



Make it special for Mom

Gift of flowers sends message of appreciation

By RENA GALANIS
Advertising Features

The beauty of nature, the power of color - a gift of flowers makes just about everyone feel special.

Traditionally a staple gift for Mother's Day, the popularity of giving bouquets on this occasion surpasses even that of Valentine's Day, says Flower Depot owner, Ian Raymond.

Indeed, as the special day approaches, the Markham shop will stock about 10,000 roses and an equal amount of spring flowers.

"There will be lots of choice

when it comes to choosing a bouquet but I'm expecting the spring flowers - tulips, freesias, mums and daisies - to be more popular than roses because of the colder weather we've had this year," Raymond says. "Normally, many people would have seen those flowers blooming in their own yards by now. Because they haven't, I think they'll tend to prefer them to roses."

However, men tend to choose pastel-colored roses over any other flower for mom, says Beverley Turnbull, co-owner of Affordable Flowers in the Heritage Plaza.

"Women tend to choose mixed bouquets of fresh-cut spring

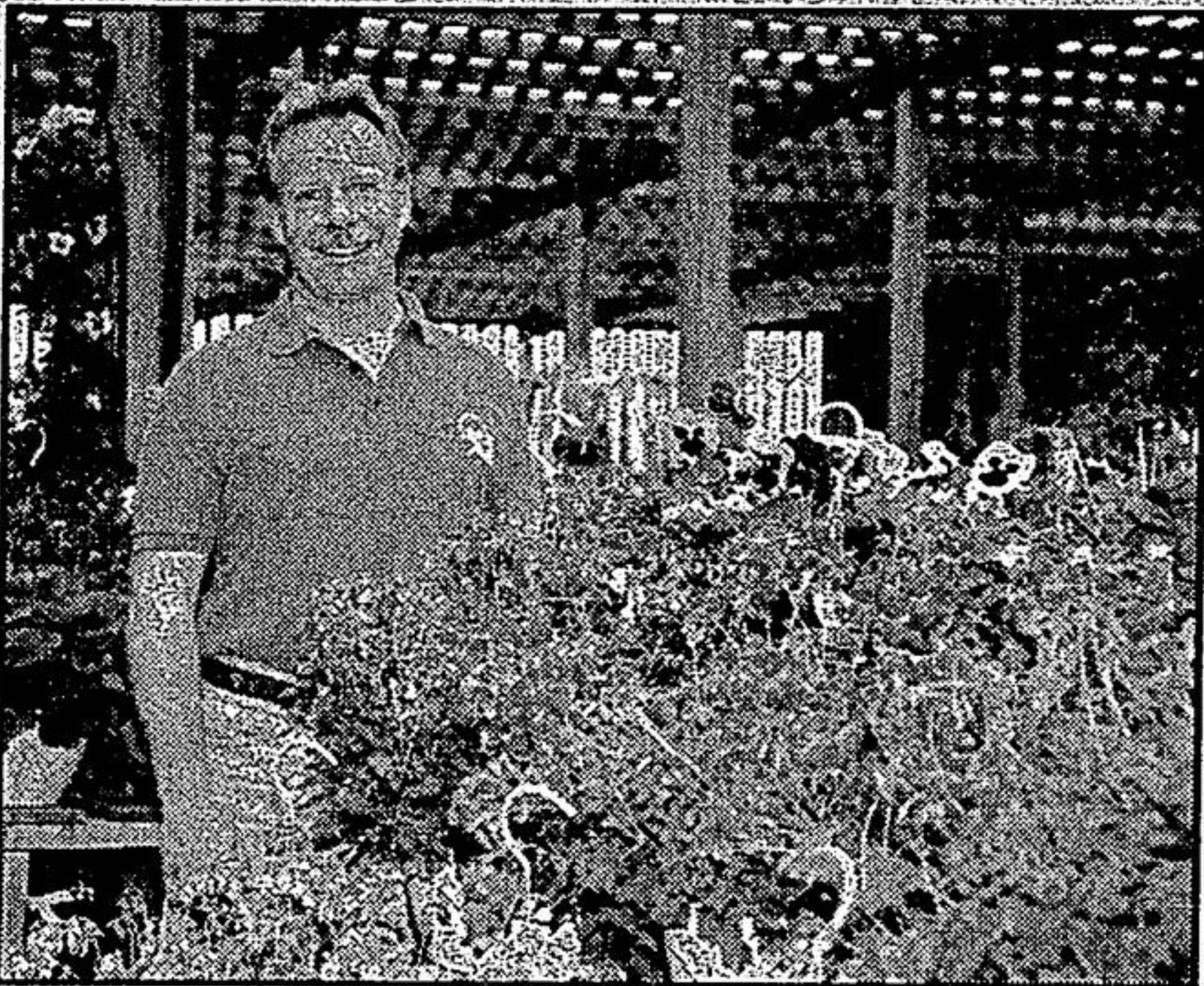
flowers much more often as a token of appreciation for mom.

Also, carnations, the traditional Mother's Day flower offering, are still a favorite and have a "nice, long vase-life," she adds.

Still another alternative is to give mom a planter - a gift she can keep throughout the season, says York Downs Garden Centre manager, Jim Peters.

The 12-year-old garden centre near Kennedy Road and Major Mackenzie has an array of petunias, geraniums, impatiens and peonias, amongst other lovelies, which can be bought in hanging baskets and bags for a potent gift for mother.

Whatever the selection, flowers bring the beauty of nature into a home and are enjoyed by most everyone.



Jim Peters, garden centre manager of York Downs Garden Centre, shows off the array of colorful offerings at the one-stop garden care shop on Kennedy Road.

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