

Clothes Go Gay for the Holiday

CHRISTMAS this year will be sparkling with hope and meaning for Vicky. The first post-war celebration will be the gayest and brightest she has ever known.

To collegiate Vicky, Christmas means clothes. To an Iowa State Vicky, clothes mean the cheeriest ones she can find that specialize in an extra helping of warmth.

Warm, beautiful hoods are pushing the tired, old bandana right out of the campus scene. Vicky herself chooses a hooded cape that shelters her face with bright red wool jersey. Black on the outside, and reversible, it is a topper for all her black and bright skirts. A special bonus to hang from the tree are the black wool jersey gloves that pair with the cloak. They, too, are lined, the cuffs turn back with the red jersey accent.

Ponyskin boots that keep her feet warm on the iciest toboggan slides are cozy-fleece lined and have ridged rubber soles that will keep dry even on the wettest cold days. In blizzard temperatures she will pair them with a pair of warm wool slacks, a top coat and jersey hood for the long hikes from home to class.

A whimsical gift that will gladden Vicky's heart is an over-skirt of bright blue tweed. Worn over her dresses and skirts, it has a full, front opening and looks like a coat from the waist down. It meets her short, full-sleeved jacket halfway. She'll find it gala for Sunday afternoon waits at the bus stop.

Holiday clothes and school clothes may be the same, says Vicky, with her two feet flat on the ground in the snug, sensible new flat-heeled shoes. She will be casual and assured in the tested and proven college formula of good tweeds, good jersey and polished leather.

A clear-checked black and white tweed suit that will ring the bell for both wear and appearance has a straight skirt with a folded pleat at the front and a fitted, smooth-shouldered jacket. Wide, flat lapels top off the single-breasted jacket front, and Vicky can wear either a gleaming leather belt at her waist, or cinch a heavy gold chain about it.

More tweed outlines Vicky's hands, in the form of wrist-protecting mittens.

They have heavy black wool jersey palms and are great to have on hand with either a black or bright coat.

From the gay holiday rounds of parties back to college firesides and exchanges go Vicky's combination jersey and jerkin dresses. One, a side-buttoned jumper in beige, is made with a shepherdess neckline, and short cap sleeves. It is worn over a black jersey blouse, made with a high neckline and bow tie.

A horizontally striped jerkin, made with deep cap sleeves Vicky wears over a long-sleeved taupe dress. The dress has a long, fluid line, gathered on a drawstring at the waist.

Sharing the highlights on the tree with precious nylon hose this year may be a fur-cuffed cap that will frame Vicky's face, muffle her ears. Made of black wool jersey, with a stenciled lapin band turned back off the face, the hat is designed to nullify the chilliest breezes. There are mittens to match this hat also, backed with the lapin, made with black suede palms.

As addenda to the Christmas stocking may be a pair of brown goatskin jodphur boots, that strap firmly around the ankles, are just long enough to accommodate tucked-in trouser legs.

To top off all the Christmas cheer are the returned bouffant, princess-like dancing dresses. One of the most beautiful debutante dresses in Paris is the model for the white chiffon gown Vicky will wear. It has a foaming full skirt, a pleated, strapless bodice. Crossing the bodice from shoulder to waist is a deep-colored spray of holly leaves and berries. The waist of the dress is knotted round with a narrow green velvet cord.

Another white gown is made of drifting white net, with a full, flounced skirt. The flounces and off-shoulder ruffle are edged with pink satin tatting. A great pink satin bow that stretches from shoulder to shoulder is tacked at the back of the dress. The streamers reach almost to the floor. To this Vicky adds tiny pink ballet slippers and elbow length white kid gloves.

by Josephine Ahern

THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

