

# A fashion show for 10,000

Wives of Ford salesmen from all over the country—about 10,000 of them—should have some better ideas about fashion after their August visits to Detroit.

Hosted in the motor city by the Ford Motor Co., while their husbands were introduced to the 1978 models, the women were treated to a

bevy of fashion models sporting some of the designs Saks of Troy will be showing this fall.

"These are affluent people and we showed the best of our fall collection," said Ken Dewey, Saks fashion coordinator who put together the show and did the brief commentary.

"The Ford people gave me a copy of their 1978 color booklet, and I tried to get in a lot of the Ford color, especially Mustang II red."

Dewey led things off by putting the models in Ford mechanics' coats over Saks T-shirt and suggesting the two went well together.

Then as the first group of layered fall finery was paraded to the runway, he admonished his audience to "note that we have interior and exterior designs, sleek lines, snappy colors and plenty of hoods."

The women, who had breakfast at Fairlane Manor before the fashion show, displayed special appreciation for a luxurious coyote coat, outfits of coordinated evening separates in sexy black lace and Dewey's "fun touch," rolled down red anklets with loafer-type shoes shown with a striped daytime dress.

A few chuckles at first and then a ripple of laughter spread through the first of 10 audiences that saw the Saks show as the women noted the socks with Geoffrey Beane's red-and-brown stripes.

"We think it's something that's fun," Dewey explained later. "And it shows the emphasis on legs this year. Textured hose and different kinds of footwear are going to be seen."

Would the women who could remember their bobby socks days wear those rolled down socks if they decided to purchase the Geoffrey Beane creation?

"Never," several of them said after the show. But their laughter was appreciative.

Leg warmers with a couple of

sporty outfits and boots galore emphasized Dewey's word that leg treatment is important.

The favorite coat was a spectacular natural coyote with a huge shawl collar. It was teamed with tan suede jeans and an argyle sweater by Marissa Christina and an Evan Picone blouse in bone.

In the evening, Dewey told the women, "you can be sweet and demure, sharp and sleek or just plain sensuous and sexy."

The audience seemed to feel a couple of separates combinations by Giorgio Sant Angelo filled all three bills.

The most applause came for a demure-looking costume that combined post-neck long sleeved lace bodysuit with a wrap skirt in lace with tiny sparkles of beading.

The skirt swirled seductively and split to reveal the matching lace tights.

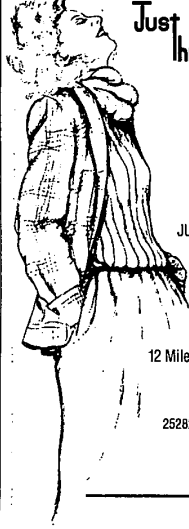
Another version from the same designer was a peasant-styled dress, also in black lace and also with matching tights.

The show featured, along with Saks regular designers, some classic separates that Dewey said were from "a hometown girl who made good."

The Charlotte Ford II designs, flown in from New York for the show, included a cream-silk blouse that went with a rust wool swirling skirt.

"Classic pieces, simple and uncluttered, put together with a master touch," said Dewey.

—MARGARET MILLER



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Slinky black lace separates scored a hit.

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A blouse and skirt combination was one of the Charlotte Ford II outfits brought from New York for the show.

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