



FOLLOWING Fashion

with dorothy downing

DON'T SLAM THAT DIOR!

On a clear day Christian Dior can see Catalina rocking—Catalina, New York, Brussels, Hong Kong—and all this from the Eiffel Tower.

At UCLA, the shivers won't hit the scientists until they transfer their reading from the seismographs to the monthly bills.

Dior has spoken—and let us speak up for what he spoke. The long and the short of it is the hemline versus the budget—and fashion being what it is (let us face it)—impermanent, impractical, expensive, but a woman's most powerful ammunition (elegance, allure, changeability, and what more do you want?)—so, fashion being what it is, we're strictly an inDior girl.

From Podunk to Palos Verdes, "Why did he do this to us?" Which leads to the subject of moola. Mr. Dior, since 1947, has learned to live with a digestive system that reacts well to the left side of the menu.

Whether his new idea be good or bad, we should thank our stars for the Diors and the Desses who, though oft faced with intolerable odds, manage a conception that prevents our apparel from becoming stereotyped.

Without much effort we can think of half-a-dozen so-called "New Looks" that have been promoted by our high-fashion bibles in the past five years—each patently devoid of any sort of originality, excepting maybe the full-blown doll of early '50—and even then we remember the planning those crinolines got.

Of course we will not part with a flattering line. We should ask for trouble? Ironically enough, this silhouette that we are crying to cling to is the very thing we sneered at six years ago.

The great Christian Dior last week opened his fall collection by hiking the hemline to the breath-taking altitude of 16 inches. The Live Look was greeted with an astounding reaction from the industry—a completely negative one.

What will the outcome be? Will this man, who has the fashion biz at the tip of his needle, do it again? With a mad passion for betting on a sure thing we resound an echoing "YES!!"

Perhaps the safest thing in the field of journalism is long-range prognostication. Guess right—you brag like all get-out, "We predicted it." ... Guess wrong, you keep the mouth shut, the readers roger ... you hope.

OES Fetes District Deputy Grand Matron with Reception

Torrance Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, honored Deputy Grand Matron of the 90th District Edna Babcock, one of its own past matrons, Saturday evening last week with a reception at the Masonic Temple.

The honored guest entered the hall through an escort aisle formed by worthy matrons and worthy patrons of the 90th District. Gowned in cobalt blue and tulle, she carried a bouquet of roses and orchids grown in the garden of her worthy patron and escort for the evening, Vincent Viellenave.

District officers were escorted into the hall at the direction of Worthy Matron Joan Simpson by the two members of the escorting, Gladys Mothesell and Mildred Edwards, past matrons of the local chapter, who were gowned in the 1953 colors, blue and coral.

Proceeding ceremonial escort for the honored guest, they escorted the master of ceremonies, Leonard Babcock, the Worthy Matron, and Worthy Patron Thomas Bowers into the reception room.

For Mom and Dad What To Do about Narcotics; Speaker Reveals 'Three W's'

Where are my children? What are they doing? With whom are they associating? These are the "Three W's" every parent should ask of him or her self, said Ray Huber, prominent research worker in the narcotics field, when he spoke at the initial 1953 meeting of the Torrance Woman's Club last Wednesday afternoon.

If a parent knows the answer to these questions, Huber said, there is a chance that his children may not become involved in the use of narcotics. If mom or dad does not know, makes no effort to know, and shows no interest, then chances are that John or Jane, either with or without premeditation, may become addicted to drugs.

For it is the children who do not receive attention at home, the children who are not taught the evils of narcotics, the children who are not given a sense of security and real affection from their parents who most often become dope addicts, he said.

Parents too often dwell in complacency and lethargy concerning their children, the speaker continued. In their own minds they think, "My John or my Jane would never use narcotics. Why should I worry? Why should I care about what other children are doing?"

The reason they should care, Huber pointed out, that it is through other young people that their own children become involved with narcotics. After school, after the football game, after the dance, their children are as apt to become addicted as anyone else in the world.

The overwhelming need of adolescents to belong, will make most of them try anything once to earn the admiration of their particular "gang." They live in a "daredevil" age when they would rather risk their lives than receive the

taunt of "chicken" from their crowd. That is why it is so important that parents know with whom their children are associating. Then, if they suspect that their youngsters are coming in contact with those who are using drugs, they can look for physical signs which will tell them whether or not their own children have been initiated into the practice.

