

Do You Know a Good Pearl on Sight?

Most women, says a leading importer of Japanese cultured pearls, don't know how to choose a high quality pearl necklace from a poor one.

Men, he quickly adds, are even worse.

But it's a simple matter, says Sidney A. Weiss, president of the Imperial Pearl Syndicate, largest importers of pearls into this country, and furthermore the purchase need not be an expensive one.

Weiss says excellent quality pearls can be purchased for as little as \$20, although he believes shopping in the \$50 to \$100 bracket will give the most satisfaction. He strongly suggests, however, that the best place to start is a reputable jeweler or department store.

"The purchaser should remember," he says, "that a good quality pearl necklace — and it need not necessarily be an expensive one — can be worn and will be fashionable for many, many years. Sub-standard merchandise, even if the jewels are large, will not, last, will not have the proper luster, color and quality and certainly will not make the wearer happy."

Weiss recently returned from Japan, where he spoke with Japanese businessmen and government officials to seek ways to keep inferior pearls from reaching the American market. He says:

"Because of an acute shortage of fine quality and large Japanese cultured pearls, it seems inevitable that their selling price will rise as much as 50 to 75 per cent in America."

This will be caused, he adds, by the fact that "many Japanese growers have been harvesting their beds as quickly as possible, instead of letting the pearls develop. This has resulted in a bumper crop of cheap, inferior merchandise that doesn't even



WHICH ARE THE PRECIOUS PEARLS? . . . The necklace at left costs \$250, earrings \$17.50, bracelet \$25. At right are a \$10,000 pearl necklace, \$2000 earrings, \$3500 bracelet, \$1600 rings. All are "real" cultured pearls, but difference is in quality.

deserve the name of cultured pearls."

When buying pearls, Weiss says, the first and by far most important thing a buyer should look for is luster. Without this it may be. Years after its purchase, he says, a pearl necklace should still retain its glow and "capture the beauty of the owner's skin."

After luster, Weiss says that roundness is most important. Then the buyer should check for matching — a perfect evenness from the larger stones to the smallest. The fourth point is imperfection and the fifth is color.

On the matter of color, he says, a rose or pink color is the most desirable, followed by a white and pink combination, a cream pink, and a cream.

Most assuredly avoid the dirty

Airplane Do-It-Yourselfers

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — At first glance it appeared the driver was towing a boat to the airport on a trailer.

But it was a small home-made airplane with its wings folded back.

The driver drove to the parking apron, pulled some bolts and rolled the little plane to the ground. Later he climbed into the craft and took off.

He was one of a growing number of do-it-yourself pilots who build and fly for fun. The man

greys, he advises. They're worthless.

The rule of thumb should be, he concludes, that if a pearl has good luster, it's probably of first-rate quality.

keeps his plane in his garage at home to save the cost of hangar rent.

At a recent fly-in sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Assn.'s Oklahoma City chapter, nearly a dozen craft from several states gathered at Tuiakes Airport here.

The craft represented everything from rebuilt and remodeled World War II light planes to those completely designed and constructed by the individuals.

Age is no barrier.

Charles A. Wood of Clay Center, Kan., piloted in his own home-built plane for the event. Wood, 63, proudly tabbed his craft "The Little Monster."