

Buying a gift? Check the bridal registry first

By **KARLA K. MARTIN**
Reporter

It's not uncommon for Mr. and Mrs. Newlywed to return from their honeymoon and begin their lives with two extra blenders, eight identical salad bowls and 16 bath towels — all different.

The problem of duplicating gifts can be solved by the use of bridal registries and by looking for less common, yet functional, gifts.

Laura Thornton, a Dillard's bridal consultant, suggests relying on bridal registries and choosing personal gifts.

Thornton said that referring to a bride's registry ensures that the gift the bride receives will be what she wants.

The registry is a continuous record of items purchased for Mrs. Newlywed at a particular store. It shows what the bride has not yet received.

Bridal registries can be used for the bride's china, crystal, sil-

ver and pots and pans selections. Her placemats, bath towels, lingerie, kitchenware and even luggage can be registered depending upon the store. Registries also can be set up for the couple to show such gifts as tools, for example.

Some of the stores in College Station and Bryan that have bridal registries are Dillard's, Caldwell Jewelers, Central Texas Hardware Do-It Center, the Curiosity Shop, the Gift Gallery, Ira's, Lingerie Wld, Little Red School Gallery and Medley's.

"Newlywed couples usually don't have a lot of money right after they get married," said

Thornton, who is also a mother, student, and a wife.

Most young couples can't afford china, crystal and silver when they marry, but they can assure themselves of a start on patterns they want by the use of the bridal registries. That way, those who give the expensive

or even towels, they would stick more to the traditional wedding gifts."

Some suggestions offered by other local merchants for more personal wedding gifts include electric skillets, spice racks, paper towel dispensers, grease dripping jars, canisters and hot plates for the kitchen.

Items for the bar include cocktail glasses, ice hooks, ice buckets, pitchers, wine racks and cork screws.

Such gifts as barbecue utensils, knife sets, steak knives, knife sharpeners, carving blocks and cutting boards make good gifts — especially for the hardware shower, which both the bride and the groom attend.

Scissor sets, kitchen shears, backgammon sets, poker sets, cold-water coffee makers, thermos jugs and insulated coffee cups also can be included in this list.

Possible gifts for the brides who enjoy cooking are cake and pie servers, grapefruit spoons, aprons, coffee beans and grinder, food processors, slow cookers and pasta makers.

Other gifts for the cook include roast pans, cake pans, pie pans, pudding molds, cupcake tins, woks, microwave dishes and utensils, as well as cookie stamps, chocolate candy molds and cookie jars.

Wedding gifts that center on entertaining include TV table trays, salt and pepper shakers, cake plates and covers, teapots, tea sets, coffeepots, napkin holders and napkin rings.

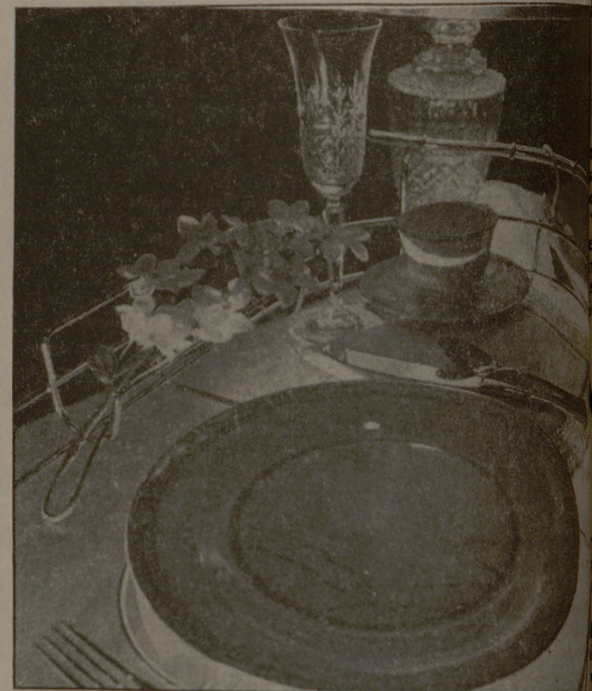
Other gifts for entertaining are pewter bread trays, cheese slicers, vegetable and dip trays, and fondue sets.

Other miscellaneous items that make unusual but functional wedding gifts include telephones, beveled and mirrored picture frames, lamps, sheets and bedspreads, pillows, electric blankets, mirrors, brass and crystal candleholders, velvet wedding picture albums, family bibles and leather-bound family history books.

Items can be sure that they are giving what the couple prefers.

The bridal registries, however, are good for only a select group of items. Another way to keep the newlyweds from receiving duplicates is to buy more personal wedding gifts.