When to look for, Huber revealed, are bloodshot eyes, an odor of smouldering leaves on the breath, or very rapid speech. These signs remain with the user from one to four hours after the individual has smoked marijuana. In addition, Huber said, they may keep an eye out for bits of green leaf, resembling alfalfa, in the trouser cuffs, wallets, or purses of their children. This leaf, he said, is marijuana.

"Don't be embarrassed and don't be afraid" to call your local narcotics policeman at once if you discover these signs, Huber said. Call immediately, and an investigator will talk to your children, pointing out the dangers of using narcotics, and possibly learn from them where they obtained the drugs in order that the "pusher" may be arrested and the supply cut off.

"That children are not being fully taught the dangers of dope is one of the major reasons why they indulge in its use," the speaker pointed out. "Not a one of them is told what will happen after he takes that first step. All he is told is the 'pusher' or a friend who has already tried it is that 'it'll make you feel good. Man, you haven't had any kicks at all until you've tried it. Habit-forming? Naw, marijuana isn't any more habit forming than coffee.'"

He's right, too, Huber said. Marijuana isn't habit-forming. It does make you feel good—the first few times. It has no lasting harmful effects. The danger in using this drug is that it works on the central nervous system, taking command of the emotions. A youngster may become involved in serious trouble, even murder, through its use. And once started on the road of drugs, he will look for something that will give him a bigger and better kick than the marijuana jag wears thin.

Then he is likely to turn to heroin, and this is the most devastating, the most addictive of all narcotics. There is no known cure for heroin addiction. Once the individual becomes a slave to the drug, he will do anything under the sun to keep up his supply, which costs at least \$30 a day after a six-months habit.

"The addict cares for nothing and for nobody except heroin. His only dread is being deprived of the drug. Nothing, I mean nothing, will stop him from 'taking the needle.'"

"In all my 20 years experience in narcotics, the situation today is the worst that I have ever seen," Huber said. "It isn't relegated to the lower social groups, or to the over-21 bracket. It happens in the best homes and the worst, to young boys and girls more often than older people."

"It is a combined social and police problem, and is due to the breaking down of the moral fiber of society. We are living in a faster era, an unsteady world, and today society is more disorganized than at any time in the history of the world. Your job as parents is to make sure your children have a full knowledge of the effects of drugs, and to give them the security and affection they crave."

"If you don't have to play detective," he concluded, "just be interested."

Well-groomed Look Studied By Girl Scouts

As the next step in their fall program, designed to qualify them for good grooming merit badges, Girl Scouts of Troop 1299 will get on good posture, graceful carriage, and poise when they meet next Wednesday, Oct. 14, 4 p.m., at the Southhouse.

Lecture and demonstration will be given by the junior high age misses by Miss Helen Goetz, a local girl who recently graduated from a school of modeling and charm.

Previously the teppers were instructed in care of the hair and methods of "setting" by Mrs. Gerald Grubb. They also learned how to solve individual problems of hair styling through a lecture and demonstration given by Pearl Sincok, local beauty consultant and hair stylist.

Arranging the series of programs for the scouts are Mrs. Adam Krauszer, leader, and Mrs. Paul Bischoff, co-leader.

Jobie Moms To Plan Fall Fun

Plans for a busy fall schedule will be outlined by the "Jobie Moms" next Wednesday night, Oct. 14, when they hold an 8 o'clock meeting at the 2228 S. Vermont Ave. home of Mrs. Earl Wells.

First on the agenda will be a discussion of the Jobie Breakfast, to be held at the Lomita Bethel on Oct. 18. Mothers also will discuss plans for the Masonic dinner which they will serve on Oct. 23.

"All new moms are urged to attend, as the success of Jobie activities is partly dependent on our club," said Mrs. Sam Van Wagner, press chairman. Anyone wishing further information may call the president, Mrs. George Crabtree, at FAirfax 8-6336.

WEDNESDAY Father's Role Gets Emphasis

"Making the Most of Father" will be discussed by Mrs. Dorothy Law, counselor and lecturer on family life education when the third in a series of free lectures on creative family living is held next Wednesday, Oct. 14, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the WALTERIA RECREATION HALL, 2410 Bonoma Ave. home of Mrs. Kay Olson.

PERRY PTA SEEKS 500 MEMBERS

"Invest in the Best. Join PTA," is the slogan adopted by Perry School PTA for its annual membership drive, which will be launched tomorrow and continue until Friday, Oct. 16.

"We have set 500 members as our goal," Mrs. Virginia Kern, press chairman said, "and are offering prizes in upper and lower grades for the room bringing in the most names."

