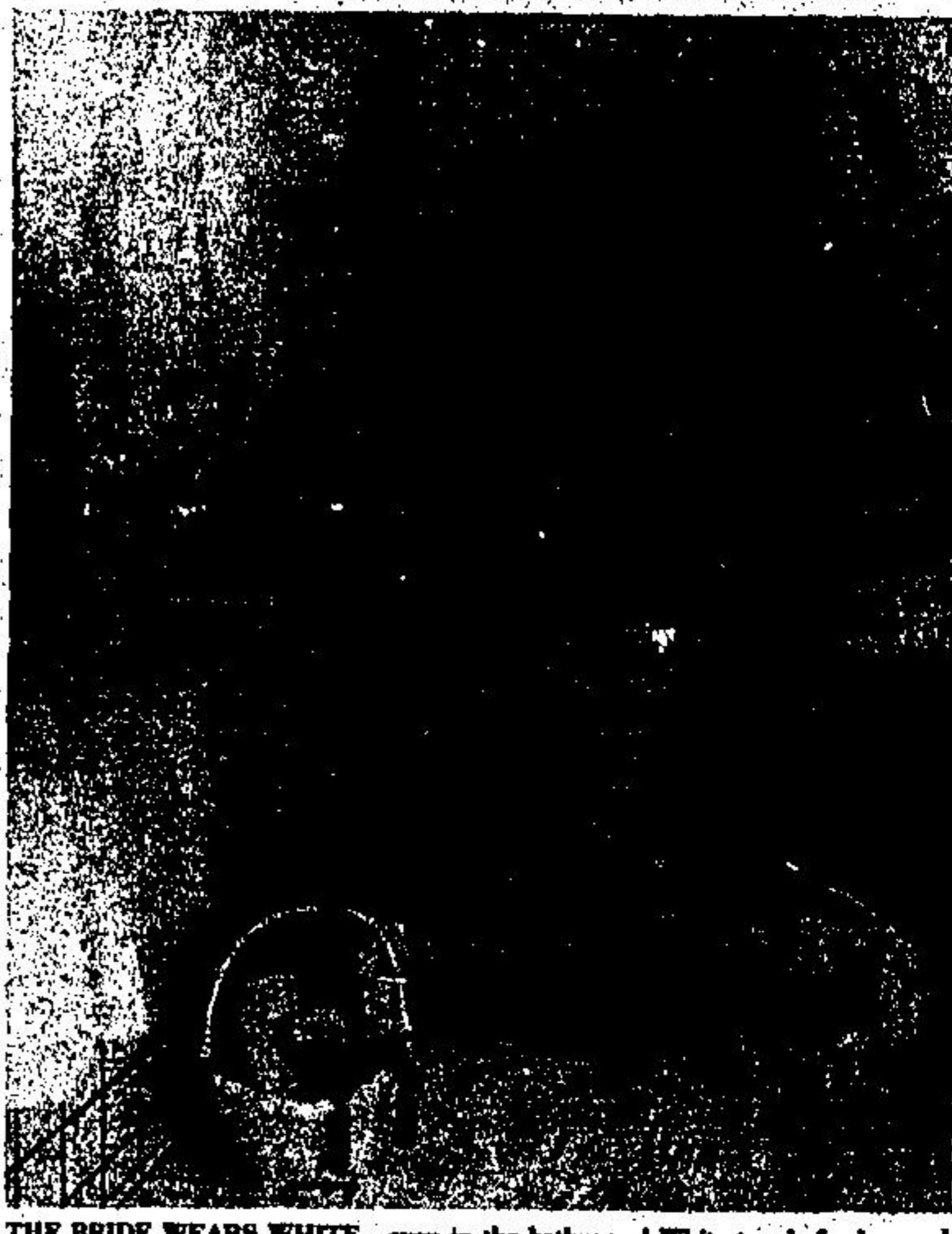
be trimmed with similar details—or only the bride's could be trimmed."

The different colors will make them easily identifiable and they will blend beautifully.

The experience of decorating and sharing a bath can provide a wonderful opportunity to work together, to accommodate each other, and to realize how well suited you are to each other.



A HIS AND HERS BATH...the secret to marital bliss! Separate cabinets and sinks give the illusion of privacy in this bath by JCPenney...and plenty of room for "his" electric shaver and "her" hair dryer. A brass valet holds today's clothes, and shelves house wedding gifts—a brass clock, picture frame and collection of wedding bells. A brass basket holds a bouquet of real violets while the ivy overhead only looks real.

