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Silver —

By NANCY AUSTIN

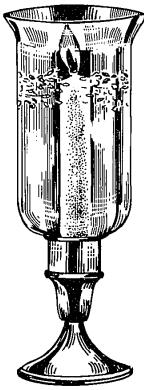
If today's bride dreams of receiving the start of an heirloom silver collection, that dream may never come true.

With the price of silver soaring and the availability shrinking, even one place setting looks more and more elusive. At approximately \$700 for a four-piece place setting of silver, few brides will receive a place setting.

J.L. Hudson's bridal registry sees fewer and fewer brides registering for the commodity. "We get maybe one or two brides a year who register," stated Lillian Yaksich, bridal consultant at Hudson's Westland store.

"Instead, most of the brides are asking for stainless," she said. "If they do want to register, we can't give them a price."

"We can't give out prices on silver," stated Virginia Parsons, Hudson's silver department manager. "We could get a price list today, and it could change tomorrow. If a customer wants to buy silver, they have to wait until our department gets a corporate release. Then they then can order. But we aren't selling any silver right now." she added.



And so the brides are turning to other alternatives which include silver plate and pewter. Some, are registering for two sets of stainless, and not even asking for silver plate.

Lynn Morrison, sales promotion manager of Jacobson's in Birmingham, said that the brides registering at that store are turning their attention to silver plate instead of silver flatware. Occasionally they have an interest in holloware pieces, but again that is in silver plate or pewter. "Usually the only way a