



## It's What's Up Front That Counts

BY VERA MILLER

**A**T A luncheon recently, one of the women mentioned that her children are so devoted to their dog, Skipper, that every morning before they (the children) go to school, they brush the dog's teeth! If this is necessary to teach children the habits set out in **THE CARE AND PREVENTION OF CRIES** then I'm all for it.

*Now, don't misunderstand me . . . I love animals. Each time we buy a can of ant spray I set in between the larger items on the check-out counters to hide it for fear some animal lover will take offense at the heartless thought behind the purchase. But things sure have changed!*

### INVISIBLE SHIELD

**HOWEVER**, not only does Skipper have an invisible shield to start his day but he has attained a social status. "Skipper," Eleanor told us, "has been invited to a Dog Party"! With **HIS** name on the invitation . . . with his address on the envelope . . . and sent through the mail *noch*. The next thing Skipper can expect is to be one of a select few invited to participate in a Canine Cotillion. That'll probably be a few years, though.

*The Cotillion is the newest wrinkle in the Sweet Sixteen racket. Many a parent has been faced with financial disaster during the sweet sixteen season buying daughter a new outfit for each event.*

**INVITATIONS** have been attached to bank withdrawal slips. You feel the need of explanation—the bank should be aware of the reason for constant withdrawals otherwise they might blame the public relations department for not hitting the nail on the head in their savings promotion. As a matter of fact, some bank might even push Sweet Sixteen Savings along with college, old age, etc., etc.

*Cotillions are the groups of 16 year olds of one school class or club group who pool their parents and promote one party to display the fact they are now ready for the social gyrations of the adult world.*

**PARENTS** are coerced to take courses in charm to learn what to say and how to say it and which hand is used to shake another peniless parent's hand. Florida cha cha's are rehearsed, dad has to lose weight to fit the cummerbund to the waist line and Mom has to make costly experimental trips to the beauty shop until the 'debutant' approves of the style as befitting.

*This then explains the number of exotically coiffured P.T.A. members who appear at a meeting as if they just got in from night-*

*clubbing in time to hit the time-clock and make the P.T.A. meetings. Bubbles, Bee-hives and Grecian styles just look g-r-e-a-t with moccasins.*

**HOTEL PARTY** planners have now accepted this new money-making social function along with Bar Mitzvahs, Weddings and Earning Fund Luncheons.

*The night of the great event, mother will be wise to carry a clutch bag with plenty of tissues for the tears that will inevitably flow when flowers do not match dresses or last minute tinted shoes are one hue off. About the rest of the family . . . they stay home. Cotillions are for the deb, her parents and a Date. And of course, when Dad shells out for the clothes, the beauty shops, getting the car in shape, ("After All, Dad . . . we'll ALL be wearing new clothes!") (except Dad who'll rent or borrow) he discovers that the cotillion must be held at a prestige hotel and more costly than the biggest weddings ever held, in his day, at Zweig's or Café Royale.*

**REACHING 16** is no longer the first visit to the sanctum sanctorum of Spetner's; nor does promise of a first date hold allure; nor does it mean the first high heels; nor does it mean a girly gathering of 16 year olds "oh-ing and ah-ing" over little sugar cubes wrapped with pink ribbons. That era of sophistication is passé.

*So maybe the day is not far off when Skipper will participate in a Canine Cotillion and add prestige to his family's status.*