

Wedding day superstitions based on old world tradition

By Lori McGinnis

In ancient times, when a man kidnapped the lady of his choice, carried her away flung over a horse's saddle, and dragged her into his house to be his bride, he probably didn't think it would start a tradition still carried out centuries later.

The wedding tradition of carrying the bride over the threshold stemmed from the ancient practice of choosing a bride and carrying her into the house to start a new life.

This is just one of today's wedding customs that resulted from beliefs of many countries during many eras.

The beliefs about the origination of a wedding ring are many, one being that it represents the shackle once put on a bride to repress her struggle after a man captured her.

The tradition of wearing rings on the third finger of the left hand originated from the Egyptian belief that the finger had a vein running from it directly to the heart.

Ring traditions vary

Superstition says the ring must never be bought on Friday (a day of bad luck). It must never be put on before the ceremony, nor can it be tried on by anyone other than the bride, or the bride will never marry.

Dropping the ring during the ceremony may be an act of clumsiness today, but it was once believed that whichever of the couple dropped it would be the first to die.

The wedding dress itself has numerous superstitious beliefs behind it. For instance the French say that a bride will live the same number of years as the number of buttons on her wedding dress. A penny sewn into the seam of the gown will bring good luck.

And the gown should not be completed before the wedding day or disaster may strike. It is considered safest to add the final stitch just before the bride goes to the church.

The bridal veil originated in the Middle East and was designed to ward off the evil eye and to protect the bride.

The notion that bad luck can befall a couple should the bridegroom see the

bride in her wedding clothes before the ceremony is well known. But not many may know it is bad luck for a bride to put on her entire wedding attire before she dresses for the ceremony.

Dimes in shoes

Also according to superstition, a bride should have a dime in her left shoe to bring good fortune, and a few grains of salt as a symbol of lasting friendship and loyalty.

The actual word "wedding" originated from the time when men gave a "wed" of money to buy a bride. In early England it was customary for a man to wait for his bride at the table of his wedding day. This type of servant was called a groom, hence the term bridegroom.

Wedding day weather was considered an important factor in the couple's future. Snow was considered lucky while rain foreshadowed tears. A thunderstorm during the ceremony stricken the couple to childlessness. A sunny day is considered to benefit the bride.

But if the expression "April showers bring May flowers" comes to mind, beware.

A May wedding is considered to bring death or misfortune within the year. Children of a couple married in May allegedly will have health problems.


The idea of the unlucky May wedding originates from old Roman festivals, called the Feasts of the Dead, which were in May and believed to cast bad luck on a wedding.

June is always a popular month for weddings, but few may know it is also considered a lucky month for the ceremony to occur. The early Romans believed the moon during June indicated luck for weddings.

The day of the week was also important to consider when planning a wedding. In Italy, Sunday was the best day for a wedding. A Monday marriage would bring forth girls or idiots as children, Tuesday would cause the first boy to be a fawn or a clubfoot.

Once a date has been set, it should not be changed because it indicates feelings of doubt about the wedding.

Continued on Page 7

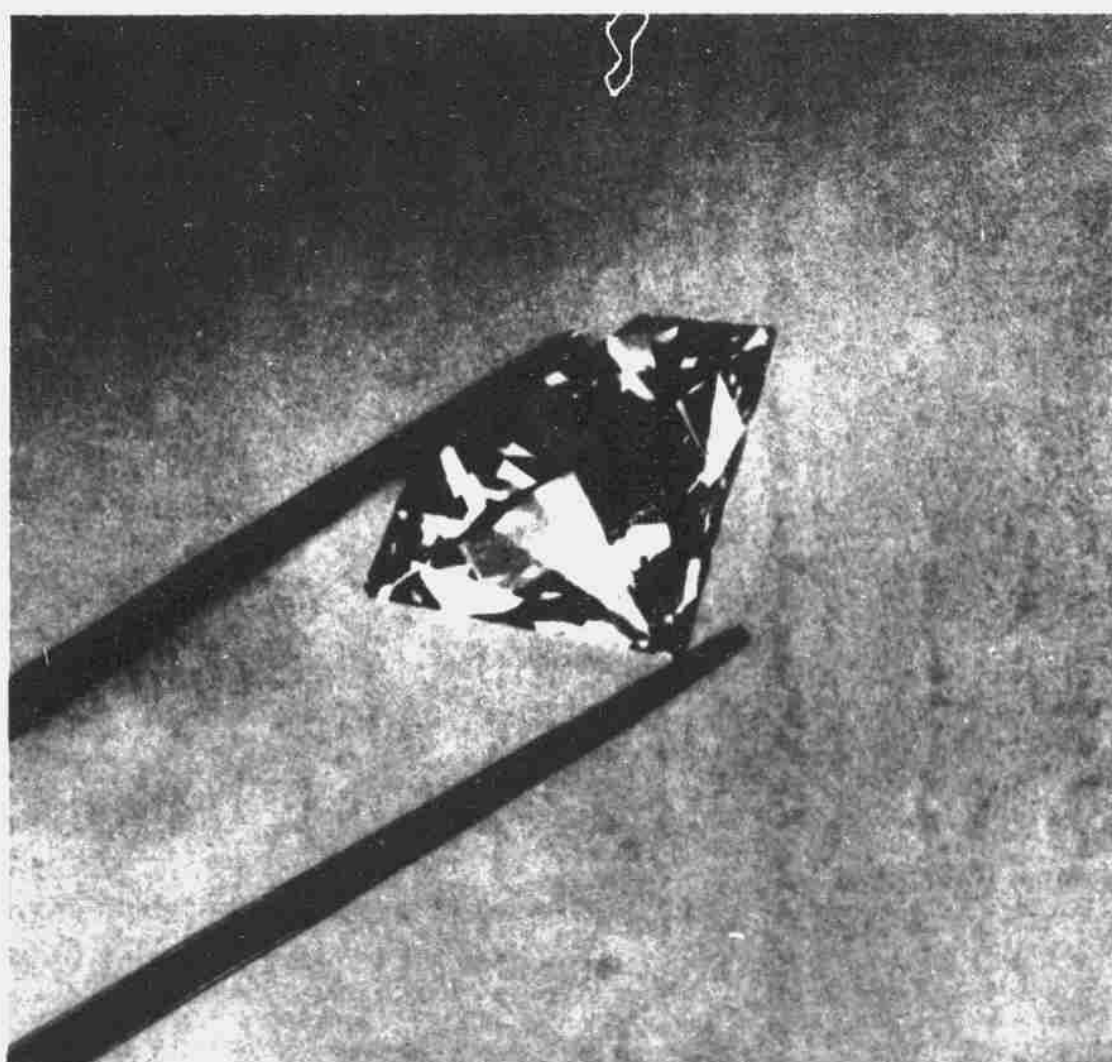
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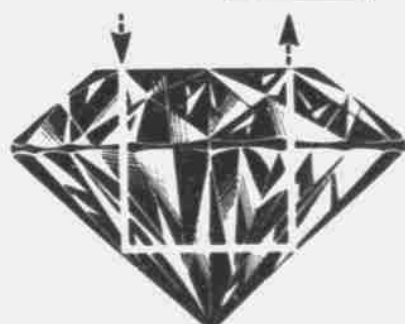
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Brilliance is the key to beauty in diamonds. Always look for a diamond that has been cut and polished to bring out all of its natural brilliance, one that meets the exacting standards that have been established as ideal. These are called ideal cut diamonds.

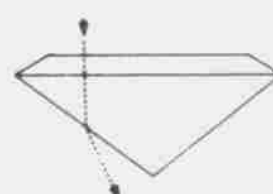
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