

Designers' Fashion Preview of Spring Styles

'Forward Look' in Reverse Puzzles Fashion Audience

By LAURENA PRINGLE
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(Special to The Eccentric)

NEW YORK—With apologies to a certain automobile company, there is no "forward look" in fashion. Witness the model who showed one of Paul Parnis' cocktail frocks in the current spring showings of the New York Dress Institute's series. She had the dress on back to front and the boss allowed her to go through the whole runway routine without comment... until the very last minute.

Then he alerted her and the unsuspecting nation's fashion writers, here for a biennial showing of the Institute's couture group, to the error.

She reappeared later with the dress on right and to the musical accompaniment of "Stormy Weather."

IT ALL bears out to the prediction that fashion is fickle this season. After a heavy season of buying and styling, the whole business has settled down to a matter of solid taste. But still it adds up to bad news for father: the girls always want the new things.

"Fashion," says Eleanor Lambert, press director of the New York Dress Institute, "is a little of the past, a lot of present and a hint of the future."

The spring season is blamed on three areas of the past: the English regency, the first decade of the 20th century and the French directoire—with an overall seasoning of oriental flavor that proved itself so strong last fall that it could not be abruptly dropped.

THERE is a terse understatement in women's daytime dress, and an all-out froo-froo for after-five costumes.

Debs and brides-elect will revel in the Coit Chapman clothes. Bridesmaids for a garden wedding could be sensational in the Chapman cottons of floral print. They are not the conventional prints but splashes of carnations, apple blossoms or anemones. Debs could be the talk of the society columns in lace threaded with velvet ribbons, silk organizes encrusted with silk ribbon rusebuds or hand painted chiffons. A favorite combination with Chapman is a billowing short formal of creamy silk with a floral headress of real mimosa.

Pauline Trigere who has a terrific reputation for prophetic styling has at long last come up with the past build-up that managers to be wearables by the American female. This is the house that makes a terribly big thing of a slim skirt with a flyaway overskirt. Trigere also gives us a full skirted silk coat over a coordinated slim dress that is beyond sartorial reproach. Outstanding is a gunmetal gray jersey sheath with a light gray cutaway done shirtwaist-style. The coat can be worn as a dress, of course.

FROM PARNIS, a house usually

noted for its dressmaker suits, one can get slim dressy cocktail frocks that are uniforms with Birmingham-Bloomfield residents. These have scoop necklines and short puffed sleeves and delicate dressy touches of white. Parnis also has a collection of ensembles that cut take the suburban matron into town for a morning of shopping and into the evening for dinner and the theater without so much as a change of collar and cuffs.

IN GENERAL there are certain style-wise developments for spring. Get out all the old bead-ropes and twine them high in bib and top-collar fashion.

Match your gloves and hat, or your shoes and hat, or your purse and hat... but don't carry on from one.

For a real red suit use sand-beige accessories.

Try to keep an outfit in all one color but for a shock, use a completely different color in a nosegay of fake flowers or scarf or both.

Tie a long stole of flimsy material, satin or taffeta, in back, instead of the front of a plain sheath dress.

And above all, don't be afraid if your suit skirt "looks" longer than it has in the past couple of seasons. The skirts, particularly the pleated or pored ones, just fall that way and it makes them more graceful.

Round of Parties Given By Booths

Last Saturday, the Walter Booths invited around 60 guests to their home on Henley drive, Birmingham, for cocktails. Birmingham couples among the guests were, the Jack Warners, the E. Mulochs, the Arthur Otis, the Thomas Uhlers, the Barney Clarks, the Sam Orns, the Frank Ords, the Albert Byrners, the Ferd Fruchers and the Jodie Fennells.

This was the climax to a round of holiday parties at the Booths, for they also entertained 40 at a pre-Christmas cocktail party. And then, on Jan. 2, twenty people were invited for breakfast. The James Hastings, Jack Forshears, Phil McHugh, Tom Adams and Larry Nelsons were some of the Birminghamites on hand for those parties.



MOULDED to box pleats—a spring 1956 Mollie Parnis dress in beige and black shadow plaid silk taffeta, collared with velvet.

Pi Beta Phi's Hold Luncheon

Members of the Bloomfield Hills Alumnae club of Pi Beta Phi met Tuesday for a luncheon at the home of Mrs. Ralph Cowan, Aspen drive, Birmingham. Guest of honor was Mrs. Harlan Koch, Ann Arbor, Episcopalian president in charge of Alumnae clubs of Pi Beta Phi. Mrs. Koch was here on her semi-annual visit and joined the local group in observing their chapter loyalty day.

