

The Social World

...for and About Women

Agnes Bolter, Editor



Dorothy Downing

and
Fashion

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE:

If you were among those who were browsing through the Chanelized grounds of a certain Beverly Hills specialty shop yesterday afternoon, you may have joined me as audience to a somewhat intriguing bit of dialogue. While sifting through the hangers for the third time in search for a size 10 in crepe myrtle, a voice, with the ring of metal, pierced the air with a "Whadda' you mean, they're not in? I'm getting married come Saturday, with or without your merchandise!" As I glanced in the direction of the nearest exit, the honey-coated voice of a sophisticate purred: "But Miss King, you said the wedding was set for NEXT month, so . . ."

The answer I didn't hear, but you can bet it went something like: "SOOOO, I changed my mind!!!"

With this, I mentally shook my head, ran a quick inventory on my blessings and headed for Wishire Blvd. and a sunnier world whose axis bore no resemblance to a satin bound book entitled "OUR WEDDING" . . .

This may have seemed like a nothing incident to others within the radius of a half mile, who overheard it, but it pitchedforked me 2500 miles cross country, back into another decade, when I, too, was serving time as a Bridal Consultant . . .

Although this was a while ago, it is true that those months in the Salon made a marked impression. For even after all this time, the incidents are thumbed well in my memory, to be paralleled by only a few outstanding events like the San Francisco earthquake or the Chicago fire . . .

Outside of a spring lamb tripping off to a slaughterhouse, there is nothing in this kingdom as innocent and foredoomed as a Wedding Consultant arriving at her first day of work. It does not take a Socratic mind to figure out, at the end of the week, that her lengthy hours of training could have well been side-stepped. For not once, if my experience can serve as a barometer, would she ever encounter a normal question regarding music, reception procedure or gift suggestions. Instead, there would be an endless query on various far-fetched issues, dreamed up by an idle, but vocal, bridal assembly, for the sole purpose of taxing the endurance and mentality of the "Bride's Right Arm." Like the time one strawberry blonde inquired if I knew, right off hand, what the charges would be to ship her trousseau, silver, and 60-piece set of Lenox china to her new house, which she casually mentioned was tucked away in a far-flung outpost in Saudi Arabia! Try and run that one down in Emily Post . . .

Actually, I'm not proposing a "Be Kind to Bridal" Consultants' week, or anything like that. Heaven only knows that after a few months on the job, and I do mean "on the job," they should be completely immune to the forces that are obviously pitted against them. For, certainly, it is a pretty picaresque Wedding Specialist who would not embrace the opportunity to forego a week-end of golf, for an out-of-town wedding rehearsal . . . or would not cherish the chance to personally deliver, through sleet or snow, a gown to the consumer who must be catered!!!

However, this is nothing compared to the production that rolls forth with the selection of the gowns. The job does not end with the decision of the bride's ensue. For they, from over the horizon like locusts, come the maid and matron of honor, the mother of the bride and groom, a collection of bridesmaids, flower girls, ring bearers, and an odd assortment of ex-school chums, relatives and neighbors who have been brought along for the purpose of consultation.

The real fun begins with a rollicking rundown on their likes and dislikes, with no one by-passing the opportunity to vocalize. It goes without saying that in a party of 10 or 12 attendants, no two are of the same height, weight, size, coloring or disposition!! There is usually a period ranging from 30 minutes to two hours of snide remarks about the lousy merchandise, with emphasis placed on the faded or frayed fabrics, to be followed by a quick synopsis on the up-to-the minute stock of the nearest competitor.

With this, the happy little band usually decides to call it quits for the day, with a gleeful promise to return, bright and early the next morning to devote the entire day to the project at hand . . .

If any of you young readers are anticipating a career in fashion or retailing, think twice if you are offered a job as Bridal Consultant. It is rumored that there is a Uffyan gang tribe of women in the Congo who hunt cheetahs with their bare hands for a living. As nerve-wracking as this may sound, to me it seems like a day in the country by comparison . . .

Plan Pelting Demonstration For Chinchilla Group Meet

A pelting demonstration given on Sunday, Sept. 26, 10 a. m. by Bob Miner, instructor in animal husbandry at El Camino College, will feature next Thursday night's 7:30 o'clock meeting of the Chinchilla Association of American Harbor Area Branch, to be held at the American Legion Hall of Post 287 in Wilmington.

Miner also will discuss progeny testing at the session, at which the public is welcome. Highlighting the business agenda will be plans for a field held in New York City in June.

ROOMMATE VISITS MISS VAN DEVENTER

Miss Margaret McKinney and her parents, the "Mick" McKinneys of Barstow, Calif., paid a week-end visit to her roommate at Redlands University, Miss Mickey Van Deventer of 2203 W. Carson St.

