

Clara's 1940s Day Dress

Rick rack is a kind of trim that was very popular in the 1970s. However, rick rack shows up on fashion designs in many earlier decades, including this dress from the 1940s. In fact, the curvy trim has its roots in the “waved braid” of the late 1880s. As machine-made decorations became popular in the 1880s, many kinds of crochet lace and braid became available, including what we now call “rick rack.” Clara’s simple day dress has a classic 1940s shape, with a sweetheart neckline, gathers at the yoke, puff sleeves, and – of course – is trimmed with the rick rack.

Since fashion choices in clothing were somewhat limited due to World War II, hairstyles became quite elaborate. Hair was worn rolled or curled, carefully done with curls, usually mimicking the stars of Hollywood.

Clara’s shoes are open-toed pumps with a popular crisscross design.

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