

Record Crowd Views Glamorous Showing

By ELEN

The star of "Damm Yankees," Gwen Verdon, almost stole the show at yesterday's luncheon-fashion show benefit for the D. C. Society for Crippled Children.

"Everything I have and can do today I owe to your determination to help. I am the product of your generosity and kindness and help to crippled children," she said paying tribute to the help that was given her 26 years ago by a similar organization to help her overcome a severe lameness.

Yesterday Gwen Verdon flew down from New York to Washington to be a part of the audience of about 1,000 who viewed the fabulous "All-American" fashion show staged by Woodward & Lothrop in the Presidential and Congressional ballrooms at the Statler.

Bryson Rash in introducing the impressive list of head table dignitaries that included Mrs. Richard Nixon, Mrs. John Foster Dulles, the wives of the Ambassadors from Brazil, Venezuela, the Netherlands, El Salvador, Sweden, Guatemala, Viet-Nam and Afghanistan, and Mrs. Stanley Reed, wife of the Associate Justice, announced that it had been discovered what it was "Lola" (Gwen Verdon's role in the musical) wants in her song. "Lola wants help for lots of crippled children," he said.

Fashion Salute

The theme of the "Lily Fashionists," staged by Woodward & Lothrop, explained Mrs. Edith Battles, the store's fashion co-ordinator, was a "Salute to American Fashion Designers—the finest in the world."

Testifying to this was a show filled with glamour from the start to finish. The Strolling Strings of the Air Force Symphony Orchestra (the 12 violinists strolled while the harpist sat) set the mood at the start of the show by playing melodious gypsy airs and gay waltzes. The mood was carried through by the gorgeous models flown down from New York, wearing the most striking fur and fabric designs of the season. Make no mistake, it's a season of spangles, white fox furs, and lush black satins and velvets, too.

Registering strongly on the fashion applause meter were the evening fashions that spelled out glamour in capital letters. This proved to us for once and for all women always enjoy seeing the most glamorous clothes even though they know that the budget may not permit them ever to own such a creation.

Large Hats Return

Interest was at top peak (no pun intended) when the millinery creations of Gustavo

were shown with the black wool, velvet, and satin cocktail sheaths. The designer and his wife, who is his "trade-mark" he told us, due to her beautiful modeling of his hats, strongly indorses larger hats. Baby drum silhouettes, and winged flight designs in silk moire, and even one hat that looked like an oversized elaborate boudoir cap of white taffeta—were clearly an indication that the large hat is coming back strong on the fashion scene.

In the vast group of people assembled for the benefit show were many designers—down from New York. They included Kay Miller of I. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Van S of handbag fame, Albert Weiss of Marvella Pearls, glove designer Viola Weinberger and Madeleine Fauth.

Fashions bearing the signatures of Oleg Cassini, Matty Talmack, Herbert Sondheim, Rudolf, Harvey Berin, Larry Aldrich, Paul Parnes, Howard Greer, Jane Derby and Samuel Winston were viewed.

Men in Audience

Not all in the "oh and ah" crowd, as Mark Evans who shared the commentary noted, were women. Husbands of committee workers were loyal right up to the fashion show time. More than three tables were filled by the not-so-fair sex who viewed the proceedings with a bit of apprehension no doubt since it might later affect their wallets, a gentleman commented to us.

The president of the Women's Auxiliary of the D. C. Crippled Children's Society, Mrs. Preston Wire, was seated at the head table with Mrs. William H. Rippard, the chairman, and Mrs. Herbert C. Blunck, co-chairman of the successful event.

Agnes Scott Alumnae To Hold Opening Tea

The Washington area Alumnae Club of Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga., will hold a panel-discussion of scholarships at its opening tea tomorrow at 3 p.m. in the home of Mrs. S. G. Green, Mrs. Green, sister of Richard B. Russell, junior Senator from Georgia, lives at 2307 Tussell road, Alexandria, Va.

Panelists are Grace Ethridge, Harriet Reed, Sybil Riddle, Betty Ellington and Julia Beeman. Items will be on sale at the tea as part of the fund-raising program for a scholarship for an area girl.

MISS ADKINS SAYS:

'56 Victory Is Up to Women

Women, "who brought out such a tremendous vote for Eisenhower in '52, must lead the way to Republican victory in 1956," Miss Bertha Adkins, assistant to the chairman of the Republican National Committee, told the D. C. League of Republican Women yesterday.

The fact that the Republican National Convention will not be held until August 20, much later than usual, places a heavy responsibility on women, the G. O. P. woman leader declared.

"There will be only a very brief time after that for a campaign," she said. "That means that all the organization must be done ahead of time—and women are the ones who must do it, frankly because they have the opportunity to meet people and talk to them."

President Eisenhower's illness "has highlighted the responsibility of every Republican in the next few months to spread the great record this administration has made," Miss Adkins added.

