

Monthly Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild
Vol 11 #2 February 2004

I am a costumer, but I can change, if I have to, I guess.
-Paraphrased from Red Green

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Please e-mail or mail contact updates to the editor.

Calendar

*Indicates an event organized by SWCG. Unless otherwise noted, SWCG meetings begin at 1:00 PM.

February 7 through March 28, 2004 (Saturdays, Sundays and Presidents' Day Monday) 10-6 - **Arizona Renaissance Festival & Artisan Marketplace**. Big Renfaire on Hwy 60 just east of Gold Canyon in Pinal County, Arizona. www.royalfaires.com

February 11-16, 2004 - **Estrella War**. The Society for Creative Anachronism's annual camping and combat event at Estrella Mountain Park in Goodyear, Arizona. The event also features arts and sciences classes and competitions. Look for your beloved editor's "MoiRandall's" booth on Merchants' Row. Go to www.estrellawar.org for more information.

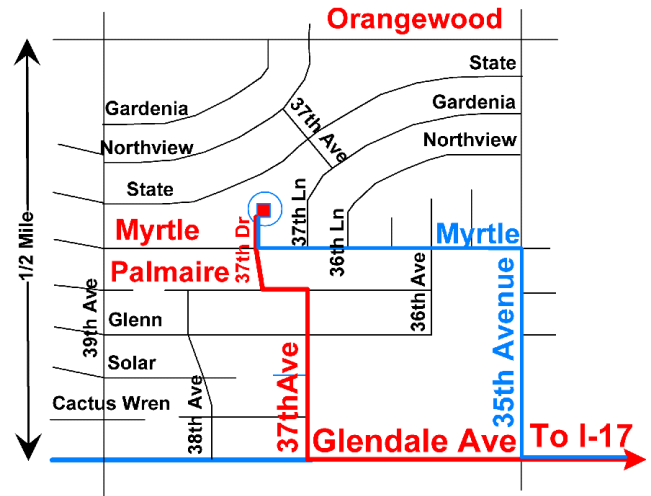
February 12 & 13, 2004 - **History on the Mall** at the Arizona State Capitol Building. Tour of the capitol, table displays & live demos by history societies & reenactors.

February 14, 2004 - **Tour of Historic Florence**. Antique & Collectible Sale, Quilt Show, Exhibits, Food, Shopping Tour Tix: Adults \$10, call (800) 437-9433 for information.

February 28-29, 2004 - **Matsuri Festival** at Heritage Square (115 North Sixth Street) in Phoenix, Arizona. Annual celebration of Japanese culture. Free admission. Edouard picked up an awesome kimono at last year's festival.

February 28-29, 2004 - **Arizona Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering** at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Arizona. Piping, games, lotsa kilts. www.arizonascots.com

February 29, 2004 - **Leap Into Leap Year*** SWCG meeting at Stephanie's place. Annual calendar planning.



Map to Stephanie & Craig's Place
7213 North 37th Drive, Phoenix
"Knock Until Dogs Bark"

March 13-14, 2004 - **Battle of Picacho Peak** Annual civil war reenactment at Picacho State Park, Arizona at I-10, Exit 219. The battles of Glorieta Pass and Val Verde will also be reenacted along with demos of war camp life. Event starts at 10 AM. www.azstateparks.com

March 18-21, 2004 – **National Festival of the West** at Westworld in Scottsdale, Arizona. Annual festival features western music jamboree, western trade show, western film festival, cowboy spirit award, cowboy poetry, celebrity appearances. Adults \$12, Seniors \$6, Kids \$4. www.festivalofthewest.com/

April 2-5, 2004 – **CostumeCon 22** at the Holiday Inn Select Decatur, 130 Claremont Ave., Decatur, GA. “If you've never met a sequin you didn't love, if you spend the entire movie either critiquing the costumes or trying to figure out how to make them, if the clerks at the fabric store know you by name —this con's for you!” ICG Annual Meeting. www.cc22.org

April 3, 2004, 10-5 – **Arizona Book Festival** at the Carnegie Center, 1101 W Washington, Phx. Booth displays from local publishers, literary societies (including CASFS & LepreCon), and libraries. Lots of author guests.

