



Susan Kelley puts the finishing touches on a wedding cake. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

that the first wedding cakes in Europe many many years ago were biscuits thrown at the bride. Later sweets appeared in the form of individually decorated little cakes like petit fours. Possibly they were baked by brides in self-defense.

She believes the big cake is an American custom.

Mrs. Thouin is manager of three Machus Pastry Shops. Two are in Birmingham, one at 160 W. Maple, the other at 633 S. Adams. The third store is at 6676 Telegraph, Bloomfield Township.

Ms. McCourt whips up pastries

for brides and bridegrooms, along with cheese cakes at Thomas Wedding Cakes, 29410 Five Mile, Livonia. She knows how far wedding cakes have traveled from the old fruit cake center.

In the cakes she makes from scratch, she offers her customers six choices, chocolate, banana nut, marble, cherry nut, yellow and white. "Sometimes each layer is different," she said.

Machus goes one step further and includes a carrot cake in its repertoire.

No longer does a pure white frosting have to top the wedding

cake. They are being frosted in white, yellow or peach at Thomas Cakes.

THE DECORATING of a cake is regarded as something of an art. It was not until Ms. McCourt took cake decorating courses in an area high school that she felt ready to leave her job as chef in Huck's Bavarian Village, and take on the running of a store.

Fifty years ago when Mrs. Maddox opened her shop, roses and perhaps calla lilies were allowed to grace the wedding cake, accord-

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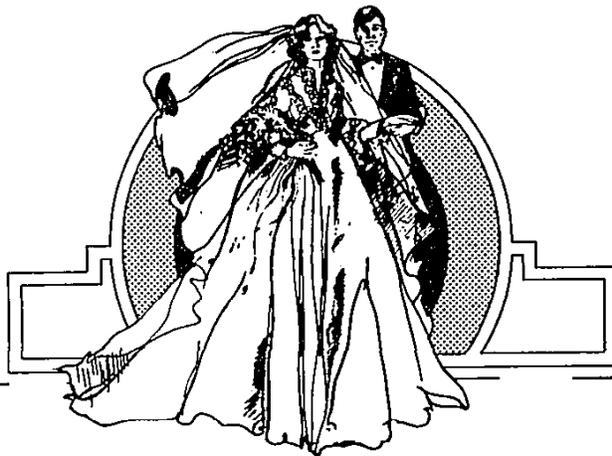


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