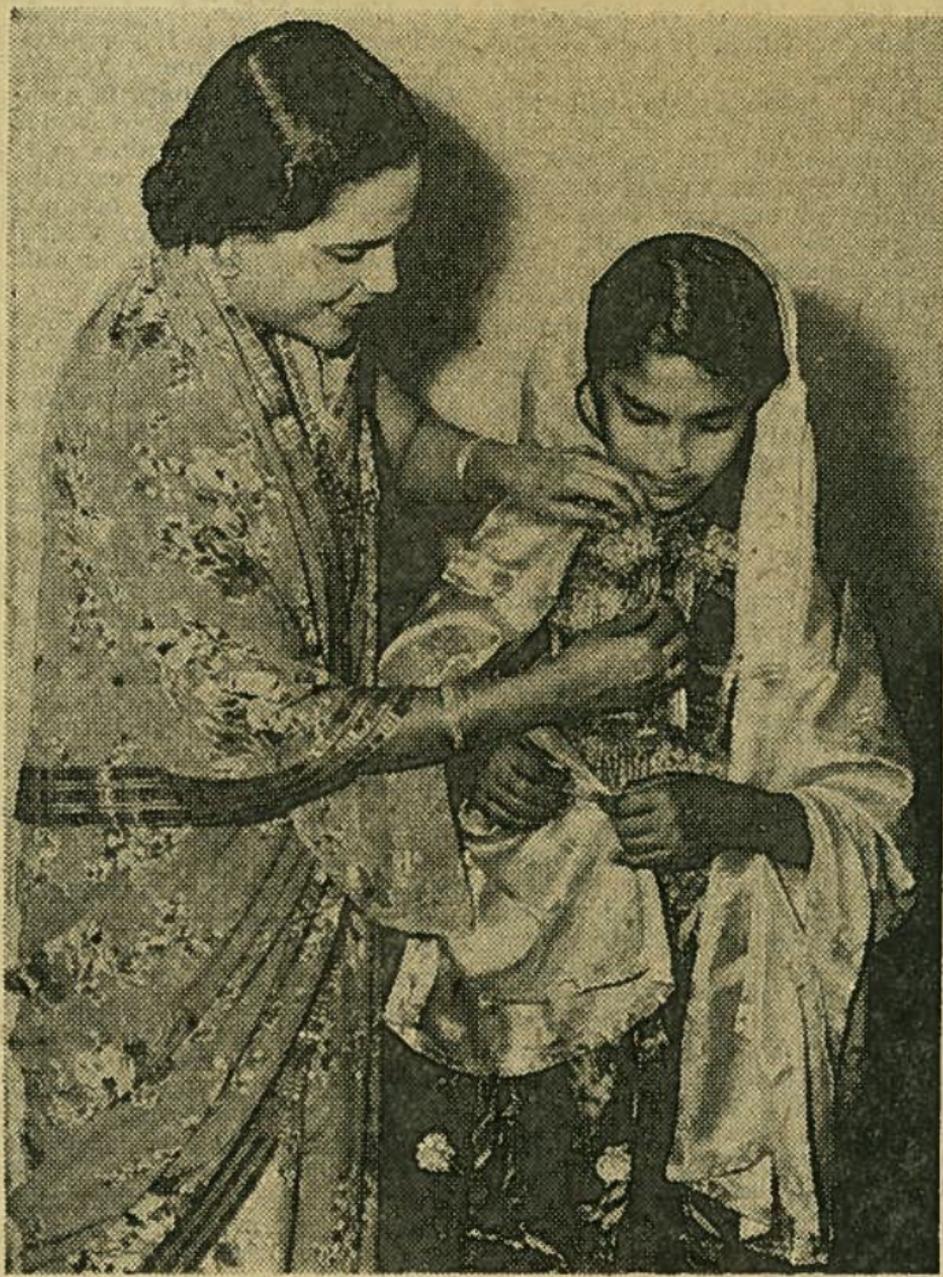


of interest to WOMEN



Mrs. Chakraverti adjusts dancing costume on her daughter, Ipsita, who will perform a dance at the celebration marking India's independence tomorrow. (Gazette Photo Service.)

Celebration Here

Dinner, Dances to Mark India's Independence Day

By OLIVE DICKASON

Indian food and Indian fashions will be in evidence when Montreal's small group of Indian residents, about 60 strong, celebrate the seventh anniversary of their country's independence tomorrow. The event will take the form of a dinner, with national songs and dances and a film showing at the Y.M.C.A. in Westmount tomorrow evening.

Mrs. Roma Chakraverti, whose husband is India's representative to ICAO here, said yesterday that when the day was first celebrated, there were only about seven Indians in Montreal. "Each year we are a few more," the darkly attractive Mrs. Chakraverti smiled.

Dinner Menu

The dinner menu will include pilou, which is fried rice with meat, curried lamb, vegetables for those who are vegetarians, and "a type of milk pudding we make in India, which is very different from anything you have here," the Indian woman said.

Dressed in a colorful sari of printed silk georgette with a border of pure gold embroidery, Mrs. Chakraverti said that Dior's H-line doesn't present a problem to the sari wardrobes. "We find the sari very convenient, and it never goes out of style," she laughed. "I even play tennis in my sari."

This doesn't mean that the whims of fashion don't hit saris too, Mrs. Chakraverti added. The borders are the subject of changing styles; a few years ago, it was fashionable to wear saris without borders, then borders on one side; now borders are coming back into favor.

Wedding Sari

Mrs. Chakraverti proudly showed off her wedding sari, of fuchsia silk embroidered with pure gold. "In India brides wear red," she explained. Another of her saris is of all-over gold embroidery on white silk. "Naturally, such a sari can be worn until it wears out, and it will always be in good style," she said. "When such a garment finally wears out, the gold and silver used in the embroidery is melted down and reclaimed."

Saris have another advantage, Mrs. Chakraverti added: they are convenient as travelling costumes, and are easy to pack.

She indicated the golden bangles she wore on both arms. "Married women in my country always wear bangles," she explained. "When they are widowed, they take off all their jewelry and wear white."

Learning Languages

The Indian woman said that she was pleased to have her 10-year-old daughter, Ipsita, going to school here in Montreal as she is picking up French. "She

speaks Bengali, which is our provincial tongue, and Hindi, which is our state language, as well as English; it is good for her to learn French," she said.

Her daughter's name, incidentally, means "The Desired One." Mrs. Chakraverti laughed as she explained what her own name, Roma, stands for: goddess of wealth. "I have never been wealthy," she said, "but perhaps it is a good sign for the future."