

Spotlight on Women

1910 Graduation Dress Makes 1971 Comeback

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor



MRS. ANNA JONAS (left) first wore the graduation dress she loaned last week to her granddaughter, Bentley High School graduate Diane Jonas. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

A lovely lawn dress, painstakingly tucked by an expert seamstress and lavishly decorated with lace inserts, now has seen two high school graduations — 61 years apart.

It was worn first in 1910 by a young lady who received her diploma from Calumet High School in the far north.

And its owner, now Mrs. Anna Jonas of Redford Township, took the dress out of its cedar chest wrappings so that her pretty granddaughter, Diane Jonas of Livonia, could wear it when she graduated from Bentley High last week.

"It fit perfectly and was right in style," said Mrs. Harold Jonas, Diane's mother.

STYLE was the big reason why the heirloom gown came into its own for Diane's big day.

Her mother had planned to make her a long white dress to wear under her cap and gown and then to graduation open house parties after the ceremony.

So, a few weeks ago, Diane leaped through a magazine while she and her mother and grandmother were waiting in a doctor's office.

"Make me one like that," she suggested, showing her mother an intricately tucked Victorian style.

"I'd never have time," Mrs. Jonas said. "There's too much work in it."

THE ELDER MRS. JONAS looked at the picture. "Why, that looks like my graduation dress," she said, "and I still have it."

Back home, the three generations headed for the cedar chest and found the old dress, wrinkled from being packed away for years but as white as the day Mrs. Jonas first wore it.

Her daughter-in-law washed it by hand and ironed it. "The ironing took about an hour and a half," she reported later.

NO ALTERATIONS were needed, but they did add a new petticoat. "I guess I wore the old one out," Mrs. Jonas said.

She recalled that the dress was dreamed up by her older sister and executed by a lady who did sewing for the family. It was one of the first dresses she owned that had been made by a dressmaker.

"It's the only one I kept," said Mrs. Jonas, who came to Detroit a half century ago with her late husband, Charles, and moved to Redford Township to live with her daughter several years ago. "It was so pretty, I wanted to save it."

The dress, hidden under a nosegay of yellow and white blooms, a present, she said, "from my three admirers — the little boys next door who I baby-sit." On the card were the names Michael, David and Mark Spease.

Diane will head for the University of Michigan next fall and the dress will be folded away again in the cedar chest.

No one would bet against its coming out again in four years. That's when Diane's sister, Laura, will be a sweet girl graduate.

m. m. memos

While it's still June, I really should give the world my report on the status of brides and weddings and all the romantic news.

Whatever you may hear to the contrary, the view from this woman's desk is that the wedding tradition is going stronger than ever.

It's becoming "traditional" of course, to write your own wedding vows, and many do. I find more pantdresses worn by attendants, and for the first time I'm writing up the attire of the male contingent of the wedding parties.

But the thing that hasn't changed a bit is the starry-eyed absent-mindedness of our brides. Descriptions on some of the wedding forms still make some of the best reading that comes to my desk.

So, to keep up my own tradition, I report a few. The bride who wore a "file" gown (for quick escape from the bonds of matrimony?). The mother of the bride in a "golf" dress (I've always hoped gold was what she meant). Also the mother with a "jeweled breast" (I didn't try to translate that one).

Then there were the attendants whose gowns had "triangular cutouts in back" (no need to get too explicit), and the many girls who wear "agua" gowns and the couples who honeymoon at "Niagra Falls."

My spelling award of the year, though, goes to the bride who described in detail the "on sombo" worn by her mother.

When a girl's thinking of going down the ile to the altar, you have to expect that the gown she'll wear will be trimmed with sequence.

—Margaret Miller

Opportunities Abound

Want To Serve?

A great many volunteer jobs that need doing will go begging this year because the would-be volunteer does not feel qualified.

"Don't limit yourself, and don't worry about your lack of specific knowledge. Nearly every agency, whose very existence depends on volunteers, will provide you with the training and orientation you need," say workers from the Volunteer Action Center.

The center is a department of the United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit which acts as a clearing house to maximize opportunities for the use of volunteer manpower. This is done by matching potential volunteers with agencies and other organizations that need the donated time and talents of willing citizens.

Consequently, if nothing on this list suits your fancy, you are invited to call at the center, at 51 W. Warren, Detroit, for an interview that will do the matching up of an agency with your particular talents. Ask for Judy Gunther.

MANY AGENCIES welcome young volunteers, aged 18 and under, especially during the summer. Those that do are marked with an asterisk.

* AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS, Northwest Regional Office, 15420 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Multi-service agency.

* BOYS' CLUBS OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT, Saver Building, 2357 West Seven Mile, Redford Township. Social, recreational, educational health center for boys. Call Charles Wilson.

