Dorothy Downing and Fashion

MAIL BAGATELLES:

Dear Reader:

My staff and I are always sincerely interested in becoming acquainted with the fashion problems and opinions of our local Los Angeles readers. We thank you for the letters you have written us. Due to the number received, we regret that we cannot answer them individually, but do assure you they serve as the guide in selecting our weekly fashion subject. Because we have received repeated requests to elaborate on our negative viewpoint regarding a popular footwear fashion, we submit the following thoughts in answer to a recent letter.

Dorothy Downing

Dear Miss Downing:

Having followed your column for many months, I have become aware that you indeed disfavor the seemingly popular ankle strap shoe. I am faced with the problem of not only liking (I think they are pretty, feminine, and flattering) this style of shoe, but being unable to find another that will stay on my 7AAAA foot. I just love them on other women, and have received compliments on the ones I wear. Why do you frown so deeply on this type of shoe???

Kathryn K.

Dear Kathryn K.

The ankle strap shoe is an accessory that I have grown to dislike intensely in recent years. It was introduced to the world of fashion "way back when" as a dressup idea in footwear. It was a refreshing change . . . delightful to behold when properly used. Today, it would be difficult to find another fashion that has so completely deviated from its original role.

A simple-in-line (and detail) ankle strap shoe for cocktail and evening wear is attractive enough on the taller woman. Statistics prove, however, that the average American woman is under 5'4", and for her, this fashion only tends to cut the length of the leg.

For reasons that escape me yet, this style suddenly started appearing, and often, as an accessory for daytime use. Certainly, it would seem the tailored street or city dress should be complimented by harmonious footwear.

Having a sincere belief that the keynote of all good fashion is simplicity, it is difficult for me to find merit in anything that tends to present the "cluttered" or overdressed look. If and when the ankle strap is worn, it is imperative that it serve only to complete a decidedly simple ensem. All too often this rule is applied in reverse.

If possible, may I suggest, for general daytime and around-the-clock-wear, you try the basic opera pump. It's the smartest, and certainly the neatest, design on the market today . . . and heaven-sent for the gal on a budget. Although it may be difficult to find a manufacturer who cuts a style exactly right for your foot (getting a snug ankle is the usual problem) I believe that a little more time and effort directed toward this goal in shopping will prove rewarding. When you discover a shoe that fits, remember the name and buy by label.

In all fairness, I will add that (1) IF you are over 5'6" tall, (2) IF you are slender (3) IF you are wearing a late-day costume and (4) IF you follow the rule of simplicity, good fashion decrees the ankle strap shoe acceptable in taste.

Address your letters to:
Dorothy Downing:
11677 San Vicente Blvd.
Los Angeles 49, Calif.

Via Lurline

Melvilles, Beemans Leave For Hawaii Tomorrow p.m.

A dream vacation is in store for two El Prado couples, the John Melvilles and Dr. and Mrs. John Beeman, who will embark on the luxury liner Lurline for the Hawaiian Islands tomorrow afternoon.

The local quartet will board ship at 4 o'clock from Los Angeles Harbor.

With plans for a two-or-three-week stay in the Paradise of the Pacific, the couples will headquarter at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Points of interest on Maui, Hawaii, and other islands in the group will be included in their itinerary.

Their last few days in Torrance have been filled with "bon voyage' festivities hosted by many friends here and in the Beach area.

Last night, the D. J. Thomsens, 1447 El Prado, opened their home for dinner party preceding the monthly Triple 'T' dance held at the American Legion Hall with a St. Patrick's motif. Camellias and gardenias formed a colorful table centerpiece, and assembling to honor the travelers were the Gil Derouins, Paul Lorangers, and Don Hydes.

Friday morning, Mrs. William Schneider of Hermosa Beach entertained at a surprise handkerchief shower for Mrs. Melville (Marguerite) and Mrs. Beeman (Myra). Guests at the event included Mesdames Laura Felker, Thomsen, Derouin, Hyde, Harvel Guttenfelder, and Mrs. Emma Delaney, sister of Mrs. Melville, all of Torrance.

