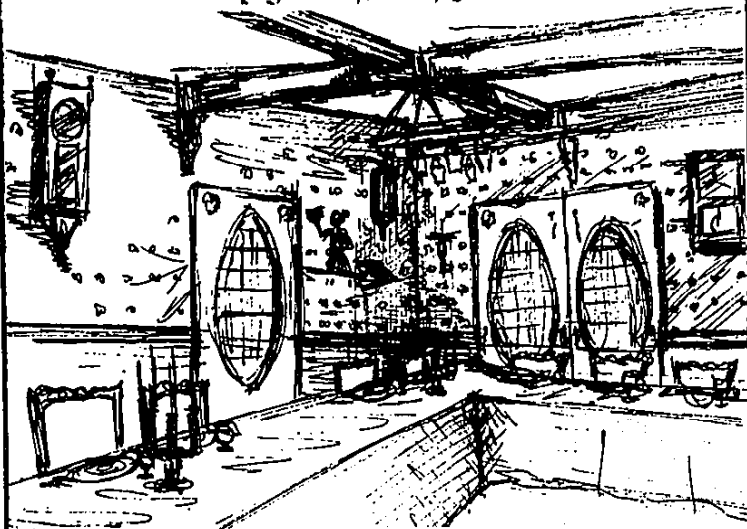


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Continued from Page 25

societies where it flourished as a common practice it was a necessity of survival or a period of rapid expansion of relatively short duration.

It seemed to me that I always viewed the earlier civilizations with the "happy native" concept. I figured their society just hadn't thought up a system of morals and so they got to indulge in all sorts of forbidden practices without much censure. Not so, say the books written by folks who've studied ancient peoples, anyone who violated the practices of the tribe or did not accept the task of hunting food for his family was severely punished.

The next step shows some advance toward marriage as we know it today. Bride purchase was arranged for with the family of the bride. Of course no one as yet had thought to consult the bride -- she was still considered a piece of property, but at least it cut down on injuries sustained in the process and allowed a little preparation.

Bill Moneybucks today wed the lovely and charming Bella Deal when he handed over three cows, two pigs, a slightly used bow and six skins to Bell's father. Bella wore an imported spotted cat skin and some lovely beads of animal origin. After a brief stay in the woods, they'll join Bill's tribe where the price for Bell's com-

pany will set her high in the social order of Bill's tribe.

The practice of purchase is the first that has really hung on into modern society. Things have become switched around a bit, however, with the bride bringing more than her fertility to the marriage. Even in Roman and Classic Greece the father sent his daughter into matrimony with whatever possessions he could. The dowry and trousseau came out of this practice of gift exchange.

Here's where it got to be big business. Marriage brokers arose, dealing usually with nobility and leaving the peasants to make their own deals. Naturally the woman's wishes were of little concern and the idea of romantic love and mutual consent to marry was nice if it worked out that way, but was not of prime concern until much later.

Now, however, the bride could at least plan what to wear. The coarse nature of their cloth as well as few extras in society made the bridal gown a prized possession of very few. Frequently a social symbol of the married state was adopted after or at the ceremony, such as the Roman stola (a symbol of womanhood only worn by a married woman). Other customs involved a change in dress. The innocent virgin was even through the middle centuries

Continued on Page 27

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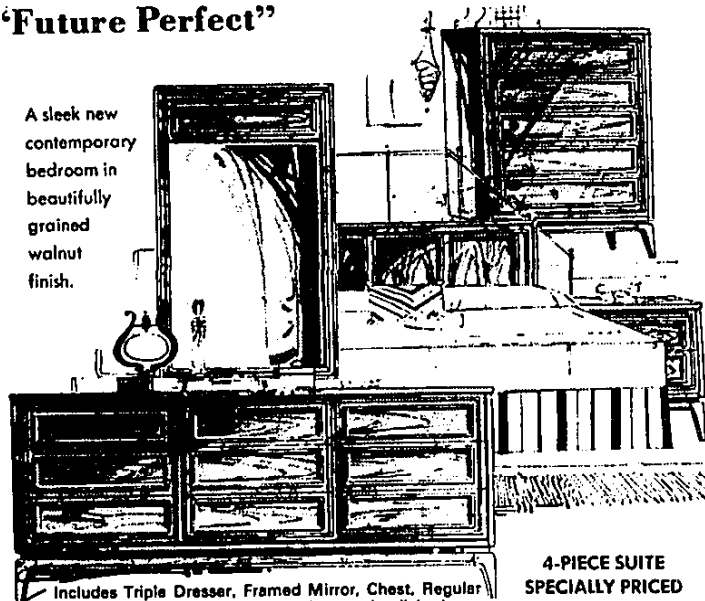
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