# Strange shapes of times past

By MARY KAY DAVIS.

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Have you ever wondered what it's like behind the scenes at a large museum? I descended into the catacombs of the Chicago Historical Museum recently and it was like "Star Wars" combined with 'Gone With the Wind.

The section we saw had to do with costumes. The Chicago Historical Museum has one of the largest collections of the 19th and 20th century clothes anywhere. The ladies of Chicago married such men as Pullman of the railroad cars, McCormick of the reaper and Armour of the butcher shot, which we have been equally busy spending it all on clothes. Their gowns are fantastic, and a number of them have ended up in the museum's collection.

That messents certain, problems.



the lively needle

## **Mary Kay Davis**

stind anything? Imagine your attice stuffed with every stitch, shoe, accessory and hat you've ever owned and yu'll get the general idea.

IN CHICAGO, they've solved the storage crunch spectacellarly. Gowns are filed in the decade in which they were worn. Each decade is housed in a large metal box like a big armior without doors. And each box is mounted on motorized track, which is where "Star Wars" comes in. The room looks at shough it's full of giard dominoes.

Do you want to look at something from the 1870s? Push the right buttons

as though it's full of giant dominoes.

Do you want to look at something from the 1870s? Push the right buttons and all the other decades move away

peculiar configurations that the female form has been squeezed into during the

last 150 years.
Shapes ranged from the Empire,
with lots of bust from the Adam's apple
to the ribs, and nothing down below, to
the Victorian rounded sithouette which
looked like the Pillsbury Dough Boy on
top of a 13-inch waist.

Anatomy was ignored and the bust was a single bulge extending from one arm to the other. Anything beneath the waist was hidden under hoop skirts. You weren't supposed to mention "leg" anyway.

Then came the "S" shape in the in the 1870s with the bust in front getting bigger, balanced by an equally large bustle-bulge behind. The whole look was sway-backed. The dummies ended with the tubercular look of the Debutante Slouch in the 20s.

I giggled delightedly, and wondered, way back in my brain, how some young squirt 50 years from now is going to describe the way we look today.

# Catch-up math class is for adults

For adults who want to increase their mathematics skills beyond the basics, but experience chills at the prospect, a special five-week non-degree course wilb e offered by the Oak-called University Division of Continuing Education beginning Wednesday, Oct. 24, and Thursday, Oct. 25. Mathematics skills in a support and ageometry will be practiced in a support and the order of the o

Course in effective relationships

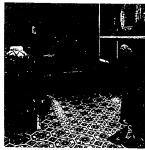
Wednesday course from 7-9 p.m. Shir-ley Aune of the Continuum Center will instruct the Thursday course from 8-10 p.m. Tuition is \$40. A second session of the workshop. 'You Can Overcome Math Anxiety or Avoidance,' also begins Wednesday, Oct. 24. The workshop covers common trouble areas in math such as simple arithmetic, algebra and geometry, and emphasizes the meaning and use of

math symbols, process skills, and story problems. A supportive atmosphere is maintained in the course.

Both courses are geared to those who did not develop math competency during high school or college, who experience psychological barriers, and consequently avoid math.

For information about the courses and registration, call the Continuing Education office, 377-3120.

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