Final plans for the drive were made last Thursday when the executive board met at the 4222 W. 179th St. home of Mrs. R. W. Baillie. Leaders also ratified Mrs. C. E. Rodgers as safety co-chairman and Mrs. W. B. Boell as child welfare co-chairmen.

The association will hold its regular meeting next Thursday night, Oct. 15, at the school auditorium, with a "question box" featured following the 7:30 o'clock business session. The previous evening, mothers will meet at the home of Mrs. Baillie to continue stitching for the carnival.

Lomita-San Pedro Council PTA Hears of Common Goals

Selecting "To Determine Common Goals" as their topic, chairman of Lomita-San Pedro Council PTA presented a symposium as the program feature at last Tuesday's meeting, held at 15th St. School in San Pedro.

Joining in the discussion were Mesdames Thurman Raig, achievements evaluation; A. W. Patriotic, parent education; William Probert, child welfare; C. L. Wilson, membership; and James Trifon, publicity.

A saxophone solo, "O Sole Mio," played by Alex Logaspi also highlighted the program. The young artist was accompanied by Mrs. Hazel Schmidt, director of music at 15th St. School.

Four resignations were received and two new chairmen ratified during the business session. The Council were Mesdames T. Dowland, room mother chairman; Freddie Doolin, health

The Social World

AGNES BOLTER, Editor



FOR BETTER MENTAL HEALTH... The faculty guidance committee of Halldale Ave. School discussed "The Contributions of the Faculty to Better Mental Health by Relieving Teaching Tensions" at the Institute of the Association of Los Angeles Elementary School Administrators held yesterday at John Adams Junior High School.

Churchwomen To Plan Sale

Plans for the Oct. 22-23 rummage sale will be completed next Wednesday, Oct. 14, when the Ladies Guild, Central Evangelical Union Brethren Church, meets at 2 p.m. at the Guild Hall.

Mrs. Howard McDonald, president, will conduct the business session, while Mesdames N. G. Smith, Alice Ruppel, and Ila Gilbert will be hostesses for the social hour.

The rummage sale, first fall ways and means project of the club, will be held at the Guild Hall, corner of Arlington and Marcellina, under the co-chairmanship of Alice Spehger and Gladys Mothersell. Doors will open at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

Children's and adults' clothing, draperies and miscellaneous household articles will be among items on sale shelves.

EL NIDO ANS PLAN PAPER DRIVE, FAIR

Further plans for a combined paper and rag drive, which will highlight the week of Oct. 17 at El Nido School, and an El Nido Fair slated for November, were made Thursday when the PTA executive board met at 7:30 o'clock at 18429 Ashley Ave. home of the president, Mrs. Philo Mellor.

Preliminary plans for the events were charted Sept. 29 when the association held its first fall meeting at the school with over 44 in attendance.

Other highlights of the session included a talk by Edward Risbon, president of the El Nido Civic Improvement Association; introduction of Principal Earl Eckert and the faculty; and approval of the budget for the year.

Room prize for the largest attendance went to fifth grade pupils, who also led the association in a community singing session.

Fern PTA Meet Draws Over 200

Over 200 members gathered at the Fern Ave. School cafeteria Thursday evening for the first general meeting of Fern Ave. Greenwood PTA, conducted by Mrs. C. F. Malone, new president.

Highlights of the evening included introduction of the school staff by C. I. Crecellus, principal. Among those presented was Webster Smith, new vice-principal.

Members approved the 1953-54 budget, viewed slides on social studies, and joined in the flag salute, led by Don 10 of CUB Scout Troop 728-C. Turning their attention to music, they heard a suggestion from Mrs. J. H. Van Dyck, music chairman, that the PTA mothers form a singing group.

Following the business meeting, refreshments were served with the teachers acting as hostesses.

Advertisement for Three Arts Dance Studio. New Classes Starting for Adults and Children. To study beautiful story dances from the Islands. New Classes in Ballroom Dancing for Children 4th - 5th - 6th Grade. Pictured to the left is Martha Jane Rickard, instructor at the Three Arts Dance Studio, 2252 W. Carson St., Torrance, who spends each summer studying in various island groups throughout the world to bring her students the authentic steps and rhythms of these strange and fascinating lands. Call Now for Date and Time of New Classes. Three Arts Dance Studio. TAP-BALLET-BALLROOM. 2252 West Carson Street Torrance, California. Phone: FAirfax 8-4774. If You're 3 It's a Date—at 70 It's Not Too Late!