

Trousers Skirt No Novelty in Omaha and Will Be Worn



REAR VIEW

WOMEN reluctant to "be the first" to wear the new trouser gown in Omaha may take heart and bravely venture forth, because if they would they could not be "the first." The original "trouser skirt," at least its most illustrious ancestor, was worn in Omaha more than fifty years ago and worn by the woman for whom it was named, Mrs. Amelia Bloomer.

She bears testimony in her papers, which have been collected and printed in the biography which her husband, the late D. C. Bloomer, wrote of her, that her appearance in the "bloomer costume" was not attended by unfriendly demonstrations—modern hostesses few had a most sad hoodlum take note. She says: "In all my travels I met with nothing disagreeable or unpleasant, but was universally treated with respect and attention by both sexes and people wherever I appeared."

At the time she wore the new costume in Omaha Mrs. Bloomer was a resident of Council Bluffs. Indeed both Mr. and Mrs. Bloomer were among Council Bluffs' most prominent and best loved citizens. They moved to the Iowa town in 1836 from Seneca Falls, N. Y., the town where Mrs. Bloomer had first donned the non-restraining costume, and where she had for several years published the paper, "The Liberator," which won her fame of another, but not more lasting, quality. Mrs. Bloomer, it should be remembered, was one of the pioneers in the "woman movement," and associated with Miss Anthony and Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the early days of their work. Her donning of the new costume has naturally, therefore, been associated in the popular mind with the "woman's right movement."

The first outcry against the woman's petticoat for the right for vote was the scornful remark, "they'll want to wear the trousers and carry the family pocketbook next." When the bloomers were donned this was considered the "first step" toward that not to be desired attainment of women to usurp man's right to bifurcated garments. This association of the "woman's right idea with the short skirt" was one of the reasons the leaders in the movement abandoned the new costume; they did not want to put an obstacle, even "bloomers" in the way of the success of their serious project.

Of course the present day trouser skirt idea is not even remotely connected with that early idea, as it is nobody knows. Because nobody knows where an idea has its roots nor how high and wide its branches may spread. Nobody, for instance, is today ready to say whether women fifty years ago now will be wearing hood skirts or trousers. It is up to us, by the way, more anxious to know which led to the desertion of the "bloomers," forty years or so ago.

The history of Mrs. Bloomer's adoption of the new costume is most interesting, and is best told in her own words, which are taken from her husband's story of her life. In the first place Mrs. Bloomer was not the first to wear the new costume. Indeed, she explains the whole happening:

"In January 1851 an article appeared editorially in the Seneca County Courier, Seneca Falls, N. Y., on 'Fema's Attire,' in which the writer showed up the inconvenience, unhealthfulness and discomfort of a woman's dress and advocated a change to Turkish pantaloons. And in my next issue of 'The Liberator' I noticed him and his proposed style in a half serious, half playful article of some length. The paper discussion of the change in styles continued for some time. Mrs. Bloomer finally replying seriously and endorsing the idea. While the discussion was still in progress a young woman, Miss Elizabeth Smith Miller of Peterboro, N. Y., came to Seneca for a visit and ascended the town by appearing on the streets in short skirts and full Turkish trousers. She was visiting Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her husband was the next to adopt and appear in it. Mrs. Bloomer, then as the advocate of the new mood, as she says, 'practiced what I had preached and donned the new garb.' Later she explains: 'At the outset I had no idea of fully adopting the style, no thought of setting a fashion; no thought that my action would create an excitement throughout the civilized world, and give to the style my name and the credit due Miss Miller. I stood amazed at the force I had unwittingly caused. Some praised, some blamed, some commended and some ridiculed and commended 'Bloomerism' 'Bloomerites,' and 'Bloomers.' Letters came pouring in upon me by hundreds from women all over the country, making inquiries about the dress, and asking for patterns—showing how ready and anxious women were to throw off the burden of long heavy skirts."

For six or eight years Mrs. Bloomer says she wore no other costume but the bloomers, and traveled about lecturing and receiving the courtesies mentioned above; young America was less excitable, at least, if not more courteous than Paris!

