

Hints for Mothers In Buying Sun Togs For Small Citizens

By HELEN BRUNSON
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

About now, Mother unpacks last year's summer clothes for the children and finds that most have been outgrown and almost all are very faded. When she goes about getting new ones, several features should be considered.

Colors should be gay and able to stand washing. Patterns should suit the child's personality and give him pleasure in wearing them.

Play-clothes for the Small Ones are best designed as sun-suit with extra matching jacket or bolero. The jacket can be worn on cool mornings, to protect from hot sun or when going visiting. It should be made with a tab or other one-button closing, so it won't always be falling off.

The sun-suit itself, clothing specialists say, is more comfortable for the child if it is suspended from the shoulders rather than from the waist. It should have built-up shoulders and low-cut neckline, large-cut large-cut armholes, and fit loosely for coolness. Avoid hot belts and elastic waistbands. There should be plenty of length and width in the seat.

If the garment is designed to be ironed flat, much work can be saved. Of course this type of suit is hard to come by, but sunsuits being made with halters or shoulder-straps, both of which are a bother to the child. Try to get suits the child can put on by himself, with few front-closings and medium-sized buttons.

Materials for play-clothes should be durable, but not heavy or scratchy. The lighter gingham, percales and seersuckers are cool to the touch and look good for a long time. Permanent finishes do away with starching. Light pastel colors soil too easily to be practical. Be sure materials are pre-shrunk or allow for shrinkage when you buy.

Good workmanship on play-clothes means longer wear and is worth paying for. Seams should be finished flat with no raw edges to irritate tender skin.

Sometimes if Mother finds clothes she likes but which have poor seams, she can go over all seams quickly by machine before the garments are worn. This should include stitching around buttonholes and bindings and will save mending later on.

One thing to avoid is ultra-fancy ruffles, braid and "stuck on" trims. These require special ironing, sometimes "bleed" in washing and will look shabby before the garment is worn out.

Instead, trims can be flat bands or fitted facings of contrasting material, easily ironed. Sashes are cute but unnecessary, and are untied most of the time.

We'll find more and more well-cut functional clothes for children in the stores once we start asking for them. Manufacturers will quickly respond to Mother needs in clothes for the children.

It long has been said that "there is nothing new under the sun." Be this, philosophically, ever true, yet each of us can imitate those finer qualities and ideas we perceive in others—then, so far as each of us is concerned, we do become new.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Birmingham Background

Local History in Story and Picture

As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR

'I Remember'— Ex-Eccentric Printer Clair Aldrich Says



Mrs. Brunson

EDITOR'S NOTE—In 1892, when former Birmingham resident W. Claire Aldrich was 16 years old, he went to work for George H. Mitchell, then the publisher of The Eccentric, and began learning his trade as a printer.

Now a hearty 79 years, Mr. Aldrich is living in retirement in Tampa, Fla. He was a resident of Birmingham for 40 years from 1881-1921.

Mr. Aldrich has written his memoirs of those happy, youthful days in Birmingham. The explanatory information enclosed within parentheses is not a part of his letter but has been included by the editor to provide a few sidelights for Eccentric readers.

"I remember when Almeron Whitehead fell from the tree. It was this way. One day while I was working in the (printing) office, a cat got into a tree and started crying.

"I ran downstairs, went into the bank through the back door. (The Exchange Bank was started by Almeron Whitehead and George Mitchell. It was a private bank and for years the only one in Birmingham. Williams Book Shop now is located in the former Exchange Bank building.)

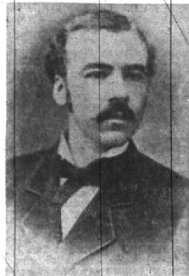
"Mr. Whitehead came out and got into the roof of a porch near the tree into which the cat had climbed. In trying to get the tree to get the cat, he fell and landed on his back with his head turned back of him.

"INSTEAD of me helping to lift him out of that position, I was so dumbfounded, I ran into the store to get help. I forgot who came out, but that was the start of his paralysis.

"I was always (to feel that I was the cause and worried about it for quite some time. He never blamed me.

"This incident took place in 1900. Almeron Whitehead's paralysis grew progressively worse until he was almost completely incapacitated. With help of an attendant, he continued working as president of the Exchange Bank—which later became the First National Bank—and a senior officer in the Whitehead and Standart Realty company until his death in 1926, at the age of 74 years.)

"I REMEMBER Dandy Hoffman



ALMERON WHITEHEAD

as a young man started The Birmingham Eccentric in 1878 with George H. Mitchell. Whitehead later left the publishing business to Mitchell while he took over the banking business which he and Mitchell also started.

"DURING THE winter season when the mill pond (Quinton Lake) was frozen over enough to hold a crowd of skaters, we were always there on Saturday afternoons.

"On one particular winter day in the late 1880's, the boys had chosen sides for a game of shinny—now they call it hockey. The puck was put on the ice at the center between each goal.

"Tom Cooper (who later became a champion bicycle rider) was captain of one side and my brother George of the other.

"At a signal, they rushed each other to get first whack at the puck. Tom missed and hit George in the mouth with his stick and knocked out one tooth that went through George's lower lip, leaving a lump that George carried for several years.

"The sticks were homemade from roots of a hickory tree and the puck was a hickory knot—all made to last for a lot of knocks.

W. CLAIRE ALDRICH
612 Selma
Tampa, Fla.

LAST OF THREE ARTICLES

"I REMEMBER George Riffenburg who had a shoe repair shop next to O'Neal's harness shop on S. Saginaw (S. Woodward).

"O'Neal's store was located where Charles R. Peck and Sons store is now. Before the present business block was erected in 1905, Riffenburg's shoe repair was the next shop south of O'Neal's.)

"The boys used to congregate there and interfere with his work, so he arranged a contraption to get rid of them.

"Just inside of the door was an old chair with a leather bottom. George fixed a hole with a needle below it and when a fellow sat down, Riffenburg would pull a string near his bench.

"The needle would come through the hole and puncture the fellow's rear and he would jump up and leave. No other chair to sit on.

That Time Again!

A July 4 fireworks permit to Lionel Silverman, 27367 West Ten Mile, was approved by Southfield township board members Tuesday night.

Remember DAD with a Village Store Plaid Watch Strap

Remember DAD with a Village Store Plaid Watch Strap

Two More Named To Cranbrook's Theater Staff

Two new additions, announced this week by Carl Womberger, bridge the teaching staff of the Cranbrook Summer School of the Theater up to 26 members.

Newest members are Angelo Angelico, dramatics director at Birmingham high school, and Margalita Gornet of the Cranbrook art academy staff.

Mrs. Gornet will have complete charge of the extensive costume department and will be assisted by senior students who desire experience in this field.

Angelico will teach senior pantomime and direct one of the eight final senior plays. In addition, he will have charge of the credit studies.

THE CRANBROOK summer school is the only dramatics group in the state qualified to give school and college credits for the course. It operates under state regulations which determine the qualifications of teachers.

The group will start its schedule on June 21, with an enrollment of about 80, half of whom are from the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills area.

Womberger said special attention would be given this year to senior production work, with Sara Smith and William Hollingsworth cooperating on the project.

HE ALSO announced that several of the school's graduates, now in theatrical and television fields in New York, had expressed their intention of returning to Cranbrook to assist with the final production.

Returnees will include Patricia Newhall, seen last year in the Current Stages' production of Sean O'Casey's "Plough and the Stars"; and Ray North, currently affiliated with Dumont television.

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