Hostesses for the luncheon were: Mrs. Stanley Kelley, Mrs. John C. Lindley, Mrs. A. J. Daley and Mrs. F. H. McKinney.

Prior to the luncheon, Mrs. Koch and the executive committee of the Alumnae met at the Windsorre estate home of its president, Mrs. Andrew H. Madden.

Those who presented their committee reports at that time were Mrs. T. P. Sharples, Mrs. Don Voelker, Mrs. Robert Harvie, Mrs. Philip Develier, Mrs. Sidney W. Smith, Mrs. Henry M. Merker, Mrs. John W. Dickline, Mrs. Bernard Miller, Mrs. John C. Lindley, Mrs. Kenneth Conn, Mrs. Edwin Karpiuk, Mrs. John Schubert and Mrs. E. T. Benson.

Club Woman Displays Treasures of Hobby

By FRAN MAIER

A desire since childhood days has been fulfilled in the treasures of Mrs. Frank Kurtz of Brown street which she has collected as a hobby. Among her collection will be shawls, Spanish fans and sea shells.

These will be on display at the Treasure and Hobby Show of the Birmingham Women's club Tuesday, Dec. 17 at the Birmingham Community House, preceded by a one o'clock tea.

Mrs. Carl Binkle will be general chairman of the guest day program. Assisting her from the various departments will be Mrs. J. E. Thatcher, modern living; Mrs. A. L. Wallwork, American home; Mrs. Kurtz, fine arts; and Mrs. Aygon Gregory, literature.

AMONG Mrs. Kurtz's collection of shawls will be her favorite, which Mr. Kurtz bought while on a trip to Havana, a deep turquoise embroidered in white belonging to a wealthy woman in Havana, who decided to sell her wares when moving to France. The story was told to Mrs. Kurtz, the value of a shawl could be determined by the length of the fringe and the number of knots. The longer the fringe and the more knots, the more costly.

A black taffeta which possibly was worn in time of mourning is an heirloom from the Bartlett family, handed down by Mr. Kurtz's grandmother, while still another is an old summer paisley, of tawny color, made in India.

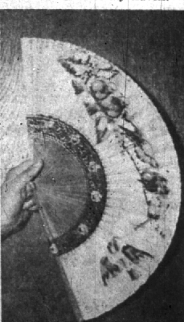
OF HER more than a dozen dolls will be seen a real tortoise shell belonging to the grandmother of Douglas Church, who wrote "Platinum Blond." Another was obtained while on her honeymoon out west and there will also be one worn by her grandmother during the civil war days.

Fans used as a means of flirting, line by the Spanish girls, will be displayed in antique and modern design.

WHILE vacationing along the seashores Mrs. Kurtz has added to her conchology collection, one which is considered rare, an albino conch shell, which she has as a decorative container for peace roses and fern in the summer.

A smaller portion, or the inside of a conch shell, brought back from Nassau, was picked up at the beach where the Duchess of Windsor had lived. Others of her choice include coral, shells of sea urchins and star fish.

Mrs. Kurtz, states "not only do I enjoy my treasures as a hobby but as memories of my travels."



A MEANS of flirting for the Spanish girls.



AN OLD SUMMER paisley of tawny color, made in India, is among Mrs. Kurtz's collection to be displayed at the Hobby show.

Mrs. FDR Godmother To the Grandchild Of Local Resident

Last Tuesday, Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Walker's son, Hall Randolph, was christened in Birmingham. Mrs. Walker is the former Janet Roosevelt of Birmingham. Maternal grandmother is Mrs. Dorothy K. Roosevelt, Greenwood street, Birmingham.

is Mrs. Walker's aunt and the child's godmother, is visiting the Walkers in Birmingham this week. Many events have been planned in Mrs. Roosevelt's honor during her stay in Birmingham. While there she will lecture at the Western College of Education and attend a dinner for the local chapter of the American Association for the United Nations.

Society deadline is 3 p.m. each Monday. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who



GOTHE'S ACCORDION PLEATED white silk organza short evening dress from the David E. Gottlieb collection. Lace shaded from palest blue to pink and

sprinkled with rhinestones and paillettes, is applied along the neckline and on the skirt.