During those years when she wore the costume of fame Mrs. Bloomer and her husband came to Council Bluffs, that is in the year 1853. Soon after coming to the "new west" Mrs. Bloomer crossed the Missouri—in a skirt she says—and gave a lecture in Omaha. This lecture aroused much enthusiasm, she reports, and the papers wanted to print her talk, but "as there



GENERAL ASPECT OF THE NEW SKIRT

AMELIA BLOOMER

TROUSERS SKIRT OR "JUPE COULOTTE" ON THE RACE TRACK AT PARIS

was only a weekly paper," and as she wanted to give the lecture again in other places, she did not permit this. There is no comment made upon Omaha's reception of Mrs. Bloomer's costume, so it is reasonable to suppose that Omaha's manner is included in the general statement, "nothing unpleasant."

The reason the pioneer abandoned the costume soon after coming west was "after retiring from public life and coming to the land of strangers, where I was to commence life anew and make new friends, I felt at times like donning long skirts when I went into society, and I did." But she still wore the more comfortable garb about her home. She also testified that "high winds which prevail here create sad havoc with short skirts." The final reason she abandoned the bloomers was the arrival of hood skirts which she found comfortable!

This description Mrs. Bloomer gives of the approved costume: "We would have the skirt reaching down to nearly half way between knee and ankle and not made quite so full as the present fashion. (Mrs. Bloomer was not referring to the present fashion of trouser skirts). Underneath the skirt the trousers, made moderately full, in mild weather coming to the ankle—not in step—and there gathered in with an elastic band. The shoes, or slippers, to fit the occasion. For winter or wet weather the trousers, also full, but coming down into a boot, which rises at least three or four inches above the ankle."

Mrs. Russell Sage, who, when a girl, visited in Seneca Falls and saw Mrs. Bloomer attired in the costume, has been quoted in interview as finding it pleasing to see Mrs. Bloomer was a small woman and attractively in appearance. And yet her husband was not enthusiastic about the "bloomer" clothes. He admitted to later Council Bluffs friends that "the only time I wasn't entirely proud of Amelia was when she first donned the new costume. I didn't quite like the attire at first." "Timidity was somewhat hindered the adoption of the twentieth century 'bloom-

CO-OPERATION IN A KITCHEN

One Year's Experience Shows Benefits of Institution at Carthage, Missouri.

More than a year ago a group of tired housewives in Carthage, Mo., decided there must be some way to lighten the weight of household drudgery. With faith that there was a way if only they could find it, they formed a combination which they called a co-operative kitchen. After a year's trial the kitchen now has thirty enthusiastic patrons, and is housed in better quarters than those in which it was first tried.

The servant problem, because of this scheme, gives those women a minimum of perplexity. Where a dozen servants might have been required for these thirty persons under ordinary circumstances, the kitchen requires only four, and these four, enjoy-

ing each other's company, work better than if they were scattered in separate homes. So there was difficulty No. 1 removed at a single stroke.

With it fled an auxiliary difficulty—the bother of washing and wringing dishes. It wasn't hard to gather opinions on this. Some women don't mind cooking, but few have ever confessed that they enjoy dish-washing. Among household routine duties that is usually considered one of the most irksome. None of this, either, for the Carthage co-operatives.

Of course flight to an ordinary boarding house would escape these housewives, but the boarding house usually has some discomforts and annoyances that are considered almost as bad as the dishes. It isn't possible to pick your company, your menu or perhaps even the sort of flowers you like for table decoration. The whole place, as a rule, is lacking in the individuality and the charm of a home. That, at least,

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This comes from reliable medical authority as being one of the most remarkable prescriptions of recent years as demonstrated in the results shown by its widespread use in hospital work and private practice. It is especially recommended for relief from distress after eating, belching, sour stomach, distension and headache, and if used for sufficient time will eradicate the worst dyspepsia. "Two ounces essence of Pepsin, three ounces syrup of Ginger; one ounce Catuandir compound. Mix and use one to two teaspoonfuls after each meal and at bed-time." Catuandir always comes put in one ounce sealed packages. Any druggist should have it in stock by this time or he will quickly get it from his wholesale house. For best results mix the Pepsin and the Ginger then let stand about an hour before adding the Catuandir. It will be more convenient to get the ingredients from the druggist and mix them at home. Those who have tried this are enthusiastic over its prompt and effective action.—Adv.

