

# That's shoe biz

by Harriet Cummins

Pumped up and full of color—mules, wedgies, bear traps, platforms and clogs are what to walk in this spring, according to Lincoln shoe merchants interviewed last week.

Last spring's and fall's styles have been recycled—it's the soles that are new, Loyle Rasmussen, Hovland-Swanson shoe department manager, said.

They've been stacked, platformed, corked, cushioned and raised, he said.

And what's "in" for women, holds for men, according to Mick Kingston, clerk at the Hitchin' Post.

Hitchin' Post men's styles resemble women's styles at Hovland-Swanson, Quentin's Town and Campus, and Baker's Shoe Store—leathers, suedes and burlaps on top; and leather, wood, synthetics and rope-covered bottoms. Leathers and suedes have been stamped and embroidered with designs for new effects.

Mules, shoes with open toes and backs, have been made into clogs too, he said.

Saddle oxfords are back, in brown and navy, with higher heels and thicker soles and the new "bump toe"—a kind of bubbled toe, merchants said.

Many of Quentin's shoes have bump toes. The store sticks to navy, brown and tan mostly, manager Teresa Bramble said. Student prefer their versatility, she said.

Any colored shoes will be bright, she said. Of the traditional dress shoes, she said "manufacturers can't give them away."

"Old" look shoes are popular, she said, although she can't categorize them as a "1940's or 1950's" look.

Sam Arrigo, manager of the Baker's store at Gateway, said red, navy and white are popular colors for spring. Styles will be comfortable and "full of variety", he predicted.

Tans will be fashionable too, he added.

Men's shoe colors will be mostly mute yellows, olives, browns and white, he said.

The "spectator" look will bring in tie shoes and loafers, all with a newer, heavier look, Rasmussen said. Some styles will stick to mute tans and browns, others will be multi-colored or brightly colored with bright cords around the heel and tie pieces, he said.

Wedgies will be less prevalent this spring, merchants agreed, and they'll all be built-up on the bottom.

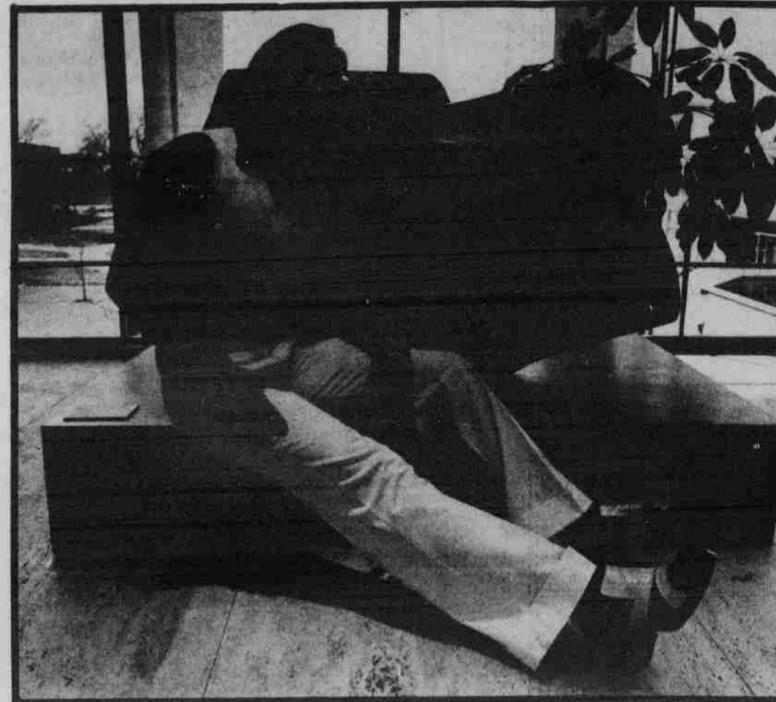
Platform shoes and bear traps, thick-soled sandals with straps around the heel and over the foot, will be on tap for spring, Bramble said.

For casual wear, Adidas sport shoes and Converse All-Stars are "taking over as normal street wear," according to Bob Rosenberger, a clerk at Gerry's Sport and Ski Shop.



Ike Thomas

# Dudes dig into dress-up



Bob Revelle, clothes by Ben Simon's.

by Larry Kubert

All the young dudes are getting duded up for spring.

At least that's what the trend seems to be among young men. Work shirts and blue jeans are being swapped for bright new colors and a more dressier look.

In fact, if one was to go upstairs into the attic and dig through an older brother's trunk (vintage 1950), he probably would discover some fashionable finery.

While the look may be similar to years past, many of the colors and the fabrics are different. There's a big trend to natural colors and fabrics. Gingham is being touted this spring. Although gingham is not really a new fabric, it's new to men's fashions.

One especially popular color this spring is not really a color at all. The "uncolor," white, is being backed up by a pile of pastels, including pink, mint green, cream and yellow.

Bell-bottom pants are still around, but according to Del Coufal, buyer and manager for Ben Simon's chain of Pit shops in Lincoln and Omaha, they're not selling as well as the newer baggies.

Baggies are bigger and better than ever. Now they're pleated, plaided, cuffed and high-waisted, with 24-inch knees and 24-inch bottoms not uncommon. And if

baggies aren't big and boldly plaid, chances are they'll be white, pink or yellow.

According to Coufal, although the baggies are selling like hotcakes, they are diminishing in two areas. Cuffs are getting smaller. Instead of huge, three-inch cuffs of nine months ago, the cuffs are dropping down to two and two-and-a-half inches.

