

No Matter How You Twist It, It Stays The Same Old Shape

By HELEN BRUNSON
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

We women can't wait to see the "tube-like structure" (a corset) that M. Dior has sent over here for us to wriggle into.

The Frenchman has assured us that the new shape it makes us, will be lady-like. Nor has he any doubt that women will again change their figures according to the nod of fashion.

If he did, all he'd have to do is remember history. For woman, since civilization, so-called, began, has apparently thought little of the body God gave her. Down through the years, she's twisted it here, flattened it there, squeezed it and tortured it, all because somebody said it was the style. And a couple of times she's let it go entirely, for the same reason.

Eve was a devotee of the absolutely undraped shafe, and the early Greeks and Romans simply put a flowing garment (no "foundations" here), on the natural figure. They looked pretty good, too.

BUT SINCE THEN, odd things have happened to the female figure. The waistline has disappeared altogether two or three times,—once in the early 1800's, when the tube-like chemise dress was popular, and then much later in the 1920's.

The real pinch on waistlines came around 1890, when mama was employing whalebone to torture her middle into a handspan. Heaven only knows the misery of those women who were expecting babies in those ridiculous times.

Hips have waxed—big hips in 1900, and waned—no hips in the hobble-skirt era of 1910, and disappeared in 1925. They had to in that year, because the waistline was there instead.

BOSOMS HAVE gone from the natural curve of the 16th century, to the pendulous effect of 1907 (complete with ruffles). They disappeared, or were supposed to, in the 1920's reappeared later, were quilted, padded, supported and pointed in the 1930's. An now Dior...

Why don't men's figures have to change with the whims of some fashion bigwig? Because men won't stand for it! If someone told them to push their stomachs up one year and down the next, the laughter would be long and loud. Imagine a man's reaction, even in the 1800's, if some one built an extension, supposed to be hips, out behind him, like the bustle grandma wore!

Indeed, Ruskin, the art critic, said of these fashions in 1864, "The female dress of the present day is as near perfection as possible. The costumes of the men are exactly suited to leave free use of the limbs."

You betcha. No bird-cages for papa. Let the old lady wear 'em.

WE'VE COME A long way since then, and figure-changes are less violent than they once were. And it still is a question whether Dior will have us all encased in expensive "tubes" by the end of the year.

But we do think that the way women have allowed themselves literally to be pushed around, down through history, sheds some light on which sex has, after all, the superior mentality.

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October's Paint Brush Enhances Landscape

By LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

In mid-October Michigan's "color tours" call out a final invitation to the traveler. "October's bright blue weather" is likely to be at its best and the highways and byways will fill up with Sunday sight-seers. Others will be bent on closing their cottages and some will be spending a last weekend in the Northwoods.

Since our state is blessed with both evergreen and deciduous trees, autumn brings an added color contrast; the green making a foil for the bright, red state park in the United States.

HERE THE tourist will find Michigan's tallest mountains and its greatest remaining stand of virgin hardwood forest. Here, following a secluded trail, he will come upon the famed Lake of the Clouds.

The Hartwick pines in the lower peninsula. Recently a rustic log chapel has been erected within its forest confines by old time "log hands" at the expense of one who prefers to remain anonymous.

Located in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park is unique in its many natural features including the presence of one of the largest remaining herds of moose. Here, a newly dedicated nature trail is marked in honor of Albert Stoil, conservationist and nature writer.

Local in picturesque Leelanau county is the Sleeping Bear Dune, the largest shifting dune in the world.

MICHIGAN CAN also boast of four times as much water covered areas as any other state. In addition to thousands of lakes it has over 36,000 miles of streams and over 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shore line.

Encouraged by its natural wealth of woods and waters, Michigan also makes a business of attracting the hunter and fisherman with such inducements as an abundance of upland game and water fowl, bear, deer and wildcat.

She stands near the top in her yearly sales of hunting and fishing licenses. Both of these run well over the million figure. It is from this revenue that our conservation department finances its important and far reaching educational program.

MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC lands also include 92,000 acres in state game areas. She maintains many game and wild fowl refuges, among them the Seney waterfowl refuge in Schoolcraft county.

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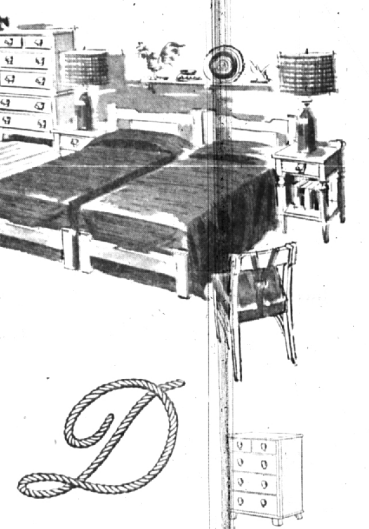
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