

# It's Very Smart to 'Make Your Own' Enchanting New Frocks for Spring

By **CHERIE NICHOLAS**



THE "make your own" idea has become of nation-wide appeal among women who know how to sew, as well as teen-age girls who are having great fun learning.

If, perchance, you are lagging a bit in getting at the usual spring sewing, for new inspiration try an hour or so of sightseeing among the joyous looking prints now in fabric displays everywhere, a veritable pageantry of beauty as a prelude to the spring 1945 fashion program.

A good way to start off with the spring sewing is to begin with a print that breathes the very breath of spring in its lovely coloring. The frock to the left in the picture is just such and it is so easily made even a beginner can master it. This print carries an important color message for spring in that the crepe that makes it has huge white flowers on a background in the now-so-fashionable lime green. Lime and other enchanting greens are making front-page color news for spring. The simplicity of this off-side effect is its charm.

The big sensation this year is that the trend is to conversation prints that simply dare anything in the way of novelty. For instance, in the new showings, one of the attractive numbers is the pussy-cat print which patterns little round kitten heads over the background until they give the impression of a polka dot effect. For a peplum blouse (simple patterns are easily available) the new pussy-cat print would be ever so smart—an idea that should appeal to teen-age sewers.

Another gay print tells a story of pretty dancing girls, their swirling skirts in a rainbow of lovely tones and tints. A print that rivets attention has little birds winging their way over a colorful crepe background, together with fantastic little bird cages artfully patterned here and there in an outline print.

Another one that brings a smile depicts little white sheep gamboling

over a color-bright crepe ground, inter-spaced with a motif made up of balls of yarn thrust through with several knitting needles. One of the most novel prints of all spaces flowers on a light background which has an all-over tracery of poetic verse, reproducing actual handwriting.

The idea of calling attention to these novelty prints is that home sewers will add a new thrill to the blouse or the dress they make, if they are style-alert in choosing prints that arouse interest and provoke conversation, rather than prints of familiar theme and motif.

The new flower prints are lovelier than ever. Their rapturous colorings seem to fairly vibrate with the very ecstasy of spring. You can make them up so effectively and print is the easiest thing in the world for an amateur to manipulate. Two intriguing fashion hints in styling a print frock is that short cap sleeves are the new rage, and some of the cleverest youthful models are given an animated silhouette with a sprightly bustle bow.

Portrait necklines give new charm to dresses this spring whether they are made of print or plain material. Perfect for neckline dress-up is the simple two-piece dress with tuck-in blouse and drindl-type skirt shown at the right. For this simple crepe frock neckline drama is expressed in narrow ruching that is picotied along the edges with the ruffler sewing machine attachment. The short sleeves are also ruche-edged, a dressmaker trick which lifts the whole frock out of the "usual" class.

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## Cherry Applique



"See my new pinafore dress? Mother made it!" Can't you almost hear this joyous little girl exultantly saying just that? Now that mother has started on the household spring sewing, little daughter is in for some very happy surprises in way of pretty frocks and pinafores. For instance, this cunning pinafore frock shows how a simple unbleached muslin frock can be made to look too attractive for words just by appliqueing big cherries cut out of bright red bolt-fast cotton. The trail stems are stitched in green thread.

## Whims of Fashion

Dresses for the South are playing up color contrast for all it is worth. Butcher linens highlighting bright color themes are especially important. For example, a black sunback dress has halter straps of lime and orange.

Charming are hand-crocheted calots designed to be worn with the new pastel suits and dresses this spring. They are decorated with colored sequins and some of them even go out for extreme novelty in way of adding wee tinkling bells to the decorative scheme.

Fashion holds in promise for the future such scientific achievements as sheer woven glass hosiery, unbreakable glass-soled shoes, and even very sheerest prints of spun glass are being made into blouses. As exciting news as this is the progress being made in materials derived from especially processed aluminum.

An idea that is going over big in millinery midseason showings is the "dog collar" trim on the very smart and new "sissy" sailors, postillon and homburg types and on youthful calots. Each little hat is completed with a veil which has a sparkling jewel-embroidered velvet or gros-grain band attached. This fastens to form a dog collar fastened about the throat, or it may be used to band the crown.

Something new that looks as if it might develop into a real fad for evening wear or with the brief cap sleeves is a jeweled arm band which encircles the arm midway between the shoulder and the elbow. It may be of wide, black velvet ribbon or of self-fabric. In either event it is elaborately be-jeweled or it may flaunt an important large brooch or spray clip, or a group of whimsical little cluster pins.



## SPEAKING OF CONVENTIONS

Washington has now put a ban on conventions, which strikes us as strictly okay. A convention is a rendezvous of agitated citizens whose wives will accept no other excuse for a week's absence from home.

It is a noisy gathering of middle-aged men who think that fighting for a hotel room is good for their morale.

It is a huddle in lobbies and banquet halls of let's-get-together once a year to see if the competitors have aged much.