Attending from the beach cities were Mesdames Al Cloud, Wayne Kittleson, Clara Conzett, C. L. Brewer, and Roy Seawright.

Mrs. Melville's sewing club surprised her with a handkerchief shower Thursday evening when the regular meeting was held at the Post Ave. home of Mrs. Sidney Hopkins, with Mrs. Dorothy Rojo sharing hostess honors. Colorful leis and a replica of the Lurline featured table decorations.

Attending were Mesdames Guttenfelder, George Probert, J. W. Wallace, May Sherfey, Frank Paour, Harriettt Leech, R. A. Bingham, Guy Kelly, B. W. Roberts, the honoree and the hostesses.

WSCS Learns Of Girls' Home

History of the Frances De Pauw Home for Spanish-speaking girls and work now being done at the home formed the theme of a talk presented by Miss Eva McNabb at last Thursday's general session of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Church.

Fifty-two girls are now living in the home, she said, and the program offers the girls Christian instruction, leadership, and citizenship training.

Other program highlights of the day included accordion selections by Miss Carol Whittington and community singing of hymns, with Mrs. Lois Balsley playing piano accompaniment. Devotions were led by Mrs. Jack Wehrle.

Milady's Warpaint Make-up as Important as Clothes for Well-dressed Look, Says Instructor

BEFORE . . . Mrs. Raymond (Ruth) White, 824 Faysmith Ave., without makeup.

THE IMPORTANT THING . . . is to start with a clean face, Mary Deseree, instructor says, showing here how cleansing cream, properly massaged into the skin, clears out dirt, leaving it soft and radiant. Don't forget the neck, she says.

AFTER . . . Wonders of make-up transform Mrs. White's appearance, give her plus glamour look.

Never race to put on your face is the creed Mary Deseree, lecturer on good grooming, gives to her make-up, personality, and proper dressing class, which meets each Thursday morning at Greenwood Ave. School under the auspices of the Adult Education Department.

Every woman should allow at least one hour and preferably an hour and a half for her make-up and dressing routine, Miss Deseree says. And if she goes out of the house with make-up —horrors!

"I'd just as soon go shopping in my nightie as step outdoors without my "face," Miss Deseree claims.

And the warpaint each woman chooses is good bait in the eternal feminine battle to trap her man, Miss Deseree says. It's nonsense that make-up will make a different person of you; what the paint does, she says, is to help bring out the real you. Just follow the rules, using nicely-blended rather than obvious make-up with an odd or interesting accessory rather than eccentric methods of "painting" and you'll be a prettier, more radiant and charming personality.

The woman who wants to make up her face properly, Miss Deseree continued, should start with a clean skin.

The best way to get this is to use a good cleansing cream, rather than soap and water, for soap tends to dry the skin while cream will soften, making wrinkles less obvious. Apply the cream in several dots about the face, then massage carefully into the skin, using an upward and outward motion.

The only place you should use pressure, she said, is in the area of the forehead, between the eyes. Wrinkles here are the result of worry or nervous tension, so an ironing method is best for a smooth effect.

The next step is to tissue off the excess cream, then apply powder base to give the skin a smooth, even tone and cover minor imperfections. Using several different shades, a lighter one to camouflage circles under the eyes and a darker hue to make the tip of the nose seem shorter, are tricks you can employ for greater beauty, she said.

Rouging comes next, Miss Deseree says, suggesting a dry rouge for a pancake base and a cream rouge for a cream base. Use four dots, one just under the eye pupil, one at the corner of the eye, one at the bottom of the eyebrow line, and below the check bone are basis for good blending of rouge. Miss Deseree's hands show how.

