

WHER SKATING CLOTHES

By Mrs. Osborn Creator Of Fashions
For The Fashionable Women
Of America



Skating Costumes Should Have Closely Fitting Coats and Skirts That Flare About the Bottom. The New Fashion of Wearing White Buckskin Shoes Is All the Vogue on the Rinks. Cloth and Velveteen Are Favorite Materials for Skating Costumes.

ALMOST everybody needs a costume for skating, because almost everybody skates. From the little Mexican maid on the San Antonio skating rink to Mr. Rockefeller on his northern lake, all the world is skating.

American women are following in the steps of Europe in the modish pastime of skating. In Paris, for instance, women are "perfectly crazy" about skating and go every day to the rink as regularly as we go to our dinner. To live a whole day without skating in Paris—that would be impossible!

From 5 until 8 o'clock all fashionable Paris gathers at the rink. No matter whether they can skate or not, nor whether they ever mean to endeavor to skate, they go to the rink just the same. Here they meet their friends, of course, since all Paris is present. They have tea and chat and watch the gay figures twirling about the ice or skimming like bright-hued swallows from end to end of the rink.

We have not come to the ultra-fashionable skating-rink tea and to the gay social features of the European rinks, but we have gone just as daft upon the subject of skating as the very liveliest Parisienne. They have progressed so far in devotion to this exercise that in one of our towns the only theatre and opera-house in the place has been converted this season into a skating rink. No doubt other towns have followed this novel method of providing room for skaters. At all events, in every city in the land skating rinks for both ice and roller-skating have cropped up like daisies in June, and young maids and staid matrons all seek garments which are strictly the correct thing to wear upon the rink.

Another fad of the European aristocracy on skates which we now copy is that of wearing white buckskin shoes with our skates. Everybody who is anybody owns white buckskin skating shoes, and not to have them proclaims that you are deficient in at least one art of skating.

With the white buckskin shoes are worn gloves of the same kind, only a trifle less heavy in quality.

All the smart women of Paris wear white shoes, and before the winter is far advanced we will be able to say that all the smart women in America wear white skating shoes.

We in New York and San Francisco may learn a very practical and beautiful lesson from the women and men who indulge in outdoor sports in mid-winter all along our northern border from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. It is a Canadian custom, and Canada has lots of delightful customs. Both men and women appear upon the ice or the snow—according to whether the sport be skating, curling, snowshoeing, tobogganing or skiing—in costumes made of blanket material, which is very light, very warm and wonderfully attractive as they wear it.

These bright costumes add wonderfully to the effective appearance of a rink on one of our northern borders, and could be recommended for outdoor skating, curling and ice hockey as far south as ice and snow may be had to give excuses for the radiant apparel.

For skating purposes coats are all closely-fitting, or, at least, partly fitted. They may be long, but are preferably short, and when worn indoors the coats are discarded, and smart blouses are worn during the exercise. The coat may be replaced when one is resting and likely to become chilled.

All kinds of skirts are worn on the skating rink, and all are correct, provided, of course, that they are simply made, short and set well. Gored, pleated and circular skirts are all pressed into service for skating costumes, as well as the high corselet or princess skirt. The most fashionable of all skating skirts, however, are those which cling about the hips and flare out well around the bottom. As it is the fashion to wear brightly colored petticoats with skating costumes, the effect is very pretty as the skater twirls about on the ice, disclosing glimpses of pink and red, green, bright blue or yellow petticoats. There always seems to be a demand for bright colors upon ice and snow, and it is not only the fact to wear bright petticoats, but also vivid costumes in bright-colored cloth materials as well as in velveteen.

This last is one of the most modish of materials for skating purposes and is combined with fur, cloth and other trimmings. Generally speaking, skirts for the rink are not trimmed. If trimming is employed it is put on sparingly and simply. The reason for this is obvious. One cannot skate with enjoyment in heavy garments and the whole endeavor in making up a costume for active outdoor sports should be to have the material warm, but as light in weight as possible, and as unhampered with unnecessary trimmings.

Coats, on the contrary, may be trimmed elaborately, but not heavily. Some trimmings weigh less than half what others do, and discrimination should be used in their selection. Skating coats aim to be as jaunty, as smart, as attractive and even dressy as possible. The golf coat, the walking jacket and even the hockey coat are all on the negligent order of garments, but the skating coat must lend itself to the grace and charm of its wearer in every line and in every shade and color and plan of decoration. Skating is the most graceful of arts, and to skate in "any old thing" is a libel upon this beautiful pastime.

A fetching little costume for the rink is shown in figure A. Its short, fitted jacket extends just over the top of the clinging under-portion of a princess skirt. Two loosely laid pleats on each side of the center of the jacket back are caught under embroidery just above the bottom of the skirt. Below the embroidery a velvet tuffie is formed by the release of the pleats, making a "cunning" little jacket tail. An embroidered foliage design extends up each side of the back, terminating just an inch from the arm holes in a slender point of embroidery. This is worked in heavy silk of the same color as the velvet.

Loose fronts are pleated to a velvet border, which at the top disappears under a turned-over collar, which extends quite far down the front in points. Embroidered ornaments decorate fronts.

A high military collar of brown velvet bordered with yellow finishes the neck, and this may be turned over, if desired. A vest of cloth, of the shade of brown seen in the cloth skirt, and which is lighter than that of the jacket, is trimmed at the bottom with a border of yellow and one of brown velvet, and down the front with velvet buttons.

Medium full sleeves are tucked across the outer side with three tucks half an inch in width. A turned-up cuff is embroidered with a small turban or sable fur on the outer side.

The skirt is a fitted Princess extend-

ing above the under part of the short-fur coat. Of course, some other brown fur may be worn in the turban, and well as to impede the feet when skating.

