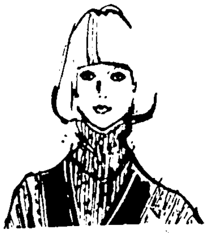
The fashion plate

Fashion not forgotten in Franklin Village

By RUSTLE SHAND



Time may have forgotten Franklin Village but fashion has not. Twentieth century fashions abound in the 19th century historic village nestled between Thirteen and Fourteen mile roads on Franklin Road.

Restored old residences and shops house fashion leaders, designer labels and fashion artisans.

Gerald's of Franklin creates trend-setting hair fashions in a 140-year-old building that was once Franklin's general store and pool hall.

Gerald and his hairdressing staff recently played host to Maurice Tidy's stylist, Annette Alessi. Tidy, an internationally acclaimed hair designer, was associated with Vidal Sassoon in London and New York for 17 years before opening his Park Avenue salon in New York.

Stylist Alessi brought Gerald's staff up to date on what's happening in New York hair fashion circles. And that's what's happening—circles.

At one point, calling the circle design for hair "the bowl shape," Ms. Alessi brought back memories of home haircutting days when hapless children were seated at the kitchen table with a bowl inverted on the head while father happily followed the round form with mother's sewing scissors.

But that's where the similarity ends. The new circle cut offers three or four options. It may be worn Sassoon style or curled softly around the face or fingerwaved or brushed back and up.

"We're going through a very emotional state with hair," Ms. Alessi said. "No more heavy geometrics, less mechanics, more artistry, more relating to the clients."

She said three factors are considered in creating a hairstyle for a client: her face, her conversation and the way she dresses. She also recommends that you go to your hairdresser wearing your normal, everyday clothes.

Sexy hair is brushed soft and rounded—no straight lines and you can soften the wedge haircut by rounding off all the sharp edges.

DICKENS, a boutique in the village, hangs designer label fashions in a building that once housed the village post office. Shirley Klein, one of the owners, explained their clientele are the women who like to look very well put together and maintain a youthful, very stylish appearance. Her customers, she said, buy much ahead of the season but also enjoy her sales.

Their holiday chiffons and satins are on sale now along with winter coats and suedes and leathers.

Dickens's stock reflects the trend seen in Paris this winter: cold weather clothes and warm weather clothes. Their spring-summer fashions reflect a return to natural cotton fabrics with crocheted shawls, tops and tunics from Haiti and denim dyed cotton bush jackets matched with culottes or skirts and pants.

A particularly stunning designer group features a natural muslin tucked and pleated dirndl skirt, fish-net weave tops and drawstring straight leg trousers.

They have casual clothes, cruise wear and party clothes as well as designer accessories.

Ms. Klein said the owners make five New York buying trips each year. They also buy in California and, she said, "always with their customers in mind."

THE GOLD ANVIL, the newest fashion addition to Franklin, shares an entry with Dickens and is owned by Marcus Spoutz who creates one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted, custom jewelry.

He creates gold or silver big cuffs, some with precious stones, hand-crafted belt buckles and even custom buttons. Ivory and other stones are handsomely mounted on rings and necklaces. He will, for example, design men's blazer buttons from your family crest.

"You can bring in your own stones, like a diamond that has been handed down in the family, and we will design a mounting for it," Spoutz said. "We keep up with all the high fashion trends and we can make it cheaper than you can buy it anyplace else.

"If someone comes in with $100 and says, 'can you make me something for this?' I will do it with no money down," he said. "Then if the customer does not like it, he is not obligated."

The Gold Anvil will make jewelry repairs or size rings while you wait. The creative work shop is located in the rear of the jewelry store.

Traffic safety is subject of new films

The Highway Users Federation has announced the production of a traffic safety education program featuring a series of short classroom films for children in kindergarten through ninth grade.

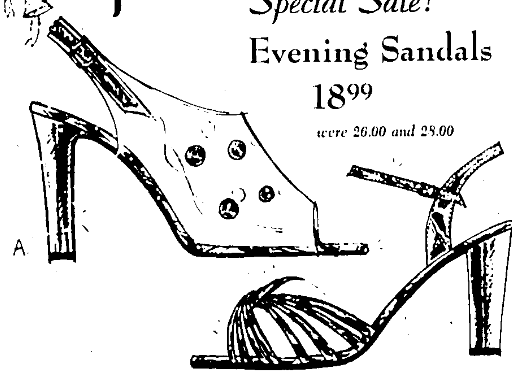
The package, called "Discovering Traffic Safety," is sponsored by the Automotive Safety Foundation, a federation affiliate.

The program is a complete traffic survival curriculum including movies, teachers' guides and other accompanying material designed to trigger classroom discussion to help children deal with everyday traffic situations.

A major part of the curriculum is 42 traffic safety education films which will be produced in seven series of six films each. Each movie, consisting of a sequence of vignettes familiar to the viewing student audience, will be about eight minutes.

Production of the first series of films began in late October in cooperation with the Fairfax County, Va., police and school board and will be ready for distribution early next year. The other six series of movies will be completed by August 1, 1974.

The federation's youth safety programs manager, Robert M. Calvin, is creator of the film scripts and technical advisor for the curriculum package. Film production is by Anthony T. Lerch Productions Inc.



Storytellers meet for program

The Detroit Story League will stage its own Christmas program when members are hosted by Hazel Bowerman in Whittier Towers, 415 Burns Drive, Detroit.

Ms. Bowerman is known as a master storyteller by members of the league and has been a member of the Detroit league for 56 years.

The group is made up of residents from throughout the metropolitan area whose aim is to keep the art of storytelling alive. They do this through regular meetings and workshops, and are on call to tell stories to clubs and organizations in southern Michigan.

Ruth Kroepel, of 36639 Vicary Lane, Farmington, is president of the Detroit League.

The Christmas program scheduled for Dec. 18, will begin with lunch at noon, and is open to guests. Persons may contact Louise Chase, at 522-1955, or in the evening, Mrs. Kroepel, at 477-5622, for an invitation.

Membership inquiries will be taken by Roberta Bullough, at 464-7054.

LEAGUE MEMBERS answered calls in December to tell Christmas stories to residents in Baptist Manor Retirement Home in Farmington Hills and in Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church in Dearborn.

Mrs. Bowerman is a graduate of Detroit Teachers' College, a former teacher of dramatics, creative writing and poetry, who joined the Detroit Story League (originally Storytellers League) in 1920.

At a meeting given in her honor, Mrs. Kroepel said, "We salute Hazel, not only for the memorable stories we have enjoyed from her, but for the pleasure she has brought to the many Detroit area audiences through the years.

"Stories inspiringly told are like welcome blessings. We remember them with warmth and gratitude, and we give thanks."

Booklet outlines credit picture

Many women are surprisingly unaware of how credit works and what their rights are under the new consumer credit laws.

These facts were evidenced during development of a new 36-page booklet, "Women: To Your Credit," prepared by Commercial Credit Corporation, one of the nation's largest consumer finance organizations, with help from the Maryland Commission for Women and the National Association of Commissions for Women.

"Women: To Your Credit," the first consumer credit booklet developed for national distribution, is available now free at Commercial Credit, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

"Women: To Your Credit" defines the most common types of discriminatory credit practices and outlines steps women—and men—can take if they are denied credit or have a dispute with a creditor.

It describes how to establish a credit record, and what factors creditors consider when they evaluate credit applications. It gives examples of what constitutes creditworthiness, provides a look at credit from the lender's viewpoint, and defines the most commonly used terms in the credit industry.

Sections are devoted to the specific credit rights of women who are single, married, divorced, or widowed.