

Billowy chiffon, hats revived

Women to look like women again designers decree

by Shirley Whittington
This summer fashion encourages women to look like women again - not safari organizers, starlets of the forties or peasants at a grape stomping festival.

A recent Toronto showing of originals from Saint Laurent, Valentino, Dior, Andre Laug and Karl Lagerfeld concentrated on clingy chiffons, that the commentator called "flirting dresses." Yards of chiffon billowed in sleeves, scarfs, stoles and longish cutaway jackets slung over matching afternoon dresses. (A tablemate observed that these beruffled affairs, with their under the chin bows reminded her of bed-jackets.)

Yves Saint Laurent showed only two pants suits in the show, and they were light years away from the trim hard-edged tailoring that had us all looking like elevator operators.

The pants were pleated at the waist, cuffed and relatively narrow at bottom. Jackets were boxy, and the blouses underneath were ruffled at waist and throat.

Chiffon evening gowns clung to the body, with shawls and panels floating in the wearer's waker. One designer used a lacy handkerchief as his signature - a nice bit of whimsy, but demanding since there was no place on the gown to tuck it if both hands were engaged.

There was no room in any of these gowns for anything but the shadow-thin models. Designers call this kind of dressing "body icing" and there just isn't any way you could slide an eighteen hour girdle under one of these diaphanous affairs. You'd also have to leave your living bra at home.

One bodice was slit from nape to waist in the back. Some sheer skirted numbers were worn without a slip, and even more leg was exposed through high centre or side slits.

With these gossamer night dresses (not nighties - they just looked like nighties) models wore clusters of flowers in the hair, or on the wrist.

Beige in all its creamy tones seemed a favourite colour for street wear, and black (chiffon again) for evening, relieved with lace inserts, fancy stitching and patches of the models' pelts.

The only designer who dressed his models as if they were going to a costume ball was Saint

Laurent who originated the peasant look some years ago, and is still in love with it. Ruffles appeared on the hems of the voluminous skirts, at wrists (sometimes tied with long laces) and at necklines. Waistlines were delineated by ribbons, tied in big bows front and centre, with a cameo brooch centred on the knot.

Saint Laurent showed an affection for mixing prints - coordinated in colour, but not in pattern. Skirts lengths were barely below the knee for

day wear. "The above-the-knee look belongs in the junior department," sniffed the commentator.

These were the biggies in the international fashion world, and the price tags matched - sometimes running into thousands. These fashions aren't for everyone, but their influence is felt in ladies' wear shops across the country.

In Midland, shop owners report that women are buying

dresses with more enthusiasm than ever before. Margaret Trudeau's well-publicized hemline breakthrough in Washington has made a slight impression locally. Says Leah Bertrand, "The fad for long dresses in the afternoon - say at a pool party - is wearing out. I usually recommend shorter length for before five o'clock. Our new fabrics are lovely - lots of chiffon and jerseys."

Leah still sells a lot of floor length gowns for

evening but Gladys Bath at G and M reports that she's selling fewer long gowns. "But," adds Gladys, "women are wearing more dresses than ever before. The bra-sundress will be a big item this summer."

The fashion bomb of the year has been the harem look in pants - the ones that tie at the ankle. Nora Schissler of Edwards' says "We had them but we cut the ties off them. People just wouldn't accept them. What's

much bigger this year is the jumpsuit, and not just for juniors. We have them for more mature figures and they are edging into the popularity of the pant suit."

Gauche pants are the biggest new item in sportswear - a perfect compromise for the woman who's torn between pants and a skirt.

That most feminine of accessories, the pretty hat, is enjoying a renaissance. "We always sell a lot of hats in the winter," says

Noreen Schissler, "but now we are selling them for summer and spring. Women are wearing them not to keep warm, but to look prettier."

So - if you're fashion conscious, grab your hat, but forget your coat. You'll be more in style if you swathe yourself in yards of chiffon or slip a lightly sleeved jacket over your afternoon dress.

And be sure to let a lacy hanky dangle from your wrist, but don't drop it.



Stepping into spring

Shirley Quigley of Edward's in Midland models a tabard, one of many "in" things on the fashion scene in Midland this spring. Also making a comeback in the move to more feminine fashions are dresses and hats.

Cubs and Scouts plan card party in April

The past month or so has been a busy one for the First Penetanguishene Cubs and Scouts along with the Mothers' Auxiliary.

