



Mr. Donal F. Collins, General Chairman, on behalf of the Bishop Moynihan Fund for the Retarded Children of Kerry (Chicago Branch) presenting a cheque, value 8,250 dollars, to his Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Moynihan, Bishop of Kerry, at the Cathedral, Killarney. Also in picture are (left to right): Mr. Luke Mulvaney, Chicago; Mrs. Marie Breen, Committee, Chicago; Mrs. D. F. Collins, Rev. Fr. E. Murphy, Chicago, a native of Myrtleville, Cork; Rev. Mother Fatima, St. Mary of the Angels, Whitefield, Beaufort (who later received the money from his Lordship), and Mary Kay Knightley, Committee Chicago Branch. Earlier Mr. and Mrs. Collins attended Mass in the Cathedral to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of their wedding anniversary. The Bishop was amongst the fifty guests at the ceremony. (Photo: MacMonagle, Killarney)

Beaufort Home for Handicapped Children

THE Minister for Health told Deputy J. O'Leary in the Dail that his Department recently received an application from the Reverend Mother of St. Mary of the Angels, Whitefield, Beaufort, seeking recognition of the Home as an approved institution for the care of mentally handicapped children.

"I have arranged for medical and architectural officers of my Department to visit the Home at an early date, and when this inspection is completed I will give the matter full and sympathetic consideration," the Minister added.

BEAUFORT, KILLARNEY

Application is being made to the Planning Authority of the Kerry County Council for permission to build single storey addition to the New Home for Mentally Handicapped Children at St. Mary of the Angels, Beaufort, Killarney, for Reverend Mother General, of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood, Our Lady of the Angels, Beaufort, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

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Miss Fiorenza Viani-Nolan who presented the Matt O'Donohue fashion show in the Mount Brandon Hotel on Wednesday.

Striking tribute to Kerry Couturier paid at glittering Tralee Show

Tralee Show

Text: Eamon Horan
Pictures: Dick Healy

It was a night of glamour and glitter in the Mount Brandon Hotel, Tralee, on Wednesday night. The occasion was the presentation of his Autumn and Winter Collection 1969 by Castleisland-born couturier Matt O'Donohue. A crowd of 700 came to see the collection, and at the conclusion of the show they demonstrated their unqualified approval by according the Dublin fashion designer a wonderful ovation.

It was a striking tribute to this Kerryman in his early thirties whose first show in his native county this was. And with five of Ireland's top models to show the different ensembles the occasion was all the more memorable.

But if fashion was the high-

light of the night the occasion was equally significant in that the proceeds were in aid of the Home for Mentally Handicapped Children in Beaufort. It was a tribute in itself from the women-folk of Kerry to Mother Fatima and her community on the unselfish work they are doing in the care of handicapped children.

It was also a night to remember for Miss Fiorenza Viani-Nolan, daughter of Mr. Dan Nolan, Managing Director of The Kerryman Ltd., who opened the show. Fiorenza had previously won the hearts of her Tralee audience when she sang at the Rose of Tralee Ball in September. On Wednesday night she proved that she is equally adept in saying it with words as she is with music.

From the moment the proceedings were opened by Fiorenza the show moved briskly, with colour and pace keeping the interest at concert-pitch throughout. The presence of the inimitable Mr. Charles Ward Mills as compere helped immeasurably to make the occasion the undoubted success it was.

Mr. Ward Mills' succinct commentary perfectly complemented the visual elegance which was unfolded before a most generous and attentive audience. The compere was not without a sense of humour either. During the latter part of the show when Adrienne Ring was showing a brown and gold lace evening gown a lady in the audience coughed and Mr. Ward Mills promptly added his benediction: "God bless you," to the amusement of his listeners.

HAPPY DAYS

Miss Nolan said the greatest gift, apart from the Grace of God, that a child could enjoy was mental and physical health. In most of us the memory of childhood was of long happy days as we romped and played in and out of doors and went to bed pleasantly tired and conditioned for long and refreshing sleep. Our childhood days were joyous and we accepted them, unthinkingly, as our right and heritage.

