



Trudy Sondrol Wasson and the 1955 Singer Junior Dressmaking Contest

At the start of her senior year in high school, Trudy entered the 1955 Singer Junior Dressmaking Contest. She was the winner in the senior division in both the local and regional contests, and her dress was entered in the national contest.

Singer Sewing Company for several years sponsored various sewing contests, including the Singer Junior Dressmaking Contests. Trudy Sondrol Wasson entered the 1955 contest at the start of her senior year in high school.

In order to enter the 1955 contest, Trudy had to enroll in the Junior Dressmaking Course at a Singer Sewing Center by August 20, where she would receive eight 2 ½ hour lessons from Singer instructors. Her dress had to be completed by September 3.



Trudy's senior year in high school

NOW'S THE TIME FOR GIRLS TO ENTER SINGER JUNIOR DRESSMAKING CONTESTS!

*Your girls can compete in their own age groups
while they learn to sew this summer!*

Many of your girls may have no summer plans as yet, and will welcome this opportunity to learn to sew.

This year, for the first time, SINGER is sponsoring two sewing contests: a Senior Contest for girls 14-17 and a Junior Contest for girls 10-13! Two sets of prizes will be awarded for winning dresses!

To be eligible, girls must enroll in the Junior Dressmaking Course at a SINGER SEWING CENTER by August 20. Dresses must be completed by September 3.

For just \$8 they receive eight 2½ hour personalized lessons from expert SINGER instructors. Classes are filling fast, so tell your girls to enter *today!*



Over 3500 Prizes Worth Over
\$85,000

SENIOR CONTEST PRIZES <small>(girls 14-17)</small>	JUNIOR CONTEST PRIZES <small>(girls 10-13)</small>
<p>GRAND PRIZE \$1000</p> <p>2nd PRIZE \$ 750 cash award or 3rd PRIZE \$ 600 scholarship fund</p> <p>4th PRIZE \$ 500</p>	<p>GRAND PRIZE \$500</p> <p>2nd PRIZE \$400 cash award or 3rd PRIZE \$300 scholarship fund</p> <p>4th PRIZE \$250</p>

PLUS a 3-day trip to New York City for the 4 top winners in each contest and their mothers!



66 SINGER® Slant-Needle® Portables with new Automatic Zigzagger. 1st prize for Senior and Junior regional winners.



66 SINGER FEATHERWEIGHT® Portables with new Automatic Zigzagger. 2nd prize for Sr. & Jr. regional winners.



Over 3500 De Luxe SINGER® Scissors Sets for local winners, Senior & Junior Contests.

PLUS 33 \$300 one-year scholarships for regional winners in Senior Contest who enter or are attending accredited colleges and major in home economics!

NOTE: Families of employees of the SINGER organization and its advertising agencies are not eligible for contest.

FULL DETAILS AND ENTRY BLANKS



AT ALL SINGER SEWING CENTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
SINGER SEWING MACHINE COMPANY

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Singer advertises the 1955 Singer Junior Dressmaking Contests, introducing senior and junior divisions for the first time that year. Trudy entered the contest in the senior division.

For her dress, Trudy started with the McCall's pattern 3119.

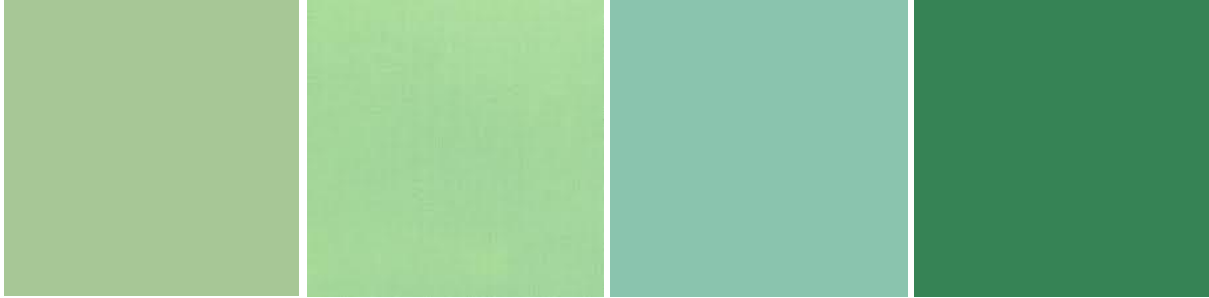


McCall's pattern 3119

Her dress was described as a princess-styled semi-formal, made of disciplined cotton in Nile green. She added machine-embroidered rosebuds to outline the scoop neckline, and repeated these on the flared skirt.



