

Gresham bridal show is Monday



Marcelle Orr models gown similar to one worn by Lady Diana for her wedding.

by SHARON NESBIT
of The Outlook staff

Romance is back.

Especially romantic weddings, says Lee Kinnear DeVore, one of the organizers of Monday's 10th annual Gresham Wedding Preview at the Elks Lodge, 355 NW Division St. The doors open at 7:15. A \$1.50 admission will be charged.

The bridal preview played to a capacity crowd last year.

At 7:45, local models will show the men's formal wear, bridal gowns, mother's gowns and attendant's gowns (40 dresses in all) suitable for this year's romantic weddings.

One of those gowns will be similar to the one worn by Britain's Lady Diana.

"Lady's Di's wedding has really had an effect," says DeVore, owner of Dee's photographic studio and accompanying bridal salon.

Weddings where the principals are bare footed and wear flowers in their hair are a thing of the past, DeVore says. "Weddings are swinging back — they're becoming more formal."

Consequently wedding planners have a lot of questions to ask and local retailers have designed next week's wedding preview to be much more than a fashion show.

"It's for brides and

grooms and their families who know they're going to have a wedding and then say, 'What do I do first?'" says DeVore with sympathy that comes from long experience.

The show's format features the most often asked questions — like how many napkins to order, how quickly to arrange for a photographer, what kind of formal wear and how much cake will receptions guests want.

"About the only thing we don't advise on is the minister," laughs DeVore. "There is no one minister for everyone."

But the Gresham show is a pioneer of sorts. When DeVore and Rick Stone of Gordon Stones launched it 10 years ago they were among the first to show male wedding fashions.

"I still wish we could draw more men to our shows. It's their wedding too," DeVore says.

What DeVore believes to be unique about the Gresham Bridal Preview is the fact that the 11 local sponsors are all businesses that are owner-operated.

It is a soup to nuts approach. Heidi's Swiss Pastries will bring samples of all their cakes. Meats 'N

Treats will offer goodies for a reception.

The bridal wear that most people think of as being the key part of any wedding, comes from Dees and Gordon Stones and Jaye's Bouquets is in charge of all the flowers.

"Taylor Rental is one of our sponsors. That's where you go when you need an arbor to be married under, or a wine fountain or an extra punch bowl," says DeVore.

Town and Country Travel will offer advice to honeymoon planners. "It's amazing how many young people don't realize that service from a travel agent is free," adds DeVore.

Leila Rae Hair Design will prepare a bride, both face and hair, "and get her to the church on time."

And Sher's Designer Jewelry will display rings and other gift items that can become "tomorrow's heirlooms." Nick's Hallmark, a longtime sponsor of the show, will show paper goods, bridal stationery and gifts.

"And Cloudfree and Sun with its bridal registry is a sponsor," concludes DeVore. "A bridal registry can be an important part of the process."

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