It is a gandy-dance by men who think spending a week trying to get in and out of elevators comes under the head of business promotion.

The whole idea of conventions was started by the railroads and hotel people and perpetuated by the aspirin tablet industry. The theory is that a convention is good for whatever line the delegates are in. But nobody has ever returned from one in shape to be any help to the boss for 30 days.

And his back home discomforts are always added to by the discovery he lost his watch, packed a pillow case instead of his pajamas and can't remember the four fellows he had a fight with.

Conventions are a series of lost motions concerning matters that could all be better settled by mail. A delegate spends \$25 a day doing nothing he couldn't do by postcard, except denounce the phone girl. By staying home he could have avoided fallen arches, acidosis, the scrap with the taxicab driver and those foolish words to the manicure girl.

We know men with national reputations for sagacity and solid sense who will travel 1,000 miles, spend a week in a bum hotel, get ptomaine poisoning, pay 40 cents for a soft-boiled egg and consider it all comes under the head of demonstrating routine business acumen.

And we can name gents famed for old-fashioned thrift who come to the big city and pay 25 cents just to get their own hat back.

A convention is a device for bringing to distant points men who think they can only develop bright ideas if their eyes are full of train cinders.

The only thing we can say in favor of a convention is that it gives a fellow a chance to slip on the back and say "Hello, J. D. How's tricks?" to an associate who otherwise refuses to be friendly except by letter.

You listen to 10 speeches, 18 lectures and 100 committee reports but you still go home without finding out why a glass of milk in a hotel should cost a half-dollar.

The Real New York How silly the idea that the spirit of New York is found on Broadway! That is where millions of visitors concentrate, thinking they are seeing the real Gotham. But we took our semi-annual hike along the downtown water front a few days ago and know better. The great docks teeming with life, the countless freighters loading up with vital supplies, the tugs huffing and puffing around the bay, the coast guard ships (of all types and shapes), the sailors, soldiers and seamen from all parts of the world; and over it all an atmosphere of serious energy, hard work and accomplishment that makes the Times Square area look like a mere dizzy zone.

Super Gal A wonder woman surely Is Mrs. Esther Gramps: She really can keep track of Her good and no-good stamps.

Lift the Steins! The navy department has ruled that the fleets may carry beer and ale for the sailors to drink ashore. But red tape being what it sometimes is in the services, we hope the boys don't get ashore with a few cases of beer and find Washington forgot the "openers."

It came as a surprise to this department to learn that not since Josephus Daniels made the navy bone dry 25 years ago has an American warship carried anything but soft stuff. Restoration of beer will do more for naval morale than Leyte.

Summary Hi diddle diddle, The butch in the middle, The cow jumps over the ceiling; The customers just Yell "Sic!oin or bust!" And it all leads to choice double-dealing.

The Barnum-Bailey circus announces that it will have metal circus seats next season. We knew some use was bound to be found for those old razor blades.



## A REAL FARMER HAS 'A WAY OF LIFE'

The late Frank O. Lowden, one-time governor of Illinois, was a business farmer. His measure of success was the cash dividends he could pay on the investments he had in his hundreds of Illinois acres and the buildings and equipment of the farm plant. That measuring stick of cash dividends is also used in measuring the success of the Pullman Car company, the cash dividends it can pay to its stockholders. Frank Lowden was first of all a business-man, and to him farming was a business venture. He was typical of the large farm operators throughout the nation. They, too, farm as a business and count cash dividends as their measure of success.

Not far removed from the Lowden acres in northern Illinois is the modest 160-acre farm of George Wermact. He farms, not as a business, but as a way of life. He farms because he likes the farm way of living. He derives a pleasure from helping to make things grow. He likes the gamble offered by each season's weather conditions, and solving the problems such conditions offer. He likes being his own master, the architect and engineer of his own career. He especially appreciates the insurance his acres provide for himself and family, an insurance of food, shelter and fuel.

He knows there will be potatoes in the cellar bin, meat on the hoof whenever it is needed, milk and butter to be had for the taking, eggs in the henhouse, and trees in the wood lot that will provide fuel. He looks at all of those things, not at cash dividends, as his measure of success. He farms because he likes farming as a way of life.

George Wermact, far more than was Governor Lowden, is the typical American farmer, and may he continue to be all of that as an exponent of an American way of life. He is to agriculture what the small one-man owned and operated plant is to industry.

## MODEL FAMILY FOR AMERICA

If Theodore Roosevelt were still alive he would point to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney J. Bourgoyne of Philadelphia as among the models for America. At the time of the recent celebration of their golden wedding, the family was enumerated as: Mr. and Mrs. Bourgoyne, two daughters, nine sons, two sons-in-law, eight daughters-in-law, 22 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Sidney Bourgoyne is known in the big cities and the small towns from coast-to-coast as the "helpful smile man." He has reason to smile.

