

Pearls open gates to fashion styles

ONCE AGAIN, women are polishing their look with pearls.

As always when pearls stage a comeback, almost any length, size and combination of accessories looks good. But the word from New York's trendier parties and late-night clubs is to loop the neck with several long strands of large pearls in white, pastels or a multicolor mix.

Mismatched earrings of sparkling jewels without pearls, often are perched on lapels instead of at the earlobes. Bangles of all descriptions are amassed at the wrist. And the final flourish is a classical pearl partner, lace poked in a pocket, rounding a collar or, tying up the hair with a big bow.

With three varieties of pearls available — natural, cultured, fashion fakes — pearls in some form are

for just about everyone. But it wasn't always so.

ONE OF the oldest of all gems, pearls were seen as the most precious gifts of the gods, a symbol of the moon, of harmony and perfection. In earliest times, pearls were reserved for priests.

Julius Caesar assured a supply of pearls for the ruling of families of Rome by forbidding the masses to wear them. For hundreds of years after, various monarchs held pearls and other rare and beautiful treasures as the exclusive preserve of aristocracy or royalty.

As for fashion fakes, the early British kings were distinguished users of artificial pearls and gemstones, though not by choice. After the first crowning, their relics often were pawned, dismantled or lost in

battle to be replaced by replicas. It was perhaps to make up for this that Queen Elizabeth I was such an avid collector of pearls, acquiring her most spectacular pearl necklace by means of a famous stress sale.

Its owner, Mary Queen of Scots, was induced to offer the necklace while she was Queen Elizabeth's prisoner.

In America, prevailing puritan ethics had a dampening effect on the wearing of pearls and other jewels until the post-Civil War boom developed into a gilded age.

Famous beauties such as Consuelo Vanderbilt with her pearl dog collar and Lillian Russell with her pearl ropes set off a rage for pearls that continued scarcely unabated until the late '60s, when street fashion marked them as too classic.

CLASSIC IS IN now, but so is



post-punk and a good deal in between. From Nancy Reagan's discreet strands to Madonna's unbridled punk chic, today's women are finding ways to wear pearls and make them look all their own.

Start off the New Year without a hangover

Continued from Page 23

In a blender, combine ice, water, syrup, juice and bitters. Pour into old-fashioned glass and garnish.

CHAMP

Sugar cube
Bitters

Ginger ale
Orange-peel twist garnish
Place sugar cube in champagne saucer and saturate with bitters. Fill glass with chilled ginger ale and add a twist of orange peel.

TOMATO BULL

1 fresh lime wedge

1 fresh lime wedge
Canned Bloody Mary mix
Tabasco sauce (to taste)
Salt, freshly ground pepper to taste
Celery stick garnish

Fill glass with ice cubes. Blend juices and soda and pour over ice. Garnish with orange and mint.

MEXICAN SUNSET

8 oz. chilled orange juice
¼ oz. grenadine (from bar supply or liquor store)

In a 12-ounce glass, pour chilled orange juice. Add grenadine. Allow grenadine to settle to bottom. May be served over ice.

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