was the way the Carthage women judged the situation. Then they set out to improve conditions. First of all they ordered each family to

bring its own characteristic household goods to make the dining room really like home in appearance—the blue and white dishes or the white dishes with the little signs of gold, and the cut glass and the silver and the favorite flowers for centerpieces. Every effort was made to have the tables appear the same as in a home.

Then they turned their attention to the kitchen, applying there the same rule. They demanded genuine home cooking, and to this end commanded that no "warming tables" or other restaurant hotel apparatus be allowed. Everything must come hot from the gas stove. The first cook, as it happened, was a professional. He didn't last long because he couldn't fire his mind of restaurant suggestions. The women discharged him one morning before breakfast and hired a woman cook instead.

Next in importance to these methods was the question of how to improve the system of buying the groceries and the meat. From farmers they arranged to get the freshest of milk and eggs and butter. They sent to Kansas City for meat in the winter-time buying whole pigs and lambs. And grocerymen soon proved to be more considerate.

That all things did not adjust themselves immediately is to be expected. The kitchen started with sixty members and a weekly assessment of \$2. Now there are thirty members and the rate is \$1. Yet this is now "just right," the enthusiastic declare. Every one knows every one else, all is homelike, the rate is just where it should be and the new quarters are the proper dimensions. The whole building—an eight-room brick house—is known as the "kitchen," though there is a reception room and a parlor and servants' quarters to be included in the idea.

"We save on food, we save on servants, we reduce drudgery and we increase contentment," the leaders in the plan say.

She Ought to Know.

"Will you have some fresh mushrooms?" asked the hostess sweetly.

"Yes," faltered the guest, "if you're quite sure they're mushrooms and not toad-stools."

"Oh, I'm quite sure," replied the hostess. "I opened the can myself."

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bring its own characteristic household goods to make the dining room really like home in appearance—the blue and white dishes or the white dishes with the little signs of gold, and the cut glass and the silver and the favorite flowers for centerpieces. Every effort was made to have the tables appear the same as in a home.

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DOCTOR PRESCRIBES CUTICURA REMEDIES

Says: 'I Have Great Faith in Cuticura Remedies Now that I am Convinced of their Wonderful Merits.'

"I wish to let you know of a couple of recent cures which I have made by the use of the Cuticura Remedies. Last August, Mr. [redacted] of this city came to my office, troubled with a severe skin eruption. At first I could not understand the nature of the case until I had made a careful examination. I finally traced it to his occupation as he was a painter and decorator. It was dermatitis (eczema) and I started with a slight eruption on his face, neck, chest, back and abdomen—and would not improve in any of the usual ways. The doctor was advised to use Cuticura. I was doubtful at first, but I would not bear his skin apart, trying to get into the pores, so I used the various treatments I could think of and he spent about three dollars on prescriptions but made no improvement in his skin.

"In the meantime my wife who was continually suffering with a slight skin trouble on her face and neck, used Cuticura. I had prescribed Cuticura and medicine with my assistance, told her to use Cuticura and she used it. The doctor was advised to use Cuticura. I was doubtful at first, but I would not bear her skin apart, trying to get into the pores, so I used the various treatments I could think of and he spent about three dollars on prescriptions but made no improvement in her skin.

"I had no time in recommending the Cuticura Remedies to Mr. [redacted], and this was two months ago. I told him to wash with warm water of the Cuticura Soap and to apply the Cuticura Ointment generously. Before long he was very much relieved and he was completely cured through their use. I have great faith in the Cuticura Remedies and shall always have a good word to say for them. I can therefore say that their wonderful merits." (Signed) R. L. Whitehead, M. D., 118 North 14th St., Boston, Mass., July 10, 1910.

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