"Peace, the greatest employment in history, a stable economy," are some of the accomplishments that should be stressed, she added. "It is a tremendous record, and it is our job to talk about it."

Auxiliary Group Installs Officers

The Women's Auxiliary of the District Optometric Association held its monthly meeting yesterday in the Golden Parrot.

New officers were installed. They include, Mrs. Robert A. Kraskin, president; Mrs. Ewart F. Warren, vice president; Mrs. Robert H. Teunis, secretary; and Mrs. Max Katz, treasurer. Mrs. Walter J. Hackett, Mrs. Gilbert Karentie, Mrs. Gabriel Ross and Mrs. John K. Shelton, Jr., are the new trustees.

Luncheon Yesterday

Mrs. James E. Douglas, Jr., of Potomac, Md., and her mother-in-law, Mrs. James E. Douglas, were joint hostesses at a luncheon yesterday at Normandy Farm. The group later adjourned to the Douglas home at Potomac for an afternoon of bridge.



HAVING WONDERFUL TIME—About 1,000 people crowded the Statler yesterday to attend the luncheon-fashion show presented by the Women's Auxiliary of the D. C. Society for Crippled Children, with Woodward & Lothrop showing the fashions. (Left) Mrs. William R. Rippard chairman of the event, watches Dancer Gwen Verdon of the musical "Damm Yankees" pin a corsage of lilies of the valley on Mrs. Richard Nixon, wife of the Vice President, who was one of the honor guests.—Star Staff Photo.

To Describe Soviet Trip To Alumnae

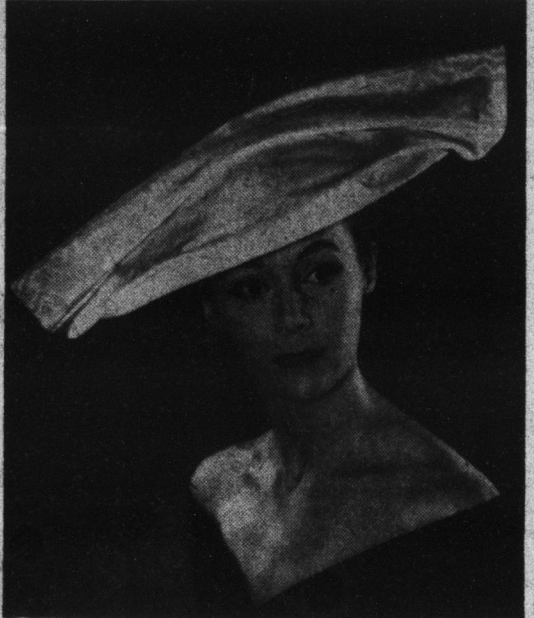
Miss Gay Humphrey will describe her 6,000-mile trip through the Soviet Union before the first fall luncheon meeting of the Mount Holyoke Club of Washington at 1 p.m. tomorrow in the Occidental Restaurant.

A Russian language and history expert, Miss Humphrey made the trip in August, 1954. She led a group of students on a tour of Russia which included a 14-day stay in Moscow and visits to Samarkand, capital of the Uzbek Republic in Central Asia; Leningrad, Tiflis in the Caucasus and the Republic of Georgia.

Miss Humphrey, who is a cum laude graduate of Mount Holyoke, will speak informally and off-the-record.

She will describe her conversations with the people they met in the cities, on collective farms, at children's camps and in the State-run department stores.

She also will show motion pictures she took on the trip. The program will include brief comments from Mr. Peter Junter, who recently returned from a trip to the Soviet Union.



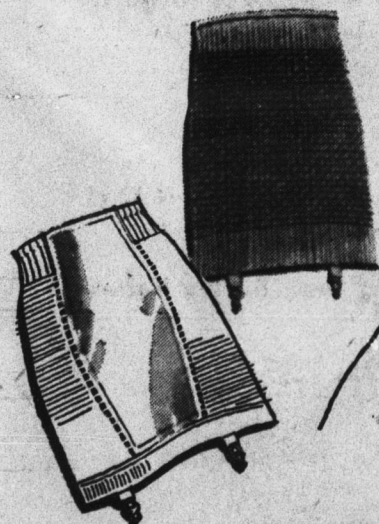
ERA OF ELEGANCE—The dramatic sweep of this silk moire Hat Designer Gustavo calls his "White Winged Flight" recalls days of great millinery elegance. It drew much applause at yesterday's luncheon-fashion show at the Statler. It is worn here by his wife, Dancer Lidija Franklin, who was present at the showing with the designer.



Favorite fall success story in these gentle control nylon, cotton and rayon girdles and panty girdles so necessary for fashion's lean, smooth lines. Left to right: girdle with net sides and back and reinforced satin latex front panel, 7.95. Two-way stretch elastic girdle with wide top and bottom band, 5.95. Panty girdle with reinforced front panel, 5.95, and panty girdle with high waist and front and back panels, 10.00, matching girdle, 10.00.

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