

# Lena Horne Places First Among "Best Dressed Women"

## Fashion Designers Name Actress For Good Taste

NEW YORK (AP)—For the fourth year, the National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers, Inc. has felt the pulse of fashion authorities throughout the country and has come up with the women they feel were Best Dressed during the previous year.

In an effort to be more objective, the Association sent ballots to the Presidents of its local chapters located in Boston, Brooklyn and Manhattan in New York City, Cleveland, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Kansas City, Missouri, and Washington, D. C., to its regional vice-presidents in Atlanta, San Antonio and Los Angeles; to the heads of Home Economics Departments in colleges and universities; and to fashion coordinators and to society and fashion editors of week-

ly and monthly newspapers and magazines.

The results of this year's poll show a predominance of career women as against housewives and celebrities who topped past lists. Actress Lena Horne the only celebrity on the list, came out in No. 1 position, not so much for her gorgeous formal gowns as for her flawless taste in her daytime and at-home wardrobe.

A newcomer on the 1956 list, Mrs. Betty Clark of Los Angeles, is one of the West Coast's most sparkling personalities. In referring to her well-rounded closets, fashion experts said: "She has no competition out here." Mrs. Clark, wife of successful hotel owner Horace Clark, admits a preference to high fashion cocktail and ball gowns.

New York's first Negro Assemblywoman, Mrs. Bessie Buchanan, rated No. 3 spot for her "appropriateness at all times." Busy Mrs. Buchanan may begin her day in Albany and end it some 12 hours later at a dinner dance in her husband's Savoy Ballroom. Through it

all she remains well groomed. The only unmarried career woman on this year's list is Beth Lambright, youthful civic and social worker, of Cleveland. Miss Lambright, daughter of Dr. W. H. Lambright, was chosen for her impeccable attire that leans toward simple lines without being plain. A music teacher in the city schools, Miss Lambright's name appeared on all ballots coming from the midwest.

Socialite Vera Reddick is Boston's addition to the current crop of the country's Best Dressed. The good looking National President of the Girl Friends prefers "dressmaker suits and smart hats", but her expensive wardrobe contains an abundance of cocktail and formal clothes.

Mrs. Verda Welcome, wife of prominent Baltimore physician Dr. Henry Welcome, is the only full-time housewife among this year's winners. Mrs. Welcome's daily calendar of civic and welfare activities calls for functional clothes. Perhaps the most conservative of all Mrs. Welcome is known along the Seaboard for always wearing "the right thing at the right time."

Three-time repeater, Bille Getz Thomas is still holding her own as one of the Nations' Best Dressed. Head of the French Department at Spelman College, modest Mrs. Thomas admits to being a little "sawed" about this whole business of being "Best Dressed."

Another active business woman and newcomer on the 1956 list is Mrs. Olivia Stanford, owner of Olivia's House of Beauty in New York City. In addition to spending full-time at her beauty business, Mrs. Stanford is a housewife and a mother. She dresses simply but beautifully bordering somewhat on the dramatic in "after-five" fashions.

From the far Southeast comes gay divorcee Sue Kellner Russell, one of the beautiful Kellner sisters of Pensacola, Florida. Mrs. Russell has worked for a number of years in the Business Office at Florida A&M University. A career girl from the word "Go", Mrs. Russell owns dozens of suits, which she prefers to most other types of garments. She dresses them up and down as the occasion demands. Faculty as well as students rate her as tops fashion wise.

Dressed department goes to the Mae Moore of Newark, actress following women: (Marie (Mrs. Dorothy Dandridge of Hollywood, Nat "King" Cole, of Los Angeles, Mrs. Ruth James Ramsey, of Philadelphia, Mrs. Albia Murray of Washington, D. C., Mrs. Victor-Horne, of New York City and Rose Morgan Louis of New York City.

Detroit is justly proud of Mrs. Beulah Whitby who somehow manages to stay appropriately groomed despite the demands of her taxing job of Acting Director of the City Commission on Community Relations. Active for a number of years in national club and organization work, Mrs. Whitby was chosen because she, as well as all the others, exemplifies basic standards of correct dress at all times.

Because the balloting was so close for the first time this year, NAFAD is listing "runners-up." Honorable mention in the Best

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