

EXPOSITION

ROSEMARY TRENT

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445 ST. PAUL STREET EAST IN OLD MONTREAL

Bonssecours Centre

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1966

Montreal Star

Careful Planning Needed For That Southern Holiday

This is the time of year when most of us dream about sunny holidays in the south. Each year sees more and more of these dreams come true.

Gone is the day when one can dream of going to the West Indies or Acapulco one day and make reservations the next. This winter it is essential to make plans well ahead both for plane tickets and hotels.

Many of the most popular southern resorts are completely booked for the favorite winter weeks and even plans for Easter should be made now.

Although new hotels are still being built on many of the West Indian islands most of them are full by the time they are finished. Last winter when I visited the Mexican West Indian island of Cozumel the hotels there were literally moving guests into rooms so new that the plaster was still damp and the phones hadn't been hooked up. As the plasterers moved out of the door, beds were moved in and guests immediately followed. The rooms were occupied before phones and air conditioning could be hooked up and before such furniture as bureaus, desks and bedsides, tables was installed. Many guests with confirmed reservations were kept waiting hours for their rooms because the builders were a bit behind schedule.

In such a case the happiest guest is the one who has chosen the right travel clothes. Which means something more suitable for the south than the north while a warm winter coat is necessary for take-off it can cover a warm winter mer suit or dress that will be right for landing. Don't bother with a hat. In the West Indies head scarves are worn everywhere and the only type of millinery seen is gay, crazy beach hats which are purchased during the holiday.

Flat comfortable shoes should be worn for travel. The kind you can wear without stockings for shopping during the holiday. Most women will find they need only one pair of stockings. They will wear them for travelling down and reluctantly may put them back on for the plane trip home. Otherwise legs will be bare and, hopefully, increasingly tanned. A pedicure is a happy pre-holiday beauty treatment.

A resort wardrobe should be colorful, cool and simple. There is something about tropic sunshine which demands color and lots of it. Hot pinks, bright greens, brilliant yellows and blues can be mixed together and the result is wonderfully right. One exception to this rule for bright color is Mexico City, which is not a southern resort city at all but a big sophisticated metropolis. In Mexico City the little black dress is the mark of chic.

The West Indies, despite the cooling winds. Anyone choosing resort clothes should be prepared. The coolest thing to wear is shorts for shopping as well as shorts for shopping.

Loyola