Provident Auxiliary's dance was free-spirited style show

The invitations to the fourth annual dinner dance of the Provident Hospital Auxiliary read "Black Tie" and the male guests adhered, but for the ladies it was probably the most free-spirited display of fashion to be seen in Baltimore this winter.

There were absolutely no unbreakable rules as skirts of all lengths, pant dresses of every description, great, full ball gowns and skinny little gowns that displayed much of the wearer were in evidence. There here no right and wrong lengths, no out and in colors — everything was in.

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Elegant Marfin's West was the scene for this lavish after-the holiday-season affair and, as everyone knows by now, its 700-person capacity had been sold out weeks before the dance. Bobby Felder's Orchestra of Washington, D.C. provided music for the occasion through cooperation of the Community Services Division of the F and M Schaefer Brewing Company of New York.

Heading the list of out-of-towner who came from Hagerstown, New Jersey, Philadelphia, New York, Virginia and Washington, was Miss Gloria Thomas, public relations representative of the F and M Schaefer Brewing Company. Miss Thomas wore an understated mini dress of deepest midnight velvet with plunging decolltage and long fitted sleeves.

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Black was evident in the selection of Mrs. Beatrice Avery, president of the Auxiliary, who chose a brief dress of peau de soie, banded from neckline to hem in gold; Mrs. Shirley Quillen was in black satin tunic and skinny pants, the mandarin collar and fly front of the tunic outlined in gleaming rhinestones.

Black and white were put together by Mrs. Pinnie Ross, advisor to the dance committee, in a startling formal jump suit, alternating rows of black and white traced in a princess-lined bodice, unfolding to voluminous harem type pants.

Fresh and delightful was the look of Mrs. Ruth Love in an original created for her by Addie, haute couturier of Flair Studio. Her's was an emerald peau de soie, the long coat dress divided at the front to reveal the mini-est of shirts underneath. Long narrow sleeves and a deep pie cut neck marked by emerald brilliants completed the look.

Another of Miss Addie's creations, won by Mrs. Joyce Agero, was a long, narrow great coat-dress in deep cedar velveteen, the gentle waistline marked by a huge self bow — this also was divided to show satin beige-brick pants underneath.

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The co-chairmen of the dance, Mrs. Ceil Banton and Mrs. Gloria Basfield, were each statements in tantalizing beauty. Mrs. Banton's floor-length gown of puffed silver blue brocade started with atrai n at the back and unexpectedly opened at the front, revealing a length of leg. The empire bodice was outlined with a narrow sparkling braid.

Mrs. Basfield's traditional ball gown of puffy turquoise and silver brocade with its huge bell sleeves became quite untraditional with it neckline cut low and curvy which continued downward, cutting a swath that revealed—companion narrow pants underneath.

Mrs. Betty Brown was scandalously beautiful in softest, mauve, pink brocade, the bodice young and plunging, the new narrow sleeves stopping halfway between shoulder and elbow, the skirt voluminous and very little-girl.

The parade of pants suits also featured Mrs. Maggie Walkins in a mint green brocade, tunic top circled by a chain belt and wide, champagne trousers and Mrs. Rosa Clanton in red velveteen tunic, narrow pants, narrow, brilliant banded neck.

Not to be outdone were the freshly cut short dresses which truned into something fabulous in kicky black satin worn by Miss Joyce Weaver, the gold shirtwaist selected by Mrs. Mary Clayburn, the ribbed silver worn by Mrs. Louise Tildon; and the A line skimmer of silver worn by Mrs. Madeleine Rice.

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Varying shades of green were beautiful on Mrs. Josephine Short in a mint green, Mrs. Vivian Scott in a vivid green of satin marked by a scattered pattern of brilliants and Mrs. Muriel Cousin in aqua chiffon. Almost alone in lavendar was Mrs. Ruth Tibbs, the new Director of Volunteers at the hospital, in yardds of chiffon; deeply bared at the throat.

Wherever one turned, there was fashion; it was obvious that this was a super-special evening for all the guests. The brilliant evening meant fun, relaxation and, most of all, another step forard the realization of competion of payment of the $25,000 pledge the Auxiliary has made for a Physical Therapy Unit in the New Provident Hospital.

The dance committee was composed of Mrs. Pinnie Ross, advisor; Mrs. Ceil Banton and Mrs. Gloria Basfield, co-chairmen; Mrs. Joyce Agero, Mrs. Christine Ward, Miss Dorothy Wiggins, Miss Marjorie Joiner, Mrs. Shirley Quillen; Mrs. Rosa Clanton;

Also Mrs. Gertrude Smith, Mrs. Josephine Short, Mrs. Gilda Williams, Mrs. Florence Dixon, Mrs. Beatrice Avery, president of the Auxiliary and Mrs. Willie Bland, vice president and program director.