May 7-9, 2004 – **LepreCon 30** SF/Art Con at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 W. Dunlap, Phoenix, AZ. Guests of honor include author David Drake, artists Donato Giancola and Sylvana Anderson. Art Show & Auction, Gaming, LARPs, Computer LAN Party, Charity Auction, a Dealer's Room, Con Suite, Video, Anime and more. There will be a Masquerade directed by guildfriend Margaret Grady. Go to www.leprecon.org for details.

June 13-14, 2004 – **Renaissance in the Pines**. A fine renfaire at Fort Tuthill, off of I-17, just south of Flagstaff, Arizona. From the web page at www.renaissanceinthepinesinc.com. “Step back in time to the Shire of Stone Ridge to the year 1560 as we put on a festival in honor of Queen Elizabeth's visit. See fully armored knights joust, historical recreations from lace-making to blacksmithing, games of skill and chance, a marketplace full of rare and unique treasures, stage shows of swordplay and comedy acts, children theatre, music, dancing and much more.”

July 2-5, 2004 – **ConKopelli (WesterCon 57)** Regional SF Convention at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, Arizona. Guests of honor include authors CJ Cherryh and Diana Gabaldon, artist David Cherry, fan John Hertz, and music guest Heather Alexander. Go to www.conkopelli.org for details. *SWCG will host a costumers' suite on Friday and Saturday. Guildster Carlos Egan will direct the masquerade.*

The Villainous Jacket

by Randall Whitlock

What is the well-dressed SF Villain wearing this year? If it's any year since 1962, when “Dr. No” hit the big screen, the answer is probably a well-tailored Nehru Jacket.

The Nehru Jacket is named for Jawaharlal Nehru, who served as prime minister of India from its independence from the British Empire until his death in 1964. The jacket is a perfect blend of traditional south asian styles with western business suits. Nehru jackets were briefly popular in the west during the middle 1960's, most likely associated with the Beatles' well-publicized interests in meditation, sitar music, and other things indian.

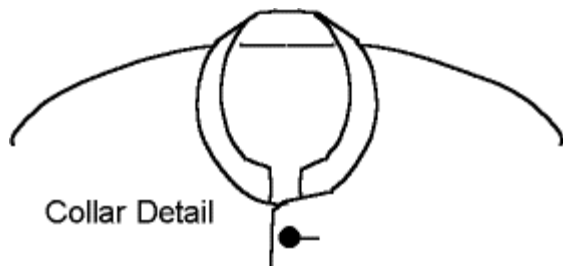
The Nehru Jacket and its less well-fitted cousin, the Mao Suit, have been worn by many familiar bad guys from film and television, including Dr. No, Ernst Blofeld*, The Master, and their perfect parodies, Dr. Evil and Mini Me. Vandal Savage wore the style in a 2003 episode of the animated “Justice League.” The reader can doubtless recall many other examples.

The plain and austere style of the jacket still looks futuristic, even though it's more than 60 years old. The look is perfect to convey a villain's “I'm a genius and deserve to rule the world” attitude. I'm tempted to include double-breasted, tight-collared coats like those worn by the “Star Wars” villains Grand Moff Tarkin and Count Dooku, but these cuts seem to owe more to the military uniforms of the late 19th Century.



I recently had the opportunity to examine a genuine Nehru Jacket loaned by friend and 60's survivor Pete Manly**. This example, seen in the photograph, is made of a brown cotton corduroy with a patterned satin lining. This one has hip pockets, an inside pocket, a back vent, a row of five leather shank buttons, and sleeve buttons. Most of these features are

optional. I've seen others with no visible pockets or buttons, or with a breast pocket. The cut of a Nehru Jacket is the same as a conventional single-breasted sport coat, with tailored shoulders and light shoulder pads. The only real difference is in the collar. Sport coats have their front closures folded over to form lapels. Nehru jacket fronts continue upward to a close-fitting band collar.



Collar Detail

How do you get a Nehru Jacket? Here are three good possibilities:

1. Buy one. Genuine jackets from the 60's turn up frequently on e-Bay while newly made jackets can be found on Halloween costume web sites. Check out "Austin Powers" fan sites.
2. Make one. Any published pattern for a sport coat will work. Just skip the lapels and substitute a simple band or "mandarin" collar on a circular neck line. Janet Wilson Anderson of Alteryears recommends civil war era shell coat patterns for a basis.
3. Alter One. Obtain a used suit from a thrift store. Narrow-lapel styles (Kennedy suits) work best. Press out the lapels, add a couple more buttonholes and buttons, then remove the original collar. Substitute a band collar in matching fabric. Some cuts don't even need the collar changed.

