

# Smashing looks for the big day

By Sharon Williams  
Copley News Service

Your fiance is handsome and charming, but he's no blue-blooded prince.

And the engagement diamond on your hand weighs only a fraction of a carat — as opposed to the rock you had once imagined.

It's not that you've settled for less. It's just that you're taking a practical, commonsense approach to marrying in the frugal, value-oriented 1990s.

Except, of course, where your wedding dress is concerned. After all, the bridal gown traditionally is a dress to die for — a fantasy frock that flatters you like no other as you bask in the wedding-day spotlight.

Indeed, the wedding dress is alive, well and as embellished as ever — even in this decade of prudence and providence.

**SOPHISTICATED SHAPES**  
Designers are romancing the figure with the most flattering, sophisticated looks around. Details

worth watching for: bodices that follow the natural waist; controlled, full hems; draping; A-line, flared and forced silhouettes; and the emergence of the Watteau train.

**TRUE COLORS**

Of course, white still rules, but today's dresses offer some other acceptable alternatives.

Ivory, champagne, cream, salmon and blush pink are tasteful hints for the dress itself. Colorful accents — such as yellow roses blooming around a plunging V-neckline, a baby blue sash or silver and gold trims — add adornment without detracting from the overall look.

**AFFORDABLE OPTIONS**

There's no need to skimp on the satin. So go ahead and pile on the seed pearls if you wish, even if your wedding purse is limited.

The reason: Since more designers are creating wonderful gowns in the lesser price ranges, a wonderful wedding dress oftentimes can be had for less than \$500. You



also can find reasonably priced wedding dresses in mainstream department stores.

**INFORMAL TAKES**

Informal fashions are increasingly popular with brides planning an equally casual celebration, mature brides who want their dresses to be expressions of their personal style or those marrying for the second time around.

Taking their inspiration from ready-to-wear, an informal dress might translate into short and smart separates that the bride can wear again.

Another hot concept: The bridal mini. More sexy than sweet, this

abbreviated number is twisted and turned in a variety of flattering ways, such as a minidress with a bustier bodice topped with an elegant floor-length coat and chapel train for a happy mix of contemporary and traditional.

**SMART SHOPPING**

Following are some tips that will help make your wedding dress wanderings as pleasurable as falling in love.

- **Research, research:** Time spent poring over bridal magazines, planners and books is a necessary pleasure. As you review lit-

erally hundreds of dresses in the comfort of your home, keep in mind the theme and degree of formality of your celebration, as well as your own personal style.

Cut out the pictures you like — even if it's just a sleeve here or a bodice there — to take along on your shopping trip later. This will save you loads of legwork once you start combing the racks.

- **Stick to a schedule:** You've heard the sartorial nightmares. The dress that arrived three days before the wedding three sizes too small. Mixed-up deliveries that put the wrong dress at the wrong wedding. The bride who gained 20 pounds between fittings.

Fortunately, such disasters are few and far between, thanks to today's emphasis on customer service. But just to play it safe, wedding experts advise that you order your dress a good six months before the wedding.

- **Shop smart:** Get recommendations for the best bridal boutiques and department stores from friends, relatives or a reliable bridal consultant.

Once you've drawn up a list, make some phone calls and schedule appointments with the ones you plan to visit so you'll be guaranteed some personal attention.

Bring along your fashion clippings, an honest friend or relative with an eye for fashion and a list of questions covering matters such as alterations, customer service, refunds, deliveries and the projected timetable if your dress has to be ordered from the manufacturer.

- **Leave no stone unturned:** Wonderful wedding dresses often appear in some unexpected spots.

Vintage wedding wear, for instance, hangs in many antique shops. Only-worn-once dresses uncovered in secondhand shops or even in the newspaper's classified sections are waiting to be had at a fraction of what you would pay for something new.

**BRIDE FACTS**

Fewer brides today worry about the sexual aspects of their wedding night than did brides 20 years ago (percent who worry)

Twenty years ago

21%

Today

13%

**DO NOT DISTURB**

How to choose the right jewelry for that special day, your way? Stop in & I will personally make your wedding day unforgettable. My collection of Giovan's Crystal is designed with elegance and produced with care, just for you, the Bride.

JoAnn Castellino, Prop.

**Special Discounts**

3111 Market Street, Kingston (Kendal Complex) 717-288-7088  
Open Mon - Sat 10-6 • Sun 12-5 • Open Thursday til 8  
LOYALWAY - MasterCard & VISA Welcome

**The Bridal Outlet**

(Bridal appointments appreciated)

Elegant fashions at modest prices

Selected Bridals & Formals up to 75% off

127 W. 8th St., Wyoming, PA  
(717) 693-4696



**AUMICK'S AUDIO VISUAL**

16-20 East Main St., Plymouth, PA 18651

(717) 779-4950

**Panasonic®**

Just slightly ahead of our time and Technics®

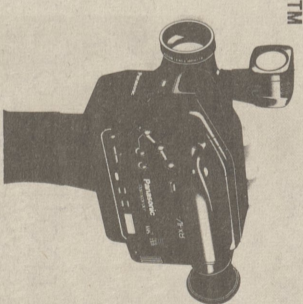


**Panasonic PV-21 Palmcorder™**

• Its tapes play in your VHS recorder with included Playpak™ adapter  
• Digital Fade • Color Enhancement Light  
• 8:1 Power Zoom Lens

Free Carry Case

Video Letter \$899.00



**Simply Us**

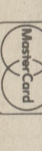
LADIES FASHION BOUTIQUE  
CLOTHING • ACCESSORIES • GIFTS

Special Occasion Dresses especially for Mother of the bride & Mother of the groom

- Capriccio
- Nicole Miller
- Jean Marc
- Kathryn Conover

You'll find the most romantic, unique and expensive special occasion dresses at Simply Us.