15 year old girl missing since Jan. 25

Miss Myrene McGee, grandmother of Miss Sherry Bettina Banks, 15, reported to the AFRO this week that the Woodlawn Jr. High School senior has been missing since 7 p.m. on Jan. 25.

"She was last seen in Harley's Sandwich Shop on Route 40 in Ingleside where she worked part-time on week-ends," the grandmother said.

She was wearing a blue Harley uniform, a white leopard coat and blue and white shoes.

Before she disappeared, the teenager lived for about a year at 1027 Cummings Ave. with the grandmother.

Her home is in Detroit, Mich. where her mother, Mrs. Emily Woodson, resides.

Miss McGee said the girl's other grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bates of the 2300 block Fayette St.

MISS SHERRY B. BANKS
Missing since Jan. 25

Miss Hardaway wed to Jerry Johnson

Saint Mark's United Methodist Church was the setting, Saturday evening, for the wedding ceremony for Miss Cornelius Jean Hardway and Jerry Joseph Johnson.

MR. AND MRS. JERRY JOSEPH JOHNSON were married in Saint Mark's United Methodist Church, Saturday evening. The bride is the former Miss Cornelius Jean Hardaway.

The candle-light ceremony at six was performed by the Rev. Frank J. Wanek, who used the double-ring ritual.

The parents of the bride, Mr. and Mrs. Jordan G. Hardaway, had celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary on January 15 at a dinner party in their home on Pimlico Road. At this affair, Mr. Hardaway gave his wife a diamond ring and new wedding band.

As a sentimental gesture, Miss Hardaway and Mr. Johnson used her parents' original wedding ring.

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Given in marriage by her father, Miss Hardaway was attended by her sister, Miss Linda Hardaway. Gregory Tyler was best man for Mr. Johnson.

A reception followed in the parents' home on Pimlicomo Road.

The new Mrs. Johnson is a graduate of Morgan State College and a teacher at Barclay Elementary School.

• • •

Mr. Johnson is the son Mrs. Dorothy Hampton of this city. He is a Marine and a Vietnam veteran. Currently he is employed by Bethlehem Steel Company.

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TALENTED Mrs. Helen Mercer Cothorn, shown at her piano. In insets, closeup of Mrs. Cothorn and her husband, John. (AFRO Photos By Benjamin Phillips)

THE FEMININE FACADE:

Mrs. Helen Cothorn is music-centered

By BEA WRIGHT

Layers and layers of talent abound beneath familiar faces —like that of Mrs. Helen Mercer Cothorn.

Helen is a genial member of a well known, creative Baltimore family.

To friends, her natural unassuming serenity has not entirely obscured appraisal of her unique abilities. There are some surprises, a few coaxed from a store of plusses about her.

Writings unearth much about people.

These excerpts from a business letter, addressed to her several years ago, are priceless examples:

"Dear Helen:

At last I have recorded your very beautiful tune, "Why Doubt My Love," and believe me it's one of the most beautiful tunes I've had any dealings with since I've been in the music game — and everybody is in love with it already.

"The big man down at the Victor Record Co. said it's the Last word — and that coming from him — Good Gawd — that's great!

So Helen I won't talk you to death, just wanted to let you know that I've never forgotten your song for one minute — and you wrote it.

"It just wasn't the time. That's the way I go about all good songs that I love. I keep "Sleepy Time Down South," "That's My Home," etc. in my music files for years 'n yars' (years to you) but finally when the time came — good recordings were made — and made to stay, savy?

God Bless Ya.

Redbeans and ricely,
"So thanks for a lovely tune,
Louis Armstrong" (signed)

None but the inimitable "Satchmo" (with stationery so engraved) could have penned a business letter with such a mundane air!

• • •

Helen, now Mrs. John Cothorn, was at that time a very youthful, aspiring musician, fresh from classes of the Juilliard and Martainn-Smith Schools of Music.

More writings in relation to her earlier songwriting:

E. B. Rea, late and beloved AFRO Theatrical Editor, columned this from a lengthy interview with Mr. Armstrong at the close of the forties:

"One of Armstrong's featured numbers is "Why Doubt My Love?" which was written and set to music by Miss Helen Mercer, a Baltimore music teacher. It was arranged by Don Redman and recorded by Armstrong for Victor.

"While playing Baltimore's Royal Theatre Satchmo Pierce, Louisiana valet, who was stopping at the Mercer home, heard her playing the piece and told Armstrong. He invited her to bring it down and let him hear it.

