

Dishrags to riches this spring

By Maxine Kubicek

The "back to nature" trend in fabrics may be getting its newest fashion recruits from the kitchen. According to sewing experts, the dishrag is in style this spring.

"Dishrag" is just one of the new textured fabrics gaining in popularity, and Twyla Lidolph, a Lancaster County Extension agent with the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service. Last year's crinkled fabrics are being joined by all types of natural-looking textures, she said.

The natural look prevails in colors and fibers as well as textures. Colors for spring sewing include lots of white with bright accents of red, blue and black. Earthy and neutral tones are always popular, she said.

Cottons and other natural fibers are being used extensively because of their wearing comfort and the shortage of oil products used in the manufacture of synthetics. However, Lidolph said the natural fabrics may require more pressing.

Darrylin Lippincott, Fabric Dept. manager at Miller and Paine, 13 and O streets, said the blending of cotton

with polyester and rayon makes it no more difficult to care for than synthetics, especially if the material has been treated for permanent press. Polyester is much warmer than cotton, she said.

The linen-look fabrics, printed and plaid seersuckers and cotton knits have sold well, she said. Another favorite for summerwear is stretch terry cloth.

Lippincott said she has noticed increased usage of trims such as embroidered ribbons, eyelets and wide lace insertions in home sewing.

Vivian Whipp, manager of Fashion Fabrics, 5635 O St., said fabric consumers like the nubby, visible textures found in seersuckers and plisses. Her store sells out of seersucker prints "almost as fast as they come in," she said.

Dress weight fabrics are selling much better this year, she said, and border prints for dresses and skirts are in demand. Lippincott said she anticipates a dressier look in home sewing.

"Last year, almost everything we sold was for pant outfits," she said. "The crinkled fabric for pants was very popular, but I think there will be fewer pants and more dresses and blouses this year."

Accessories aid fashion wardrobe

By Carla Engstrom

Spring will breeze in with the soft feminine look of tortoise shell hair combs, flower lapel pins and fossilized ivory jewelry.

The seasonal hair combs come in a variety of styles ranging from marble tones to satin roses and tortoise colors, according to Diane Woken, manager of Nina's Boutique, 1205 Q St. The hair comb prices start at \$5.

Feminine things like hand-painted pendants, starting at \$3 will also be popular, Woken said.

Hoop earrings, starting at \$2 and cuff bracelets starting at \$4 should add to spring wardrobes. Accessories include canvas and straw purses with varying trims and clutch bags costing from \$9 to \$18, Woken said.

Belts, costing from \$4 to \$8, are narrower with a classic look woven in them, she said. Some are made from lizard prints, but the colors are mostly bright.

Purses in soft leather, over the shoulder and accessory cases will match spring fashions, according to Doug Farrar, manager of the Wooden Nickel, 144 N. 14 St.

Accessories cases are bigger than an eyeglass case. They have double or triple fold and come mostly in different cloths somewhat like canvas, Farrar said. Purse prices start at \$3.50.

Fossilized ivory jewelry is a product of silver mines in Alaska, Farrar said. Each piece has an ivory-etched design in the stone. From the silver mines rings, bracelets and pendants starting at \$12 brighten up seasonal fashion.

Hair combs, costing from \$1.50 to \$6, come in multi-colors and ivory, he said. The combs give a focus to spring hair styles and accent summer shirts.

Accessories for men mainly include bracelets and pendants of simple chain, ivory and semi-precious stones, said Gale Sup, owner of the Hitchin Post, 144 N. 14 St.

Men's jewelry costs usually start around \$15, he added.

Belts have gone to a smaller width, Sup said. Dressier belts are one and a fourth inch and casual belts are one and a half inch. Colors vary, but styles haven't changed that much from last season. Prices start at \$5.

Suspenders in solids, multi-colors and stripes starting at \$5 will be accents for men's spring fashion, Sup said.