"I think people are giving more personal gifts now," Thornton said. "I don't think anyone 10 or 20 years ago would have given something like sheets



By checking the bride's registry, you can avoid giving duplicate gifts.

fireplace tools and useful gifts. Hanging newspaper and magazines, and book ends are special additions for the bride.

Some bathroom gifts include towel racks and rings, dispensers, bathtub plunger mats, toilet seats and night lights, shower curtains, vanity stools, hairbrushes and back-scratching pensers and back-scratching brushes.

According to Emily Post, author of *The Complete Wedding Etiquette*, these items usually are given to the bride and groom at their wedding.

Post says that gifts given on the wedding should be in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Newlywed, and not in the name of the bride's family.

The consumer wishes to avoid all possibilities of excess, quite and salad bowls, Post says. Proper etiquette to send proper etiquette to send proper etiquette and checks to the bride.

If the couple has a fireplace, lywed couple.

Diamonds still bride's favorite

By **LESLIE MARTIN**
Reporter

"Honey, let's get married. Four magical words that put a

sparkle in her eyes and a smile on her face.

Giving the bride an engagement ring is a custom that in the Middle Ages, Italian merchants believed the diamond symbolized the fire of true love and ensured domestic accord.

The task of finding the perfect engagement ring to symbolize commitment is serious business for most couples and there are many different rings to choose from.

Still a favorite choice is the diamond. Usually the first thing a couple wants to decide on, says Supancic of Sweeney's.

"Some people choose precious gems like rubies, sapphires or emeralds, but by far diamonds remain the most popular stone," Supancic says.

Diamond cuts range from the round brilliant, a diamond's most frequent choice of younger couples here, to the pear and the oval.

The price of each diamond depends on its cut, clarity and size.

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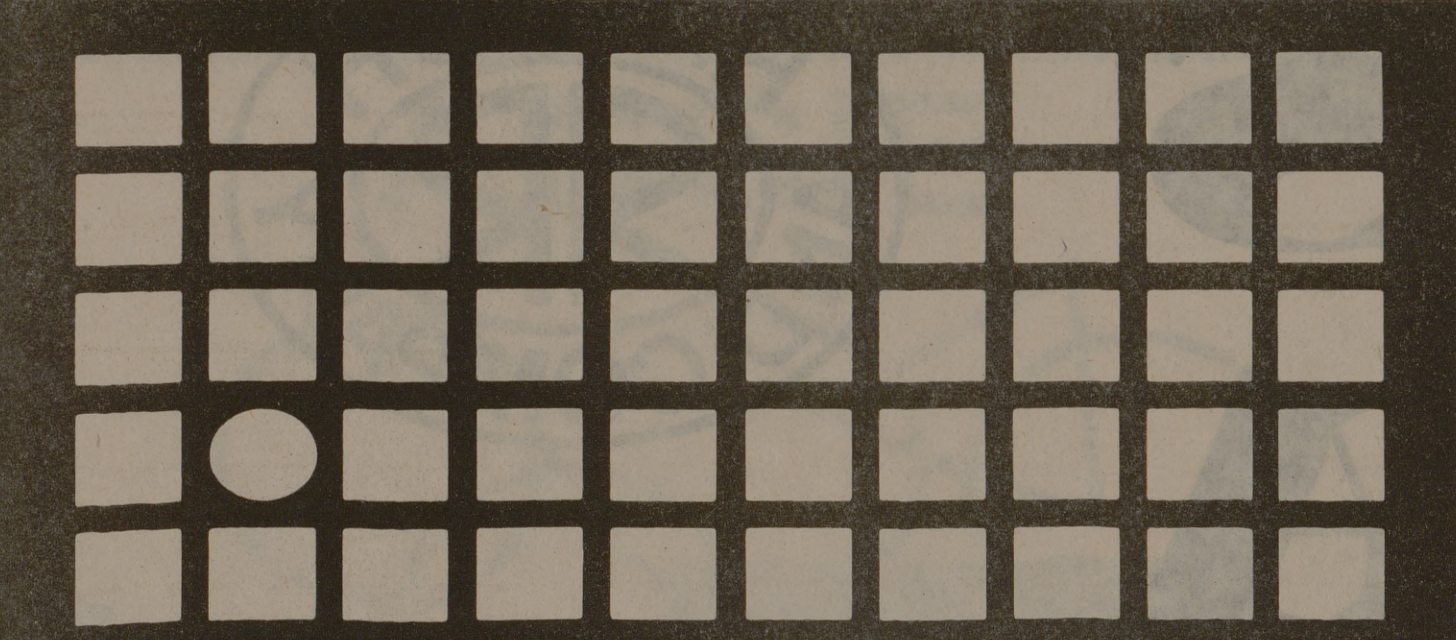
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