Trudy models her dress.

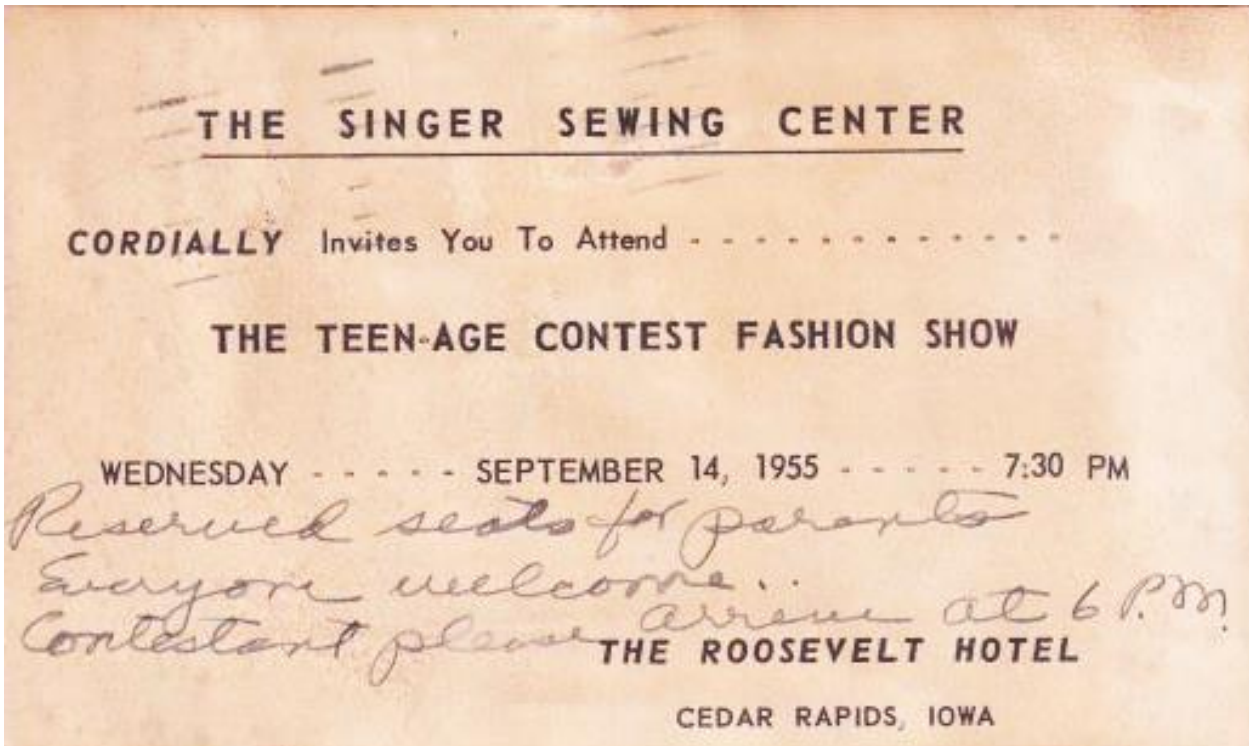


There no color photos of the dress. There is some disagreement about what color Nile green is, although the shade on the left does seem to be the most common one by this name.



A closer look at the machine-embroidered roses

The local Singer Junior Dressmaking Contest fashion show was held at the Roosevelt Hotel in downtown Cedar Rapids on September 14, 1955.



The fashion show invitation included reserved seats for Trudy's parents, Iver and Evelyn Sondrol.

Trudy came in first place in the senior division in the local contest. Her dress was then sent on to compete in the regional contest in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Trudy's winning of the local Singer Junior Dressmaking Contest senior division is reported in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, September 15, 1955.

Trudy competed with 53 girls from Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin in the Singer Junior Dressmaking Contest's senior division at the regional contest held in Milwaukee in the fall of 1955. Trudy once again came in first place in the senior division.

Regional Prize Won by T. Sondrol



Trudy Sondrol won the first prize in the regional Singer Dressmaking course in the senior division. Her dress was judged in competition with 53 girls from Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

Her garment has now been sent to New York to compete with 33 others for the grand prize of \$1000.00 and an expense paid trip to New York. Trudy recently won first honors in the senior division of the Cedar Rapids contest and from there her dress was sent to Milwaukee.

