

## Women Buying 'Sack Look' Dresses, Giving Northwest Business Shot In The Arm

By ELMER C. VOGEL  
SEATTLE — So you don't like the chemise or sack look? Well, we're not too fond of it, either, and the same is true of a lot of women, department store owners say. But the women ARE buying it and it is being credited with giving Pacific Northwest retail trade a much needed shot in the arm this pre-Easter season. Department store sales, contrary to a national trend, have been holding at or about at last year's levels. Most sales managers are bowing with thanks in the direction of dame fashion. Some of the improved samples have resulted from modifications of the original chemise styles, says the manager of one large Seattle department store. "Those designers who stayed at their drawing boards this winter instead of lolling off to Florida for a vacation are the ones who put the style on its economic feet," he said. "They made those slight alterations demanded by style and body conscious women, giving line and design where it was needed and taking some of the monotony out of that long, unbroken drop from shoulder to hemline."

Another said, "A lot of women come in to look at the chemise, turn away from it and buy something else. They want something which modifies the 'last year' look in their wardrobe. It's just natural for a woman to want something different."

And, says Cornelius Byrne, vice president and general manager of Frederick and Nelson, "Anything that brings people into the store sells something else."

J. A. Walsh, vice president and controller of the Bon Marche, agrees and, viewing a steady sales level, says: "The chemise has been a definite factor in maiming apparel sales."

One exception was found to the generally high praise given the effect of the chemise. It came from a specialty store which deals in merchandise aimed at the higher income men and women. "That store thus far has refused even to stock the article, although conceding pressure could eventually force it to do so."

"We want our customers to look well wherever they go," the store manager says, "whether it is Seattle, San Francisco, New York or Tokyo. You can't and you won't in the chemise style. We didn't stock the zoot suit, either."

Meanwhile, the merchandisers report generally good conditions all through their operations. Surprisingly, they say credit conditions are better now than they were a year ago when business showed little if any sign of a recession. Payments are particularly good, the store operators report unanimously, with old accounts in the best shape they have been in months. There is an upswing in credit buying, too, with the cash being used to keep customers up to date.

As one store manager puts it: "The average customer is looking around and deciding he had better get ready for a storm. As a consequence, he is paying to his wife, 'dammit, Mabel, we gotta clean up those old accounts.'"

Apparently they are, too. Clearing up the old accounts and charging a chemise on the new one.

**LOOT RETURNED**  
EUGENE — State police said Tuesday that thieves who broke into a River Road grocery store Saturday night have returned the loot.

Four cases of beer, along with some cigarettes and candy, were returned to the store, police said, and placed just outside a broken window where the original entry was believed to have been made.



**PLAYFUL PRESIDENT** — In a striped and polka-dotted native costume and headdress, Burmese President U Win Maung carries a sword as he happily takes part in the "dance of the tribes" at Bangon. He's followed by Bu Hmu Aung, speaker of Burma's Chamber of Deputies. The ceremony was part of the Union Day celebrations.

### Japanese-Manufactured Trucks To Be Purchased

WASHINGTON — Sen. Porter (R-Mich) disclosed Thursday a Defense Department contract to buy 21 million dollars worth of Japanese-manufactured military trucks this year. He called it a "shocking" agreement.

He said the purchase starts a proposed five-year program of buying Japanese trucks for use by the Japanese armed services under the military assistance phase of the foreign aid program.

The Defense Department confirmed Porter's announcement, adding it decided on the program last year "after careful consideration."

#### APPROVES BILL

WASHINGTON — The Senate Agriculture Committee Wednesday approved a bill by Sen. Kiesel (R-Calif) to exempt the production of durum wheat in the Tulare area, Modoc and Siskiyou counties, Calif., from acreage allotment and marketing quotas. The committee agreed, however, so as not to leave the production as wide open as the bill proposed. Language of the amendment will be worked out later.

### Action Deferred On Klamath Indian Timber Measure

WASHINGTON — Action on a bill for disposal of Klamath Indian Reservation timber was deferred Wednesday by the Senate Interior Committee.