* CAMBRIDGE NURSING CENTRE WEST, 18633 Beech Daly, Redford Township. Nursing home. Address inquiries to Marlas Speck.

* GARDEN CITY PARKS

AND RECREATION, 200 Log Cabin Road, Garden City. Community recreation facilities. Ask for Raymond Wack.

* MARYCREST NURSING HOME, 15475 Middle Belt, Livonia. Nursing home. Address inquiries to Sr. Mary Laura.

* NORTHVILLE STATE HOSPITAL, 41001 West Seven Mile, Northville. State psychiatric hospital. Ask for Mrs. Jean Bachelder.

* NORTHWESTERN CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC, 6221 Merriman Rd., Garden City. Outpatient psychiatric service for children. Call Soine Torma.

* PLYMOUTH STATE HOME AND TRAINING SCHOOL, 15480 Sheldon Road, Northville. Residential care and treatment for mentally handicapped children and adults. Mrs. Virginia McElhargie is in charge of volunteer work.

* PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGES, 17383 Garfield, Redford Township. Residence for the aged. Call Mrs. Betty Regina.

* WAYNE COUNTY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 16000 Sheldon Rd., Northville. Residential care and treatment of educable mentally handicapped children. Address inquiries to Mrs. Catherine Brown.

* YWCA OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT, Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, Redford Township. Recreational-social programs for women and girls.

Others in Western Wayne County include:

* BIG BROTHERS - BIG SISTERS OF WAYNE CO., 51 West Warren, Detroit.

* BOY SCOUTS, DETROIT AREA COUNCIL, 1776 West Warren, Detroit.

* CAMP FIRE GIRLS, DETROIT AREA COUNCIL, 51 West Warren, Detroit.

* DEARBORN ASSOCIATION

FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, 3801 Eastham Rd., Dearborn. Day program for retarded children.

* EASTER SEAL SOCIETY FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN AND ADULTS, 2545 East Hyde Park Drive, Inkster. Services for physically handicapped.

* FRIENDLY VISITORS, United Community Services, 51 West Warren, Detroit. One-to-one visiting service for adults.

* GIRL SCOUTS, HURON VALLEY COUNCIL, 310 South Huron, Ypsilanti.

* GIRL SCOUTS OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT, 153 East Elizabeth, Detroit.

* MYCON (Mayor's Youth Committee on Narcotics), 6045 Fenton, Dearborn Heights.

Drug addiction program by youth.

* METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL AND CLINICS, 1800 Tuxedo, Detroit. General hospital and metropolitan area clinics.

* MICHIGAN CANCER FOUNDATION, Western Wayne Unit, 1112 North Telegraph, Dearborn. Health services.

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 6404 Temple, Detroit. Volunteer program for welfare agency.

WAYNE COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL, "N" Building, Elioise. Psychiatric division of general hospital.

GET FRAMED!

with a custom job from St. Clair

Let St. Clair Art Gallery put new life into your oil paintings, watercolors, lithos, photos of loved ones, etc. You name it, we'll frame it! We offer prompt service, our own protective backing paper, and a tremendous selection of frames and mats... hundreds of styles to choose from.

ST. CLAIR ART GALLERY

28040 Joy Road
Bet. Inkster & Middlebelt
GA 7-1400 or 937-1144
Daily 10:30-5:30 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-5

INFLATION?

OUR CARPET COSTS LESS TODAY THAN 15 YEARS AGO!

KODEL SHAG

Extra Thick
2 1/2 inch pile
AN 11.50 VALUE
WHILE IT LASTS!

\$5.95

sq. yd.

REMNANTS			
SIZE	DESCRIPTION	Reg. Price	SALE
12'x13'	Avocado Nylon Tweed	\$162	\$72
12'x9'5"	Blue Herculon Tweed	\$117	\$52
12'x9'4"	Gold Herculon	\$117	\$50
12'x7'3"	Green Herculon Tweed	\$89	\$30
12'x11'8"	Avocado Tweed	\$176	\$70
12'x9'2"	Red & Black Herculon Tweed	\$125	\$53

ST. CLAIR Carpet of LIVONIA

MEMBER DETROIT FLOOR COVERING ASSOCIATION

28040 JOY ROAD, BETWEEN Inkster and Middlebelt
GA 7-1400 or 937-1144
Open Daily thru Sat. 9 to 9
TUESDAY 9 to 6

SINCE 1935

To select your floor covering at home
CALL GA 7-1400
for an appointment
No obligation. Terms available.

All carpet installations **GUARANTEED** for the lifetime of the carpet

SELECT YOURS TODAY AND SAVE!