Trudy's dress is a princess-styled semi-formal, made of disciplined cotton in Nile green. Machine-embroidered rosebuds outline the scoop neckline, and the embroidered design is repeated on the flared skirt.

Trudy received a telegram from the Singer Sewing Machine Company which stated, "Congratulations... Your wonderful new slant needle portable Singer Sewing Machine is waiting for you at our Cedar Rapids shop."

P. H. S.

Trudy Sondrol Is Winner of Junior Dressmaking Title

Miss Trudy Sondrol, a senior at Franklin high school, was announced as the winner of the regional junior dressmaking contest, sponsored by the Singer Sewing Machine Company, which was held in Milwaukee.

Miss Sondrol, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Iver Sondrol, 2056 Eastern boulevard SE, was judged the winner in competition with 53 girls from the three-state area of Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin.

As a prize she was awarded a portable sewing machine and her dress will now be sent to New York to compete in the national contest with winners of the various regional contests.

Her dress, a princess-styled semi-formal, was made of disciplined cotton in Nile green. Machine-embroidered rosebuds outlined the scoop neckline and the embroidery design was repeated on the flared skirt.

Miss Sondrol was the winner in the senior division of the recent Cedar Rapids contest.

The four top winners in the national contest will receive expense-paid trips to New York, where the first-place winner in the senior division will be awarded \$1,000 and the winner in the junior division will receive \$500.

News coverage of Trudy's winning the regional contest in Milwaukee, Cedar Rapids Gazette, October 2, 1955

As the winner of the regional contest, Trudy won a \$300 college scholarship. Trudy also received a telegram from the Singer Sewing Company which stated, "Congratulations...Your wonderful new slant needle portable Singer Sewing Machine is waiting for you at your Cedar Rapids shop."



Certificate awarding Trudy a \$300 college scholarship after she won the regional Singer Junior Dressmaking Contest held in October 1955.



As a regional winner, Trudy also won a 1955 Singer Slant Needle Portable Sewing Machine like the one pictured here.

Trudy's winning dress was then sent to New York to compete as one of 33 regional winners for a grand prize of \$1000, and an expense paid 3-day trip to New York for the Top 4 finishers in each division and their mothers. However, Trudy's dress did not place in the Top 4 nationally.

Here they are! Winners of the 1955 **SINGER** Sewing Contests!



Meet the national winners of the 1955 SINGER Junior Dressmaking Contest! Each girl is wearing her winning dress—the one she made learning to sew in a SINGER Teen-age Dressmaking Course!

In addition to cash awards and SINGER Portables, these girls and their mothers won a 3-day trip to New York City, where final judging climaxed a gala fashion show!

Altogether, nearly 60,000 girls in the U.S. and Canada competed. More than 3,000 shared in some \$85,000 worth of prizes, including 33 \$300 scholarships and 132 beautiful SINGER* Portable Sewing Machines!

Dresses were judged on coordination of fabric and design, as well as construction, workmanship and finishing.

Your girls can take the very same SINGER Dressmaking Course—with the same fine

results! Why not tell them to enroll today—or sign up in advance for the '56 Contest starting May 14!

1st prize—Senior SALLY MOFFETT, 17, of New Rochelle, N.Y. won \$1,000 cash and a \$300 scholarship. Her stunning plaid wool is trimmed with velvet-covered buttons and a matching bow.

1st prize—Junior NANCY ANN ARCHIE, 12, of Houston, Texas used 2 cotton fabrics to make this charming green dress with an apron effect. Girl Scout Nancy was awarded \$300.

2nd prize—Senior BRENDA ANN CASH, 16, of Montebello, Cal. won \$750 plus a \$300 scholarship. Brenda made this pretty cotton and orlon dress as well as its sweater trim for just \$6.25!

2nd prize—Junior BETTYE KAY EASLEY, 12, of Natchitoches, La. designed her very own pattern! Bettye, who is an active member of

the 4-H Club, won \$400 for this lovely print dress.

3rd prize—Senior KRISTEN BERG, 16, of Glen Ellyn, Ill. combined 2 patterns to make this plain and printed blue cotton dress with its reversible jacket. Kristen won \$600 and a \$300 scholarship.

3rd prize—Junior PEGGIE BIKAKIS, 12, of San Francisco, Cal. won \$300—her dress cost only \$7.13! The red corded trim on her dress and bolero picks up the color of the bolero's lining.

4th prize—Senior MARILYN LOWELL, 17, of Seattle, Wash. designed the skirt of this turquoise cotton dress with a corded loop effect at the neck. Her prize was \$500 and a \$300 scholarship.

