

Baggy Sue

1st September 1971

First day at Eastfields High today.

2nd September 1971

Hate school. It's a total waste of 3 years anyway. The only jobs in this town are in the chocolate factory and you don't need exams to work there.

3rd September 1971

A boy at school asked me why my jumper was so big. Mark, I think he's called.

4th September 1971

Mark and his friends followed me around at break time. "Why have you got boy's trousers on" one of them said. I told them they were my brother's.

8th September 1971

Mark's gang were standing at the school gate when I got to school. Mark said "hello Susan Pepper". It's "baggy Sue" one of them said and they all burst out laughing.

10th September 1971

The teacher didn't turn up for English today. We were waiting for ages. Some boys at the back started singing "baggy sue" to the tune of "Peggy Sue" and other people joined in laughing. Thank you Buddy Holly.

12th September 1971

I hate school but I had Mrs Kelsall for home economics today or 2 1/2 hours away from the boys as I like to call it.

23rd October 1971

Finished sewing my makeup bag today. Mrs Kelsall said it was very good. She said maybe I could try something a bit more challenging next time.

30th October 1971

Had home economics again today. Friday's are my best day. Mrs Kelsall gave me a pattern for a skirt and showed me how to cut out the pieces. Can't wait til next week.

10th April 1973

Mr Richards gave out letters for the end of term disco today. I threw mine in the bin at the bus stop. Sandra Collins and her skivvies will be in jumpsuits and hot pants. I don't think my brother's hand me down jeans will go down very well. Mum's hours have been reduced at the factory, she won't be able to afford to buy me something to wear and I'm not going to tell her about the disco.

30th May 1973

Mrs Kelsall was tidying up the home economics room today, putting the denim off cuts from the 3rd year's pencil case projects into a black bin bag. I suddenly had a light bulb moment and asked her if she was throwing that material away. She said she was. Thoughts of a denim patchwork

dress filled my mind. "Can I have it please I said". "Off course you can" she said, "what are you going to do with it". I told her my plan, she said she'd had a patchwork mini skirt in the sixties. She said I could come in at lunchtimes and use the sewing machine.

10th July 1973

Went to the party. It was great!

16th March 1974

Mrs Kelsall was acting a bit weird in Home Economics today. Every time I looked around I caught her staring at me from across the room. Eventually she came over and said, "could you come and see me after the lesson please Susan. After everyone had gone she came over to me in a weirdly excited way. "Susan, I hope you don't mind but I've sent some of the clothes you've designed to a competition". I didn't know what to say and just said "why". It's the 'Westgate School of Fashion young designer competition'. "I won't win that" I said. "You have won it", she said. "You've won a scholarship" she said.

10th October 1981

The buyer from Selfridges asked "what is your label called?", "Baggy Sue" I said.