

California Fashions, Here We Come

Special to The Eccentric

The short, overcast days of the new year are the ideal time to start thinking about California. About the warm sunshine, the tart bright colors of its flowers, the clear blue for its sky and about the clothes that California produces for the lovers of easy, casual living all over the country.

The country's second largest garment center is in full production right now, filling orders for the bulk of its resort collections (which will strongly influence the attire that will be seen in the Birmingham area next summer) and getting spring into gear.

The dominant trend in the whole picture is making the shift look different. The basic shift—whether it was worn on the beach or in the heart of town—has heretofore been sleeveless with a high round neckline and a self-belt that could be discarded if the shift moved neatly without it.

The "new" in shifts is in sleeves. The most popular shape of sleeves to come is the kimono-shape that ends just above the elbow. The long-sleeved shifts are no more than pared-down shirtwaist dresses and look most exciting unbeltd. The jewelry necklines have given way to some V-shapes and if the jewelry shape is kept, it is camouflaged with a tucked yoke or ruffles or countless other artful bits of trimming.

LOOKING FORWARD, there is continued air of nonchalant simplicity in both dress and sportswear markets, in both the couture and volume groups on the West Coast.

The general trends in the overall picture are pronounced: Linen-looking fabrics are favored, also soft crepes and downy wools... pastels and navy are winners for streetwear, hard clear colors for sportswear where the influence of the Mexican native garments is undisguised.

Look for the attractive combination of jade green and peppermint being a winner and a "try" to make wood violet a "big" color in swimwear... the tight Oriental tunic worn over capris is the second in popularity to the long skirt with a shirt-type top for at-home... the tennis dress in several guises might replace the classic combination of blouse and shorts for casual wear.

OVER THE solid linen sheath, the printed linen cardigan could replace the matching sweater with linen trim (even Marjorie Montgomery who is noted for her sweater-dress combinations has not extended herself in this regard)... The bare midriff is important in playclothes and is edging into the at-home picture with the long skirt and brief canisole top...

The lengths and styles of the

long skirt vary. It can be ankle-length or floor-length or sandal-length. It can wrap, slink or swing. But it must be long.

Habitats from known names: **JOHN OF CALIFORNIA** likes Dietrich shawl suits in pastel wool jersey. **White Stag** has new "Tempo" colors and stretch in every fabric, even its traditional sailcloth.

Casualtime combines coffee and navy for spring wear, and white, squash and powder blue for sports. **Sir James** has a long skirt with an elastic yoke that can be worn as a short bare-top sundress.

Alex Colman has the greatest variety of prints and in the gaudiest colors. **Eddy George** goes all out for sleeveless coats.

In swimwear give up trying to find brown or a buttercup yellow. Make sure you have a wardrobe of beach cover-ups. And if you like white flannel for boating you're in real luck. You can even find swimable velvet in suits.

MR. BLACKWELL has some sumptuous knits with bead trimming. He likes shaped sheaths with stoles or capes instead of jackets. His favorite color is wheat.

"**Mancini**" features pastel crepes in slim classic styles, and its sister firm, "**Dominique**," features pretty slate blues. The sisters **Annette** and **Georgia Bullock**, each heading her own establishment, show the same basic undervalued chic in heightened colors—Annette leans to brilliant red, sky blue and olive.

Under the "**Stanley Nelson**" label history is being made. Good coats and suits are not strong points of the California market, but the owners of this firm are changing the picture. Their wraps and ensembles are serviceable in all parts of the country because of the variety of fabrics, in which these are worked.

THIS SEASON, it's misty multi-colored mohairs, white 100 per cent llama cloth, ottoman, "Nell" (new blend of silk and wool), linen wool and waffle cotton.

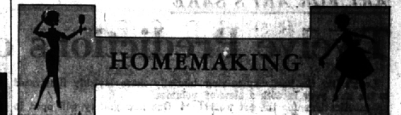
Capes are highly important in line, and the predominant colors are roseate, sage, seafoam and "bond" camels hair.



Adele of California's PLATINUM WOOL SUIT



Oscar of Beverly Hills' EASY FLUID COSTUME



Four Tasty Dips Are Party Treat

No party menu is complete without a variety of tasty delectable dips, easy to prepare and fun to serve. For post-holiday entertaining, here are four new dip recipes, all utilizing convenient ready-squeezed bottled lemon juice.