Sen. Neuberger (D-Ore) said committee members had received telegrams protesting parts of the bill. He branded the protests as a "cowardly act" by the Western Pine Assn. of Portland and the National Lumber Manufacturers Assn.

The bill, backed generally by Neuberger and Secretary of Interior Seaton, provides for the timbers to be offered for sale to private bidders, with the purchasers required to manage the timberland on a sustained yield basis for 100 years. In the event no purchasers could be found, the government would buy the timber to pay off those Indians who wish to withdraw from the tribe and take their assets in cash.

Neuberger said the two organizations were responsible for the telegrams. He said they had not testified on hearings on the bill. "They evidently were too cowardly to present their views when they could be questioned by senators and the committee staff," he said.

In Portland, Kolbe said his organization had not had an opportunity to discuss the bill until recently and then had decided to oppose it.

### 'California Secret Boss' Ends Stretch In Prison

SAN FRANCISCO — Artie Samish, who once boasted he was the "secret boss of California," came home on parole Sunday but he no longer was his once garrulous self.

Still weighing nearly 300 pounds, the former lobbyist said only "if's good to be out." He had served 26 months of a three-year sentence in McNeil Island Federal Prison in Washington. He was convicted of income tax evasion.

Several years ago Samish boasted to a magazine reporter "I am the governor of the Legislature of the State of California" because of his campaign contributions to candidates of both parties. That led to an investigation of his lobbying activities and income.

He was reputed to have paid the government nearly \$750,000 in settlement of income tax claims and penalties.

#### SUSPENSIONS PENDING

CORVALLIS — Suspensions are pending for students who broke into two women's dormitories in a water fight on the Oregon State College campus Sunday.

Dan Poling, dean of men, said disciplinary action is in store for many of the 200 students who took part in the fight. The most severe penalties will be given the handful of students who broke into the dormitories, he said.

### Rep. Mack Would Curb President's Veto Power

WASHINGTON — Rep. Mack (R-Wash) urged Wednesday approval of a bill to strip the President of his veto power over tariff and quota restrictions recommended by the Tariff Commission.

Under the proposal, by Rep. James C. Davis (D-Ga), the President would have 30 days in which to approve commission recommendations for quotas or to recommend that Congress disapprove or modify the recommendations. If Congress took no action within 60 days, the commission's recommendation would become effective.

Mack told the House approval of the proposal "will provide relief not only for the plywood industry in which there is great unemployment but also will be helpful to all branches of the fishing industry and to the dairy industry as well."

#### FORESTER DIES

BEND — James A. Egan, supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest, died here late Wednesday. He was 45.

### Old Bard Still Sends Poem To Vancouver Yuconers

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Robert W. Service, 84-year-old bard of the North whose chronicles of "Dangerous Dan McGrew" and other gold rush characters earned him international fame, still has a busy pen.

Although he now lives in sunny Monaco, on the Mediterranean, Service writes a new poem each year for the annual banquet of the Vancouver Yukoners' Assn.

His latest, read Saturday when Pacific Northwest sourdoughs met here, wryly noted the toll of advancing years.

Entitled "The Sourdough's Lament," it goes: "When I was a Klondike high roller, I tilted my poke with the best. And though the climate might be polar, I'd plenty of hair on my chest. Now while I've no trace of rheumatics, And maybe I shouldn't complain,

I'm worried because I just ain't what I was, And I wish I was 80 again. I still have my love for ladies, Chuck grand-mummies under the chin.

Yet fearing a hall of Hades I'm kinda' allergic to sin. Aye though the hootch-bird be a-singing, I'm deaf to its dulcet refrain. When the going gets rude you've just got to be guid.

Gee I wish I was 80 again. Some claim that the 90's were naughty, Them statements I grieve to reverse. You've got to be bumble, n o t haughty.

To jiggle-jog on the hearse, I blink at the blonde and bikini I shrink from the wink of champagne. But, reforming, by heck Was a pain in the neck, Gosh I wish I was 80 again.

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