During the visit the local miss and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Grove C. Van Deventer, entertained their guests with a side-trip to Marineland and an evening watching the summer wind-up program of the Recreation Department.



MISS PHYLIS SHEARER
... Bride of Marvin Maxwell

Afternoon Ceremony Links Miss Shearer, M. Maxwell

Afternoon sunlight filtered through the stained glass windows of the First Methodist Church yesterday afternoon when Miss Phyllis Shearer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Shearer of 2816 Gramercy Ave., exchanged wedding vows with Marvin M. Maxwell, son of the John H. Maxwells of Deer Park, Wash.

Pink and white baby chrysanthemums, arranged in large white baskets, flanked the altar where the Rev. Don Shelby performed the ceremony. Candellabra held white taper lights by Lauren Shirar of Pasadena and Ed Hughes of Eagle Rock, both college friends of the bride, groom, who also ushered guests.

GOWN PRINCESS STYLE
White bengaline was fashioned in princess lines, flaring to a bouffant skirt, in the ballerina-length gown chosen by the bride. Seed pearls and single beads rimmed the square neckline and similar pearls and not outlined the bengaline band holding her fingertip veil of illusion in place.

For "something borrowed" Miss Shearer wore a single strand of pearls belonging to her sister, Miss Mary Ann Shearer, and in her shoe was a lucky sixpence obtained in Australia by Mrs. Andrew Lehto of Long Beach.

A single white orchid, surrounded by stephanotis and tied with white ribbon, formed the bridal bouquet.

Attending her as maid of honor was the bride's sister, gowned in pink bengaline fashioned identically like the bridal costume. A similar bengaline band with tulle and seed pearl trim formed her headdress and she carried a cascade bouquet of pink carnations.

Dale Smelcer of Priest River, Idaho, cousin of the groom, attended as best man. Mrs. Eva Brudin played wedding selections before the ceremony.

AT RECEPTION
A three-tiered, white wedding cake edged with pink roses and topped with a miniature bride and groom took the refreshment table spotlight at a post-nuptial reception, held at the church.

Miss Joyce Franzen of Torrance and college friends of the bride served as hostesses, while Miss Joan Demone of Torrance, also a college friend of the bride, registered guests for the couple's memory book.

Mrs. Shearer received in a mauve faille frock with black accessories and an orchid corsage. Her daughter donned a two-piece suit dress with black and white coarse textured rayon trimmed with black velvet.

The couple is enjoying a coastal honeymoon at Carmel, Monterey, and San Francisco and plans to establish a home at 617 C. de la Vina, Santa Barbara. The new Mrs. Maxwell is a graduate of San Pedro High School and El Camino College and also attended the University of California at Los Angeles. Her husband, a graduate of North Central High School in Spokane, Wash., and the Eastern Washington College of Education, is now attending the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Wonderful Suits, Dressy Frocks Top Style Scene

Suits cut with classic simplicity that spells style and sophistication and dramatic date dresses took the spotlight top interest in another black Wednesday when Job's Daughters of Bethel 50 staged their annual fall fashion show. Newest stone button fastened at the waist, casual classroom frocks, and sportswear also added color to the style picture.

Among the most intriguing ensembles shown was a black worsted with the molded silhouette pictured at the right. Diagonal white cording trimmed across the waist, the upper bodice, and matching rhinestone clips were fastened at the shoulder and hip lines to complete the slenderizing, diagonal effect.

Rhinestone clips also captured dresses' interest in another black Wednesday when Job's Daughters of Bethel 50 staged their annual fall fashion show. Newest stone button fastened at the waist, casual classroom frocks, and sportswear also added color to the style picture.

Another effective date costume pictured in the same photo has a novel white collar featuring back interest. Frock is of perennially favorite navy and white polka dot faille, with the new long torso look.

Other interesting evening ensembles were an iridescent taffeta with color ranging from red to blue and purple and fashioned with bouffant skirt and portrait neckline. The same neckline was featured in a white collar topping a red faille frock.

Suits in the more casual line emphasized angular trim on tweedy-looking fabrics of blue, brown, or black flecked with white. A nubby knit sweater with wide rolled collar and deep cuffs added a three-D look to a simple black jersey frock. Corduroy continued in popularity for classroom wear, teamed with high-necked, short-sleeved sweaters of dainty nylon blouses. Brightly-colored scarves accented the casual campus costumes.

Pedal pushers, most featuring tending pants, took the spotlight in sportswear. Most outstanding in the collection shown were a black pair topped with Italian cut blouse in the exciting new tangerine shade, another black trowse-and-aqua blouse corduroy set with matching striped topper, and a zebra-striped trowse teamed with pearl-buttoned white blouse.

