

Elisha Wearden of Romeo strolls through Starkweather Alley wearing black velvet jeans by Bill Blass. (Staff photos by David Frank)



Signed jeans offer more than a name

By KATHY PARRISH

A jean used to be a jean. That was until designers started branding the pockets with their names.

Now traditional American blue jeans rarely look scruffy. They come signed, with special stitching, shaped pockets and even initialed belts.

At a recent trunk showing of Bill Blass creations, customers at The Phoenix in Romeo got a look at how far the art of jean designing has come.

The event was the most complete showing of Bill Blass jeans to be held in a Detroit area store, according to Ray Loew, Bill Blass sales representative for Michigan.

With 23 different styles of jeans, New York designer Blass offers something for all seasons and all occasions. There are three basic fabrics — denim, the stretch fabric lustre group which includes velvet for the holidays and faille cloth. Colors range from bleached denim and bright tropical colors for spring to black velvet.

"Naturally, denim is the number one seller across the nation," said Loew, who is based in Flint.

Blass, who designs for both women and men, is known for putting gray stitching on blue denim.

He further puts his mark on the line with a gold plate carrying his name. Some of the pants have jute belts with BB logos on the buckles.

Featured on some of the jeans this year are scalloped pockets.

Loew feels the best feature of the pants is the fit. They have a contour waistband, with two inches less width at the top than the bottom of the waistband.

"This eliminates the gap in the small of the back," he said of the jeans, which

come in sizes four through 16.

Elaine Salvia, who carries women's clothes and gifts in The Phoenix, sent out invitations and treated customers to wine and cheese for the trunk showing.

"It's a young looking fit for the woman who is over 20 and not straight up and down," said the former accessory manager for Jacobson's in Grosse Pointe who opened her Romeo shop in February 1978.

"It makes a lady feel good."

Designer Bill Blass puts his mark on red twill sport jeans. They carry a gold plate with the designer's name on it and special pocket stitching.



Scalloped pockets are a new feature this year on Bill Blass jeans like the red twill pants above.

fashion calendar

Monday, Nov. 19

Alfred's Restaurant — Each day, Monday-Saturday, from 12:30-2:30 p.m., fashions from Somerset Mall shops are modeled in the restaurant. Schedule for the week is: Monday, fashions from Bonwit Teller; Tuesday, Lingerique; Wednesday, Don Thomas Sporthaus; Thursday, Bonwit Teller; Friday, Rodier; and Saturday, Tennis Lady and Robert Furs.

Lord & Taylor — See the newest in make-up shades and skin care programs presented by a facial designer from Calvin Klein cosmetics at 9:30 a.m. in The Cafe at the Fairlane store.

Tuesday, Nov.

Cooper's Arms — Designer fashions from Janet Varner of Rochester are modeled informally from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays through May in the Cooper's Arms Restaurant, 306 Main St. in downtown Rochester.

Lord & Taylor — A Christian Dior cosmetics representative will be on hand to demonstrate make-up techniques with a palette of new colors at 9:30 a.m. in The Cafe of the Lakeside store.

Lord & Taylor — "Make Sense of Your Dollars" is the presentation by Audrey Pearl which shows the use and importance of tax shelters. Retirement planning is also highlighted. Program is from 7-9 p.m. in The Cafe of the 12 Oaks store.



Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Canvassing

If you have the time and inclination, you could make one of these pillows or rugs and give it as a Christmas gift. If not, you can still give the kit itself as a gift and start the recipient on an enjoyable project. Barbara Gasser and Pat Kelley of Creative Canvas will provide you with school letter pillow (\$15) or rug (\$60) kits complete with the actual school logo marked on the canvas, wool yarn in the school colors and easy-to-follow instructions. It's something even an 8-year-old can do. Creative Canvas, 646-5326 or 645-5749



Feet First

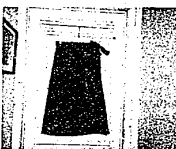
When it's cold outside because of the winter weather and cold inside because we've promised to "dial down," your toes, not your feet, will be the first to know. If you want to keep your feet comfy and chic, head on over to the RB Shops where there's a terrific selection of great looking slippers in moccasins, bootie and knee-high boot styles. Some are hand-knit; others are pile-lined and made out of colorful quilted calico prints. All are priced from \$7 to \$12, depending on the style that you choose.