The possibilities for hall costumes are unlimited. Get yourself a Nehru Jacket in white, gray, or black and accessorize with a cybernetic monocle, a skin wig, a metal glove, painted scars, etc. and you're ready to conquer the universe. The pool of man-eating crocodiles is optional.

*And about half of James Bond's other foes. Sometimes the whole movie series seems to be a running duel between Nehrus and Tuxedos.

**Pete is an astronomer, aerospace expert, and builder of complicated electronic gadgets. He has the Nehru Jackets and the requisite beautiful daughter. If he perfects his maniacal laugh, he has great career potential in the Evil Overlord business.

For further information with lots of pictures, check out these web sites:

<http://www.seanparnell.com/Nehru%20Jacket/Nehru%20Jacket.htm>

<http://jmsbond.tripod.com/villians.html>



Seen at DarkCon: Anna did the con up proper in the hall costume department, presenting her Galadriel on Friday evening and Captain Jack Sparrow on Saturday. Photos by Randall. See details on the Galadriel gown and how she made it at www.fivemilecreek.net/anna/anna.htm

New Convention Seeks Costume Panelists



Meeting Highlight: Diane demonstrates parasol covering to Paula and Frances at the January SWCG meeting.

Costume Supply Database: A Group Project

Edouard and Diane independently suggested at the January meeting that we put together a list of fabric and other costume supply sources in the greater Phoenix area. I think this would be excellent content for our web site. All the project needs is your help!

Whenever you visit (or even see) a store that has something useful for costumes, send me an e-mail with its name and address and a sentence about what they carry. Don't leave out the obvious ones – even I don't know ALL the Hancock locations. Fabric, craft, quilt, sew/vac, upholstery, thrift stores are all fair game. Look for the unusual – for example, Diane pointed out that the new Sportsman's Warehouse has good feathers in their fly-tying section.

Send your notes to editor@southwestcostumersguild.org or my usual randwhit@aol.com. We can have enough stuff together to start building the web page version sometime in March (after the Estrella War.) I'm open to suggestions on how to organize the list.

Longer store reviews can be printed as articles in Cactus Needles.

From the Mailbox

SLCG The Scarlet Letter, December 2003. Upcoming humorous superheroes theme party. Officer & membership contact information.

This was just received at webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org

Opus Fantasy Convention will be held at the Marriott in the Denver Tech Center (Colorado) May 14-16. It will have a dedicated costume venue and 3 masquerades.

I'm still looking for teachers, panelists, judges and project teachers. Please let me know if your members have any interest. They may contact me directly for more detailed information.

Thanks,
Storm, Costume Track Director
tjhortman@earthlink.net

Costume College 2004 e-Mailings Begin

The first of this year's e-newsletters for Costume College/Costumers Guild West was received January 28. The newsletter contains details about the upcoming event, hotel, etc. Go to www.costumersguildwest.com or www.costumecollege.org to subscribe.

Welcome New Member Margo Nickel

Here's the first paragraph from the flyer for her business, Margo Nickel *Really Fine Millinery*:

*Hat lovers can avoid the frustration of searching for the perfect headwear now that Margo Nickel has brought her millinery skills to the public. With her she brings eighteen years of experience working behind the scenes of the diverse and demanding New York theatre, film, and dance worlds. Her long list of credits include the Broadway productions of *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Into the Woods*, *Anything Goes*, *Jerome Robbins Broadway*, and the *Christian LaCroix* designs for the *American Ballet Theatre*. The popular 80's film *Wall Street* provided an opportunity to view actress *Daryl Hannah* wearing a springy design of Margo's own. Ms. Nickel has also designed and created hats for the runway collections of *Bill Blass*, *Angel Estrada*, and *Willi Smith*. Margo was the head milliner for the *Arizona Opera Company* under the direction of Mr. *Glynn Ross*. Her work has appeared in *Tosca*, *Carmen*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. Margo's own designs have been featured on *Good Morning America*.*

Parting Thought

I've resolved that 2004 is the year all of my dreams will come true. If you'll excuse me, I have to take an algebra exam in my underwear.