

Ladies, Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas, Extension Home Economist



Fashion, A Background Glance

In great part, fashion is a reflection of its time — a seasonal adjustment to the "now" happenings and feelings. With pressing problems and the urge to look back to a pre-technology era, fashion expresses today's kaleidoscopic living and provides a way to indulge in nostalgia.

So as fall emerges with its back-to-school excitement, home and leisure activities, and career wardrobing, it's time to add a few new wearables to the clothes closet.

The great assortment of longs and shorts in shirts, skirts, pants, dresses, tunics, and toppers make it challenging to create a special individual look item by item. Separates that combine or make-it-alone are today's way to build a go-everywhere wardrobe.

Skirts up to here and down to there have been around and still are. Now the same thing

goes for pants. The hot pants and slightly longer winter version "warm pants" are followed by bootleggers — straight, moderately-flared or boot high — knickers and, of course, long pants. The big fashion news is in combining the two for infinite varieties.

The short of it all includes zip-up or button-front dresses over shorts. There is the hot pant jumpsuit or shortall sheathed with a wrap skirt and vested or boleroed. The little pants partnered with any length tunic, vest, mini-flap or longer cutaway skirt. And the great pretenders, pantskirts, one piecers that look like two, pants plus skirt.

Longer pants take on the same kind of pants-plus-costuming. Knickers, including the bibbed knickerall, are coming on strong with new patterns and styles in action fabrics and doubleknits.

The classic look of the 40's and 50's is making a comeback in sweaters and sweater sets. Crew necks and that boxy, squared-off shape are showing up with bold appliques.

In fact, classic lines are being seen in coordinates that may set new trends. Watch for blazers and pleated skirts, tailored suits and pantsuits with shoulder interest, knee-covering lengths, notched lapels and sleeve buttons.

Meanwhile, the real stress is on ethnic, folklore and Western styling with focus points, such as, smocking, drawstring necklines, balloon sleeves, Juliets and elasticized effects. The Gibson Girl length, just above the ankles, provides nostalgia with a feminine look that is also comfortable.

The desire for wide open spaces and awareness of ecology and the environment are expressed in nature colorings and rustic textures worked in ethnic, Western and Americana designs. Many shades of brown and grape wine with beetroot in between — a deep brownish-wine color — are the pace setters. Earthy colors are often spiked with bright red, gold or green. And brights lead for the primitive motifs.

In fabrics, the down-home feeling is there in denim looks. A carry over from spring, this rough-and-ready washable and its speckled looks-like-denim cousins in polyester blends, corduroy and doubleknits is given to strong striping and Western flavor. But the newsiest look features primitive and Indian madras with denim.

Corduroy is a perennial favorite and always adaptable to new patternings. Look for the newer ribless kind as well as the pinwales and widewales of previous seasons.

Those shape-retaining double-

knits and bonded materials are in every fashion and fiber category. Washable leather looks are getting new treatment with emphasis on a dull, smooth surface geared to the big country Western theme.

Pattern is everywhere, often with a remarkable mixing of prints, stripes, and plaids. The startling effect is seen in mating print shirts with striped pants or skirt, relying on colors and texture to hold the impact together. This movement may be an outgrowth of the popularity of patchwork prints.

Meanwhile, great grandmother's needlework artistry is taking on new free-wheeling translations. The penchant for patches offers a new note with bright splashes being scattered here and there or as pockets and trim. The all over pieced together look has patches printed in intricate designs, many colors, and fool-the-eye texture looks on all kinds of fabric. A melange of madras, challis and paisley live side by side in the pattern and piecing picture Madras, a printed type, is something new to watch.

Other American inspirations and borrowings from the 30's and 40's run from Indian blanket arrows, wheat and geometric designs to wallpaper prints, ribbon stripes, and trunk lining patterns. In keeping with the return to nature and times past, there is great emphasis on folk patterns reminiscent of Aztec, Greek, and Balkan countries as well as our own cultural inheritance.

