

Homestead Notes

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Feature Writer

Remember when? Remember when bustles were the fashion? Remember when full skirts, tight waists and puffy sleeves were in vogue? Remember sacks, and crinolines and bobby socks?

Each of us has a "remember when" in our fashion past, and the program committee for the Lancaster County Farmers Association's annual Ladies Day Out is going to bring the fashions of our past to life on April 24 at the Treadway Inn.

According to the committee, a parade of fashion, wit and song will highlight the afternoon program, with clothing modeled from the mid 1800's to 1974. Songs of the different fashion eras and skits will help to tell it like it was.

Many of the costumes have been passed down in the families of committee members, but several were donated through the courtesy of outsiders.

Wedding dresses, because of their sentimental value, are probably the most frequent item of clothing passed on to future generations. Several will be modeled the day of the show.

One of the most interesting is the wedding dress donated by Mrs. Henry Hiestand of Salunga. The dress belonged to her mother, who wore it on her wedding day, November 2, 1882, when she married John B. Herzler. The dress is black with velvet trim, and is in two pieces as was the custom of the era. There is also a handmade lace handkerchief and collar which appear on the wedding picture.

A white wedding dress has been donated by Alice Marie Nissley of Salunga. It belonged to her mother, who married Norman R. Nissley on July 23, 1903. It is a lovely, airy dress featuring tucks and lace and intricate hand work. In addition, Miss Nissley loaned the going away dress, which was in the same two-piece style of the time in a champagne color. There were also white satin wedding shoes, and blue stockings which were worn, obviously with the traditional thought of "something blue."

Another lovely wedding gown to be modeled is from the 1920's. This one belonged to Mrs. Oscar Mull, Marietta and is of silk, embroidered with blue. It featured a draw string, middy waist, and a matching silk shawl.



The oldest wedding dress to be modeled is worn here by Mrs. Gerald Ruhl, Mount Joy RD1. It was worn in 1882 and features a handmade lace collar.



Mrs. Harold Frey, Marietta RD1, models a wedding dress from the year 1903. The two piece dress was donated by Alice Marie Nissley, Salunga, and it belonged to her mother, Mrs. Norman R. Nissley.

A "church" dress in the two piece style described earlier is being lent by Mrs. Michael Grove, whose great grandmother, Mrs. Henry Erb, wore it. It is of black, with a black beaded velvet shawl and a white eyelet blouse.

A "Georgette" dress, donated by Alice Marie Nissley, will represent the swinging Thirties. It is a lovely orange crepe silk dress with huge flowers, in the rather shapeless design of the times.

One of the oldest fashions to be modeled in the show is a child's dress and high button shoes which belonged to Mrs. Elvin Brenneman's great-great grandmother. It is a simple white cotton dress with tucks and a button closing, and probably dates from the 1830's.

There will be dresses from the forties and fifties, as well as culottes, hot pants, knickers and hip huggers from today. One swim suit, dating from 1924 is sure to be a hit. It belongs to Mrs. Michael Grove, Sr., Marietta RD1.

An eye-opener for the committee was to discover just how tiny women were around the turn of the century. They all agreed that the women must have been "skinny" or wore very tight corsets. One of their problems was finding women small enough to model the clothing, and even so there was a lot of tugging, pulling, pinning and some bare skin showing at places which were meant to be covered.

Mrs. Sharon Hiestand said she was surprised how "small waisted and flat busted" they must have been. Mrs. Shirley Garner commented on how strong the garments were after all these years, and how fine hand sewing was characteristic of many of the items. One thing that no one seems to have saved, she said, is "men's clothes." The one interesting example she has to exhibit is a man's Arrow shirt with removable collars and stiffly starched bib and cuffs.

There were many miscellaneous items gathered which cannot be modeled but which will be on display the day of the show. A very delicate silk parasol, a bustle frame, shawls, and bonnets are a few of the items. There were also several tiny children's bonnets of lovely silk, and a boy's dress which belonged to Henry Hiestand, and a shawl worn to school by Mrs. Henry Hiestand. Some interesting undergarments were furnished - including two lovely crotcheted slip tops, to which cotton slips were attached.

Originally the whole show had been planned around wedding, date and school time clothes, but, according to the committee, they began gathering other interesting items, and now the show will have "whatever we can get," to demonstrate the fashion parade through the years.

Going along with the nostalgia theme, there will be a quilting demonstration in the morning presented by Mrs. Norman Hess and Mrs. Roy Landis. Quilts will also be on display.

Other events in the morning will be the talent show and short talks by Tom Moran of Pennsylvania Farmers Association, and Donald Hershey, Lancaster County President.

Overall chairman for Ladies Day Out is Mrs. Robert Kauffman, Elizabethtown, RD1, who will also narrate the parade of fashion. Program committee is: Mrs. Elvin Brenneman, chairman, Mrs. Harold Frey, Mrs. Dale Hiestand, Mrs. Michael Grove and Mrs. Jack Garner.

Tickets for the Day cost \$4.50, which includes the cost of a buffet lunch. Ticket chairman is Mrs. Dale Hiestand, Bainbridge RD1, and tickets can be obtained from her by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope or from your local ticket representative. Deadline for reservations is April 16.



Mrs. Elvin Brenneman, Mount Joy RD1, steps into another era as she combines a bonnet, cape and muff, dating from approximately 1850.