The other diminishing feature has to do with an accessory to the baggie—the belt. Skinny belts are becoming profitable complements to baggies. Widths vary from one-half to three-quarters of an inch at most. They can be smooth leather, studded, cotton or even blue suede.

Coufal said that even the big belts of a year ago are reduced to two-inch widths. What does one wear with baggies? The layered look is still around and going strong. All types of sweaters are prevalent U and V necks lead the way.

Currently Dick Tracy's cartoon strip features a criminal called Button-Hole, who wears a sweater that comes down only to mid-torso, exposing his belly-button. Belly-buttons aren't in style this spring, but the sweater is.

Short sweaters are used for one reason—to accent the short body line and to emphasize the high waist line. The old high school, letter sweater is even

returning.

According to Coufal, a style which will prove popular is the sweater-shirt combination. Sporting a crew-neck, the sweater is then topped with an attached collar, bringing the two-piece look into a single article of clothing.

With spring comes warmer weather, so many sweaters will be short-sleeved, with ribbing on the bottom of the sweater and the ends of the short sleeves.

Unconstructed or unlined clothing has proven to be a successful area of men's fashion. It is dressy-looking and easily coordinated.

The main example of this style is the unlined suit. It is usually made of denim, cotton or corduroy. Blue denim, white and wheat have proven to be some of the most successful colors.

Double-knit shirts or slacks, are still fashionable. But according to Coufal, they are tailored more for the older-young man, 25-30 years old. They look nice, but simply don't take the wear and tear that denim or cotton does.

After a long break, hats are making a reappearance. Not the tiny business-men's hat, but big floppy ones, with wide brims.

The hats are coming out in natural fabrics and colors. Black movies like *Super Fly* have been powerful influences in this revival, as have nostalgic trends.

Fashionable men have broken with the "pretty-boy" stigma of decking out in jewelry. In addition to cufflinks and tie tacks, men are wearing rings, bracelets and neckchains.

One finds "pinky" rings, forefinger rings and even middle-finger rings. Most are large and rugged with simple designs and made from silver or gold.

Major emphasis is on the clasp or fastener on bracelets. The bracelet itself can be almost any metal or style. But the clasp is usually the distinguishing characteristic. Neckchains, worn under the shirt, area new form of neckwear.

Coufal said that one of the most successful fashion items this spring will be another piece of nostalgia,—the baseball suit. Styled after old major-league outfits, the suite is especially good for leisure dress.

Comprised of a short jacket, complete with ribbed gusset around the bottom of the jacket and on the sleeves, baggie pants and usually suspenders, the suit accents high-waisted pants.

If you feel like getting dressed up even a little more, shirts and ties are matching closely. It's important that the texture of the shirt and tie compliment each other, and there should be at least one matching

hue in both the shirt and tie.

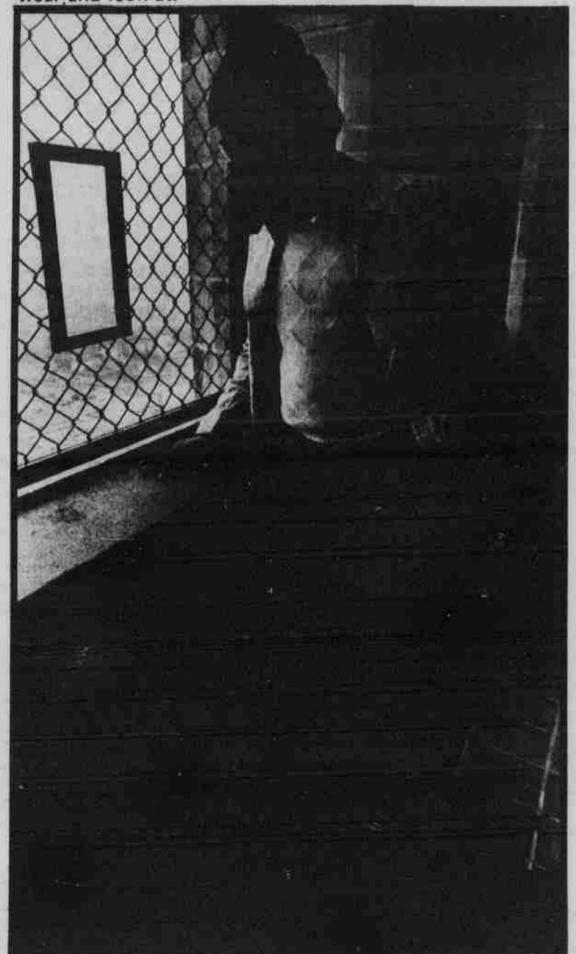
Bow ties are becoming popular, rapidly replacing the conventional tie. Big and bold, the bows are coming in checkered, plaid and polka-dot patterns. The bows are not just for dress-up either; they're perfectly acceptable in leisure situations.

Elongated, button-down collars are making their way back on the sales racks.

Knit and textured suits will be worn by the fashionable man when he's dressed up.

Plaids, stripes and checks are prevalent in the businessmen's suits. Lapels are big, from three and one-quarter to four and one-half inches. Coming more and more with the suits are pleated pants. Also making a triumphant return is the Bleeding Madras sports coat.

So, whatever the young dudes decide to wear this spring, chances are it'll be bright, cheerful and an awful lot of fun to wear and look at.



Ike Thomas, clothes by the Hitchin' Post.