"We did not know then—as adults we cannot be excused for not knowing now—that there are children who could not come out to play as we did, who spend their day in bed, in wheel chairs, who have always to be nursed, escorted and cared for, to have no existence outside the homes into which they were born, whose minds or bodies, or both, did not develop as other children's did."

Continuing Miss Nolan said that as adults we know that these children are handicapped. She said there were men and women in her audience, fathers and mothers, who have had the painful experience of rearing a handicapped child and of knowing that though they surrounded the child with loving care and parental devotion they were unable to cope with the problems he or she created in a household where there were other children.

"Handicapped children need skilled nursing, dedicated care and training," said Miss Nolan. "It is the kind of treatment that can best be given by men and women who make it their vocation. In the peace and quiet of St. Mary of the Angels, in one of the most beautiful parts of our beautiful county, the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood erected, staffed and equipped a Home and special training centre for handicapped children."

OVERCROWDED

"Opened in May, 1968, St. Mary of the Angels is catering for more than its quota of young patients; it is, to put it bluntly, becoming overcrowded, a state of things that cannot be tolerated. With applications for places becoming more numerous and insistent, extension is the only solution. A new wing is to be added at a cost of £35,000, in addition to new works at a cost of £37,000, which are nearing completion."

"The Sisters, led by the indefatigable Mother Fatima, are shouldering a big responsibility in caring for handicapped children in Kerry. It is our privilege to come to their aid and share the burden as far as we can with them. Let us do it in the very best spirit of generosity and good-will knowing that what is done for My least brethren is done for Me," she said.

When she had finished Miss

the waist down to show white insertion. This was worn with a hat of yellow and white with black trimming.

The most unusual outfit was a black chiffon evening gown cut to above the knee in front, worn with a pretty black beaded cap. Towards the end of the evening there was a brown and gold lace evening gown falling diagonally, with one shoulder bare, also a cream chiffon evening gown with a brown and gold evening coat—eye catching on the grandest occasion.

The bridal outfits, especially the bride's veil, were a fitting end to an enthralling evening.

D.T.

Nolan was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Miss Emer Slattery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paddy Slattery of Tralee.

In introducing the show Mr. Ward Mills paid tribute to Matt O'Donohue whom he described as one of Ireland's leading fashion couturiers. The models showing the clothes were Adrienne Ring, Grace O'Shaughnessy, Pamela Geddis, Bridgdi Hayes and Allison Harrison.

The first part of the show was devoted to cocktail and evening wear "a symphony of black and white" as Charles Ward Mills termed it. After a brief interval there was a display of furs by David Vard Ltd., of Grafton St., Dublin. Then there was an extended interval during which tickets were raffled. The second half of the show concluded with a bridal tableaux. Afterwards the bride was presented with a bouquet by Miss Catherine O'Brien, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom O'Brien who are attached to the Society for Mentally Handicapped Children in Kerry.

SUCCESSFUL

At the conclusion of the show Mr. Charles Ward Mills thanked Matt O'Donohue for inviting him to compere the show and having again paid tribute to him asked for a special round of applause. Mr. Ward Mills also paid tribute to Mrs. Norman Metcalfe, wife of the well-known Radio Eireann musician, whose assistance as fashion co-ordinator helped make the show the success it was.

Matt O'Donohue was delighted with the reception he got at the Mount Brandon Hotel. "I never expected anything like this," he said after it was over. Following on the heels of his tremendously successful show with the same collections in the Gresham Hotel on Monday night the Kerry-born couturier was being congratulated on all sides on Wednesday night.

Matt's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Matt O'Donohue of Castleisland, were present at the showing. Also there to join in the success was Matt's brother, Michael, who played football for Castleisland as well as with his club Castleisland. Michael is teaching in Castleisland. Matt has one sister, Mrs. C. T. Books, living in London.

Matt went to Castleisland national school and later to the local Technical School. He received a scholarship which allowed him study horticulture at Johnstown Castle, County Wexford, and at the Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin, Dublin. But after receiving his diploma, Matt decided against horticulture and then began his association with the world of fashion.

He began his training in the Grafton Academy in Dublin in 1962 and later moved to London for a spell. He has been in business at 35 Wicklow St., Dublin for the past three years. He has a staff of three in his Dublin workrooms and here the designing, pattern-making and cutting is done. This is Matt's second year doing shows. Last year he also had a very successful show in Dublin's Jury Hotel in aid of the Central Remedial Clinic.

