# Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



As I've mentioned before we're building a log house. To look at the outside, you would think that it is finished, but the inside will take a few more months of work. Allen spends his days at the site with the workmen. He has brushed a preservative on all the outside logs. It is a job that I would not like especially being high up on a lad-

The large fireplace will be made of sandstone and I'm hoping it will not disintegrate the way that our walk-in limestone one has. the stone crumbles and needs to be swept up quite often. We'll use a hand-hewn beam from our old cornbarn and a board from my father's barn for the mantel.

We showed the building to our children when they visited and they were surprised at the size of the rooms. The house is 44-feet long and the full basement seems huge. My husband tells me that half of it will be his workshop. Will he be able to make a bookcase that we need?

I'm a bit concerned about the colors that I've selected for the kitchen cabinets and counter top. But, I'm hoping that I can live with them. We have not chosen our lights or rugs as yet and that will be another agonizing decision. However, we have more than enough outlets in each room as the regulations require six in the living room.

## Women's Clothing Reflects Past

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — For Fall '91, fashion is drawing much of its inspiration by looking back to the '60s and '70s. Sixties-revisited looks, include pantsuits, A-line dresses, shifts, plastic and vinyl. Surfacing from the Seventies are patchworks, batiks, beads, scarf shirts and crochet. But, in true 1990's style, both decades are happily mixed and often garnish with space age touches. Newest looks include cat suits, spandex leggings and dresses that are nothing but a long jacket over opaque tights and lots of leg. For the young - and daring there are plenty of Madonnainspired, pop-icon looks in beaded corsetry that is printed, even feathered, for "outside" dressing.

Other '90's touches include

The house is built against a hill and there is no view from the back. However, this is not the case from the front as there is a spectacular sweeping view from the two bay windows of a large meadow and woods. A deer was seen there this spring and that is unusual for our area.

Native American motifs, from fringe to Indian beading, on everything from jackets to cocktail dresses. Popular, too, are quilted motifs in vivid colors based on Amish patchwork patterns. Zippers, functional or strictly for looks, show up on center fronts, adorning wrists, securing pockets, or simply spiraling around the body. The season is full of color. Greens and blues, especially turquoise, are making it big, as is brown, fuschia, purple and all the tartan colors, Trans-seasonal fabrics have spawned trans-seasonal colors, with spring-like pastels, often paired with white, showing up for fall and winter.

For those with a more classic bent, plaids are prominent, whether fashioned into Scottish kilts, or sequin-adorned for evening dresses and suits. Daytime jackets are often punctuated by velvet collars and brass-band buttons. Suits sport unmatched, but tonally related, plaids for jacket and skirt. For the ultimate in plaid mixing, there are plaid-patched coats worn over coordinating plaid suits and plaid-patched jackets worn over just about everything.

Watch for skirts with hemlines that slant to one side and poncho skirts created from large rectangles that fall into handkerchiefs points. There's renewed interest in dirndls and pleated skirts. They look freshest in short versions, such as a flirty pleated chiffon with a matching wool jacket, or short, full skirts propped up with petticoats for evening dressing. The trench is reinvented over and over again, as as jacket, coat or dress, in fabrics as diverse as sateen, gabardine, crepe and polyurethane. The bomber jacket is interpreted in even more fabrics than the trench. Consider wool, suede, bright vinyl, fur trimmed, quilted or sequinned.





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