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HATS

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This comparison of 1949 and 1959 male styles, shows the drastic changes that have taken place in the intervening years. In 1949 (left) men wore suits characterized by the big double-breasted look with wide



lapels, overpadded shoulders and full-legged trousers. The latest thing in men's fashions is the "Continental" (right) with trimmed down shoulders and narrow semi-peak lapels, cutaway coat front and slimline trousers.

## Men's Spring Clothes for 1959 Don't Resemble Those of 1949

By JIM CRELLIN  
Staff Writer

Remember some of the headlines 10 years ago? The White House announced the detection of an atomic bomb explosion in the Soviet Union, 19 Nazi war criminals were convicted as the Nuremberg trials came to an end, and Nationalist China retreated from the mainland to the island of Formosa.

At the same time these headlines were being made, Birmingham area men were wearing clothes that now seem more outdated than the news of that period.

The clothes included big suits with too much padding in the shoulders, full-legged trousers and double-breasted styling.

The single-breasted suit was just coming into existence and it would be several years before the trend caught on and became the big favorite of U. S. males.

Short fairs, fling into stadiums around the nation in the fall of 1949 to cheer Cornell, California, North Carolina, Tulane and Rice to conference titles, favored the color brown. Now gray is the top choice.

IT WAS also at this time that gabardine and covert cloth top coats became prominent.

Tweeds, soon to become a national favorite, were far down the list in 1949 and coverts, which practically disappeared for a while, were making a comeback with well dressed men.

The words "Ivy League" in 1949 were usually connected with people interested in football or academics, but since then "Ivy" has become nationally associated with the type of natural shoulder classic clothes that have become popular in their own right while also influencing the styling of other clothes.

AS A RESULT of the "Ivy" influence, male clothing has been shunned down and Americans dress more comfortably in outfits that make them look trimmer and taller. The big collars men sported on their model shirts they watched Ezzard Charles capture the heavy-weight crown have since given way to neat button-downs, tabs, pinned types and modified spreads. Of course one of the biggest changes is the new wash-and-wear shirts.

TEN YEARS AGO Birmingham area men marched around the local country clubs in big bulky shoes, some with soles an inch or more thick. Few men, if any, had ever seen a pair of the "ripple sole" shoes now worn for golf as well as leisure and business.

The Italian styled shoes so popular today because of their lightweight but sturdy styling were as unknown here as hula-hoops.

ALL-IN-ALL, men will have many new things to look forward to this spring in clothing.

New colors, styles and fabrics will be available.

Sportswear will boast new construction features for greater comfort and ease, and more use of "science fibers" in fabrics will make for easier care.

Men's suits will feature "Continental" styling, which includes jackets somewhat shorter than other styles, with two buttons as well as three, wider, more rounded openings at the bottoms of coat fronts, side vents, flapped slant pockets and a choice of peaked, semi-peaked or notched lapels.

TOPCOATS for spring will be lighter in weight and shorter in length. Fabrics include gabardines, Shetlands, tweeds, covert cloths and polars.

SLACKS WILL range from the still popular "Ivy" models with back-flap pockets to the new con-

## Sweaters Spotlight Gay Novelties

The big news in sweaters for the season ahead is that sweaters continue to take on new moods of variety.

Yarns are more and more newsworthy! They are softer, looper and have lots of texture interest. The new handling of traditional wool yarns, fur fibers and the miracle yarns... either in sole treatment or magical blendings, has given a greater impetus to a wide variety of stylings that are fabulously different from the classic slip-ons and button front cardigans.

STRESS is placed on bulk without weight... in novel collar treatments... embroideries or knitted-right-in patterns or specially-treated prints on yarn... on short cropped sweaters or long, overblouse stylings... in notched collars, or no collars, in ties and

tinentials, featuring a single plant cut, trim lines and polo pockets.

Bolder patterns and lighter colors will highlight men's ties. Among the top neckwear choices will be shantings in both bright and dull silk surfaces. Stripes and plaids will predominate.

Hats for spring are following the color trend to medium shades and as a result they will be brighter. Styles and shapes have undergone a few changes with shapes a bit smaller and brims showing a "deep-dish" effect.

Shapes will range from the center crease style favored by "Ivy" fans to the familiar Tyrolean sports types.

COOL AND COMFORTABLE is the best way to describe the shirts Birmingham business men will be wearing. New self-ventilating fabrics will keep them cool in the warmest spring weather.

Short-sleeved shirts will be more in demand than ever and will be worn widely by men who want comfort with style.

Summing things up, men's clothing promises to add a brighter, different look to Spring, 1959.

bows and a myriad of dressmaker details.

WITH MORE and more driving done, coats have taken a "back seat" to the more comfortable, easy-to-wear sweater for daytime wear.

With glitter, applique and embroidery, sweaters in yummy soft yarns, often lined with chiffon, step proudly into late-time spotlights.

IN SWEATERS, as in every other fashion category, the big news is color—all the colors of the rainbow are interpreted in sweater fashions with vigor and a fascinating brilliance.

March 12, 1959 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 5-B



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