

**WHEN LOVE WALKS IN**—it's time to talk diamond engagement rings, reports the Jewelry Industry Council. Diamonds, even in today's inflated times, will hold their value in the years ahead.

## Engagement rings — the traditional symbol of love

*"The time has come," the jeweler said, to talk of many things:*

*Of shoes and rice and wedding bells  
And diamond engagement rings . . ."*

And, that time inevitably comes to all young couples who are in love and thinking of purchasing that very important diamond ring as a symbol of their love, reports the Jewelry Industry Council.

Time was when the parents of today's young couples went through the same experience in a not-too-different fashion.

In 1956, the average young man paid from \$230 to \$250

for an engagement ring—which was about a month's salary at that time.

### Guidelines for the groom

Now, a quarter of a century later, the average engagement diamond costs about \$800 or more, and today's young man should plan to spend about two months' salary on the ring for his intended bride.

In these inflated times, the diamond is a bargain for, compared to what has happened to rents and the price of automobiles, the diamond has more than retained its value.

Ask Dad how much a typi-

cal Saturday night date with Mom at the movies cost. Chances are, for a 10 dollar bill he could take Mom to a first-run movie, fill his gas tank, and have enough money left over for hamburgers and malteds at the drive-in. The same date today would cost two and a half times as much.

Alas, the prices of 1956 are long past, but Mom's diamond engagement ring has appreciated in value much more than its original cost—and that doesn't even consider its sentimental value!

Consult a jeweler

So, while the diamond en-

agement ring is a good investment, it is still a good idea for couples to enlist the aid of their favorite jeweler when they want to purchase one.

Since most persons are not gemologists, or authorities on diamonds, having an expert as a guide is a good idea.

Your jeweler can interpret the worth of the diamond you choose based on its coloring, how it is cut, its freedom from imperfections and its carat weight.

So, when young lovers want to talk diamond engagement rings, says the Council, the time has come to talk to their favorite jeweler!

## What the well-dressed groom is wearing on his honeymoon

One of the things that the groom must consider is the preparation of his honeymoon wardrobe, according to the American Formalwear Association.

Obviously, the type and quantity of the clothes that will be needed on that sentimental journey depend on several fac-

tors, among which are the kind of trip the couple is taking and the destination at which the clothes will be worn.

The length of the trip also affects the size of his wardrobe.

Strangely enough, virtually the same size wardrobe needed for a two-week trip will be required for a journey of one week and will be sufficient for a three-week trip.

An important factor in determining the kind of wardrobe is the mode of travel that the happy couple will take. Will they go by car, will they fly or will they go by ship?

If they fly or if they drive, their travel clothes should be casual and comfortable.

On the other hand, if the trip is to be by sea, some dressier raiment will certainly be needed. Most cruise passengers wear at the least a suit or

sport jacket and slacks for dinner, and in some instances don formalwear for those gala evenings afloat.

The first thing to consider is travel clothes. Going by car, several pairs of slacks (one of which can be jeans) worn with several sport shirts will fill the bill.

It will be a good idea to have at least two pairs of those slacks of a wash/wear construction, and all of the shirts (both sport and dress) capable of being rinsed out and ready to wear the next day.

Flying presents no wardrobe problems. A fellow can wear anything from a suit or a sport jacket and slacks to jeans.

A tip to the wise is that when flying it is a good idea to wear easy-going comfortable shoes because one's feet tend to swell, particularly on long

flights.

Going by sea, most fellows will want a presentable casual outfit to wear when boarding the ship.

It is a safe rule of thumb that for a trip of two weeks, at least four complete and distinctly different outfits should be taken along.

If going by sea, consult your travel agent, as a dinner jacket (tuxedo) may be needed in addition to the basic four.

Aboard ship or at a resort, casual clothes are the rule.

One of the best ways to visually increase the size of your wardrobe is to take along a wisely selected assortment of slacks that can be worn interchangeably with several sport coats and blazers.

You will probably find that dress shirts are handy to wear for dinner at places where a tie may be required.

Wash/wear underwear also helps to hold down your baggage load. Three outfits should suffice, as you can

wash out a pair each day and have a spare set always ready.

Six or eight pairs of socks will do, and don't forget to pack handkerchiefs.

A lightweight washable robe is a very handy thing to have along because it can be used as a poolside coverup.

Be sure to make provisions for active sportswear when packing. By all means include at least one lightweight sweater in your wardrobe. Not only will it come in handy for sports, but it will also meet the needs of chilly mornings and nights.

Another must is a lightweight raincoat. Besides coming in handy on rainy days, it will also serve as a warmer when a sweater is inappropriate.

Foldable travel slippers, many of which come with a case, are also very handy.

If you intend to do a lot of sightseeing, be sure to take along at least two or three pairs of comfortable walking shoes.

This brings us to honeymoon couples who may be planning to visit a big city rather than going to a resort.

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## Say it with flowers

Since ancient times when bunches of herbs were carried by brides under their veils, flowers have been an integral part of the wedding ceremony.

Traditionally, they were symbols of fertility, however many flowers also have significances all their own.

The rose is a symbol of love, the orchid of beauty and the carnation of distinction. The white daisy symbolizes innocence and the orange blossom, purity and loveliness. Blue

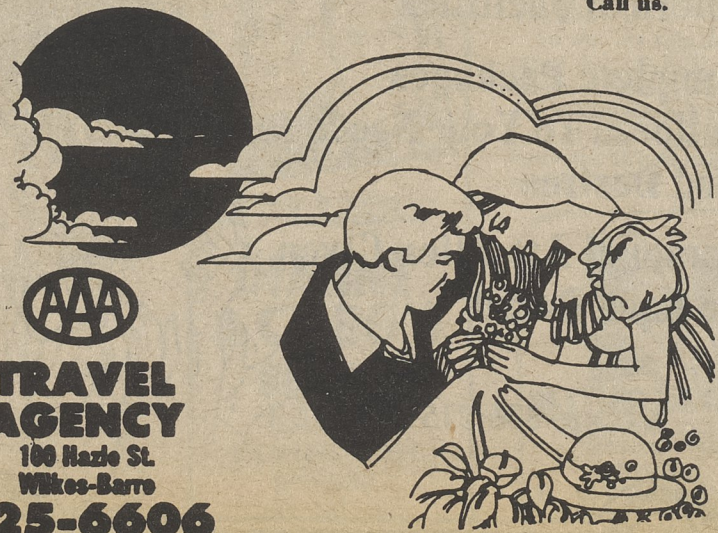
violets symbolize faithfulness, and the blue bell, constancy.

Forget-me-nots mean true love, lily of the valley, happiness. The white lilac is a symbol of youthful innocence, red chrysanthemums of sharing, and the gardenia of joy.

Don't forget flowers for the mother of the bride and the groom's mother, boutonnières for the men, bouquets for any female attendants and flowers for the altar and reception hall.

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