Matt's wife Ann, who is a native of Monaghan, was at Wednesday night's show. The O'Donohues have four sons, aged 7, 4½, 2½ and six months respectively.

RETURN VISIT

Now Matt and his wife are spending a few quiet days holidaying in Kerry during which they hope to take in a visit to the film village of Killybeg in West Kerry.

For leading model Adrienne Ring Wednesday night's appearance was in the nature of a return visit to the town where she spent four happy years as a young schoolgirl. Her father, the late Det. Sergt. J. Ring served in Tralee at one time.

"I am thrilled to bits to be back in Tralee," said a delighted Adrienne whose only regret was that the briefness of her whirlwind visit would not allow her time to visit some of the places she knew so well in her school-going days in Tralee. Adrienne, a native of Carlow, was a pupil at the Mercy Convent in Moyderwell.

Mr. Harry Vard of David Vard Ltd., Grafton St., was paying his second such visit to Tralee. He recalled how his late father, David, had nominated two winners of the Kingdom Coursing Cup in bygone years.

Background music during the show was played by Mr. Bobby Rusk on the organ. The Spinners ballad group also entertained during one of the intervals.

Fashion Show in Tralee on Tuesday

SUNBEAM LTD. have accepted the invitation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to mount a Fashion Show in the Mount Brandon Hotel, Tralee, on Tuesday, October 14, at 8 p.m. It will be a wonderful and enjoyable opportunity of seeing this autumn season's fashions as well as aiding a most deserving charity.

Models Loretta and Doreen, Madeline and Lisa, all from the Norma Griffin Agency, Cork, will be taking part, with the very popular Mrs. Norma Crosbie as compere. Autumn fashions from the Sunbeam Collection styled by young French designer Michel Gilet will be featured and there will also be a glimpse at what is to come in the Spring and Summer of 1970.

Admission to the Fashion Show, during which there will be a raffle for a large number of interesting prizes, is 5/-.



Models for evening wear as shown by Adrienne. In apple green, the skirt open to the waist, showing pants in white French lace with green trimmings.

How had wearable clothes in swinging colours

If this Fashion Show had been in aid of such a worthy cause it would still have attracted a wonderful attendance that Wednesday night. It was a pleasure to see beautiful material to such effective use by Matt O'Donohue.

Lingering impression is of the clothes in swinging colours deftly presented by five of Ireland's top models, Grace, Pamela, Allison, and Adrienne, and compere by Charles Ward Mills.

GLAMOUR

Fiorenza Viani-Nolan opened the Show with a charming dress. Miss Nolan told me how much she admired Mr. O'Donohue's work and how she had fallen for a black dress with chiffon sleeves, and with ostrich feathers. Grace showed it later, the model loved it too.

had a neat turban in the same material as the dress.

Black and white were certain winners for cocktail and evening wear. A gasp of admiration greeted the white cocktail dress with a frilled lace cape falling diagonally from the left shoulder. The pleated white lace, full length evening gown had a dream-like quality.

COLOUR

A lace cape or full length coat is a must for evening wear and one of the loveliest was a white moire evening coat with black trimming worn over white trousers and black lace top.

David Vard Ltd. of 8 Grafton Street, Dublin, showed fabulous furs with the accent on the horizontal; in some coats this was seen in the seaming of the skins and in others by the insertion of bands of contrasting colour and texture as in the black dyed musquash with leopard insertions. Mink was shown at its best in quality and styling. No price was mentioned, which was probably just as well!

The black Persian lamb double breasted coat, when reversed, was a black leather coat with Persian lamb trimming and deserved all the applause it got for style and workmanship. The Persian broad-suede belt and gilt fastening and swinging skirt is worth mentioning, also the beautifully cut stoles and jackets. There was a Canadian squirrel coat swing style which looked simple and smart.

The second half opened with a beautiful grey and white striped suit with a white top and dashing hat. The most outstanding use of trousers for evening wear was a green dress cut to the waist in front to show white lace pants with green trim. Another show-stopper was a black wool coat worn over a yellow dress, the front and back panels open from