

Women's News • Social Events



Paris—One of the costumes in the last collection which Yves St. Laurent designed for the House of Dior before he went into military service with the French army, included this hostess gown with the new "divided skirt." It is of rose-red wool banded in the middle with dark ranch mink. The loose-fitting collarless middy is worn with a chunky necklace of dark red beryls. This is an exclusive copyrighted fashion, and copying is strictly forbidden. The House of Dior announced today that Marc Bohan had been chosen to replace St. Laurent while the young man serves in the French army. (UPI Telephoto)

House of Dior Announces New Head Designer

Paris—The fashion house of Christian Dior has placed its destiny in the hands of a tried and tested designer during the two-year absence of "wonder boy" Yves Saint-Laurent, 24, on military service. Dior announced it has selected Marc Bohan, 34, who for two years has been right-hand man to Saint-Laurent. Bohan started designing fashions in his school days and for years was a close friend and protege of the late Christian Dior, creator of the "new look" and other styles which put Paris back in the fashion lead after World War II. Dior died in Italy in 1957. Bohan's mother spent her life as a hat designer. Before joining the House of Dior in August, 1958, Bohan worked as a designer in the top Paris houses of Piguet, Molynoux and Patou. Bohan is a contrast to the slender, bespectacled Saint-Laurent. Bohan is a well-built, dark-haired Frenchman of average height, hit in the heady world of Paris fashion. As No. 1 assistant to Saint-

Laurent, he was mainly responsible for the collections shown by "Christian Dior-Londres," the London branch of the Paris house. In its brief announcement, the Dior company said that Saint-Laurent's contract was only "suspended for the period of his military service," which started September 1. But in Paris circles there were some doubts whether Saint-Laurent, in fact, would eventually resume his old job. Since his last 12-month period of exemption elapsed and the army said he must go to the colors, the delicate Saint-Laurent has been in a Paris military hospital suffering from nervous exhaustion. Fashion sources said he spent an earlier period in a hospital, secretly, following a partial breakdown in April and May this year. But Saint-Laurent went through with a successful fall and winter showing in July.

Announces Dinner
Pocahontas lodge has planned a potluck dinner Friday, September 30, in the Redman hall at 6:30 p.m. A business meeting will follow at 8 p.m. and a card party will close the evening's program. Members are privileged to take guests for both the dinner and card party.

Schedule Announced For Bridge Tournament

What probably will be the largest bridge tournament ever held in the Rogue valley will open Friday, September 30, at Rogue Valley Country club. About 300 players are expected. The tournament, termed the first bi-annual Rogue Valley Sectional tournament, combines several different types of play. They are open pairs, men's pairs, women's pairs, master pairs, team of four "Bartlett pairs" and "D'Anjou pairs." The schedule is as follows: Friday, September 30, 8 p.m., open pairs play, first session; Saturday, October 1, 1:30 p.m., men's pairs and women's pairs; 8 p.m. open pairs, second session; Sunday, October 2, 1 p.m. masters pairs and Bartlett pairs; 6:30 p.m., team of four and D'Anjou pairs. Leland Clark and Raymond Wise are co-chairmen for the tournament; Gerald Patterson,

Redding, Calif., is tournament director. On other committees are Mrs. Clark, hospitality; Mrs. Patsy Gilhousen, food; Mrs. F. R. Baker, protest; Paul McDuffee, housing; the Paul Hattons, playing partners; Mrs. W. W. Stevenson, prizes; Mrs. Wise, publicity.

To Meet

The weekly meeting of Medford Fifty Plus club will be held Friday, September 30, at 12:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Guild hall, Fifth and Oakdale avenue. A program will be given, and refreshments served.

More than \$500 million in maternity benefits was paid by health insurance policies during 1959, according to the Health Insurance Institute.

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Conservative Mainbocher Says Culottes Correct

By GAY PAULEY
UPI Women's Editor
New York—The fashion world is united on the divided skirt. Everything for fall and winter from lingerie and at-home wear through sports clothes, daytime suits and evening clothes is on a pants kick. And price makes no difference. You can have culottes for \$5.95 at a budget shop or at \$595 from the haute couture.

The latest endorsement for the divided skirt comes from a man whose name is synonymous with good and expensive taste. Designer Mainbocher of New York. If Mainbocher says culottes are correct, it is like Amy Vanderbilt okaying the use of a toothpick in public. Culottes are correct. After all, Mainbocher designs for most of the women who annually show up on those ten-best-dressed lists.

It would be unsafe to say that any one designer kicked off the latest revival of pants for all occasions. It seems to be a trend which, like Topsy, just grew.

If you want to trace pants in women's wear through history, you'll find them recorded as early as the fifth century B.C. in Persia.

Ethel Trapagen, who now runs a fashion school bearing her name, shocked New Yorkers by appearing on the street in 1914 in a variation of the culotte as it's seen today.

Marlene Dietrich made tailored trousers a craze in the 1930's. And, at the same time, lounging pajamas with the culotte look were popular.