FOUR DOTS . . . one under the eye pupil, one at the corner of the eye, one at the bottom of the eyebrow line, and below the check bone are basis for good blending of rouge. Miss Deseree's hands show how.

the eye pupil, one at the corner of the eye, one at the base of the eyebrow line, and one just below the cheekbone, for guide lines in applying rouge, then blend evenly.

Next, press powder heavily on the face and neck in one to three layers, removing the excess with a complexion brush to give a matte, or smooth, effect to the skin.

FOR A SMOOTH FINISH . . . press powder on face heavily, brush off with complexion brush, says Miss Deseree.

Your eyes are your most expressive feature, says Miss Deseree, and to make the most of them you should start with a smooth eyebrow line. Pluck out stray hairs if the brows tend to be bushy; if they are scant sketch, don't draw, in an extended line. Use a "liner," applying along the edge of the upper lash and at the corner of the eye for added brilliance.

It is important to keep this natural, Miss Deseree says. "Everyone knows our lips aren't as red as the 'paint,' but it is expected and accepted nowadays."

PLUCK STRAY HAIRS . . . for smooth eyebrow line, sketch in for heavier look, use "liner" (neutral in color), pale eye shadow, two coats of mascara, and eyelash curler for eye radiance, says the teacher.

"liner" as well as eyeshadow, which is blended on the upper lid, in a neutral color to avoid a "hard" look, Miss Deseree says.

Lashes should be coated with mascara twice to give a longer, thicker appearance, then curled for even greater eye radiance.

Lipstick is the only make-up item which doesn't need to look

BRIGHT FULL LIPS . . . are important for a charming smile. Apply lipstick in outline with lip brush, then fill in, building up thin lips for youthful appearance.

The lipstick should be applied in outline with a lip brush, then filled in. Miss Deseree advises building up thin lips, for thin lips make one's personality seem prim and cold while bright, full lips accent youth and warmth. Use your nose as a guide for applying lipstick, making the lowest points below the center and the fullest directly under each nostril.

Hair is truly the "crowning glory" for good grooming, Miss Deseree says. Keeping it clean and shining, setting it in a style to conform with the lines of your face are musts.

SHEAR STRAGGLING LOCKS . . . with scissors for smooth, well-groomed look, choosing style suited to the shape of your face.

Shower Fetes Mrs. Thayne

A surprise hanky shower honoring Mrs. Ed Thayne on her 25th wedding anniversary highlighted last Wednesday's meeting of the Job's Daughters Mothers Club, held at the 1738½ Martina Ave. home of Mrs. Leonard Babcock.

A special anniversary cake made by Mrs. Ray Rhodes, hospitality chairman, featured table decorations. In addition to many hankies, Mrs. Thayne received an orchid corsage from the hostess.

The club will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, Apr. 14, at the home of the president, Mrs. William Speck, 1515 Acacia Ave. Mrs. Ernest Moffatt will share hostess honors.

Creative Family Living

By Dorothy L. Law

COUNSELOR, LECTURER, INSTRUCTOR IN FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

It is the right of every child to have parents who understand this business of being a parent . . . who take the time to prepare themselves for marriage and parenthood.

Information is an essential for intelligent family living. No one can be expected to do a job adequately if he lacks the necessary "know how."

NEED UNDERSTANDING

Communication is an essential for healthy family living. It is a must for husband and wife to discuss their attitudes toward one another as well as to share their goals. In order to work together in marriage and parenthood each must know what one expects from the other. We must have a thorough understanding of any job as well as know what is expected of us if we are to succeed.

Marriage and parenthood are two of the most important jobs in the world, the success of which is measured by the interest, understanding, love, and attention put into them. Successful marriages don't "just happen": they are built.

It is the right of every child to have parents who have learned to resolve disagreements harmoniously.

EMOTIONAL SECURITY

Differences of opinion which are resolved through arguments, quarreling, bickering, trying to prove who's right, name-calling, etc., create an atmosphere of tension. This warps the child's emotional development.

