

Soroptimist Sews Up Government Project

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Irene MacKinnon of Farmington, who can whip up a costume from a Christmas bauble to a complete outfit with hat and bag to match, has what you might call a governmental project going this week.

She's making a silk evening coat for the wife of the governor of New Jersey.

The cutting and stitching is being done between the sewing and craft classes she teaches at the Farmington YMCA, the Farmington Community Center

and the Livonia Family Y and along with plans she's making for a demonstration of holiday decorations and fashions early next month.

IRENE, more formally Mrs. Donald J. MacKinnon, 25689 Ridgewood, is used to having lots of creative work going on at once.

And she has done a lot of custom dressmaking before beginning this particular assignment for Mrs. Richard Hughes, whose husband soon will go out of office after eight years as governor of New Jersey.

It all came about because Betty Hughes was speaker for the Farmington Town Hall a few weeks back, and Irene, a member of the Farmington Soroptimist Club which sponsors the lectures, was one of her official greeters.

That day Irene wore a lovely costume she had created for herself—a coat and hat fashioned of handwoven Irish tweed in shades of rose and blue topped with a cerise dress.

MRS. HUGHES, who told her audience on that occasion she has some trouble getting clothes that fit well and added that the dress she was wearing is "a let-out 16," couldn't take her eyes off Irene's outfit.

"What she really wanted," Irene said, "was to buy it off my back. But it fits me and I eat lots of mushrooms and cauliflower to keep my weight down and I didn't want to sell."

She told the governor's wife, however, that she had done custom dressmaking and would make a coat for her.

"Well, I suppose you couldn't measure me now," said Mrs. L. Henke of Farmington and Mrs. George Mersin of Plymouth.

In additional DAR news, the service committee of the Fort Pontchartrain Chapter has scheduled a noon luncheon meeting on Nov. 7 in the Women's City Club, Detroit. Mrs. Henke and Mrs. Milton E. Hopkins of Livonia are expected to attend this meeting.



READY! SET! SEW — Irene MacKinnon with her trusty tape measure and the imported silk she'll make into an evening coat for Mrs. Richard Hughes, wife of New Jersey's governor. (Evert photo)

before Betty Hughes called last week to say she had settled on a heavy pink silk from Thailand.

"It isn't the one I expected her to choose," Irene said, "but I know it will be beautiful. It has silver and rose metallic threads and turns a bright pink at night under artificial light."

Irene isn't working from a pattern on this project, but has patterned a coat with a flat collar and probably double-breasted.

"I think I'll cover the buttons—eight of them—and hand-bend them," she added.

Mrs. Hughes wants the coat by the end of this week. Later Irene expects to make her a dress to go with it.

"I don't have the dress measurements yet," she explained. But she may be able to get them early next year. Plans are underway for her to appear on the daily television program Betty Hughes conducts in her home state.

"Nothing is definite yet," Irene said, "but she has invited me and I'd like to do it."

MEANWHILE Irene is preparing for a show she will put on Dec. 6 in the Elmwood Casino for wives of businessmen attending a convention in Windsor.

"I'll give two demonstrations," she said. "One will be a Christmas craft show and

the other will be showing the women what sort of dresses and accessories look best on different figure types. That's the kind of fashion work I love to do."

Irene has been doing this sort of show for wives at conventions for several years now.

However, she hasn't been able to travel much in the last six months because her husband, who is general manager of Dearborn Federal Credit Union, has been serving as acting president of the International

Credit Services Corporation and has had to do a lot of traveling on his own.

"We still have two teenagers at home," Irene said, "so we can't both be away." The MacKinnons also have a daughter in college and a married son.

Irene, who did custom sewing before she started giving convention shows and teaching craft classes, loves to haunt upholstery and warehouse stores for beautiful fabrics at tiny prices.

"That was my downfall once," she said. "I used some beautiful upholstery material for an evening coat for a customer."

"But the first time she wore it she went to a party in a big house and guess how the sofa was upholstered!"