Layaways



Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm  
Evenings by appointment

200 W. MAIN STREET  
DALLAS, TX 75201  
(717) 565-2928

**Classic Bride**

by Jean Rescigno

WE PROVIDE THE SPLENDOR OF A WOMAN'S LIFELONG DREAMS. FASHIONS EVOLVE.

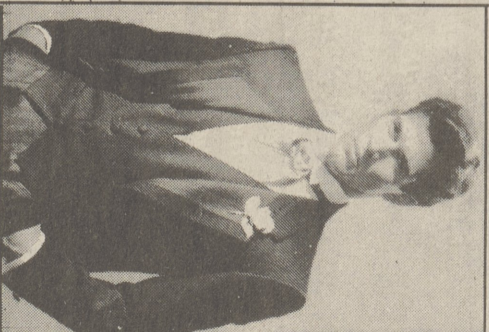
YET OUR ROLE REMAINS CONSTANT- TO OFFER THE BRIDE & HER PARTY THE FINEST GOWNS & ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE.

EVERY DETAIL IS SEEN TO BY JOAN, WHO UNDERSTANDS, AS YOU DO, THE MEANING OF EXCELLENCE.

240 Penn Ave. 655 Main St.  
Scranton, PA 18503 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701  
343-5100 842-5100

Member of the National Bridal Service

**U.S. TUXEDO AT GENETTS — WILKES-BARRE**



The Area's Largest Selection of Designer Tuxedos...

**GUARANTEED LOWEST RATES**

\*Register your 1992 wedding before Feb. 29th and receive ...

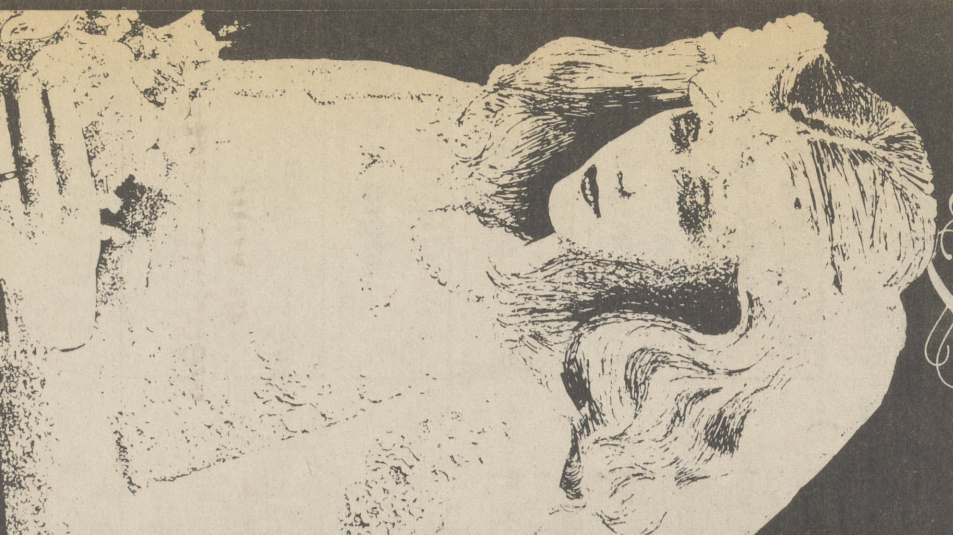
**\$10 OFF every Tuxedo in your wedding party**

**FREE TUX FOR GROOM** with party of 4 or more

CALL NOW FOR A FREE CONSULTATION TO DISCUSS DETAILS ON STYLES — AND PRICES NO OBLIGATIONS!

CALL 823-7658 FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT

**A Wedding to Remember**



The Ramada Hotel On-The-Square is the perfect place for the most special party you'll ever have.

Our "Wedding to Remember" reception and dinner includes everything from cocktails to dessert.

You will celebrate in one of our elegant ball rooms, each private and separate from the other. You may select the Independence Grand

Ballroom or the Washington Room. Our newest, most spectacular

ballroom isn't even open yet - but it will be in April of 1992. It's the

Tiffany Ballroom! The design is elegant - the view superior! And it

directly adjoins our private garden courtyard and its beautiful cherry trees, azaleas and rhododendrons. Call now, before it opens.

After the party you can relax and unwind in one of our beautifully appointed guest rooms.

We will assist in making reservations for your out-of-town guests, at a special group rate. We can also host your rehearsal dinner and our professional bridal staff will give attention to every detail to make your special day perfect.

Call 824-7100

For Your Bridal Appointment

**RAMADA HOTEL**

On The Square 30 Public Square • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701  
(717) 824-7100