

**Prettier
than a
color
picture**



She'll be a beautiful bride in a white English net gown with sleeveless coat designed by Ron LoVece. (Staff photos by Dick Kelley)

Gowns enhance bride's blush



LoVece designs the contemporary gown in blushed ivory chiffon.

Although the importance of selecting what you wear on your wedding day will probably be superceded by picking the time, date and place of the ceremony, it requires as much, if not more thought.

According to Sue Gordon, of the Birmingham bridal salon, picking out a wedding dress should be a unique and happy experience and "if you're mother doesn't cry when you try on your wedding gown, don't buy it."

Ms Gordon advises the bride to try on a lot of gowns and to go into the salon with an open mind.

After having decided when she will be married, whether she will be married at home, in a club, or a church, and the time of day of the ceremony, "she should enter into this important step without any preconceived ideas," said Ms Gordon.

Never mind what Aunt Tessie will think, she added "This is a gown for the most special day in a girl's life."

This year's spring bride has variety of choices, from classic empire waist styles to more contemporary designs. Some of the newest and innovative gowns come from designer Ron LoVece, who recently brought his collection to Ms Gordon's Birmingham salon.

A few years back, LoVece

re-introduced color for the bride and this year perfected it with designs such as a blush, layered chiffon gown, touched with soft pink silk roses.

"Color in a bride's gown is not something new," said Ms. Gordon. "It is a revival of the custom of a bride having her gown made up in color so that it later became her Sunday-best dress."

Many brides continue to ask for the classic gown, said Ms. Gordon. The classic, she added, is the lace and beaded bodice gowns, embellished with embroidery and pearls. Although lovely and traditional, the LoVece designs are emerging as the new classic.

His gowns rely on beautiful fabrics and construction. He also considers the wearer.

Because the bride of today enjoys her own reception and wants to dance and be comfortable, LoVece fashions gowns that fit the bride. One design, for example, is elegant in a Victorian-look, jacketed gown which drops its solemnity along with its jacket to reveal a halter-top—perfect for dancing.

Ms Gordon suggests that the bride need not adhere to rules of bygone days. The bride may wear any gown she chooses, she said, as long as it is in keeping with the type of ceremony.

—RUSTLE SHAND