The Scouts held a bottle drive in January and a chocolate bar drive in February to raise funds to aid in the expenses which will occur when they go to the Canadian Jamboree '77 in July. This jamboree will be held in Prince Edward Island. The boys and their leaders wish to thank all those who gave to this worthwhile cause.

The Mothers' Auxiliary held a Pot Luck Supper at the Legion in Penetanguishene on February 13th with approximately 150 people attending. This was a get together for the Cubs, Scouts and their families.

The Cubs held a hay ride at North West Basin on Sunday March 6th with 28 boys in attendance,

after which followed hot dogs and hot chocolate which was served at the home of one of the Cub leaders Richard Quesnelle.

The draw for the \$50.00 Food Voucher, sponsored by the First Penetanguishene Cub and Scouts Mother's Auxiliary took place at March 7th meeting which was held at the Penetang Secondary School. The winner was Miss Katie Gendron, 116 Fourth Street, Midland, Ontario holding ticket No. 2315.

The Mothers Auxiliary of the First Penetanguishene Cubs and Scouts will be holding a card party on April 28th at the Legion Hall in Penetanguishene. Admission will be \$1.75 and tickets may either be purchased from one of the members or at the door. There will be prizes, followed by a lunch.

C.W. Somers dies

Charles William Somers (Saumiers) of 644 Bay St., Midland, passed away on Saturday, March 5, 1977 after a short illness. Mr. Somers was in his 77th year.

Mr. Somers, husband of the late Laura Maheu was born in Midland June 8, 1922 and except for a brief stay in Toronto resided in Midland for all of his life.

He is survived by daughter Margaret (Mrs. Clarence Robitaille) of Midland, and son Bernard

Somers of Baie Comeau, Quebec, by brother Peter Somers of Midland, and by five grandchildren.

Mr. Somers was predeceased by brothers Alex, Edward, Henry, sisters Rosie, Lena and Vena.

Funeral services were held March 8, 1977 at St. Margaret's Church, Midland, the Reverend T. Van Der Veche officiating. Spring interment at St. Margaret's Cemetery.

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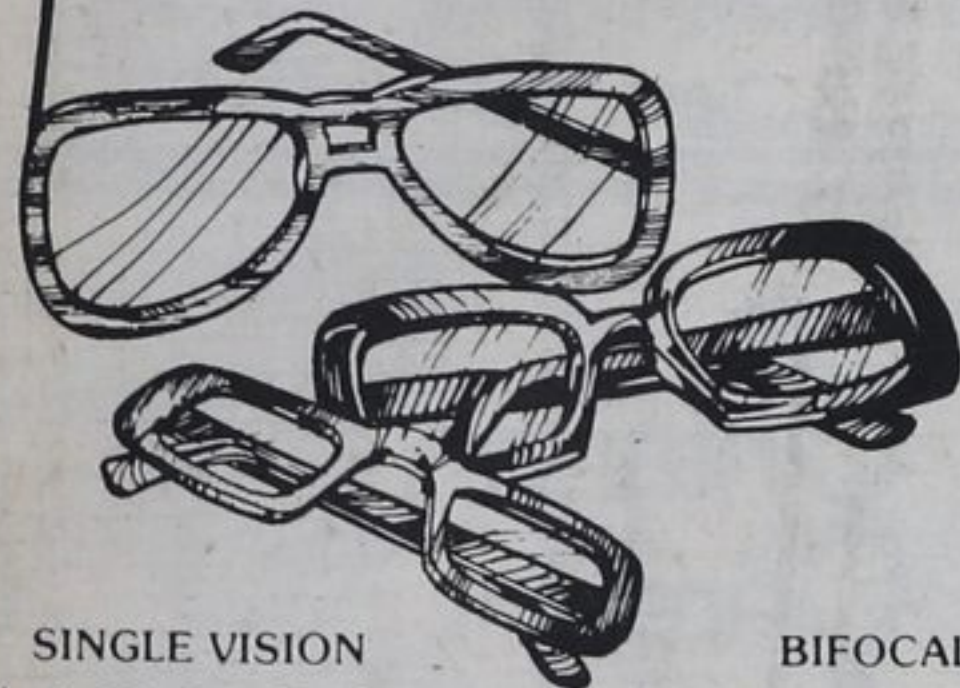
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