'How To' Workshop Planned by PTA

In cooperation with the Oakland County Council of Parent-Teacher associations, the Bureau of School services and the Library Extension service, University of Michigan, are offering a "How to do it library workshop" for parents and teachers.

This workshop will be held at Christ Lutheran church, 5987 Williams Lake road, Jan. 26 and 27. Registration will begin at 9:15 a.m. on both days.

Subjects on the program for Jan. 26 will include how to choose books for children, how to order and how to organize the collection by printed cards, cataloging, etc.

How to start a central library in school and how to use student helpers will be on the agenda for

Newcomers Hold Birthday Party

A birthday party and election of officers will highlight the regular monthly luncheon of the Birmingham Newcomers club, when they meet at 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 19 at the Community house. Following this, a hair stylist will present a demonstration of practical hairstyles, using Newcomer members as models.

The "Birthday Party" will be the annual observance of the club's eighth anniversary, with many of the past presidents on hand for the occasion. Since the club's constitution provides for election of officers twice a year, the January meeting will see the installation of their 17th president.

Dinner and Dance, Dual Celebration

Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Snyder of Kenwood court, Birmingham, were hosts at a dinner fete at the Detroit Athletic Club Saturday evening, and this was a dual birthday celebration.

The birthday gentlemen whose natal days were marked were Mr. Snyder himself, and H. B. Stubbs, of north Gleggery road, Bloomfield Township. Both have the same an-

'Osage', Michigan's 18th WNFGA Branch

In naming the 18th branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association in Michigan, it seemed fitting to choose something in nature representative to its particular locality, Pine Hill, Hickory Heights and the Charn Woods district. And as the two crossroads, Long Lake and Adams, centering the district are lined for miles with the hedges of the Osage orange, the majority of the new group selected "Osage" as the name of their branch.

The new branch was organized in December at the home of Mrs. Leroy G. Vanderweir of Sussex, who was influential in starting the group. Her interest came about due to the membership limitations in the sponsoring group, the Bloomfield Hills Branch. The lack of a large meeting place has been the cause for waiting list and limited membership.

Representing the sponsoring group at the organizational meeting were Mrs. J. Hawley Otis, president, Mrs. Horace P. Shaw, Mrs. Earl A. Thompson, Mrs. E. F. Turner and Mrs. Frederick M. Oliver.

MRS. WILLIAM McCallum, Michigan division chairman, who has the credit of organizing more groups than any other chairman in the U.S., was on hand to explain the meaning of the new organization.

Mrs. McCallum said Woman's National Farm and Garden Association means all that the name implies. "Women from all over the world have joined together from their farms and gardens in an association of mutual benefit to protect their rights as women, to enrich the soil, to further beautify the land, to protect what God has so generously bestowed upon us to be fruitful, each in her own capacity, to help one another in the spirit of friendship, generosity and peace."

On Monday the group held its first organized meeting with

the provisional board at tea at the home of the new president, Mrs. P. H. Hamly of 4150 Orchard Hill drive. Other new officers are Mrs. James T. Ashton, vice president; Mrs. Howard Senteney, secretary, and Mrs. Michael B. Redfield, treasurer.

A highlight of Monday's meeting was the background history of the Osage orange in connection with the garden group. The Osage orange is the common name for Maclura Pomifera, a deciduous tree, hardy as far north as Massachusetts. It is a member of the Mulberry fam-

ily and at one time was largely grown for the leaves which were used as a substitute of the mulberry for feeding silkworms.

THE TREES were introduced from a settlement of Osage Indians and the wood was highly prized by the Indians as materials for bows and war clubs.

Families moving to the North Adams locality have first noticed the Osage orange hedge for its distinguished fruit which are gathered for home decorations. In size and general appearance the fruit resembles a large yellow green orange, however, its surface is roughened and tuberculated. It is in fact a compound fruit, which means that the carpels have grown together and that the great orange-like ball is not one fruit but many.

"As a symbol of our new group it is as we hope to prove our selves; good pioneer stock, hardy, adaptable, useful, elastic, practically incorruptible, durable, tolerant and even decorative; typically American—many joined together in one fine unit," stated Mrs. Hamly.



OFFICERS of the newly organized Osage branch are (from left) Mrs. Michael B. Redfield, treasurer, Mrs. Howard Senteney, secretary, Mrs. James T. Ashton, vice president, and Mrs. P. H. Hamly, president.