

Heiress Marries Son of Race Driver



AT ST. PATRICK'S—Former Mamie Spears Reynolds and her husband, Luigi Chinetti Jr., as they walked down aisle of Our Lady Chapel in St. Patrick's Cathedral yesterday. (AP Wirephoto)

New York UP — Heiress Mamie Spears Reynolds, 20, once owner of the fabulous Hope diamond, was married yesterday to Luigi Chinetti Jr., also 20, son of an internationally famed Italian automobile racing driver.

A mutual interest in sports cars led to the romance.

The simple ceremony was performed in Our Lady Chapel in St. Patrick's Cathedral with 125 smartly clad guests attending.

The smiling young couple then left for a reception at the Plaza Hotel, before departing on a one-month wedding trip. They kept their destination a secret.

The bride is the daughter of the late Sen. Robert R. Reynolds, D-N.C. She is a granddaughter of the late Washington social figure, Evalyn Walsh McClean, who had owned the Hope diamond and left a gold mining fortune in trust for the bride.

The bridegroom's father, three times winner of Le Mans races in France, is now the United States distributor for Ferrari sports cars.

BESIDES THE invited guests, several hundred tourists visiting the Cathedral crammed into the rear of the chapel to watch the ceremony.

The blonde bride wore a white gown of peau de soie (skin of silk), with a short train as she walked down the red carpeted aisle on the arm of an uncle, Henry Wood Jr., of Alexandria, Va.

The gown was embroidered with pearls and lace. She wore a gossamer white veil which extended down her back to the waistline. She carried a Bible with an ivory colored cover and a bouquet of baby orchids and stephanotis, a delicate vine with fragrant white flowers.

The dark-haired, handsome bridegroom, a student, wore formal morning attire as he waited at the altar with his best man, Owen T. Shea of Sparta, N.J., a college chum.

THE ALTAR was banked with white Japanese chrysanthemums and baby breath. The Rev. Thomas McGovern, a young priest, performed the brief ceremony which culminated with the young couple kneeling on an ivory brocade pillow as he pronounced them man and wife.

Hundreds of spectators lined a passage for the newlyweds as they walked radiantly from the altar to a terrace for picture taking. They will live in the New York metropolitan area.

The bridegroom's mother, a youthful appearing blonde, wore a Mattie Carnegie print ensemble of pink and blue and a flowered net hat. She and her husband are Greenwich, Conn., residents.

The maid of honor was Anne Putnam of Asheville, N.C., a schoolmate of the bride.

Ushers were Charles Harris of Portchester, N.Y., and Richard Fritz of New York.

THE BRIDE and groom met when she visited a Ferrari automobile showroom to buy a car.

"Several months later we met again and I began to think seriously about him," she remarked earlier this week.

Concerning the 112-carat Hope diamond, she said that as a child she played with it as a top bauble.

"I used to play with the diamond on the terrace," she said. "Many times I walked away from it and somebody would have to come and pick it up and take it into the house."

She said the diamond, which reputedly carried a curse, became hers on the death of her grandmother and parents. She sold it to Harry Winston, a New York jeweler, who since has turned it over to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, where it is today.

"It's right where it belongs — in a museum," she said.

The bridegroom attended the Browning school in New York and the Brunswick School in Greenwich, Conn., both private schools, and Clarkson College of Technology at Potsdam, N.Y. The bride attended private and parochial schools in Asheville, N.C., and Miami, Fla.

Chinetti has expressed hope of becoming a racing driver like his father, who was a star for 20 years.

"I hope not," said his mother.