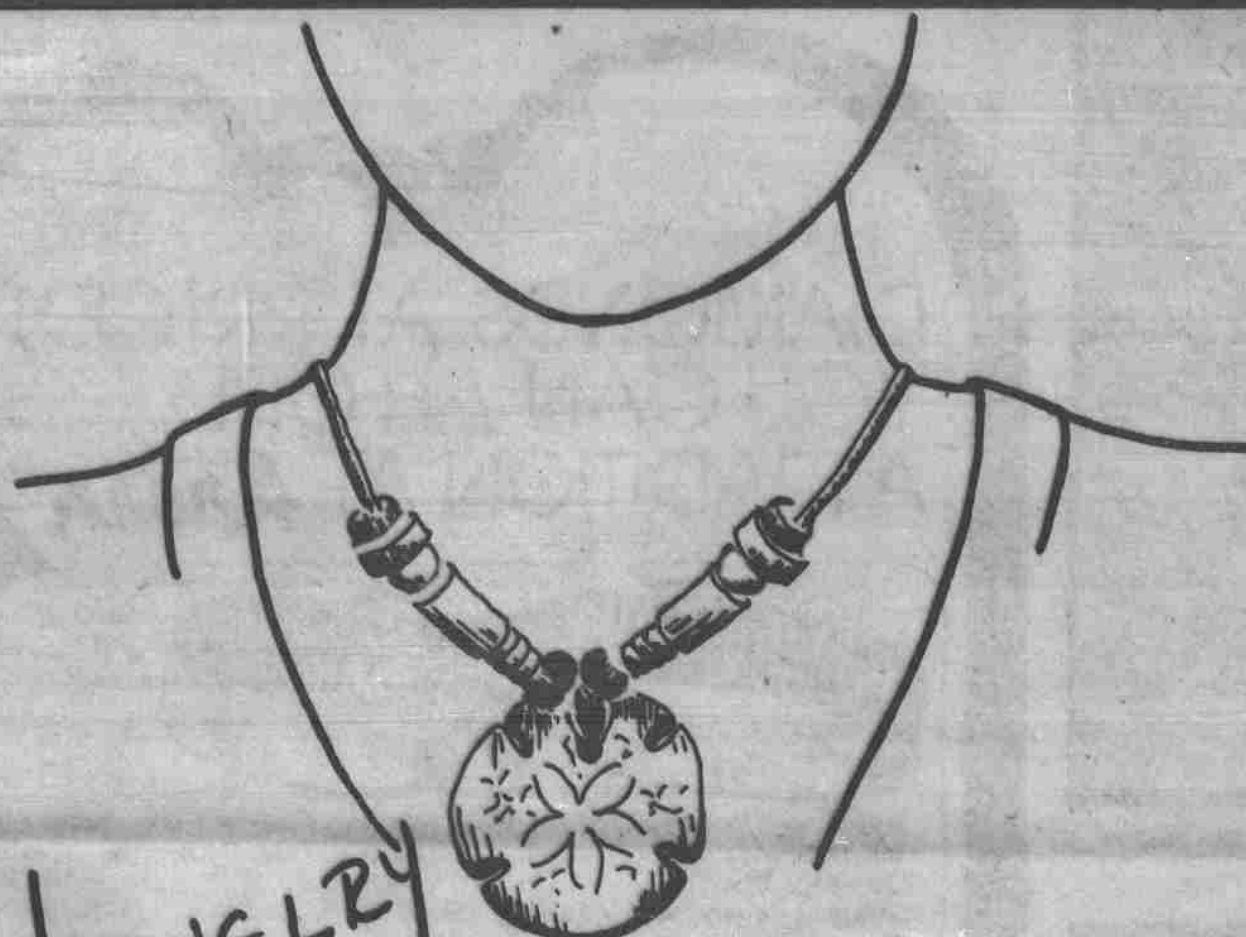
Bright belts for hot days and shorts will be seen this spring, according to Julie Plooster, assistant manager of the Daisy, Gateway 37.

The belts should pick up the color of T-shirts and prices range from \$5 to \$8, Plooster said.

Macramed handbags and canvas purses with leather trim should suit spring wardrobes. They start at \$11 and come in mostly natural tones.

Flower pins starting at \$5 will add a soft feminine look to fashion and pins, costing about \$3, formed in shapes of stars, rainbows or apples are part of spring fashions.

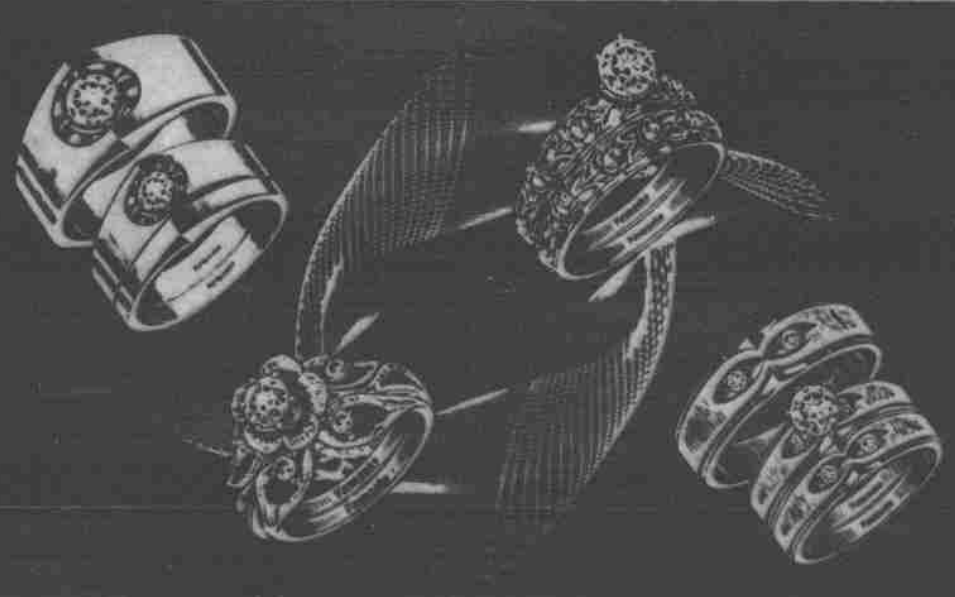
Necklaces are still choker length, but will come in bright colors or silk cords, Plooster said. The necklaces starting at \$4 should add a polishing touch to any outfit.



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