Serve with potato chips, crackers, or an assortment of raw vegetables such as cauliflower, carrot strips and celery.

SHRIMP DIP
 1/2 lb. cooked, shelled shrimp 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
 1/2 lb. cottage cheese 2 tablespoons bottled lemon juice
 2 teaspoons grated onion

FINELY chop the shrimp. Add the cheese, onion, bottled lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce and sour cream. Beat until smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with grated carrot or tiny sprigs of parsley.

ANCHOVY-CELERY DIP
 1/2 lb. cream cheese 1 Dash of Paprika
 1/2 teaspoon whole celery seed 1 tablespoon anchovy paste
 2 teaspoons minced onion 3 tablespoons cream
 2 tablespoons bottled lemon juice

CREAM the cheese with cream until smooth. Add celery seed, onion, bottled lemon juice, paprika, and anchovy paste. Blend until fluffy. Garnish with chopped hard cooked egg.

CUCUMBER QUICKIE
 Into your electric blender put 2 medium-sized cucumbers (rind left on) and 1 onion, both of which have been cut into chunks. Add 2 tablespoons sour cream, 1 slice of pimento, 2 tablespoons bottled lemon juice, 2 teaspoons salt and a dash each of regular pepper and cayenne. Blend at high speed until thoroughly mixed. Makes 3 cups.

AVOCADO DIP
 To 1 cup of mashed avocado pulp add 3 tablespoons of bottled lemon juice, 1 teaspoon finely minced onion, salt, and a sprinkling of "hot" steak sauce. Blend mixture into just enough sour cream to give the dip the right "scoping" consistency.

Apples in Batter Can Make Muffins
 Homemakers can add variety to meals by looking to apples: Chopped apples may be mixed in the batter of muffins, pancakes, waffles or nut bread.

Some foods such as sausage, country ham, fresh pork, Long Island duckling just seem to call for apples in some form. Use them fried, baked, steamed or made into a sauce—spiced or unspiced, colored red or left a natural color.

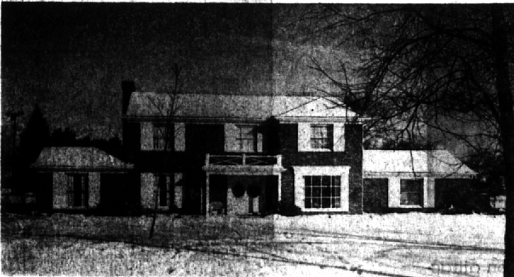
Check Shrinkage On Wool Fabrics

Before you cut an expensive wool fabric purchased for making a hand-tailored coat or suit, be sure the material has been shrunk. Many wool fabrics on the market have been pre-shrunk and will be marked "shranked and shrunk" or "ready for the needle." But even some marked pre-shrunk have been known to shrink when exposed to the steam of the dry-cleaner.

Remember, dial MI 4-1100 to reach Eccentric readers their efficient and economical classifi-



HAPPY DAYS AHEAD—for the lucky buyer of this home near Birmingham Country Club and stores. 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. Good kitchen, dining room, family room and recreation room. Fenced yard, great for children. Good buy at \$31,900.



ENJOY WINTER SPORTS ON GILBERT LAKE NOW and swim this summer! Only two years old with beautiful new carpeting and draperies throughout. 4 twin-sized bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms. Dining room, 21 foot family room with fireplace. Ultra modern kitchen with built-in range, double ovens, dishwasher and disposal. You'll really enjoy living here! \$57,500.



SOLID FAMILY HOME WITH A FUTURE—5 bedrooms and 3 1/2 bathrooms. Library, large dining room, kitchen eating space and enclosed summer porch. Spacious fenced yard. Lively trees and shrubs. Near Sapholen High School. \$32,500.



HAVE FUN — live in the country near Oakland Hills Country Club. Three bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms. Wonderful paneled family room with barbecue. Great paneled kitchen with built-in appliances. Recreation room with fireplace in basement. Priced to sell and includes Aprilaire humidifier. SHOWS GREAT!



A WINTER BARGAIN HARD TO BEAT! Near center of Franklin. 3 bedrooms, two deluxe bathrooms with vanities plus a lav. Fireplace in spacious living room as well as in family room. Large well planned kitchen with built-in oven, range, dishwasher and disposal. Really beautiful out there—BETTER SEE IT!

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