Wrap session

This front-wrap skirt from Miner's features your name stitched on in script lettering all along the side and bottom of the front panel. The skirt can be ordered in cotton duck or corduroy and in just about any color you can think of. The front panel of the skirt is also lined in your choice of a cotton check or a solid color corduroy fabric. The street-length version is priced at \$48 while the floor-length version is priced at \$54. Christmas orders must be placed before Dec. 1.

Miner's Bagley Inn, 101 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, 646-3810.



Beautiful things

While traveling around the country in her role as writer, teacher and educational consultant, Kitty Wehrli became fascinated with the beautiful things she saw being made by local artisans. As a result, Mrs. Wehrli and her daughter, Chris, have opened a shop called Beautiful Things where they are selling the items Mrs. Wehrli has collected. Among them you'll find a large group of new and antique quilts from the Appalachia and Blue Ridge Mountain areas. The Wehrlis are having a quilt show 6-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23, and 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, just outside their shop in the upstairs hall of the Merrillwood Mall. Beautiful Things, Merrillwood Mall, 251 Merrill, Birmingham, 644-5171.

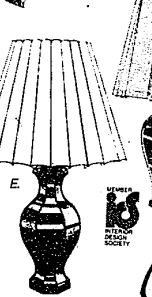
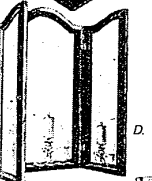
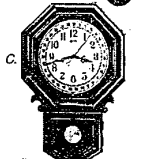
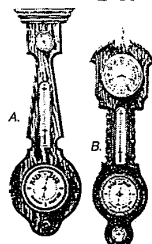


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For your own home, or for someone very special, choose an exclusive gift with the Ethan Allen name...the one designer's label that never goes out of style! Our Ethan Allen Showcases is glittering with lots of gift ideas...gifts you'll be proud to give, and to own. Enjoy special savings on these fine accent pieces.



A. Ethan Allen Home Weather Station in solid pine with solid brass bezels. Imported, top-quality instruments register air pressure, humidity, temperature. 32" h., reg. \$159.50...**SALE \$129.50.**
B. Solid pine Home Weather Station has solid brass bezels. Includes a clock. Imported, top-quality instruments register air pressure, humidity, temperature, time. 34" h., reg. \$239.50...**SALE \$199.50.**

C. Memories of school days will be awakened with this nostalgic Schoolhouse Wall Clock in solid pine. Imported keywind movements. 26" h., reg. \$299.50...**SALE \$249.50.**

D. Triple your pleasure with this beautiful adaptation of a classic Triplicy Traveling Mirror in antiqued brass and distressed chestnut. Wide open: 41 1/2" x 39" h., reg. \$309.50...**SALE \$277.50.**

E. Oriental-Inspired Octagonal Lamp with a rich hand-rubbed, burnished-bronze finish and oyster colored, fluted shade. 33" h., reg. \$169.50...**SALE \$139.50.**

F. Hexagonal Lamp featuring glowing polished bands on a burnished bronze finish. Oyster-color box pleat linen shade. 30" h., reg. \$159.50...**SALE \$139.50.**

G. Beautiful round-to-square shaped, white matte Ceramic Lamp is a contemporary interpretation of a classic design. Oil-white pleated shade. 32" h., reg. \$149.50...**SALE \$119.50.**

H. Cast a warm, nostalgic glow with this brass finished Desk Lamp. Features beautiful Italian green triplex case glass. 22" h., reg. \$109.50...**SALE \$89.50.**

I. An antique Traveling Desk inspired this Writing Desk. Imported from Italy, made of walnut with solid brass fittings. 17" x 16" h., reg. \$197.50...**SALE \$177.50.**



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