4th prize—Junior KATHLEEN MAE HARRIS, 13, of Vancouver, Wash. was awarded \$250. This pretty pink Shantung chambray dress cost Kathleen an amazing \$5.25 to make!

SINGER SEWING CENTERS

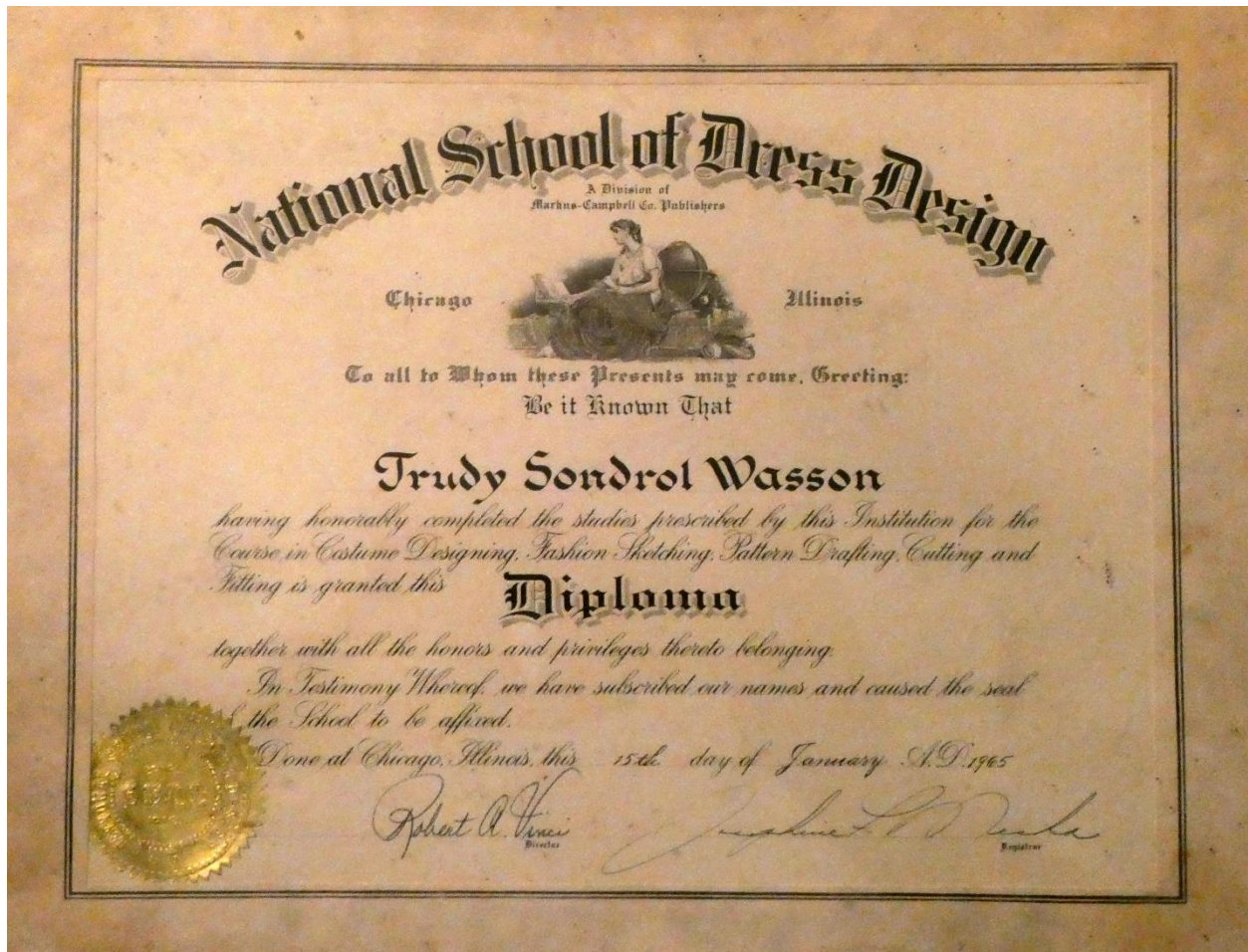
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NATIONAL 4-H NEWS, February 1956

