

Formal Season Never Comes to Complete Halt

There was a time, prior to World War II, when the "formal season" got underway at the late October opening of the National Horse Show in New York. Now, according to society editors across the country, it never comes to a halt.

Formal festivities calling for at least the nominal "black tie" cover the four seasons now, the only difference being the shift from summer formal wear (which, strictly speaking, is actually semi-formal wear) to the dressier darks of fall and winter. Of course, the use of the ultra-formal white tie and tails is usually reserved for the late fall except in the case of earlier formal evening weddings.

HOW DOES one determine when to wear a black tie (tuxedo) or a white tie (evening tailcoat)? In the old days the decision was simple: If ladies were present at a formal evening, the white tie was mandatory. The black tie was considered correct for stag events only.

However, during and after World War I, the rules were let down and, with increasing frequency, hostesses specified black tie in their invitations. That is the way it has remained.

IT IS THE option of the host, the hostess or the governing body tendering the affair to specify the type of formal wear to be worn by the male guests.

Regardless of the type of formal wear specified this fall, there is a much wider selection of styles from which to choose. This is particularly true in the very popular dinner suits (tuxedos).

AVAILABLE IN all of the current clothing styles—the conservative American natural, the stylish American contemporary, and the traditional natural-shoulder models — these choices are compounded by the many lapel and detail varieties offered in those several groups.

Shawl collars, peaked, semi-peaked and notched lapels have been augmented by a new diamond lapel for the most complete assortment ever.

Virtually all of the new tuxedos are made in lightweight fab-

rics with the prime choice being traditional black. Fabrics range from the traditional dull-surface cloths to contemporary glistening blends of mohair and worsted, and silk and worsted.

SOME MODELS carry the satin of their lapels to pocket and cuff trims. Some lapels carry an edging of satin and those are called framed lapels.

Tailcoats come in the several body styles offering a choice of the conservative, contemporary and the traditional.

These also are made in the same variety of fabrics and trims. New formal evening shirts with semi-soft wing collars attached are now made for those fellows who prefer them to the separate starched models. Either style is correct.

Attention, Teenagers!

Registration for the Young B. Siegelites Charm School, scheduled to get underway at the Community House at 10 a.m. Oct. 6, are being taken now at Birmingham B. Siegel.

In addition to the series of four classes, there will be a graduation ceremony and fashion show. Classes are an hour and a half long each Saturday morning.

Ah! La Dolce Vita


Because Italian wives had begun to neglect their husbands who wore old duds around the house on days off, failed to shave and spruce up, a group of Milan husbands have organized to promote the idea that a husband must be as attractive at home as he is at work. "Results were astounding," enthused Giorgio Sarti, who heads the group, "wives became sweeter, cooked better meals for us. Even our kids treated us with more respect."

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