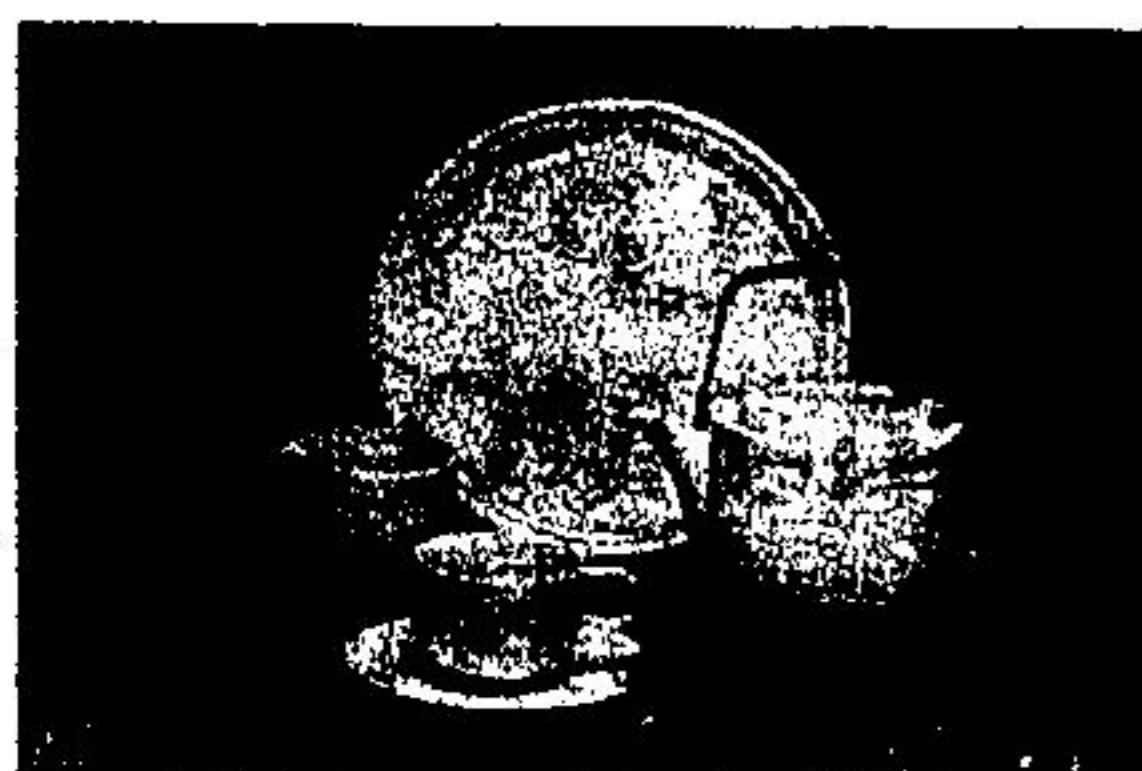


THE BRIDE WEARS WHITE—even in the bathroom! White towels for her and vanilla towels for the groom keep things separate, yet coordinated. His and her white wicker baskets organize personal products. "Him" holds magazines, towels and a hair crimper. "Her" contains the newspaper, back scrubbers, a hair dryer and even exercise equipment. All from JCPenney, including a lace shower curtain, to keep the romance alive.

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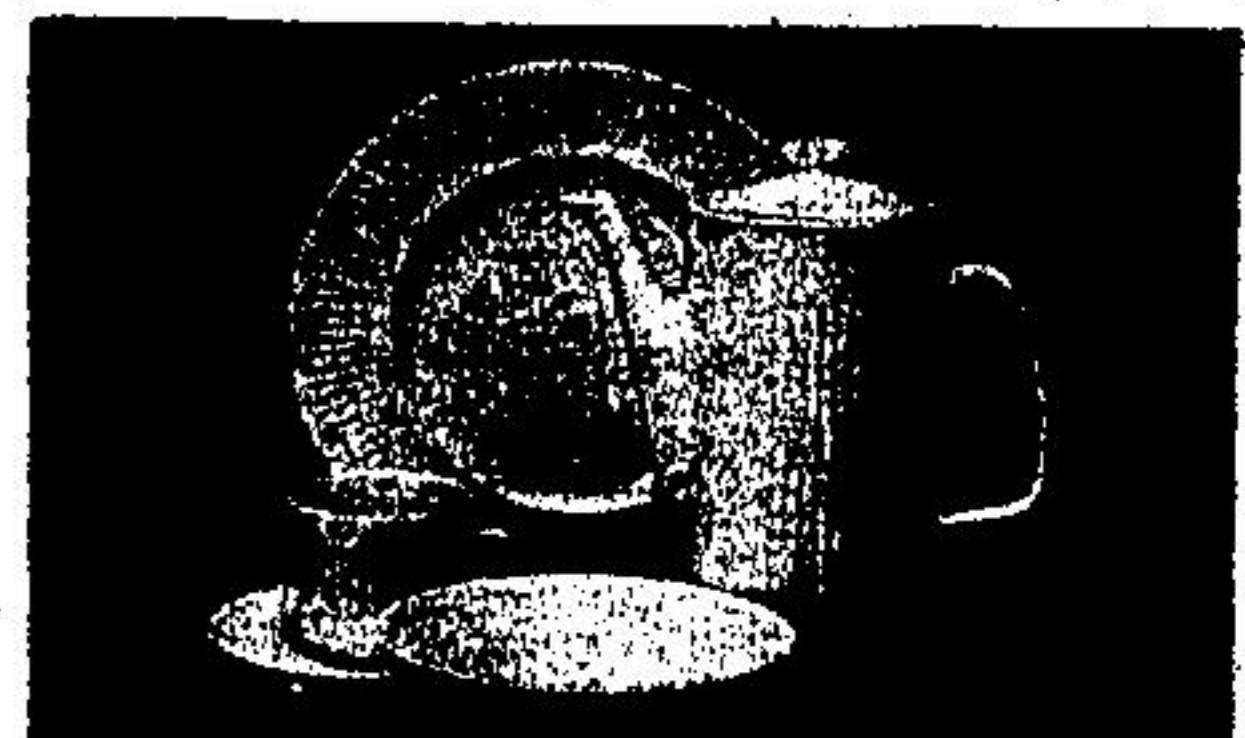


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