1946

Vicky Unpacks Her School Wardrobe

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Vicky, the typical Iowa State coed, with a couple of years of experience tucked under her wide, bright belt, is back with a trunkful of new fashions and a few helpful suggestions to give freshmen women the right start and to keep everyone posted on what’s new in the fashion world.

Stepping off the train as fresh as if out of a bandbox, Vicky gives the impression that her trip was short. Her collarless gabardine suit in brown, simply styled, has a soft tie front. The blouse with jewelry neckline and longer cap sleeves complements her suit. She wears a small brown hat without a veil, avoiding the droop. Her alligator bag matching her spectators, is hung over one arm leaving both hands free to handle baggage or signal a passing taxi.

Slacks or a sloppy, disheveled appearance for travelling are out for the college woman. This same little suit is made to be lived in. With the addition of a striped wool and rayon blended crew-necked blouse it is perfect for Saturday shopping sprees by bus to Des Moines. The hat goes along with ease.

Vicky strongly endorses the casual, relaxed look during the week for classroom wear or week-night dates. For this she has brought to school her favorite skirts and sweaters, plenty of white sox and a new pair of brown and white saddle shoes, rubber-soled, light in weight, with a low heel.

Her shetland sweaters are running close competition with the neater cashmeres now coming in. The leading colors are the pastels plus cherry, blue-green or navy on the darker side. Most of the sweaters are pullovers, a few cardigans. Vicky wears her pullovers tucked into skirts during fall and winter; her cardigans appear in the spring topping blouses or cotton dresses.

The slim, tailored line of the grey flannel kick pleated skirt makes it one of Vicky’s favorites. Another versatile member of her skirt wardrobe is a pastel checked, all-round pleated style, practical because it can be worn with most sweater colors.

Vicky’s unrivaled “dress-up” skirt for dates around campus and football games is her all-round pleated kilt skirt. It is an authentic clan plaid complete with fringe and blanket pin. With this she wears a classic forest green pullover tucked in at the waist.

Football games at Iowa State are strictly casual. Flat-heeled shoes and anklets and if it turns cold even trim wool slacks are in style.

Blue jeans are the accepted trouser fashion for lounging about the dormitory or “roughing it” on weiner roasts. This year Vicky’s jeans fit a little better than the men’s shop variety of the past. She still wears them rolled up to the knee and topped with a white, mannish-style shirt, shirt tails in. A bold plaid flannel shirt is another topper for jeans.

In skirt and sweater outfits as well as jeans the big leather belt, studded or unstudded, is in high style, giving the trim, slim look.

A warm box coat is the starting point for a basic campus wardrobe. Vicky’s choice for first place is a camel’s hair coat, single-breasted, with large pearl buttons. It is her all-season, four-year, campus companion.

Students soon learn to dress weather-proof and water-repellent when the rain pours down, because classes are usually far distant. Vicky’s raincoat, a belted trench coat in tan gabardine, steals the scene, with a natural yellow sou’wester to cover her hair. Rubbers and even an umbrella are indispensable.
Post war college calls for more date dresses and suits. Wool dresses in plain pastels with semi-soft lines are the favorites with dressy black for Sunday afternoon concerts and teas.

For informal dates and exchanges Vicky found a sky blue rabbit's hair and wool dress with a turtle neck. Style interest focuses on self-stitched deep armholes and the soft front fullness. Her sling pumps in black replace the classroom flats.

Another wool dress in bright colors for week-end wear is a dirndl-skirt wool jersey dress combining black with coral. The blouse has a turtle neck with push-up sleeves, the front yoke in the contrasting coral color.

The perennial black crepe dress, slim and draped, with glittering sequins or plain, is essential. Vicky's dress this fall is perfectly plain, and she accentuates it with a simple gold choker and small gold earrings. Worn with best black hat, veil and all, she has found that this is the perfect costume for concerts or dressy occasions.

The male contingent likes the demure, bouffant type of evening dress. Vicky has found that one well-chosen dinner dress, probably black, and two evening dresses for dancing take care of the formal situation.

A black velvet bodice with newsy, gathered-up sleeves tops a full skirt of striped taffeta for one of Vicky's evening dresses. The belt is emphasized with black sequins. Vicky wears her corsage as the flowers grow. She varies the placing of the flowers with her dress, sometimes in her hair, on her wrist or at her waist.

One of the most important things to consider in choosing clothes is not whether they are in the height of fashion or not, but whether they are becoming to the wearer. Any dress, suit or accessory should be selected to enhance the individual's personality. Then style will take care of itself.