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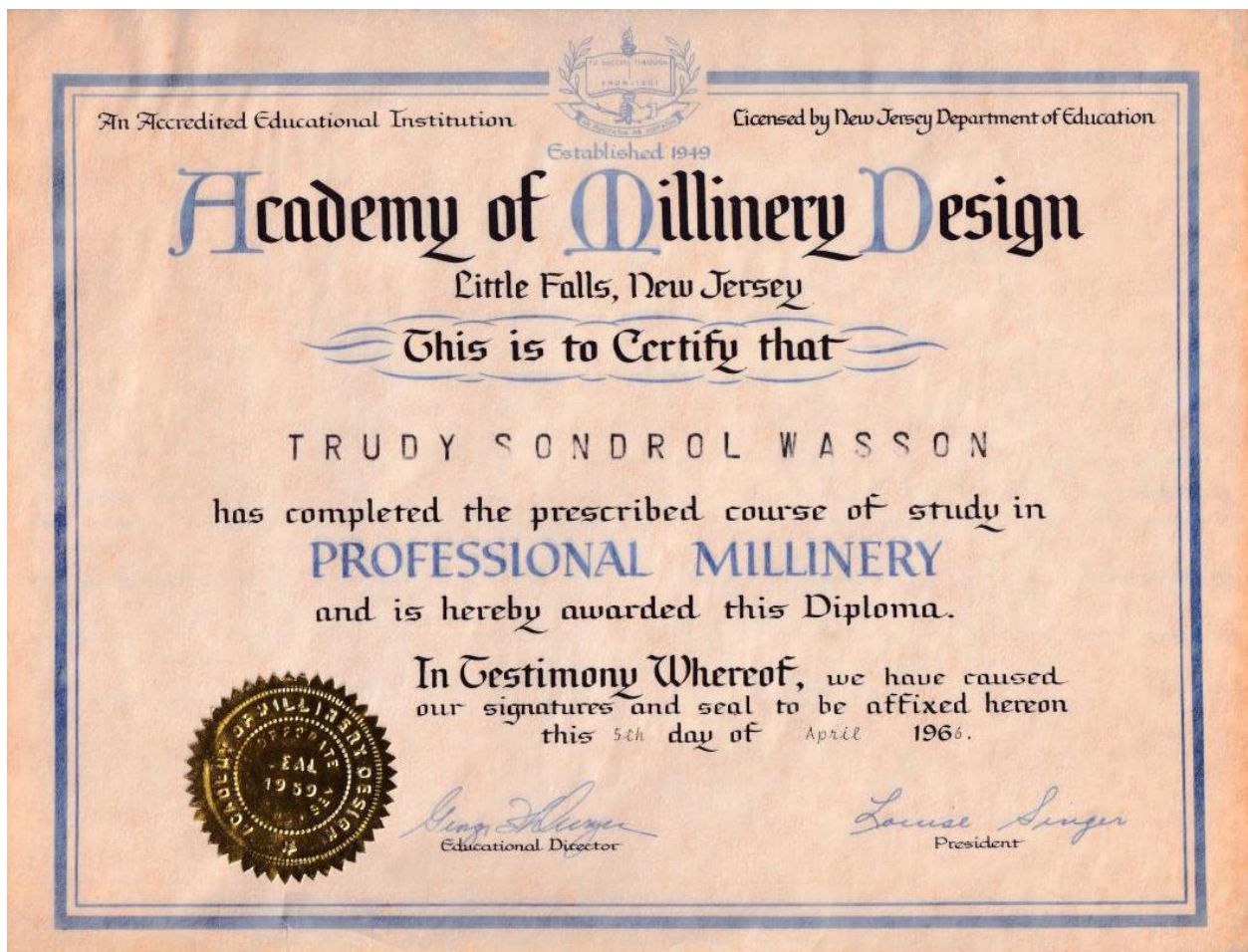
The top 4 finishers in both the junior and senior divisions of the 1955 national Singer Junior Dressmaking Competition

Trudy continued with her sewing as an adult, working for several years as a professional dressmaker and seamstress. She received a diploma from the National School of Dress Design in 1965.



Trudy's National School of Dress Design diploma

In 1966, Trudy was awarded a certificate from the Academy of Millinery Design after she completed a course in Professional Millinery.



Trudy's course completion certificate from the Academy of Millinery Design

After moving with her family to Wheaton, Illinois in 1970, Trudy's professional sewing career was tied to a local needlepoint and craft shop, where Trudy primarily did the finishing work for its customers' various needlepoint projects.

After moving to Oelwein, Iowa in 1976, Trudy's professional sewing career came to an end as she focused more on rosemaking. She continued to sew for herself and her family. She later began quilting, entering a business partnership with her daughter Julie and becoming a prize-winning quilter.

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
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