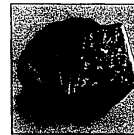
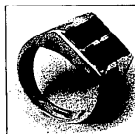


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John Darakjian
Jewelry Advance Building
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Cherubim, mantil la, the bride wore what?

Weddings are sometimes the worst part of my job. Oh sure, friends get hitched and I'm happy for them, I'll probably even do it myself one of these days. But when people want to tell the world about their big news, they don't just want to say they got married. Folks do that every day.

When the mother of the bride comes to the newspaper office to tell us about it, little Suzie never seems to have had your garden variety nuptials.

I always learn out that young debutante Susan strolled gracefully down the aisle into womanhood wearing her grandmother's antique ivory gown, delicately trimmed in charity lace, highlighted by a full-length train (carried by a flock of imported cherubim) with a mantilla veil.

Were there flowers at the wedding? we ask. There was a waterfall bouquet of white rosebuds, snowflake mums, holly and baby's breath.

And there was a gala reception for 2,537 close friends and relatives at Fritz's of Wyandotte, after which the couple will honeymoon in a remote chalet at the base of the Himalayas.

Then down at the bottom, mom writes in small print: "Mr. and Mrs. Smith will make their home in Gary, Ind., where Mr. Smith is employed as a sanitary engineer. Mrs. Smith is with the White Castle organization."

You get the idea.

I'm supposed to check stories to be sure they make sense, among other things, but these

always boggle me so much that I just believe everything they say. And I've always felt a bit guilty about that.

How do you spell (pronounce) that? And what is it, anyway? Isn't organza a little bean I used in not in cake? Does the bride wear baby's breath? mean she's expected to get pregnant soon? There must be millions out there just like me.

Heck, I didn't even know what a double-ring ceremony was until now, that is.

I've decided that I've had enough, that I'm going to play reporter and find out about these things.

First I ask around the office. "Say, Karen, I'm doing a story for the bridal section and..." Karen laughs uncontrollably.

Do the colors of the bridal gown mean anything? Karen says she recently saw an old aunt get all upset because the bride wore an ivory dress instead of pure white. But if you don't care about your old aunts, anything's okay.

Margaret says I should be careful of misspellings. There was the time the mother of the bride wore a gold dress at the wedding and the paper said she wore a golf dress.

And baby's breath—a type of tiny flower—is normally white, but sometimes is tinted. So if the bride had blue baby's breath, it doesn't mean she was yapping for air after being kissed by the groom.

A double-ring ceremony means both the bride and the

groom get one. Sherry says this is a handy gimmick for keeping the groom from messing around, but Karen says she gets her kicks out of going to the bar and watching all the men with suntan marks on their ring fingers try to pick her up.

Christine suggests I look at some bridal magazines. But all they have is photos of gowns with very little information, and sex advice columns giving some creative ideas for that all-important first night.

Enough of this I tried the public library.

Next to the books about weddings are works on cannibalism and dueling. Honest. The librarian gave me a strange look, but I got a book on duels and another on weddings.

To my surprise, the wedding book was almost as interesting as the other one. It even has sections on such things as Broken Engagements. (We hope this will be information for which you will have no use, but it does happen in the best of families.)

Oh, here's a section on Bachelor's Dinner. Toppings, balls and champagne, anchors and other obvious symbols of enlightenment always amuse the guests... it says.

So what have I learned from all this?

Well, a fingertip veil is one that's fingertip length with arms at side. Peau de so (which I still don't know how to spell) means "skin of silk," and is a type of

satin. Organza is a silky cotton. A picture hat (pretty as a picture) has a wide brim. The groom is supposed to buy all the flowers.

A maid of honor who's married is called a matron of honor. Veneration, alonson, and chanilly are various textures of lace.

And I think I'll try reading sports stories for awhile.

—DENNIS ROSENBLUM



She may look lovely, but what's she got on, wonders a confused bridegroom, so wonders one Observer & Eccentric copy editor Dennis Rosenblum. Rosenblum tackles the task of trying to understand just what the bride is wearing.

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