

# For Opening Night, Theater or Ball



FLORAL CHIFFON



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YELLOW LINEN

Eccentric Photos by Bill Thom

## California Designer Picks Sheaths for Evening

By Evelyn Oen  
Staff Writer

A flair for the dramatic, coupled with a sculptor's sense of form, distinguish designs by California's "Mr. Blackwell." From the floral chiffon evening gown and bold, abstract "opening night" costume to the full-length linen ball gown, his theatrical past, philosophy and "workshop" techniques are synthe-

sized with the texture, color and essence of fabrics to create fashions for after-five.

SHOWING THE burnt sienna, yellow and brown print sheath chiffon gown (which is lined in beige taffeta) is Judy March of 22210 Rougemont, Southfield. The side flairs, attached to the shoulder straps by small bows, have gath-

ered triangular insets for additional fullness.

And for opening night, appearing in a study of startling contrasts—black and white print, sleeveless, collarless, "lamp shade" coat, which removed reveals a cape-colored sheath—is Mrs. Donald Geake of 6714 Timber Ridge, Birmingham. She is also seen in a lemon-colored silk linen sheath formal

(with suggested train) and matching shrug. The top is a pattern "woven" of iridescent pastel sequins and rhinestones.

MR. BLACKWELL, who was one of films' original "Dead End Kids" before turning to designing, never sketches, but instead uses live models as he works out his fashions. He says:

"I started out on the premise that a woman was a woman, not a creature forced to endure the whims of designers who thought of her last when they were whipping up their so-called creations. I only wanted to enhance her figure as nature had evolved it . . . I am not interested in the opinions of the competition. My one obligation is to the woman I dress and she alone is my prime concern."

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC  
18—FASHION SECTION

### Sport Jackets Reveal Clean, Crisp Patterns

Clean, crisp, contrasty patterns are making a strong comeback in men's and youth's sport jackets for the opening-summer season of 1961.

This influence can be seen in the top-selling polyester-worsted blend that were formerly dominated by dull, mousy fabrics. It is also very apparent in the India Madras jackets expected to be very strong in classic shops where bright colors (sharply defined) are getting a big play.

SEERSUCKERS, headed for even greater acceptance next summer, are in the trend via broader stripes in deeper as well as brighter colors.

The cardigan (collarless) sport jacket has been achieving a higher standing in this country for a number of years. It's cool, comfortable and good-looking. It was a huge success in sweaters—still is, as a matter of fact—and seems to be gaining in popularity in jackets and sport coats.

### Overblouse

The overblouse is seen increasingly this season and with good reason. It lends itself beautifully to full skirts, is often part of a two-piece dress and is the perfect complement to a suit.



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