

Sign On The Dotted Line...

Marriage contracts traditionally stipulated the bride's dowry, her obligations to her spouse and her husband's responsibility to her.

A very colorful example of an old marriage contract is one that was drawn up by a Scottish sea captain during the 19th century.

"...I explained to her the conditions under which we were to sail in company on her husband's voyage:" states the sailor.

"She is to obey signals without question when received.

"She is to run under my guns if assailed by pirates or privateers.

"I am to keep her in due repair and see that she hath her allowance of coats of paints, streamers and bunting as befits a saucy craft.

"I am to take no other craft in tow, and if any be now attached to cut their hawsers (lines.)

"I am to revitalize (feed) her day to day.

"Should she be blown on her beam ends by wind or misfortune, I am to stand by and see her righted.

"I am to set our course for the Great Harbor in the hope that good moorings may be found for two well-built crafts when laid up for eternity".

Barbara Boback, pictured at right, models a gown by New York designer Eva Haynal Forsyth during a recent fashion show held locally and sponsored by Diana Designs of Shavertown.



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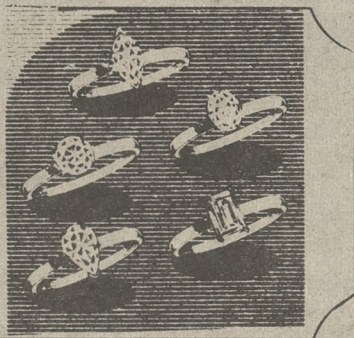
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