Differences of opinion which are resolved through discussion and understanding without loss of status on the part of either parent will help the child to express himself from a rational objective viewpoint.

It is the right of every child to have parents who are aware of their own and one another's emotional development.

If parents' emotional needs are frustrated in one way or another, they certainly cannot begin to meet the needs of their children in a balanced way. Emotionally insecure parents are unable to provide the security needs their children are entitled to. Emotional security develops in the day-to-day living in an atmosphere of feeling wanted and loved. Parents need to be aware of these emotional needs within themselves and their children. The family is the first group to which the child belongs, and his emotional growth is greatly influenced by his feeling of belonging of being accepted, of having a "place" in the family group.

BRING OUT BEST

It is the right of every child to have parents who try to bring out the best in him.

We know that children are not born "bad" or with all the various faults they seem to exhibit in so short a time. The majority of our children's "problems" are copied (guess from whom) or created out of fear, doubt, and wrong understanding.

Parents who nag and criticize are not usually bringing out the best in their child. We know the wonders praise and encouragement can work in this direction. The potentials within the child are there; it is up to the parents to help the child express the best that is in him.

Every child deserves parents who are "right" with themselves and "right" with the world, in order for him to get a wholesome outlook on this world. His first attitudes about people, places, and things will come from home. These first attitudes are the foundation for all that is to follow.

Let us see that the feeling in back of them are mature.

(ED. NOTE: MRS. LAW CAN BE HEARD NEXT WEDNESDAY, MAR. 17,—AT 7:30 P.M. ON STATION KXLA AS A GUEST ON "WHAT IS THE QUESTION?" SHOW.

1953-54 Busy Philanthropic Year for City Council PTA

Philanthropy reports formed business highlights at last Tuesday's Torrance Council PTA executive board session, held at the Board of Education office.

As a part of the First District-wide "Books on the March" project, Council sent two sets of 12 books in the Real Book series to the Children's Home in Inglewood and Juvenile Hall, Mrs. Raymond Hole, fourth vice-president and home service chairman, reported.

The Milk Fund, administered by Council through budgeted contributions from its 11 units, amounted to $211 since September, supplying needy children in Torrance schools with milk and lunches, Mrs. Ralph Eyestone, welfare chairman, said.

Magazine subscriptions and legislation reports also were given by Mrs. A. C. Turner and Mrs. Duane Sherwood, chairmen of the respective committees.

Three local units, El Nido, Torrance High School, and North Torrance Elementary PTA's have won five-seal awards from CCPTA for increase in magazine subscriptions over last year and 100 per cent board subscription, Mrs. Turner revealed.

Council voted to present subscriptions to the CCPTA magazine to all participating dentists of the Torrance Dental Health Association in recognition of their contributions to the welfare of Torrance school children.

All units in Council co-operated in mailing brochures about the recent school bond election, Mrs. Sherwood said.

Five grandmothers who are Council board members and active in their unit PTA's were honored during the meeting. Receiving tribute were Mesdames I. O. Kasten, who is awaiting her first grandchild; Elmer Moon, G. Runstead, R. C. Moffitt, and A. B. Cowie.

Brownie Troop 1730 Invests 13

Thirteen girls got Brownie pins recently when Troop 1730 held investiture ceremonies at the Fonthill Ave. home of Mrs. Minnie Bliss, leader.

Entering the group were Norma Root, Candy Burrows, Sandy McElhose, Pat McVey, Michaille Grimes, Phyliss Tattum, Donna Easley, Eleanor Campbell, Merrideth Young, Pat Alles, Elaine Stule, Jackie Bliss, and Tamara Houston.

Mrs. William Crooker, neighborhood chairman, conducted the rites.

PLAN ST. PAT DANCE

Old-time, modern, and square dancing will be the order of the evening on St. Patrick's Day Mar. 17, when a dance is held at the VFW Hall in Hawthorne. Affair will last from 8 to 12 p.m., with Nels and His Old Timers providing the music.