## U. S. BUREAUS HAVE MANY DIFFICULT RULES

WHEN I WAS A BOY some of the farmers around the village in which I lived raised sugar cane. They sold their product to a small plant in the village engaged in making cane syrup. Those farmers would probably have stopped raising sugar cane had they had to interpret and comply with present bureaucratic OPA rules in determining the price they were to charge. After several pages of preamble the OPA rule as to price gets down to this: "The producer (the farmer) is therefore entitled to only that part of 4.5 cents which is equal to the portion that the net contents of the case, 312 ounces, bears to 5 gallons, 640 ounces." In the end the farmer is given this problem: "Multiply .4875 by 4.5 (.4875 x 4.5 = 2.19375) and get the sum of 2.1938. I have not yet discovered whether or not that 2.1938 told the farmer what he is to charge, or for how much of his sugar cane. It all represents one of the countless funny rules the bureaucrats make for our guidance.

## AMERICA FURNISHES MANPOWER IN THIS WAR

IN THE FIGHT TO BREAK the Sigfried line in Germany there were in the Allied forces one Canadian, one British, one French and five American armies, including the air borne force. The claim was made by our Allies in World War I that America did not do a full share of the fighting, that we provided funds more than men. In World War II we certainly provided funds, but it is also quite evident that we have provided a full share of battle front man power. America and Russia did the heavy work of the past three years. We will also do the major part in the rehabilitation of Europe.

WE OF THE OLDER generation will remember the terrific national howl we set up over the first "billion dollar congress." We considered such expenditures outrageous. Today the interest charge on the national debt amounts each year to more than seven times the appropriations of that "billion dollar congress," and that is a small item today. Now we would welcome a "ONE billion dollar congress."

THE PROBLEMS OF peace will not be easily solved.

## Bet on the APO

By **MARION TAYLOR**  
McClure Syndicate-WNY Features.

I DON'T know by what stroke of fortune three boys who grew up together in the same little town of Prairie Junction, Iowa, should land in the same flying outfit in the Pacific, but here we are. And one of us has become an ace with more knocked-out enemy planes to his credit than any other Yank in this theater. That's Roger Barnes. But Tom Norris still has the handsomest face and the most devilish eyes and the most broken hearts along his trail of all men on our island. That is, he did until Roger's fame and daring made headlines in most of the American newspapers.

Roge is a big fellow, awkward and shy as a newborn colt. That's why he never even had a girl back in the old home town, I guess. Although I know plenty who would have been glad enough to step out with him, if he'd given them a chance. Especially Polly Meacham. And Roger was plenty fond of Polly, too. But the only time he ever scraped up enough nerve to ask her for a date, she already had one with Tom Norris. And he was too darn bashful ever to ask her again.

For weeks Tom had been bragging about getting the most letters from dames of all the guys in our gang. On the other hand, Roge probably got the least mail of all of us. But after all those high-powered



"Dearest Roge," it said.

write-ups about Roge and his bravery, and his Gary Cooperish face appeared in all the newspapers and magazines, things sure changed.

Of course the fellows in our tent weren't slow to let Tom know that there was one guy in the outfit getting more mail from dames than he was. Tom bet Roge two hundred dollars that, given a month's time, he could still be top man so far as such missives were concerned. Roge took him up, stipulating that everything must be on the up and up or the wager would be off.

I offered to help Roge with his answers, and didn't spare the roses. I described the moonlight and the wide sweep of sand and said how lonely I was, and how I wished they were here beside me, and we signed Roge's name. And the results were good.

But the strangest thing was that letters started pouring in by the bucketful for Tom, too. He let us examine them, and they all seemed to be the McCoy.

The worst of it was that there was a letter to him from Polly Meacham. Beside those she sent poor old Roge, it sizzled and scorched.

Things went on like this for a while, with Tom gradually nosing Roge out.

I dropped a personal note to Polly, telling her about the bet and how Roge really loved her and asking her please to do a little sleuthing about Tom at her end.

Two days before the month ended, Roge sat on his bunk reading a long letter from Polly with smiles chasing themselves all over his face. And, after he had finished, he handed it to me with a wide, bashful grin.

"Dearest Roge," it said. "Yes, I'm going to begin my letter that way because I've been in love with you almost forever, and I think you care a little about me."

"But I have another important thing to take up with you first. The bet you made with Tom Norris."

"About a month ago a letter came from Tom, asking me to marry him. Naturally I was flabbergasted. But men are pretty scarce here, and your notes were pretty stiff and formal, so I wasn't too definite in my refusal. I—well, I thought I'd stall a bit."

"One afternoon at the Red Cross Lucy Beemis came in, her face shining like a Christmas candle. 'Girls,' she shouted, 'I'm engaged to Tom Norris and I want you to be the first to know it.'"

"Like heck you are," glared Gertie Simons. 'He just proposed to me via air mail, and I accepted him.'"

"There were ten girls in that one group Tom had proposed to by A.P.O."

"So, Roge, you really win. You can tell the boys that Tom violated the terms of the agreement by asking more than fifty girls to marry him just to beat the bet on the A.P.O. . . ."

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