

Fashion on a shoestring
Bargains abound, if you know where to look

By CAROL SCHWARTZ
Want to bet the price of a wardrobe for a family of four that you can outfit that family in downtown Birmingham for less than \$50?

It's a good thing that Floraine and Woody Woodburn are the gracious owners of the Birmingham Resale Shop, 319 E. Brown Street (667-0803) because they can make it easy for you to pay off that bet.

Or, if you're a chick who's really into the sorry '30s and wartime '40s bit, drop into the Fabulous Second Hand Shop, 1437 Randolph, Detroit (963-3657) in the old garment district across from the Artist Market.

THEN, OF COURSE, there's the Nearby Nu Shoppe at 1827 W. Seven Mile in Detroit (338-3018). The personable proprietress, Shirley Lynn, takes pride not only in the quality of clothing received, but its organization on the display racks.

Anything from peek-a-boo see-throughs, halter tops made from aprons and old material, skirts from old scarves, designer dresses and feathered fans to seam-worn nylons, European unisex military clothing, ponchos, and even 84-inch wool-knitted French red baron air force scarves for the men in your life are just some of the "cream of the crop of old things" found there.

Amazingly, enough, the dresses range anywhere from \$5 to \$80, and tops run \$1 to \$15. Chances are that much of the apparel was made by Ms. Pinzer herself.

"The thing about our store is that you don't have to come in and paw through everything," she said. "We pick the best clothes, clean and repair them so they're ready-to-wear. I call them vintage clothes."

Their origin, she added, is her "little secret." Some of them come from estate sales. "And, I like to think of our clothes as a timeless kind of style. You really can't date some of them."

"IT'S LOADS of fun to be here," said Floraine Woodburn as we got acquainted over tea in a tiny cluttered room she jokingly calls her parlor in the Birmingham store.

"We don't pressure or coerce anybody to buy things," her husband Woody chimed in. "But if you stay here long enough, you're bound to take something home with you."

Mrs. Woodburn is a former buyer for a large department store who borrowed some money from her husband to start the business 16 years ago. Now, he's a partner instead of a creditor.

"We're not snobbish," a saleslady added. It's the sensible person who walks through our door. Here, people can buy more things for less money."

Mrs. Woodburn pointed out that there's a difference between a resale store like hers and a junk shop. Everything in the shop is brought in by private persons and sold on consignment. Fifty per cent of the profit is given to the consigning customer every Monday or Thursday.

"We call these our golden days," said Woodburn. "But we just don't take anything into our shop," Mrs. Woodburn added. "Who'd want to buy a torn Anne Klein gown or holey Johnny Carson, Hickey-Freeman, or Pierre Cardin sports jacket? That's why we make sure everything's cleaned, pressed and in good condition before it's hung up."

It was cheaper in 1913
America's first drive-in service station was opened by the Gulf Refining Company on Dec. 1, 1913, at the intersection of Baum Boulevard and St. Claire in Pittsburgh, Penn. They sold 30 gallons of gasoline the first day.

Signals became rock music
The first radio patent of importance was issued to Thomas Edison Dec. 29, 1891. Patent No. 658,911 went for "A means for transmitting signals electrically." From these meager beginnings radio has since blossomed into quadrophonic rock.

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At the Opportunity Shop in St. James Church, 355 W. Maple, Birmingham (644-6442), resale clothing for the youngest to the oldest member of your family is in abundance in a price range of \$1 to \$35. A \$2 LaCosta child's dress may be tucked next to a \$25 formal from Bonwits. And, for the man (or boy) of the house, slacks are priced from \$1 to \$6. Good leather bags are also on hand.

If your family is really into designer clothes, then Bargain Box at 123 W. Brown Street, Birmingham, (644-6528) has racks full of Carter's, Sylvia White's, Beene, Anne Klein and de la Renta. The management is not snobbish about selling them to you either. At the prices they go for, there's no reason not to be a name dropper.

Sill into the label scene? Council Thrift's three locations, 1221 E. Lincoln, Royal Oak (542-2600); 3403 Puritan, Detroit (927-9026); and 1631 Livernois, Detroit (863-9346) are known for leading floor space with such leaders in the world of fashion as Sonia Rykiel, Yves St. Laurent, Diane von Furstenberg, Pierre Cardin, Guy Laroche, and Christian Dior.

The kids can pick out a pair of earth shoes for \$5 while the guys are trying on a \$25 Bill Blass sports jacket and the ladies are already paying the cashier \$25 for a three-piece Anne Klein pant suit and \$2 matching scarf.

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AWAY FROM THE hustle and bustle, Rochester's Village Outlet Center at 401 Walnut Street (651-6526) offers unbelievable bargains for everybody.

Located in a 120-year-old church, three shops in particular are worth mentioning. The Clothes Press (651-6526) offers famous brand men's and women's apparel. Anything from sportswear to evening dresses, vacation swimwear to tennis wear, and raincoats are marked down to 50 per cent.

Also, the Shoe Inn (652-2995) caters to the female. Women's and girls' shoes are priced at 30 to 60 per cent off the retail ticket. Famous brand shoes, boots and bags are all on display. On top of good savings, you'll find the stores friendly and unbarred. And for the young ones, the Kid's Korner (652-4975) has famous makes of clothing for children. Anything for infants up through size 14 can be found here.

A Village Outlet group also is located in Farmington, at 3224 Grand River. The Clothes Press, Shoe Inn and Kid's Korner can be found there too, along with a Clothes Line shop that features teen clothing and Mar-mal Linens.

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