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FANCIES FOR Spring

Sally Victor's luscious red cherries lend an air of sophistication to her straw calot

Do you like a change? Lilly Daché's white violets can be worn on your hat or your shoulder

BY RUTH CARSON

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Spring

FOR the first time in a fashion age, hats fit on your head instead of perching. No more doll hats, precarious on the northeast corner. No more top-heavy creations, balanced up yonder. Hats fit right down on your head, and stay there.

That makes them comfortable. The only other rule of the season is becomingness. Do you look your best in a bonnet or a beret? In a bowler or a sailor? These, and plenty more, are the fashion. Hats appear in all the simple, standard shapes. They come small, medium or big, to be in scale with you.

But it's the materials and the trimmings that really make you hat-happy. Not since before the war have you seen such variety and such beauty.

For any occasion, here's a natural straw that's good from your first entrance to your last exit. (Above)

Above: Back interest again in Sally Victor's candy stripes and white violets combined in a rolled-brim confection for spring.

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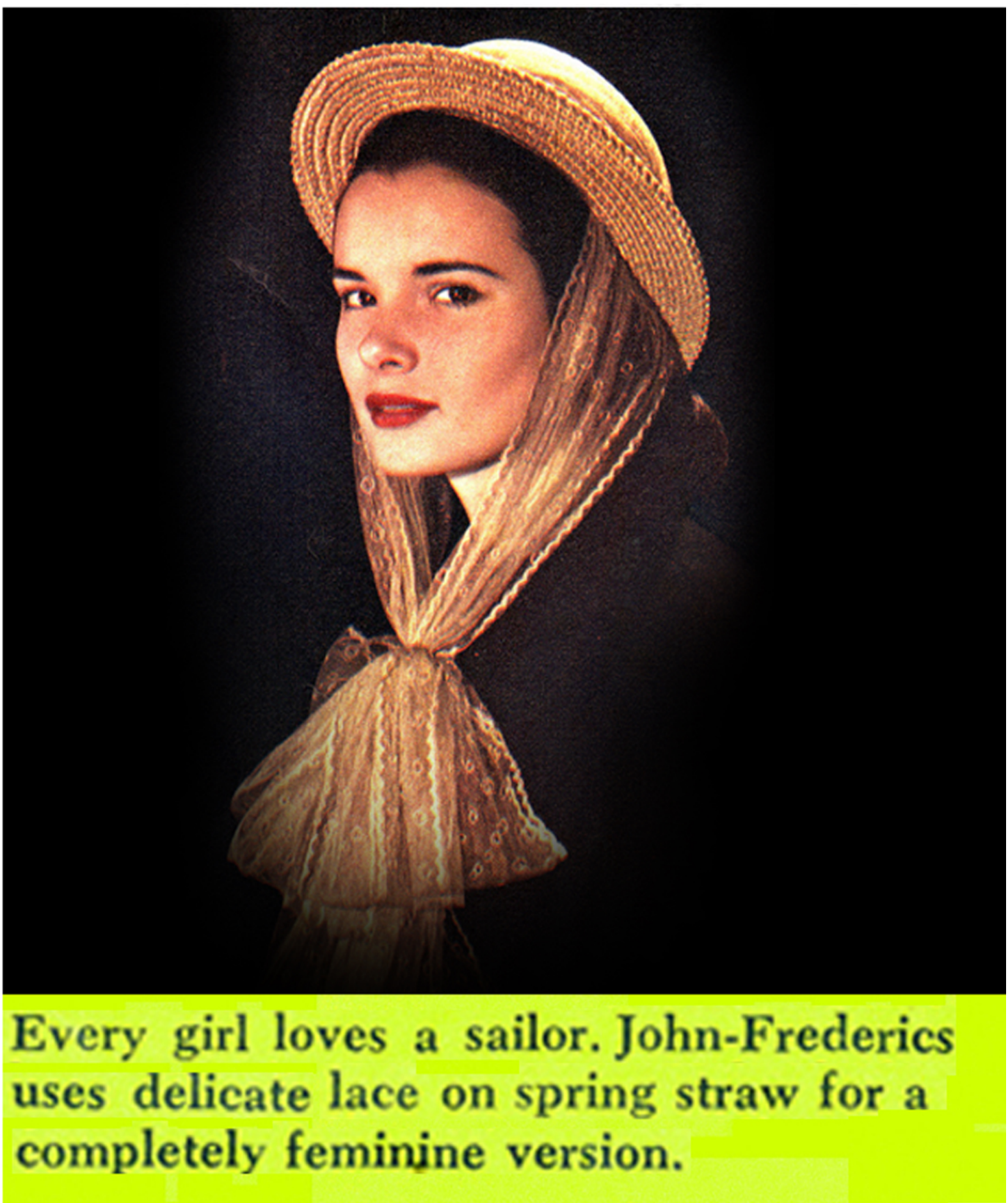
There are lacy, transparent straws. Beautiful rough straws and smooth ones, too. Plenty of fabrics and felts. There are lovely flowers, many of them handmade in France, all of them inspired by this exquisite handwork. There are rich imported ribbons, delicate veilings, feathers—such a lot of beautiful fixings. No wonder the milliners stuck to simple hats, the better to show them off. Take a beautiful straw in a becoming shape. All it needs is a dramatic swathe of veiling to make you a hat the boys will remember.

The new hats not only play up your entrances. They give a fillip to your exits, too, making that long-neglected rear view a part of the pretty picture. (Remember the elastics and the ribbon loops, making a mess of your hair?) Now hats follow the line of your head in back. And many of them add a cascade of flowers, a swoop of chiffon, or a big saucy bow.



Every girl loves a sailor. John-Frederics uses delicate lace on spring straw for a completely feminine version.

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Here's another trick of the new hats worth encouraging, since it can give you three head fixings for one. Pick the kind of hat that, with maybe a little applied ingenuity, can have its trimming removable. You can wear the hat with. The hat without. And later tuck the trimming in your hair; or, if it's veiling, swathe your hair with it on a breezy, gala evening.

Pick a new hat, anyway, that suits you. If the men turn to admire, you've picked it right. If they turn to laugh, it's your own doing. You had every choice. ★★★

Do you like a big brim? John-Frederics helps to flatter you with veiling and rhinestones on rough straw

Or if an Easter bonnet really means bonnet to you, you'll see a new gray bonnet with a red rose on it by the same designer.