Job's Daughters modeled most of the costumes, while clothes for the matron were modeled by their mothers and small fry fashions were shown by their little sisters and brothers. The Gay Shop, Benson's, and Neta's Tote 'n' Teens provided all ensembles. Approximately 230 viewed the style parade, which followed a luncheon Janice Crabtree, honored queen, delivered the welcome and gave the fashion commentary while Carol Campbell, past honored queen, played background music at the piano.

Lomita Legion Ladies Meet
American Legion Auxiliary members of the Lomita Unit will hear a report on the recent food sale when they meet tomorrow night at 8 o'clock at the Legion Hall, with Mrs. Charles Breneman presiding.

Recently several local members received posts during installation of 19th District officers.

Mrs. Ben Sandefur, member of the Gardena Unit, was inducted as the new district president and Mrs. D. C. Whitmer of 25123 Woodward Ave., member of the Lomita Unit, was made treasurer.

Surprise Stork Shower Fetes Mrs. J. Riggs

Although father is far away on the island of Guam with the U. S. Navy and will not see the baby, expected next month, until it is nearly a year old, friends and neighbors are making the "infanticipating" time fun for Mrs. John Riggs of 2715 Normalin St., Weston Hills.

Girls of the Golden West, a social club composed of young mothers with small children, surprised her with a shower recently at the 2714 Normalin St. home of Mrs. Leroy Mosler. Mrs. Bob Boyd shared hostess honors at the event, and gifts predominating in pale yellow were presented to the young matron.

Traditional shower games highlighted the occasion, with prizes going to Misses Kenny Palmer and Bill Montgomery. Refreshments of cake, ice cream, and coffee were served to the winners and Misses Guy Shortes, Walt Sharon, Bill Helm, Roy Kuchinas, Wayne Fowler, Alan Lasson, Bill Chisoot, the hostesses, and the honoree.

Invited but unable to share in the festivities were Misses Roger Graham and Ray Thomas.



BECKY CANDLER AND GEORGIA KINNAMON
... Display Dramatic Date Dresses

Midshipman D. Mitchell, Hermosa Lass Betrothed

An engagement ring last week sealed the betrothal of a Torrance man and a Hermosa Beach Miss, who met at El Camino College, which is built on land that was once the estate of the bride-to-be's great-granduncle, Francis I. Somers, pioneer rancher.

Midshipman Donald L. Mitchell, of 1317 Acacia Ave., and Miss Robin Gensley revealed the news at a patio party held at the Hermosa Beach home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Gensley Jr. Balloons floated from the deck into the patio bearing the message, "Don and Robin."

Guests at the event were members and alumnae of Chi Theta Chi, the bride's sorority at El Camino College; Misses Pat Wharton, Marion Hixon, Beverly Bertsch, and Kathy Grevoy of Redondo Beach; Bette Whitmore of Manhattan Beach; Gay Kleinschlag and Lee Harper of Inglewood; Marcia Wineman, Sandra Gough, Louise Jenkins, and Beverly Harmon of Gardena; Mary Covers of Upland; Mary Jo Mott of Hawthorne; Georgan Thomas of Hermosa Beach; and Joan Schulz of Torrance.

Also attending were Mr. and Mrs. Larry Herin and young Master Herin, Midshipman Mitchell, and his mother, all of Torrance, and Master Richard Gensley of Hermosa Beach.

The benedict-elect returned to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., Thursday. Miss Gensley will continue her studies as a senior at the University of California at Los Angeles.

A Torrance High School graduate, Mitchell was on the Freshman Council, a Junior Statesman active in Boys' League, the scholarship society and Syndicate. He played basketball and track, took a role in the senior play, and played with the school band and dance orchestra. He also was active in the Torrance Dem'days.

At El Camino College he was vice-president of the student body and president of Phi Sigma Upsilon fraternity.

Granddaughter of James R. Townsend Sr., who was first patent attorney in Los Angeles, law partner of Mayor Henry T. Hazard, and resident of Los Angeles from 1823 until his death in 1931, Miss Gensley also is a graduate of El Camino College and a past president of Chi Theta Chi sorority. She is a past honored queen of Bethel queen of Jobs Daughters.

Lomita Fuchsia Group Schedules Fall Meet

Mrs. Pearl Riggs will conduct the first official meeting of her second term as president of the Lomita Fuchsia Society on Friday, Sept. 17, at the Lomita VFW Hall, it was announced today.

Highlighting the agenda will be further discussion of a Fall Festival on Nov. 19.



JUDY POWELL
... Shows Sleek Suit



MISS ROBIN GENSLEY
... Bride-elect of Torrance man