

Enigma of the Teen-Age Fashions Provides Clue to the Riddle

Most parents are willing to admit that the ideas and opinions of their high school boys are baffling, to put it mildly, and this bafflement is seldom greater than when it applies to the teen's fashion fables.

Compounding the mysteries of high school style notes is the fact that kids attending one of several schools in a given area will dress quite differently from boys in others, at time relatively nearby.

DESPITE the fact that high school dress has become practically "civilized" in recent years because of "Dress Right" programs conducted cooperatively by students and educators, one is still apt to encounter some "way-out" outfits that have been devised by high schoolers within the framework of exciting standards.

The currently popular outfit of one group, for instance, is comprised of a conservatively cut blazer, well-pressed slacks, button-down collar shirt, a neat though ultra-narrow tie and sedate socks and oxford shoes.

NOTHING REALLY wrong here — except that the slacks are cut so slim they resemble leotards and if the wearer sits down suddenly, it's at his own peril. As a matter of fact, it is a matter of some scientific interest as to how high school boys manage to get their big feet through trouser legs without greasing their socks.

And, while on the subject of socks, in some areas the big "big" is white crew socks with anything and everything. Queried as to their devotion to the bulky white hose, a couple of hen high schoolers admitted that there were other socks they liked well, if not better, but "all the fellows wore them" — they are, in the current teenage idiom, "in".

FORTUNATE ARE the parents who find their pubescent male offspring attending a school that frowns upon exotic coiffures. These strange hairdos may range from meticulously waved and plastered "duck tail," through some kookie "side-winders," to a lovely tufted ridge bisecting the skull in the



Say It With Knits

The smart suburban housewife will look stunning in her double wool imported knit sheath designed with a scoop neckline and three-quarter length sleeves. The sheath comes in taupe and black; sizes 8 to 20. Available at Chudiks in Birmingham.

namer of an Indian heave. It would seem, too, that the lad who literally spends hours before a mirror combing his "Duck Tail" can't spend five minutes brushing and shining his leathers.

FURTHERMORE, it appears that if slip-on shoes of all descriptions don't "plop" with each step despite the bulky crew socks, they're not being worn properly.

High school boys come big these days. Some are almost Gargantuan in size. They seem to grow an inch in each direction every seven days. But, this does not prevent them from wearing natural-shoulder sports jackets and suits that would be truly natural on youths of much lighter physique, because natural-shoulder styling is also "in". By the same token, they prefer their sweaters big and billowy.

Anything other than a white or possibly blue dress shirt is viewed with trepidation by many secondary-school boys, but . . . turn them loose in the sportswear department and they are odds-on to stampede toward the orange, lavender, turquoise and neon-lit red sports shirts.

THE HIGH school boy, despite his apparent confidence about what

to wear and how to wear it, is frequently as puzzled about his clothes as are his parents.

He is entering a period when clothes play a very important part in his life. He is learning the great variety of styles and fashions that are available; he is forming personal preferences, and yet he is constrained to conform . . . to be one of the herd.

SO, IF YOU are dismayed by some of your high schooler's dress habits, be of stout heart. As your pediatrician probably told you when he bit his fingernails and refused to eat his cereal, he is going through a phase . . . guide him, but don't push him. He'll out-grow it. Look how far he's come in the last few years.

Fashion Prediction

One of these days, even though it may be pretty far in the future, men may revert to wearing shirts with separate collars, as is still the style throughout Europe. It certainly makes sense to switch to a fresh collar for dinner, when the rest of the shirt is still neat and wearable.

Favorites in Fashion From Coast-to-Coast

Pastels flourish in Los Angeles, explorer coats click in Denver, stretch pants and sweaters star in Milwaukee, and printed woools rate dates in Philadelphia.

The "looks" featured are particularly chosen for the way of life in each part of the country, but they would be completely at home from coast to coast.

NEWS FOR this fall, and perfect for Los Angeles' mild climate, are pale pinky pastel separates.

One group includes a shell pink box-pleated skirt, pullover and cardigan, plus long, slim pants of pink plaid. Coral pink makes a darker plaid for a hip stitched box-pleated skirt and a matching tunic, shown with a coordinated coral pullover.

IN DENVER, where teens do a lot of mountain climbing, the spirited new outdoor coats cut just above the knees fill the bill.

Explorer coats sport the look of adventure with curly pile linings and trimmings, fake "snow leopard" hoods and cuffs, Orlon pile fabrics that look like Dalmation,

and real black lamb trims. Fabrics range from cotton poplin and duck to suede cloth and jersey.

STRETCH PANTS, slated to be a top fall fashion, team up with bright, witty sweaters for Milwaukee teens who go tandem biking around Lake Michigan's breezy shorefront.

The slim pants, of rayon and nylon, come in brilliant shades such as magenta, gold and blue, as well as black. The sweaters counter with patterns of sunbursts, snowflakes, Persian diamonds, lightning streaks, Scandinavian stripes and panels; as well as fringed hems, sash belts and oversize cowl collars.

PRINTED WOOLS rate dinner dates in Philadelphia and everywhere else, especially when they have snug bodices and shaped lines to flatter junior figures.

Fashions range from bold block and floral prints with long tight sleeves and high round necks to a sleeveless peacock print with shoulder bows.



Open Friday evenings until 9:00



OF MR. MORT SPORTSWEAR

brilliant teamwork displayed here in fashions with a fresh young slant, for juniors in the know . . . on the go! Left to right: ready for a fling, bright plaid wool knit-sleeve jacket with matching skirt, \$35.00. Bittersweet wool top mated to a box-pleat skirt in border plaid wool, \$29.98. Leather-bordered sleeveless blouson, slim skirt, in glen plaid wool, \$29.98; dacron/cotton shirt, \$7.98.