At least three years ago, the culotte leg began to compete with skinny trousers in lounge wear. This fall, another famous American designer, Norman Norell, endorsed trouser-skirts for daytime suits.

Variations of the divided skirt for both daytime and evening showed in several Paris collections in late July. Dior showed a whole group for formal dining at home. Lanvin-Castillo and Jacques Heim included divided skirts for daytime.

All Mainbocher culottes were confined to evening wear and were cut extremely full to give the look of a skirt whether the model was moving or just sitting.

"I'm tired of all this talk about getting in and out of taxis," said Mainbocher, to explain why he did not divide skirts for daytime. "I think they are right for evening parties. Nowadays society, intellectual and artistic circles mingle wonderfully. The talk, after dinner is stimulating. It is perfectly correct for a young woman to

curl herself up on the sofa to listen."

Baptist Women Hear Talk By League Member

Women of Eastwood Baptist church had as a speaker for their first meeting this fall Mrs. Kenneth Baker, a vice-president of the League of Women Voters, who presented and discussed the measures which will appear on the ballot this November. Mrs. Carroll Graber, president of the Woman's Mission society, presented the speaker.

Devotions were led by Mrs. William Robertson. Luncheon was served by Mrs. Harold Hewlett, Mrs. Herbert Fields, and Mrs. Frank Guber.

Local women attending the Rogue River association fall rally of American Baptist Women at Riddle September 15 were Mrs. John Yungen, Mrs. Carl Jones, Mrs. Clifford Young, and Mrs. Jack Meves. Several state officers headed by the president, Mrs. Frank Pattison, Eugene, participated. Phil Uhlinger, missionary from Congo, spoke of the Baptist work there.

The women served a dinner September 21 for about 25 people who will participate in Baptist jubilee advance courses. This was an association-wide training conference for leaders who will present these courses this year. An analysis of church groups, such as Sunday School classes, was made to determine whether improvements could be made by combining or dividing classes, etc.

Eastwood women also served as hostesses at the annual Mission Institute which is sponsored by the Council of Church Women, and which was held this year at the Eastwood Baptist church September 23.



Potpourri went shopping yesterday on her day off. But we didn't buy any culottes. We didn't ask to see them, and if so, probably the shop would not have had them. However, culottes are big fashion news in New York, Paris and Rome. (We never have figured out how all these fashion centers manage to come out with the same "new" ideas while all the time the individual houses and designers make out like everything is a big secret.)

Various "big names" on the European fashion scene showed culottes this fall, and two of the best known of the American designers, Norman Norell and Mainbocher, have also designed and shown this fashion. Of the two, Norell sometimes goes in for extreme "high" fashion, but Mainbocher has always been synonymous with conservative, irreproachable good taste. "When Mainbocher endorses the culotte, then the culotte is in good taste," said one New York fashion writer.

Norell's culottes are for the most part for day-time wear (he makes them out of tweed and other woolsens for street use), but Mainbocher made his for dinner party wear only. They are mostly of black, and designed with very full pant legs flaring well out toward the hem which continue to look like a skirt, even when the side seams are held out at arm's length. The tops are of different design, some strapless and some cut with conservative round necklines and armholes.

Pappy snorted when told that two of the country's famous designers of women's clothing were making culottes, not just for patio or lounging wear, or for a day at the beach, but for street wear and for the evening.

"Women," said Pappy with finality "look terrible in culottes." Years and years ago when Pappy's family lived in Yakima, Wash., he often saw "cowgirls" wearing the costumes with the divided skirt which women wore for riding horseback. Since in those days women didn't wear slacks, jeans, pedal pushers, Capris or other trousers, riding habits were made with divided skirts. We can remember seeing the riding outfits made from leather, heavily ornamented and fringed, or other material. But they were uncommon.

We also remember the culottes of the Thirties, ankle length and made of cotton or silk which were used for garden or beach wear. A few daring women in the west wore them for resort dances. They enjoyed popularity again in the war days when many women were walking or riding bicycles, instead of using their cars, because of the gasoline shortage. Designers and many women, particularly those who do not have tall, shapely figures, maintain they are much more flattering than slacks or other trousers for women.

All this doesn't cut any ice with Pappy, at all. "Women," he just keeps on saying, "look terrible in culottes."

United Airlines, which transported Dr. Edwin Durno to Washington, D.C., for a meeting with President Eisenhower, didn't make as much profit on the doctor as they might have. When Dr. (and congressional candidate) Durno arrived in the capital city, United couldn't find his luggage. So there was the Medford traveler, minus fresh linen, razor, toothbrush and all the rest of the necessities of appearing in public. Especially when one has been invited to meet with no less than the President.

So the candidate rose early, sought a cab driver and told him his predicament, was driven to the proper establishment where all these necessities could be purchased, bought everything he needed and sent the bill to United Airlines. They paid, too, reports the doctor's secretary.

We've been told that when a man goes shopping for clothing, he takes one look and says "I need a haircut."

We don't now about men, but we do know about women. A woman shopper (one of the older girls, shall we say) looks into that terribly revealing triple mirror and immediately says "I simply must reduce."—O.S.

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