

Birmingham tailor heads national group

A Birmingham custom tailor has been elected president of the Custom Tailors and Designers Association of America, a national trade association for the industry.

Paul Cicchini, owner of Cicchini Custom Tailors, 430 N. Woodward Ave., Birmingham, was elected at the 700-member association's 99th annual meeting in Phoenix, Ariz., early in March.

Cicchini, a Redford Township resident, has been a Detroit-area businessman for 30 years.

"As far as the custom tailoring industry goes, Detroit style has always been very current, even compared to cities like New York," Cicchini said.

He said customers have a strong sense of fashion and like to keep ahead of the newest fashion trends.

Cicchini came to Detroit in 1940 from his native province of Abruzzi, Italy, continuing his study of tailoring skills. During World War II, he served in the U.S. army in France, remaining there for one year following the war to study fashion design in Paris.

In 1949 he opened his own business in the Kales Building in downtown

Detroit, where he stayed until his move to Birmingham in 1975.

He is a consistent blue-ribbon winner for his designs displayed at the Custom Tailors' Association's convention each year. Cicchini estimates that he makes about 245 garments annually. A three-piece suit involves 43 hours of labor. A sport jacket about 30 hours.

ACCORDING TO Cicchini, men's fashion is following the trend set by women's clothes this year. Lines are becoming narrower and more contoured to the body, with more defined waistlines. The single-breasted suit coat is back, with one or two buttons.

Natural fabrics, such as silk, mohair and wool-linen blends, will be popular for spring and summer. Color emphasis will be on earth tones, particularly the light browns, he said.

The tailors' association meets each year to discuss fashion trends and ideas. The organization's main office is in New York City.

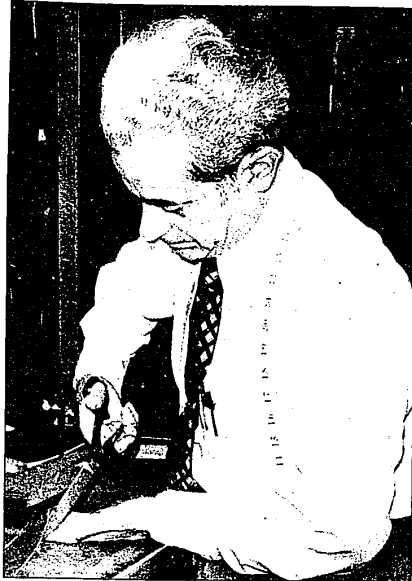
Cicchini lives with his wife, Yvonne, and their four children in Redford Township.

OU dorm residents to pay higher fees

It will cost more to live and eat in Oakland University residence halls next year.

Citing rising food, utility and wage costs, the Board of Trustees

approved a \$85 increase in the room and board rate for the combined fall and winter semesters of the 1979-80 academic year. Total cost is \$1,720 (based on double occupancy), a 5.8 percent increase.



Expert pattern drafting and cutting are two of the secrets to Cicchini's trade.

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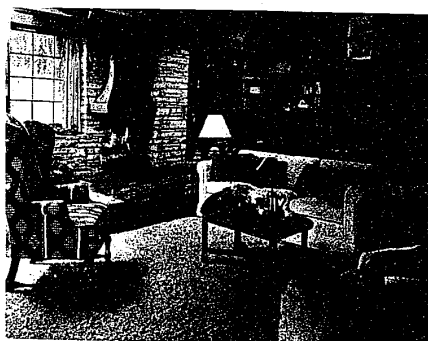
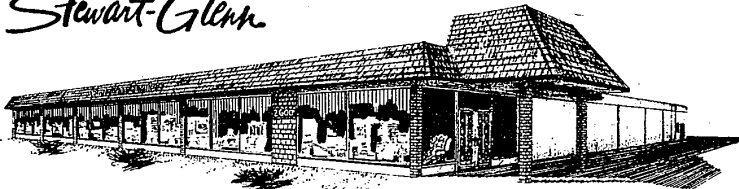
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