



CUPID LIKES THE NOSEGAY

Are traditions changing?

Only a few months ago families were shook-up over their daughters' determination to be married in a public park, barefoot and braless.

Sixty years ago, moms swooned because daughters refused to abide by the old custom that once "the cards were out" brides were not to be seen in public. The cards were the invitations to the weddings and Dame Curtsey, whose book of etiquette, circa 1909, mentioning the passing of the tradition, comments: "The custom . . . was a good one, inasmuch as it gave (the bride) time to rest and make final preparations in a leisurely manner."

So we see that changes of the Sixties were monumental only because they were thought spectacular at the moment and part of the then fashionable plan to drive parents bananas.

AND THROUGH it all came father.

He is still first choice to give the bride away—although its a little known fact that mom can properly do so.

And no one has ever denied him his inalienable right to pick up the tab for the **WHOLE** thing.

NO CHANGE in tradition was ever shorter-lived than the depar-

ture from the traditional white wedding gown, if the event was to be an occasion at all.

Store personnel maintain that even at the height of the revolution requests for it far outnumbered the cries for "something **REALLY** different."

Now more than ever girls are reverting to the usual feminine gowns — white in the summer, ivory in winter. They wear fewer face veils but demand full-length mantillas and chapel-length veils rather than the picture hats considered in vogue.

AFTER ALL the veil itself was at one time considered "revolutionary," for they are the offshot of ancient days when it was the custom for females to wear their long hair flowing until after marriage. Binding up the bride's hair was a formal wedding ceremony, a signal that she was no longer a virgin.

A bridal tradition that persists is an especially decorated cake for the occasion.

The custom of taking a honeymoon is very much **IN**. Sometimes it is a belated one and the Grand Tour is no longer considered *de rigueur*.

THERE ARE too many places other than Europe to spend a honeymoon, and too many ways of financing travel other than hitting Dear

Old Dad (the bridegroom's father in this case).

Flowers continue to be the number one wedding decoration, as champagne still goes its bubbly way as the proper libation even though an open bar is provided.

Nothing can really replace the bridal bouquet. (Who would throw a prayer book at the girls to find out who the next bride will be?) The girls favor nosegays for themselves and their attendants, although use of single long-stemmed rose has not been discarded.

THERE IS more color in bridal bouquets and a variety of types of flowers chosen over a cluster of a single variety.

Budgets tamper more with tradition than the brides, their finances, families and the New Morality lumped together.

Flowers may still be first choice in wedding decoration but their use is in proportion to the sum specified on the expense account. Interiors of churches are seldom transformed into rose gardens anymore. In the spacious assembly rooms of clubs or halls, decorations are apt to be confined to the tables.

But mothers still cry at weddings. That's more a privilege than a tradition. Traditions have reasons.

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