

Good clothes still important in Pam's life

Pam Levey, better known as Pam Eldridge, Miss America of 1970, has a new life. Behind her are the years of modeling, starting on TV talk shows and wearing sequined gowns. Now the former Miss Michigan is concentrating on being Pam Levey and developing her own interests.

The 29-year-old beauty married Jules Levey, a surgeon, in November, 1975. Two weeks later, they went to Korea where they lived for 13 months. While there, Dr. Levey practiced medicine at Walston Hospital and Mrs. Levey spent her time encoaching fashion shows, teaching English to Korean English teachers, being interviewed and walking everywhere she went.

Mrs. Levey admits that getting married and moving away from Michigan changed her fashion modes drastically. Before, she only wore dresses and felt obligated to "look perfect" every time she went out.

She got her first pair of blue jeans after her marriage and in Korea usually wore slacks because "it was so dirty there," she said. Instead of buying fashionable clothing overseas, she had them made.

"The Korean women are built differently. They are shorter and have no hips—no curves," said the five-foot-five curvy blond.

Despite living in Korea, her love of fashion didn't die. She said she used to wait at the commissary for Vogue magazine to arrive. "Of course, it was always a month old but I still devoured every page," she said.

One of her treasures from Korea is a long Oriental gown. The blue, silk-like dress with red flowers has a red mandarin collar, red-accented butterfly sleeves and a red cummerbund. She defines the lounging-look with blue sandals.

After returning from her East Asian home, Mrs. Levey and her husband lived at Fort Dix, N.J. for 10 months. They recently returned to Michigan and are getting settled in a Farmington Hills condominium.

Seated in her living room amidst many Korean paintings, treasures and furniture, there is no hint that Mrs. Levey is a celebrity, but no question that she's poised, calm and still beautiful.

She has maintained her size four-six figure and her love of looking feminine and wearing fashionable clothing.

Mrs. Levey described herself as a woman who enjoys looking nice by wearing classical lines of in-fashion things. She's not a trend-wearer.

"I like to have different looks for different occasions. I like nice clothes. I will buy two or three outfits at the beginning of the season so I can wear them all season long and interchange them to get different looks. I'll wear clothes for four or five

years and still look fashionable," she said.

Her favorite store is Claire Pearlone in Troy's Somerset. She likes to buy designer clothes by Calvin Klein, Anne Klein, Pierre D'Ably and Chloe.

In addition to outfits, she stocks her wardrobe with coats.

"I probably have more coats than anything else," she said.

A favorite look of hers is wearing red, green and beige Scotch slacks by Anne Klein and a beige turtleneck topped with a camel cashmere double-breasted coat belted in the

back. It's a traditional look all around and one that Mrs. Levey is most comfortable wearing when she's not dressed in a skirt.

She likes draping clothes around her that accent her shapely figure. She does this by wearing only clothing scaled down in looks, such as her three-piece white wool gabardine suit.

Worn with black boots and a black-and-white checked blouse, her suit of a jacket, front and back pleated skirt and buttoned vest looks suitable for a meeting, or a luncheon. She can scale down the outfit by

wearing the jacket and vest with white wool gabardine slacks. And for evening, all she does is change her boots to more feminine shoes.

One of her favorite new purchases, Mrs. Levey said, is a basically black peasant dress. Decorated with orange flowers, the top has a small print contrasting to the larger print of the skirt. The hem is made of the blouse material. Worn with orange, open-toed sandals and a matching vest, shawl and purse, Mrs. Levey has a very cosmopolitan look yet appears very feminine, which she enjoys.

Whether Mrs. Levey goes back to

school to work on a master's degree in a new field or is teaching an exercise class to mentally retarded children, two plans she has for the future, she will do it in her own quietly stylish way.

"Clothes are important to me but they don't run my life. I used to buy clothing all the time. Now I just buy a few good outfits. I hope to always look nice and feminine," she said. "Luckily my husband is very clothes-conscious so we are congenial."

—SUSAN TAUBER KLEIN



Pam Levey, once Miss America, still likes to dress well now that she's a physician's wife. Her current wardrobe includes separates in white wool gabardine, a camel cashmere double-breasted coat and a scaled-down peasant dress to accentuate her femininity. (Photos by Harry Mauthe)



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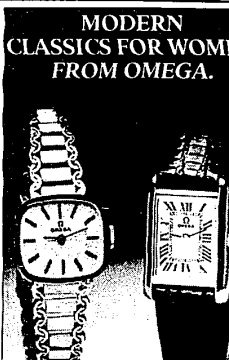
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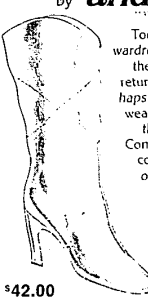
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