

All shoes seem to be in style



Debi Everton of Callahan's Shoes is surrounded by spring footwear.

'Toes' are in for women while penny loafers win with men

by JAN COOLEY
for The Outlook

High heels or low, in every color of the rainbow, spring shoes in jute, leather or fabric have broken out of the mold.

"There's no such thing as a trend in shoes right now," says Nick Smit of Callahan's. "For spring, everything is in."

Women's shoes come in styles to fit every taste. Fashionable heels include two to four inch spikes, two to four inch wedgies and flats. Probably the only thing a woman needs to consider is what goes best with the length of her skirt or pants and what look she wants to achieve.

Candice Brusse of Sassy Lade says, "The one big fashion statement is your shoes. If you're going to make a fashion statement, make sure you carry it through from head to toe."

Toes, by the way, are in style. Sandal and open-toed dress shoes enjoy year round popularity but are especially big in spring. "People don't care about the rain here," says Helen Phoenix of W.R. Hicks Co. In fact, she says slip-on Cherokees with nylon, pretzel twist uppers "are the hottest thing we've had in years."

Ankle straps are another look for spring along with other more feminine styles. Rick Stone of Gordon Stone's Key to Fashion says

shoes are heading away from the "clunky, heavy styles to a fresher, lighter, softer idea."

Colors, from the season's red, white and blue wave to vibrant yellows, oranges and lavenders are a change from the earthy tones that have dominated shoe fashions. Even men's casual shoes are beginning to reflect the trend.

"For spring we're seeing a lot of canvas and jute in lighter colors," says Stone. Because of that, "You're going to see men's shoes," he adds.

For a dressier casual look, spring offers penny loafers for men. Tan, which can be worn with either black or brown, provides a versatile basic color.

Children's shoes are changing, too. Jim McAllister of McAllister's Shoes for Juniors says, "Tennis shoes are changing from running to court shoes. Deck shoes are coming in." Another new canvas style is the van, a slip-on tennis shoe.

T-strap cloth shoes in pink, blue and lavender with hearts decorating the sides are just the thing for little girls. Probably the biggest hit of the season will be the Strawberry Shortcake shoe. "They put Strawberry Shortcake on a neat, durable canvas shoe that will hold up," says McAllister.

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Resale shops can prove to be a bargain for some people

Everyone loves a bargain. And on that premise the nation's second-time-around clothing shops came into popularity some 40 years ago.

Depending on the nation's economy the resale stores have either flourished or become alley hide-aways since that time.

Today there are more women's resale clothing shops springing up across the country than at any time in history. While the actual count is difficult to ascertain because many are not listed, it's estimated that there is one recycle clothing store for every 10 regular retail outlets in every major city.

"Fancy names — both designers and first-time wearers — are the key to this fun business," says Laura Davis, an East Coast executive who has purchased a West Coast resale

shop "for future retirement."

"At first I felt strange in the gowns, just knowing someone else had worn them — even though they looked brand new. But after I learned that many Hollywood and Broadway stars shopped in the resale shops — Barbra Streisand had openly bragged about her resale shopping sprees — I forgot my doubts and any embarrassment and enjoyed the good looks and the low prices."

Davis says today's resale shops also have new sample clothes from design houses in Los Angeles and New York.

One problem with the resale shops is finding the right size. Most have small sizes from 6 to 8 or larger sizes from 14 to 20 but have few 10s and 12s in designer clothes longer than the first week.

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