From all of these influences and from technological know-how, fall fashion delivers an array of easy care, comfortable clothing, and accessories to meet individual interpretations of the "now" scene.

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How to Use Self-Service Dry Cleaning

The Chester County home economics extension service has forwarded some timely advice on use of self-service dry cleaning machines.

Some Don'ts

Items you should not clean in self-service machines include: Raincoats with a water-repellent finish that the machine can't replace.

Electric blankets may have their insulation damaged.

Pillows and comforters may lose their shape and resiliency.

Leather may become brittle.

Rubber loses its elasticity.

Felt may shrink.

Metallic yarn tarnishes sometimes.

Plastics may dissolve or become stiff or soft.

Flock and lacquer prints frequently lose their pattern.

Stiffened fabrics may become soft.

Embossed fabric often loses its texture.

When To Use

Self-service dry cleaning isn't designed to give clothing a professionally pressed look, but it gives good results for articles that don't require careful pressing, for instance, sweaters, knit wear, non-electric blankets, draperies or slip covers.

Machine cleaning doesn't always remove wear wrinkles, but the process itself doesn't add any new ones.

Some coin-cleaning businesses provide a water spray to use on clothing before you put it into the machine to help remove wear wrinkles.

How To Use Self-Service
When using coin-operated dry

cleaning machines, you'll get best results if you take time to prepare clothing for cleaning.

Turn cuffs down and pockets inside out, close zippers, and turn sweaters and other knit items to the wrong side.

Sort articles by weight and color.

Don't put heavy items with lighter ones in the same load.

Separate dark-colored garments from light-colored ones because dark fabrics pick up lint easily.

If spray guns are available, spray food and perspiration stains with water.

Don't use water on oil or grease spots or on fabrics that show water marks.

Have a professional dry cleaner treat garments that contain spots of unknown origin or stains, such as blood or milk, that may not dissolve in dry cleaning solvent. The solvent used in coin-operated machines could set such stains.

Prevent curtains and draperies from twisting by folding the panels once from top to bottom and pinning the ends with large safety pins.

Remove all items from the machine immediately after it stops, and hang each garment on a hanger.

Creases and pleats usually improve with hanging.

Most items will be ready to wear when they come out of the machine, but some may need touching up with an iron.

It's usually best to let coin-cleaned garments hang overnight before pressing them.

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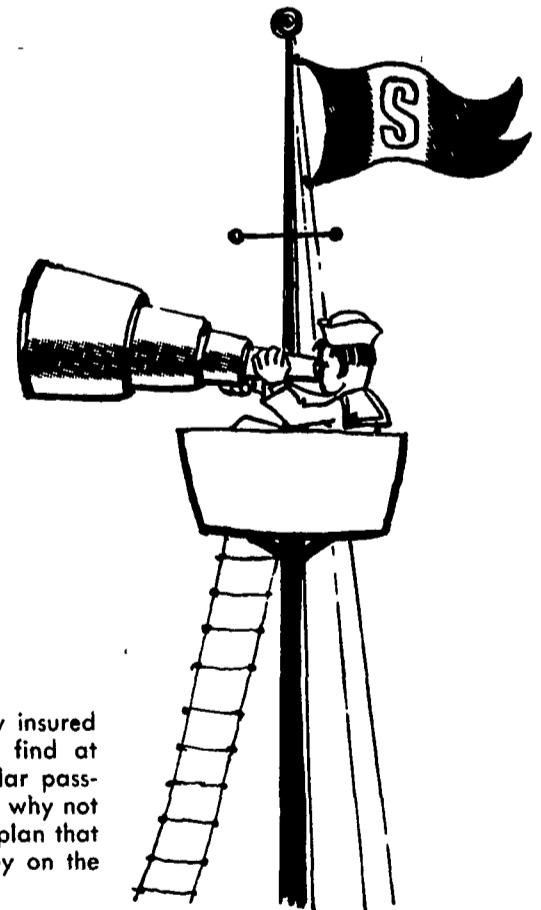
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