

# OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES  
by Kathryn Hall Bogle



The Mood of Romance was portrayed for full-figured women by the above model. (Photo: Richard Brown)

THE "MOOD of Romance" came to Portland Friday evening, April 15, at the Red Lion Inn at Jantzen Beach. It came on the breeze of the 25th anniversary of Ebony Fashion Fair welcomed by the Portland Chapter of Links, Inc., and by about 1400 or 1500 patrons who jammed the ballroom to capacity.

Geri Christian, Link general chair for the EFF, received compliments right and left for the Links' presentation of a fun-packed evening in a hostelry providing every convenience. "We believe this is a record for us this year in spite of the economy," said Christian.

The glamour and the glitter of the show kept every eye on the runway as the slim, sleek models strolled the boards. The EFF style of promenade is a trademark and hard to copy but after a summer of practice and nearly 200 shows in the itinerary the 12 models of the season have it down pat. Commentator for the Portland show this year was Pamela Brame of Buckingham, Pennsylvania.

The garments, by French, Japanese, Italian and American designers, had no boundaries for origin. Designs and gowns and furs were by Dior, Ungaro, Givenchy, Yves Saint Laurent, Balestro, Carlo Palazzi, Missoni, Valentino and Biagiotti mixed in with dozens more. American houses represented were Albert Capraro, Bill Blass, Gottex, Kansai Yamamoto, Jackie O, Lucie Ann, Stephen Burrows, Willie Smith and Oscar de la Renta, to mention a few.

There were 200 gowns to see in styles romantic, pioneer, ethnic, for afternoon, evening, formal wear. There were striking colorful suits for the streets of metropolitan cities, there were bathing suits for the beaches of the world. Hats were worn, tiny cloche style or cartwheel or something innovative in a "V-line" that may not catch on until Century 21.

Comment from the audience ran to pleasure that this year's show displayed some clothing that could be worn in Portland—if the wallet could supply the wherewith. General outline to guide the fashion selection was repeated by garment after garment: wide emphasis at the top of the garment narrowing to a slim skirt. Skirt length is an individual choice. Just below-the-knee seemed more prevalent than others, though, for the young, there were lots of mini-skirt lengths.

There were slits and slashes front,

back, to the sides and up to here.

It was a colorful show with bright colors like cerise and saffron appearing as a solid or in color blocks of three. Perennial combination black and white was seen often. Fall colors were forecast as topaz, amethyst, and sapphire. Fabrics will be in new combinations of your colors in plaids and tweeds. Your mood can be expressed in design and color: French wine with black velvet bows or a top made of silver bugle beads.

For the first time, EFF showed a not-so-slender model, wearing their beautiful clothes. Kim Nelson, of Chicago, was the luscious, majestic tan beauty chosen to represent the girls with added avoirdupois. The audience loved her and her dimpled plumpness. Applause was strong and continuous whenever she appeared.

The EFF helped the Portland Chapter of Links raise money for Raphael House, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, the United Negro College Fund and the Links Educational Fund. These beneficiaries join over 30 organizations that the local chapter of Links has befriended.

Several door prizes sent the winners home extra happy. "More" cigarettes gave every smoker a pack of cigarettes.

The grand door prize, donated by American Airlines, went to Gerald and Nancy Caldwell. Gerry, an assistant branch manager at the East Morrison branch of Pacific Western Bank, was ecstatic. "We are excited and happy—you could have knocked me over with a feather," he said. "We won tickets for two to Mexico City, courtesy of American Airlines. We will go sometime during the summer, but we can hardly believe it yet."

Assisting Geri Christian with EFF arrangements were Bernice Mac Rae, Rosemary Anderson, Jacquelyn Brown, June Brown Clementyne Guy, Jewell Johns, Geneva Jones, Carment Walker and Yvonne Williams.

THE OREGON State Association of Ministers' Wives met in their fourth annual conference held recently in Salem at the State Street Church of God. Keynote address, "Love Must Be Special," was given by the national president of Ministers' Wives, Dr. Muriel L. Johnson of Roosevelt, New York.

A pre-convention reception and musicale, held at Allen Temple CME church for which members of the Oregon State Wives were hostesses, served to introduce the Portland community to Dr. Johnson. Several local church choirs, plus the "Singing Gospel Lights," the "Spiritual Vibration Ensemble," and individual vocal soloists and instrumentalists presented the evening's program.

Music program chairperson was Louise Pritchett.

Pastor Bernard Eng and his wife Adrienne Eng, headed the Salem host committee. In Portland Dr. Johnson was houseguest of Oregon State President Grace Osborne, wife of the Rev. Louis Osborne Sr., minister at Faith Tabernacle.

THE CELEBRATION commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Grace Collins Memorial Center began on April 18 and is to continue through April 24th. The celebration takes the form of open houses held each evening at the center at 128 N.E. Russell Street (next door to Prince Hall).

Each evening there will be a short program featuring the children of the center in song and recitation and

an invited guest speaker. Each program will start at 7:00 p.m. Ministers of the wider Portland community have been chosen to be among the speakers. Evelyn Collins, who, with Grace, her mother, (now deceased), founded the center in 1954, has arranged the week-long celebration with the assistance of her faithful staff of 20.

"When we first started the Center so long ago, Mother and I wanted to take care of the children in the neighborhood by offering after-school activities with us in our home. We offered quiet games and reading upstairs and the more active games, like marbles, down in our basement," Collins said.

"The idea caught on quickly and soon we had all the children we could handle. When we had 32 visit-

ing us regularly, we moved the kids to a nearby park for the games. About that time we started a Bible study class. It was Christian, but interdenominational, and we have kept it that way all through the years.

"The center kept growing," Collins continued. "Mother and I had to invite friends in to help us and that is the way we formed our first executive board. We now take care of 50-60 children each day. Our doors are open to infants from six weeks to children 11 years old, which of course includes the latch-key children. We open every morning at 6:30 and close at 6:00 p.m. The late Mrs. Isaac Payne was one of our first board members and Mr. Payne still works with us. We hope that all of our friends of the past will come to see us during this week.

"Alumni Night" is to be Friday evening of April 21. That's when we expect our biggest turnout. We expect to have a music program with the Maranatha choir; Caroline Goldsby will sing and an old trio I used to sing with will sing together again. Jessie Brazzle and Stan Peters are the other singers with me."

Ministers taking part in the series of the open house events are: Pastors Herbert Richards, Fred Flowers, Nathan Barnett, Richard Hunter, J. Robert Walker and James Faulkner. Bill Ringer "choirs" will perform for the center too.

On Friday evening, "Alumni Night" Commissioner Charles Jordan will be the speaker, and will serve tastes of his famous banana pudding. The open house will continue through Saturday and Sunday evenings, April 23rd and 24th.

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