



Look for cotton—in flowered prints, knit shirts for spring.



Spring is closer than you think

While most of us still are mired knee-deep in winter, local fashion buyers are happily preoccupied with thoughts of sunshine, flowers and warm weather comfort.

No exception is Janet Varner, namesake of her blossom-scented specialty shop on Main Street in Rochester. Ms. Varner lately has been busy jetting back and forth to New York searching out the styles her clientele favors—updated, but not extreme.

Varner's racks tell the tale of what the well-dressed Oakland County woman will don when the blizzards finally whisk out of town.

For the woman who likes to vary her wardrobe of utilitarian pants and skirts with a feminine little dress, there's good news. Dresses are back—for office, leisure and evening wear. And they're shorter, some as high as a couple of inches above the knee.

Toned down versions of the French fantasy look are in the offing for day: Loose, flowing peasant frocks with flower prints and ribbons, lace, waist-

lines (though not rigid ones), off-the-shoulder necklines. All very coquettish.

Travelers won't want to miss the sophisticated dress-suit, with a trim cotton jersey shirtwaist worn under a matching blazer. For a weekend trip, all you need add is a skirt, shirt and pants.

The word for evening wear is romantic. Envelop yourself in a cloud of filmy chiffon, black printed with exotic flowers, or soft clear colors, maybe a delicate peach. Easy elegant lines, shorter lengths—the new evening dresses are becoming to women of all shapes and sizes.

The latest pants are slimmer, with little pleats and drawstring waistbands. To match, look for comfortable, uncluttered blouson jackets over, say, a cotton knit shirt.

During the day, you'll want all your clothes in comfortable cotton, mixed with synthetics for easier care. In fabrics, look for bright sun colors: buoyant greens, true blues, marigold yellows, apple reds, and clean whites.



A smart dress suit is perfect for office wear or weekend jaunts.

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IN THE OBSERVER-EXCITE

The only thing better than shopping SFA by day is shopping SFA by night. We're now open later, more often.

We'll be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. every Monday, Thursday and Friday evening. Enjoy!

Saks Fifth Avenue

Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy



For evening wear, nothing's more romantic than filmy chiffon. (Staff photos by Doug Bauman)



Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Lemon up

This show stopper dessert is guaranteed to elicit oohs and ahs from your dinner guests and it tastes as good as it looks. It's a 10-inch lemon meringue pie featuring a sky-high meringue that is made with 18 egg whites and literally measures six inches high. The pie is \$7 and there is a \$3 deposit required on the returnable pie tin. Even though Flim Flam IX is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and pies are usually on hand, the management recommends that you place weekend orders by Thursday. Flim Flam IX Deli Restaurant, 1331 W. Maple, Clawson, 288-0410.



Weather or not

Be it snowy or rainy, these shoe boots should help you weather the storm with a little pizzazz. Available in sunny yellow or royal blue and trimmed in white, they feature one-piece rubber construction, have grip soles and are completely waterproof. The boots (\$24) are made in Sweden by Tretorn and come in both men's and women's sizes. Orthogonality, 135 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 642-1460.



Out of the dark

Shutterbugs take note! If you're a serious amateur with an adjustable camera, Birmingham Camera Shop is offering a series of workshops starting the week of Feb. 14. Included are beginning and advanced camera workshops plus beginning, advanced and color darkroom workshops. The store also has darkrooms available for rental by the hour. A \$15 yearly membership entitles you to a discount on supplies and darkroom rental fees as well as the chance to use dry mount equipment. Birmingham Camera Shop, 168 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 644-0510.



Tea and toasts

Company's Coming has a super selection of cocktail-dessert napkins. Available in many different coordinated prints and multi-colored plaids, the eight-by-eight inch cotton per-mapress napkins can be mixed or matched and are only \$1.50 each. Once you've made your selection, the shop will stack them into a pile and tie them with a pretty bow. The result? A lovely gift for someone special, and that someone could even be you. Company's Coming in the Claymore Apartment Building, 29260 Franklin Road, Southfield, 356-1233.



Fashion in a word . . . naturally.



SPRING FASHION 1977

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