With this costume should be worn white buckskin shoes with gloves to match and a small turban of sable fur with a pompon of gold marabout on coat, known as the "pony" coat, and

in, also case. It is made of Russian pony skin, which is very pretty. It is black and slightly resembles caracul in appearance, and is made quite full at the bottom of the back, which is loose and pleated. Short fronts, cut like a square vest, are finished in an open V neck. Brandenburgs of soutache form the fas-

tenings as well as decorations in the front of the coat. The sleeves are pleated in the arm-hole and underneath a deep curved cuff. This cuff is open at the back and pleated on the edge above the arm.

The Warmth of Color. With this coat is worn a cloth skirt, which may be green, blue, red or warm brown in color—unless one has reasons for wearing black. The brighter the color of the skirt the better. It is box-pleated on each side the seam down the front and side-pleated the rest of the way round. All the pleats are stitched at the top nearly to the hips.

Figure C illustrates a smart skating costume of corduroy. It has a gored skirt, gathered in the back and trimmed with two medium wide folds alternating with two very wide ones, the lower of which forms the hem. This is faced with white cloth, although white flannel would make as good a facing. This skirt is built over a drop-skirt of white silk, which is finished with a deep pleated flounce. The corduroy skirt is gathered a trifle under the upper fold, giving greater breadth to the lower portion.

A short, square, semi-fitted jacket is built a little on the box order in general appearance, although not in line.

A wide bias fold, attached a little in the edge, forms a sort of belt effect which comes to a point on each side the front and back. A similar fold passes over the shoulders and terminates in points both in the back and front, upon the belt fold. The fold which trims the bottom of the jacket is cut up in a point in the center of the back, making a fancy shaped effect there. Below a high, turned-over seal-skin collar another fold encircles the neck and terminates in points on each side upon a fold that trims the front edges and ends in points upon that which finishes the bottom of the coat. Full sleeves are gathered to the arm-holes and also under a large cuff of seal-skin.

Figure B illustrates an attractive pony coat in pony skin with a cloth pleated skirt. The straw hat manufacturers, who are just now at the height of their season, are all making the same kinds of hat that they made the season before. There will be perhaps some little changes, but not enough to be noticed.

The Panama, it is expected, will be revived again, and the turban brim straw hat, which can be distorted to suit the taste of its wearer, will also be in demand. Lots of soft straw with the pencil curl are also being made.

Nobody is thinking much of straw hats now. Thoughts of ear protectors and seal-skin caps are more appropriate, but the straw hat manufacturers are doing their summer thinking months ahead of time.

It Didn't Work. "The late Sam Small had his faults," said an Atlanta "snob" who did not dodge the penalty of time. When he went wrong, he owned up like a man, and if punishment was due, he took it.

"That was the doctrine Sam Small preached. He hated dodges. He used to laugh bitterly at the plea of 'hypnotic influence' that used to be put up by nearly every murderer.

"I once heard him ridiculing hypnotism. He said that he bought pretty heavily the year for Christmas, and when the bill came in for turkeys and mince-meat, candy, ducks, chickens, plum pudding, fruit cake and so on, he thought to himself that here was cause for hypnotism to be tried.

"He went first to hypnotize the grocer. Approaching the man, he looked him squarely in the eye, at the same time repeating slowly and impressively: "My bill is paid."

"A change came over the grocer's face. His color faded, his eyes grew dull, his expression blank. And in a strange, mechanical voice he muttered: "You're a liar."

Soldiers Never Carry Umbrellas. The rain fell in torrents on the soldiers tramping sturdily down the muddy street.

"Why don't they put up their umbrellas?" said a spectator.

With a sneer an elderly man replied: "Don't you know, sir, that soldiers never carry umbrellas? History records just one instance of their having done so. It was in an engagement of the civil war, and a group of officers were holding up umbrellas to shield themselves from a thunder storm when General Grant passed.

"The general frowned at the sight and sent an aid to the officers with this historic message: "I do not approve of the use of umbrellas in war, and will not allow any of my soldiers to make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of the enemy."

"Since that time," ended the old man, "no soldier has ever dared to protect his uniform with the attenuated umbrella."

many kinds of trimmings. A striped tweed, for instance, in a very practical costume, might be trimmed with bias folds of the same material. White caracul would be a good fur to wear with this costume, or seal-skin, or, if some other fur trimmed neck and sleeves, that should also be used for muff, stole—if one is worn—and hat.

While cloth and velveteen are favorite fashionable materials for the making of skating costumes, velvet and corduroy are much used in building expensive dresses, and all manner of tweed and serge and suiting materials are to be seen, since all cannot afford the high-priced fabrics favored by the world of society. These other materials do very well and may be made up smartly and effectively. Bearing in mind that bright colors are best upon the rinks, where one is not able to follow any fashion at all in the matter of shoes, gloves, materials and colors, it is best to dress as inconspicuously as possible in some good dark color. If it is made up well no one will pause to contrast the costume with those of greater attractiveness, because it will not insist upon such contrast.

JOSEFA WILSON OSBORN.

A—A Really Fetching Costume Showing a Brown Velvet Short Coat and Cloth Princess Skirt.

B—An Attractive Pony Coat in Pony Skin with a Cloth Pleated Skirt.

C—A Skating Costume of White Corduroy Velvet With Dark Fur Trimmings.

Save Your Straw Hats. If you have thrown your last summer's straw hat on top of the wardrobe, thinking that next year it will not be in style and will come in handy only to wear around the house, get it down, brush the dust off it and put it away carefully.

For next year the same kind of straw hats will be worn as last year. Split straw, sennit and soft brim will be just as much in demand. Panama hats have not yet seen their finish and one may wear his next summer without fear of being laughed at.

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F Avery