

Sportswear Adds Color to Life

By **JOE CADARIU**
Staff Writer

"With winter here, can spring be far behind?" is an old adage which sometimes brightens up the usual drabness of the frigid season.

Spring is just five days away—and lightweight sportswear is replacing burdensome winter wools.

What's new in sportswear?

Colors, colors, fabric blends, and colors.

When you open the door to any men's or women's clothing shop,

you can't help but feel spring in the air. The rainbow of colors in slacks, jackets, shirts, sweaters and dresses sparkles the eye to an intenses, yet pleasantness, that wakes up the spirit of spring.

COLORS RANGE from pinks to greens to greys to oranges.

As a matter of fact, Jo Joseph, and Janet Mayberry, store manager and suburban center buyer respectively at Himelech Brothers & Co., 168 W. Maple, Birmingham, rave about dresses that blend orange,

pink and green.

"In spring, people want to get away from the conservative drabness of winter sportswear. The clothes designers realize this, and always come up with the most colorful patterns and changes in fabrics," said Aaron Kershenbaum, manager of Kay Baum's, 166 W. Maple, Birmingham.

What are the new fabrics?

There's a woman's sweater hand knit with a blend of mohair and wool.

Indian Madras is a lightweight hand-woven cotton which can be used for anything from socks to shirts and dresses.

Other new blends include rayon and helanca, cotton and lastex, orlon and cotton, and helanca with nylon.

THERE'S ONE fabric which may become popular this spring. It's not new. As a matter of fact, there probably will be many remarks made upon its return to the popular market. Women's skirts are now being made with hand-screened burlap.

Yes, that's right, burlap. Not only in the standard brown, but yellows, roses and others.

At the other extreme, there's a fabric called India raw silk which is used in the making of fine dresses and blouses.

What are the new styles?

Men who have always envied pilots can make their dreams come true (to a certain extent). "Jump suits" are finally being produced for the discriminating buyer.

A one-piece coverall-type ensemble is being sold by Gwynn's Inc., 112 S. Woodward, Birmingham, for sports car enthusiasts and those who want something a bit different for casual week-end wear.

The shirt and trousers, either of which may be short or long, is complemented with a matching belt providing the only break in continuity. Colors range from the conservative to the blase.

Buttons are covered.

Patterns on sports coats are becoming more intense and colored belts which match silk ties are coming back on the market.

ALL OF THE winter styles are not being forgotten. Women's ski pants which have become popular for casual non-skiing wear are being produced in lighter fabrics for spring and summer.

The pants even have the latch on the bottom through which the foot is slipped. According to those selling these pants, they are flattering to all figure shapes because of their one line from hip to ankle.

Large floral patterns cover some styles and others are in the more demure grey or black.

LAST YEAR'S popular new flat wool knits are returning for women's spring wear. Colorful blues and white are intermixed to produce a light refreshing difference.

There probably are many reasons why the big change in colors and styles from winter to spring. Some may be psychological.

Many try to relate the period of time in which we're living in the cold war to the sudden outburst of shocking pinks and gay greens.

A STUDY COULD be made of the interaction of clothing and periods of history.

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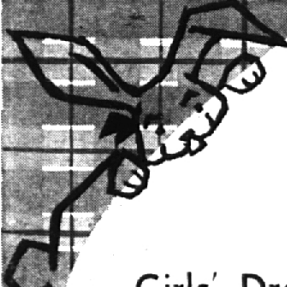
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Larry Barkhouse, 1760 Graefield, Birmingham, models the "jump suit" which is new for spring sportswear. The casual outfit may be worn for riding or weekend relaxation around the house. Either short or long sleeves or trousers are made for the one-piece ensemble.

HIGGINS & FRANK of Birmingham, Wabek Building, is showing a men's sports shirt on which the



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