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Speece, Jane, "EC70-467 Let's Buy...A Coat for Women and Girls" (1970). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 4006.

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Let's
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A COAT

FOR WOMEN & GIRLS



Extension Service, University of Nebraska College
of Agriculture Cooperating with the U. S. Department
of Agriculture and the College of Home Economics
E. F. Frolik, Dean J. L. Adams, Director

Let's Buy... **A COAT**

FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

by Jane Speece
Extension Specialist (Clothing)

A coat is usually the most expensive garment in a woman's wardrobe. A well-chosen coat will be worn with satisfaction for many years. A poorly-chosen coat will end up hanging idly in the closet or will soon be discarded.

The wise shopper plans before she shops. She bases her selection upon both her needs and her desires.

Begin Your Shopping at Home

- Take time to list clothing in your wardrobe, noting colors of garments and accessories for each.
- Consider the occasions and garments with which the new coat will be worn.
- Consider activities in which you participate and how your friends and your community dress.
- Decide if the coat is to be for dress, for spring or winter, or for a number of purposes.
- Ask yourself what styles and colors are most becoming to you. Figure how much your clothing budget will allow for your price range.
- Look at newspaper ads and fashion magazines and "window shop" before you set out on your shopping expedition. See what styles are being offered, what's coming in for the new season, and how prices range. Take into account that ultra-fashionable coats may possibly be worn only a short time; the more classic styles may be worn for many years.
- A coat intended for daily wear should probably be of a conservative cut and a classic style. The color may be bright, but keep in mind that people tire of bright colors more quickly than of subdued colors.
- A coat intended primarily for dress may be of a simple yet distinctive style and vary in textures. You may prefer to look for a coat with high-style features at a lower price and buy a coat more often.

It's Time to Go to the Store

Your pre-planning efforts have given you a definite idea of possible colors, styles, kind of coat and the price range. Now you can concentrate on getting your money's worth as you shop. Once you have found a coat you like, check these points as you try it on:

Does It Fit?

- The lower hem edge hangs evenly all the way around and is about 1 1/2 inches longer than the length of the skirts that I wear.
- The collar fits closely around my neck and lies flat across my back.
- The shoulder line is straight from my neck to the highest point of the sleeve.
- There are no wrinkles across the back or underarm area.
- Sleeves hang straight from my shoulder and end at the wristbone when my arm is bent.
- Buttons intended to be waistline buttons are at my waistline.
- When the arms are moved in all directions, the coat feels roomy across the shoulders with no binding.

Good Workmanship?

Outside of Coat

- All pieces are cut on the straight grain of the fabric or on a true bias.
- Seams and hems are generous, even in width and lie flat.
- Buttonholes, whether bound or machine-made, are straight, firm and well-made.
- Buttons are firmly fastened and fit smoothly as they slide through the buttonhole.
- All plaids or patterned weaves are matched at center front and back, below the dart at the side seams and at the center back of the collar. Pockets are positioned evenly and match each other as well as the plaids.

Interfacings

- Lapels and collars spring immediately back to shape when crushed in the hand.

Collars and lapels stand up or roll as they are supposed to through built-in interfacing shape.

Front interfacing does not pull or cause the coat to sag down the front area.

Linings

Linings are smooth enough to slide on and off easily. Seams are generous with stitching that is firm but not puckered.

Linings are closely woven for durability.

Seams fall in line with coat seams and are tacked securely to the coat at the seams with a chain tack.

Lining has back pleat that adds comfort for the wearer and eases strain on the lining.

Interlinings

Interlinings are usually needed for warmth in a winter coat worn in a cold climate. They are either applied to a lining or hang separately as a layer of cotton or wool between the lining and the garment. Zip-in linings in all-weather coats are an important warmth and versatility feature.

What Do Tags and Labels Tell?

Information labels or tags should tell what fibers are used in the outer fabric and about any special finishes used. Manufacturers are required by the Wool Products Labeling Act to label fiber content as "wool", "reprocessed wool" or "reused wool" and give the percentage of each kind used. If other fibers are blended with the wool, the percentage of each fiber must also be printed on the tag.

The Textile Fiber Products Identification Act requires that fiber content and percentage of each fiber used, by order of importance, be listed on the label or tag. The country of origin of imported fabrics and some identification of the manufacturer are also included. Linings, interfacings and other construction materials are not always identified. Therefore, their long-wearing qualities or washability cannot always be assumed to correspond to the outside fabric of the coat.

More and more manufacturers are sewing care labels permanently into garments. In this technological age, a care label or an extra tag with care instructions becomes increasingly more important.