"On hearing the first bars I was sold," Louis said."

A Songwriter's Contract between International Music, Inc., and Helen Mercer — Louis Armstrong was legally finalized. This letter from the Associated Booking Corp. followed the transaction:

"Dear Miss Mercer:

"Your letter received and it is a pleasure to advise you that Louis Armstrong recorded your song at the Victor Co.

"I assure you as soon as the song is released you will receive the proper royalties when the statements come in so of course I am sure you realize that this takes about six to eight months after the record is released.

"Assuring you it was a pleasure to cooperate with you and with kindest regards from Louis and myself, best wishes,

Joe Glaser" (signed)

But what happeged to that tune of a few years ago? It was a natural with that haunting quality destined to linger!

Armstrong and Victor Recording Co. severed relations and the record was one of several unreleased.

The Radio Corporation of America (Victor Record Div.) has not, in more recent correspondence, entirely closed the door on its publication. We may yet hear, "Why Doubt My Love?"!

Today, Mrs. Cothorn, now at home after maintaining a position with the Federal Government for a number of years, is still music-centered, coupled with other endeavors.

At leisure, she shares her piano talent instructionally with some of the young fry of Baltimore.

"These youngsters are displaying genuine musical prowess," says Helen. To hear them is proof that they are quite unusual!

• • •

Paramount in her world, which orbits about her lovely landscaped Chelsea Road home, is her husband, John Cothorn, dynamic principal of Cherry Hill Junior High School.

Together they have created a well balanced setting with those extra "authentically original" touches you don't quite expect. There are ever-changing and exciting art pieces, reflecting the season or a special occasion. These are her special creations.

The Cothorns do a happy, harmonious job of combining their skills, which are numerous in the artistic sense, to wed each room together to make a warm and wonderful scene.

For Helen, all talents are not hidden, there are too many vital and visible signs of her success.

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In case after case, the sufferer first notices relief from painful discomfort. Then swelling of hemorrhoid tissues is gently reduced. Tests conducted on hundreds of patients in New York City, Washington, D.C., and at a Midwest Medical Center substantiated this to be true.

The medication used by doctors in these tests was *Preparation H*—the same exclusive formula you can buy at any drug counter without a prescription. Preparation H also lubricates the affected area to protect the inflamed, irritated surface and so helps make bowel movements more comfortable.

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RONA JOCELYN HOPKINS, right, will celebrate her first birthday, Sunday, at a party given by her aunt, Mrs. Thomas Morgan, with whom she is shown above. Rona is the dauhter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hopkins who are also parents of a two-month-old daughter.

Bluefield State Alumni meet

The Bluefield State College Alumni Association in the Baltimore Area held its first meeting of the year in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Moss of West Forest Park Avenue.

Programs and goals for the year were projected, with President James L. Bundy, presiding.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee will be headed by Mr. Moss, and the Social Committee by Mrs. Lena Woods.

• • •

Following the business session the group was pleasantly surprised by the host and hostess with a buffet supper.

The following are affiliated Alumni in the Baltimore Area

Mesdames Carolyn Boston, Mary Irvine, Odessa Koeller, Margaret S. Johnson, Anna T. Paxton, Lena Woods; Margaret Jordan; J Bowie State College; Mentora E. Thompson, secretary-treasurer, and Miss Florence Long.

John M. Belcher, James L. Bundy, president; John Cunningham, Dubois Johnson, Alonzo P. Moss, Melvin Smith, Lloyd Russell, Andrew Jordan (Bowie State College) and Le Roy Thompson, Sr.

Cherry Hill meeting

The Cherry Hill Co-ordinating Council will hold its regular meeting Monday, Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. at the Community Building, 2520 Spelman Rd. The public is invited.

On Feb. 12, School No. 180, a five-week course opens in first-aid and what the mid-wives did before we had doctors in the country.

Free transportation is available. Time is 7:30-9:30.

This course is under the Baltimore City Fire Department. Fireman David A. Echols, Community Relations.

John B. DeHoff, M.D., MPH, Director of Local Health Services will discuss proposed health center in Cherry Hill.

Mrs. Juanita M. Merritt, social worker, will answer questions on Medicare and related issues.

Senator Harry McQuirk will discuss scholarship and the new library.

John Hargrove of the Gas and Electric Co. William G. Wetherall, Inc. The Charles S. Dell Co. and others will discuss employment.

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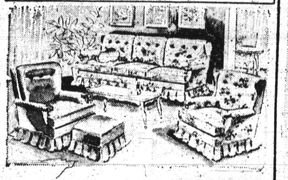

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