This time she should have a more satisfied customer in Mrs. Hughes.

Miss Morgan is winner of many awards, including the Detroit Soroptimist woman of the year, and the McCall Magazine Golden Mike national award. She also has been chosen woman of the year by the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit Press Photographers.

The Observer

Women

m. m. memos

Our holiday season is already underway, and it goes on a lot longer than most people's.

Five of our family's six birthdays are crowded into the time between late October and mid-January. And in this time we also must manage to mark Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

The girls point out they're certainly not responsible for the birthday situation, and I have to agree.

But late fall is the worst possible time for buying gifts — a bit late for fall clothing and a bit early for toys.

And then January is even more difficult. Either I buy before Christmas — an impossible financial bind — or wait to buy leftovers later.

We also run into a complication in connection with a family dinner custom.

It's the rule that each birthday girl can choose the dinner menu on her day. This can make for monotony if tastes happen to be similar that year.

Under this system, incidentally, we never serve birthday cake. This week we'll stick eight candles into a blueberry pie, and last month it was a pumpkin pie. A cheesecake and probably an apple or cherry pie will be lit up in January.

Maybe we should have had more foresight and spotted these natal days more evenly around the calendar. But who wants a holiday season with just holidays?

-- Margaret Miller

RSL Will Hear Mary Morgan

Mary Morgan, radio and television commentator, will be guest speaker at the Redford Suburban League's luncheon in the Raleigh House, Telegraph and 10 Mile, Wednesday, Nov. 12.

The luncheon is part of the league's celebration of its 15th anniversary year.

Miss Morgan, CKLW special features editor, will show slides of fashions from famous designer houses in this country and Europe.

The speaker travels extensively in fashion capitals of the world to get material for her daily radio and television presentations. Part of her aim is translating high fashion into budget brackets for all women in her audience.

She also has done public service work in the field of drug addiction.

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Mrs. Knight Speaks Here

Mrs. John Knight Jr., an accredited instructor of flower arrangement and flower shop practice, will speak at the Nov. 10 meeting of the Farmington Garden Club.

"The Knight Before Christmas" is the title of the program that will begin at 1 p.m. in the Nardin Park Methodist Church, 2887 W. 11 Mile Road.

Mrs. Robert Henry is chairman of the program.

Mrs. Knight will speak at the special fund raising project of the Garden Club. She conducts workshops in flower arrangement and Christmas decorations.

Mrs. Knight is author of the books, "Abstract and Not-So Abstract Flower Arrangement" and "Weathered Wood with Flowers."

In 1956, Mrs. Knight was the recipient of the National Council Helen S. Hall Award and for three years she appeared on Akron's WKAR-TV demonstrating the art of flower arrangement.

Well known for her work in this field, Mrs. Knight was a speaker at the "Contemporary Art For Symposium" recently held at Michigan State University by the Michigan Graduate Judge's Association of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association.



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Livonia LWV Plans Review Meetings

The November unit meetings of the Livonia League of Women Voters will review past national positions such as water, apportionment and home rule for Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Lois Craft, 31471 Bobrich, will host the Nov. 12 meeting, beginning at 9:30 a.m., while Mrs. Beth Riden, 20076 Maplewood, will entertain the Nov. 13 meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Other unit meetings will be held Nov. 18 in the home of Mrs. Vera Scott, 30320 Rayburn, at 12:45 p.m., and in the home of Mrs. Irene Balan, 14551 Berwick, at 8:15 p.m. Nov. 19.

The league is a national, non-partisan volunteer organization open to all women citizens, 21 years of age and over. Membership information may be obtained by calling the membership chairman, Mrs. Ray Wyatt, at 425-9339.

Dental Society Schedules Gala

The Don Large Choral will furnish music for the annual gala of the Oakland County Dental Society, scheduled Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the Latin Quarter. Cocktails will be served from 6:30 to 8 p.m., and a gourmet dinner will follow. Reservations may be made by calling 543-0400.