

Thousands witness

# 'The wedding of the year'

Hon. Edward Seaga and  
Miss Mitsy Constantine

**O**UTSIDE the Kingston Parish Church was a sea of heads. Inside the flashes from photographers' cameras went off in quick succession like gashes of forked lightning.

Noise outside and inside allowed only the party at the altar to hear when the Hon. Edward Philip George Seaga, Minister of Development and Welfare, said, "I DO." His bride, Marie Elizabeth Constantine (Mitsy), "Miss Jamaica 1964" with her soft voice was less audible.

From as early as 3.30 p.m. yesterday, the police had their work cut out for them, keeping in line the thousands of spectators who had come to witness the 'wedding of the year'—some two hours before the scheduled 5 o'clock arrival of the bride.

From North Parade came the sound of beating drums by the Juvenile Band of the Minister's Western Kingston constituency. From the church's western gate to the door a guard of honour consisting of constituency members took up its position. The headquarters members carried banners and wore orange blouses and shirts with a white star in the back and a black lighted candle applied.

At 4.45 the groom accompanied by his bestman, the Hon. D. C. Tavares, Minister of Housing, entered through the west gate to a round of applause and passed through the guard of honour, waving as he passed. On either side of the line, members of the guard of honour stretched their hands out in greetings.

Apparently calm, but perspiring a bit in the hot crowded church, Mr. Seaga took his seat in the front right-hand pew, while some 2,000 persons in the church with a capacity seating of 1,300 stood for his entrance. Extra chairs and benches brought in for the ceremony were all taken.

At 4.57 the three attendants, Ann Constantine—the bride's sister, who was maid-of-honour—Marjorie Aiken and Elizabeth Harry, arrived at North Parade, but George Barbar's yellow Cadillac in which they rode was unable to break through the King Street crowd. They made an unplanned entrance through the west gate while anxious ushers awaiting their arrival at the King Street gate, rushed through the church to get them to the point where the bride was due to arrive in another three minutes.

## Bride's arrival

**A**S THE church clock chimed five, a loud cheer went up from the crowd although the bride was not yet at the King Street gate where she was due to arrive and where a long carpet had been spread for her arrival. At three minutes past the hour, the midnight blue Cadillac of Mr. Winston Mahfood, bedecked with long white streamers, gingerly made its way down King Street. The crowd was uncontrollable as they ran after the moving vehicle, shouted greetings to the bride and broke through police cordons.

Escorted by her mother's cousin, Mr. Vinton Roberts, retired overseer of the United Fruit Company, the bride made her way up the steps while her dressmaker, Mrs. Imogene Lawson of the Crafts Development Agency, spread out the gown and train for easy walking. While photographers surged around and spectators fought to get their glimpses, the bride stumbled twice on the steps before entering the churchyard.

The bridal gown was an Empire line design of drama with a wide A-line skirt, and short sleeves enhanced by long gloves. From the low back was a pleated train in two panels, appliqued with French lace and featuring two small tubing bows near the hemline. Like the groom, she waved to the onlookers. Her headdress was a band of white drama, studded with pearls and beads and finished with a mass of bouffant illusion tulle veil. She carried a sheaf of white rosebuds and stephanotis. Around the scooped neckline of her dress she wore her grandmother's double gold chain with the Prime Minister's medallion which she received at the Grand Gala of the Jamaica Festival on the night of July 31.

The attendants, who preceded the bride in single file up the aisle were dressed in gowns of electric blue sparkle organza cut on the Empire line with bodices encrusted with beads and sequins. Their headdresses were narrow scalloped edge bandeaux with short veils and they carried posies of Peace rosebuds.

Before the attendants walked ten acolytes dressed in their red and white gowns, while the bride and Mr. Roberts brought up the rear of the bridal party.

## Double - ring

### ceremony

**W**HILE the party walked to the aisle, the congregation and Church Choir, accompanied at the organ by Mr. Gerald Lalor sang, "The Voice that breathed O'er Eden." From either side of the aisle, decorated by Mrs. Gertie Brown with large yellow satin bows and white satin streamers, outstretched arms were extended to the bride.

While the bride and groom knelt at the outer altar, the Rev. Randall Pow-

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ell, the Rev. Robert Kemp and Canon R. O. C. King performed the double-ring ceremony. After the Nuptial Blessing — Psalm 128 which the congregation sang — the bride's sister threw back the veil from her face as the couple were pronounced man and wife.

For the procession to the Vestry for the signing of the registry, the organist played Bach's Toccata in D Minor. While they signed, Mrs. Joyce Lalor sang "Panis Angelicus."

The bride's mother, who accompanied the bridal party to the vestry, wore a sheath gown of pale blue Chantilly lace with short scalloped sleeves. Her hat was a cloche of pale blue net over five royal blue rosettes. She wore royal blue accessories.

The bride's ring is a plain band of white gold and platinum inscribed "Eddie and Mitsy — 22/8/65". The groom's is of red gold with three rows of plain carving — two at the edges narrow and the middle broad, with the inscription reversed.

To Mendelssohn's Wedding March the bride and groom left the church through the west gate under the guard of honour while the Juvenile band sounded a fanfare and another round of wild cheering went up.