

The fashion plate

Boutique blooms where once peanuts prospered

By RUSTLE SHAND

Time may have forgotten Franklin Village, but fashion has not. Ultra-chic boutiques flourish, far from the mad-dening crowd, in 19th century wood buildings that once housed early Oakland County settlers and industries such as blacksmithing and flour milling.

A new designer lingerie shop has been added to the other fine fashion shops in this small historic village which was once an overnight stop for horses and bugles making the trip between Pontiac and Detroit.

Barbara Nederlander has opened the latest fashion boutique called Under-it-All. The shop is on the second floor of the Slade house in the heart of the village.

Black lace dance pants and bikinis join black lace negligees in what were once the bedrooms of the Slade family. In the 1800s you can be sure no such finery hung under the rafters of this simple American farm house.

AS LATE as the 1950s in one of the rooms where there are now satin quilted robes and designer lounge-wear, the dreams of making a better peanut were brought to fruition.

Samuel Slade dreamed up his marvelous spices and seasonings and ultimately perfected what we now know as the dry roasted peanut. That's why they are called "Franklin" peanuts. It was after that that the Slade family sold the house.

Appreciative of the fine old, yet simple heritage of the house, this businessman has added some nostalgia from another old Franklin home. Her parents, the Philip G. Smiths, recently sold the home where Barbara was raised. Now old stools from her family's Wing Lake road home flank a gift bar holding such quilted satin items as shoe trees, lingerie and hosiery envelopes and bangers. Bronze sculptures by local artist, Pam Walsh, perch on shelves or linger at the hem of a lush Geoffrey Beene pale blue velvet robe. Antiqued barn wood walls offer a striking contrast to the luxe of Eve Stillman satin lingerie.

Hanging over the Victorian eyebrow windows are such things as plum silk camisole slip with a black lace jacket. With no good reason to stay in the bedroom, many of the ensembles can go out to play.

MS. NEDERLANDER said she decided to open her Under-it-All shop because "it is time for a revival of romantic, beautiful lingerie."

"These are the things a well dressed woman wants to wear," she added.

"The finds in the shop are not limited to women of wealth," said Ms. Nederlander, adding that "even if a woman does not have a lot of money, she can find beautiful lingerie within her price range."

Gowns priced at \$13 are lovely in their elegant simplicity. They compete with intricate peignoir and gown sets that sell for \$410.

Currently, the shop is having a 20 per cent off sale and store hours are extended in the evenings. On Sunday, Dec. 24, the shop will be open noon to 5 p.m. for last-minute Santas.

AMONG THE other trend-setting boutiques in the tiny village is the Herbert Segal Jewelry Gallery where fine jewelry and watches mingle with diamonds and other precious tones.

Dickens, a boutique in the village, specialized in household designer name clothing. Holiday dressing joins resort clothes along with a half-off designer handbag and clothing sale now in progress.

Just down the street, past the bank and over the grocery store is the Clothes Pin. This shop has fall-winter merchandise, including cashmere sweaters at half-off prices during their pre-holiday sale. Satins and chiffons for holiday dressing hang here, too.

On the other side of the street, next door to the village library is another new shop. Called the Rack Shop, it is dedicated to English riding gear and horse related items as well as gold and silver jewelry.



A satin peignoir set by Eve Stillman lingers in a 19th century bedroom in Franklin Village. (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell)

Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of agencies needing volunteer services. More information about these and over 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau, 642-7272. Any non-profit agencies needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

TUTOR—Pine Lake Elementary School in Bloomfield Hills needs volunteers 16 years of age and over to help children on an individual basis. No special training is required but instruction is available in special education techniques, individualized programming and operation of audio-visual equipment to those volunteers who would be interested in developing more in-depth skills.

HOSPITAL AIDES—Men and women are needed by Boston Hospital in Farmington to help in several areas. Volunteers assist in patient care on the floors, work at the reception desk, transport patients within the hospital, handle paper work

and supplies, and help with physical therapy. The commitment here is for one day a week, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEER—Adults interested in helping the Oakland County March of Dimes and living in the Rochester-Avon Township area are needed to do telephoning. Volunteers work from their own homes to contact marchers for the annual Mother's March campaign. They will also be responsible for delivering materials to the marchers. This is a limited commitment through March.

OFFENDER AID VOLUNTEER—Sincere and interested persons who are willing to assist inmates of the Oakland County Jail in developing attitudes and skills necessary for a successful re-entry in the community are needed for a program called Offender Aid and Restoration. After completion of a 14-hour training program the time commitment is approximately 10 hours a month for one year.

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