

# Fall fashions step back in time

Watching Bill Bliss's fall fashion collection was a pleasant way to spend an hour on a hot summer afternoon, even if it seems somewhat ironic to think of fall when we are just having our first real taste of summer.

Still, the designer salon at Sals Fifth Avenue's Troy store was filled with customers eager to see what direction this popular American designer is taking for the fashion season ahead.

If the Bliss collection is an accurate forecast of things to come in cold-weather dressing, we will be going back in time by several decades when

## Paper doll buffs meet

The Lowe Paper Doll Convention will be held at the Northfield Hilton, Troy, Saturday, July 24. The sales room will be open to the public 5-5 p.m. Collectors and dealers will be showing and selling. Admission to the sales area is \$1.50 per person.

making wardrobe selections this year.

If you were around 20 years ago, let's hope you saved your long, black kid gloves. Bliss uses them this season with everything except the most formal evening wear.

But those old felt or velvet hats from another decade probably won't recycle this season. The newest hats are very soft and floppy. Bliss uses them in black with everything, except, again, the most formal evening wear.

Shoes for daytime were flat with many tie-oxford. Legs will be dressed in dark, opaque stockings or tights. Late-day and evening shoes are high-heeled, plain black pumps to be worn with sheer black stockings.

Jewelry is architectural with a focus on huge, flat earrings in hammered metals or black plastic.

There were low-gorge suits and coats reminiscent of the '50s, and knee-bar chemises that reflect the '20s. Rose-print silks reminded us of the



the fashion plate

Rustle Shand

'40s, and bias-cut gowns recalled the '30s. A couple of bubble-skirted, knee-length cocktail dresses recalled the '60s. The below-the-knee length of the late '70s was everywhere. And, the architectural influence of the '80s, along with a hint of the orient, were apparent throughout.

The designer accomplished a melange of attitudes toward dressing, and packages it all up in quality fabrics, stamped Bill Bliss.

Bliss's shimmering, sequined chemise gowns, which obviously are intended for glittering evenings, are

works of art with diagonal or spherical stripes. Last they be too reminiscent of something else seen in recent years, Bliss parades them with flat-heeled, leather riding boots.

Now that's not only amusing but it also is definitely news. And, more important, it's a sure indication of how women in snowy Michigan probably will dress up for New Year's Eve.

But it's our distinct impression that, "Oh, if I could only learn to shimmy like my sister Kate," ... I'd leave my riding boots at home.

## Art studio opens

A new art studio and teaching facility, Demers Directions in Art, recently opened at 1169 Floyd, Birmingham.

It is owned and operated by Delores Demers, a native of Birmingham who had a studio and teaching center on Woodward in downtown Birmingham for eight years. She has been teaching for 30 years and continues to pursue instruction and attend painting workshops. She presently teaches at the Birmingham Community House.

Demers Directions in Art offers classes in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, airbrush, stained glass and calligraphy.

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