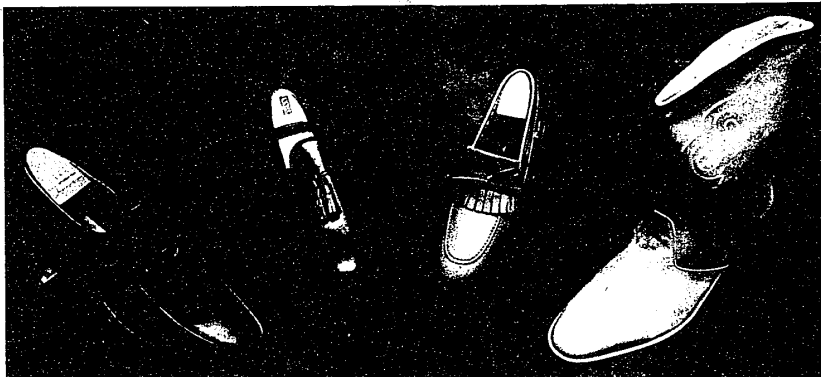


## à la mode



Tubular moccasin with tassel, by Bally, (at left) \$120; handmade Italian leather show by Baker-Benjes, \$140; camel leather, terry-lined driving shoe, \$52; and taupe calfskin leather, medium-height western pull-on boot by San Remo, \$145, are available in Excalibur, Orchard Mall.

### Excalibur

## 'Footwear for distinctive gentlemen'

By RUSTLE SHAND

look when the tie is removed and business brogues are exchanged for penny loafers. A sport coat and pair of slacks can change from city casual to western sophisticated when slip-on shoes are exchanged for western boots.

The stock in the Excalibur shoes for men shop in West Bloomfield's Orchard Mall reflects the many options open to men today. Classic penny and tassel loafers, wing tips and sport shoes line one wall of the store. Designer shoes from Bally, French Shiner and Freeman are arranged along another wall.

The big demand for western boots and accessories is answered with a showcase wall of Dan Post and San Remo boots along with Frye and copies of Ralph Lauren's lizard boots.

"Men are buying the conservative look in shoes today," said co-owner and buyer, Greg Zivov, who describes the shoe fashions carried in the shop as "footwear for distinctive gentlemen."

"THE BIGGEST demand in a fashion shoe today is the western boot," said Zivov. "Men have found the boots offer the most protection against winter weather, and they add the necessary note of fashion to otherwise conserva-

tive wardrobe pieces."

Western boot colors range from peanut brittle, taupe and chocolate to bone grey, antelope and a wine color, called eel. Add a western hat and a pair of spurs from the selection of accessories in the shop and the western look is complete.

Evidently, a lot of Excalibur's customers have already invested in western boots because, Zivov said, "Spurs are so popular, I can't keep them in stock." For those who like their boots worn high, he also stocks forged aluminum boot jacks that have the look of old silver.

That is not to say, however, that to be fashionable today a man must have a pair of western boots in his wardrobe along with spurs that jingle-jangle. But, they do liven the spirit of the urban man who would rather look as if he just flew into town from a ranch.

For those who toe a traditional line this season, it is quiet underfoot. Most men are striding into winter weather with caution and tradition. "The slip-on shoe remains the most popular for business," said Zivov, "and loafers, dockers and topsiders are still the favorites for casual wear."

"Driving shoes with built-up protected backs and terry linings are much in demand by men who do a great deal of driving," Zivov pointed out. "They're also great for slipping on to go to the pool or gym," he said.

"THE MEN'S retail shoe business

has been struck by the economic situation," said Zivov, "but the over-all price of men's shoes has not risen above a 10-percent increase mainly because the manufacturers are holding their prices down."

Still, with the price of a good pair of men's shoes near or over the \$100 mark, Zivov has noticed a concern on the part of his customers for taking care of their investment shoes.

Odor shoe trees, which absorb perspiration and retain the shape of the shoe, are a popular item at \$14 a pair. "Shoes also need a rest," said Zivov. "The same pair should never be worn two days in a row. Changing them daily means longer wear and healthier feet."

"Proper cleaning and polishing are most important," continued the expert. "Polish nourishes the leather. Clean them periodically with saddle soap which removes dirt, old polish, some stains and helps restore the natural oils to keep the leather pliable."

"Excessive heat is injurious to your shoes. When shoes are wet, insert wooden shoe trees and allow them to dry at room temperature. Always use a shoe horn," he cautioned, "otherwise the back of the shoe will break down subtracting from the comfort and appearance of the shoes."

Aside from being the only local resource for many designer shoes, the Excalibur shop also specializes in hard to fit feet. "We can get all the special sizes," said Zivov, "from triple A's to triple E's."

Staff photos by Randy Borst



## Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

### Kingswood School giftorama

The way I see it, you have two choices: You can let your Christmas shopping hang over your head for another six weeks; or, you can be very organized and get it all done this weekend in a one-stop shopping spree at Kingswood. Thirty-two shops from all over the country will set up booths to display and sell their wares. In many cases, you will find items that cannot be bought in any Detroit area store.



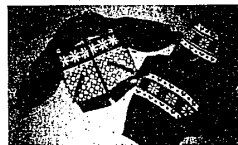
### 'Tis the season

Giftorama will be chock-full of Christmas-oriented gift items and decorations. For example, the Sunshine Shop of Charlotte, N.C., will bring glamorous red and green plaid taffeta floor-length hostess aprons (\$35) as well as red corduroy throw pillows (\$7) that are stuffed with sweet-smelling balsam and trimmed with acorns and a green satin bow. Bloomin' Baskets of Birmingham makes edible red and white spun sugar cane baskets that taste as good as they look. A Show Of Hands of Chicago will have lovable fabric Santa and Mrs. Claus ornaments that you can either pin on your clothes or hang from a tree.



### Wares to wear

Clothing items will also be in abundance at Giftorama. Pear Tree Quilts of Chicago handcrafts one-of-a-kind jackets and vests from old quilts while Wayne's Sport House of Osego will offer a complete selection of children's ski and winter wear. The Sportsman of Rochester specializes in outdoor clothing, and Generations of Ann Arbor specializes in unique children's clothing. Both The Whale's Tale of Pepper Pike, Ohio, and Brigadoon of Saugatuck feature ladies' sportswear.



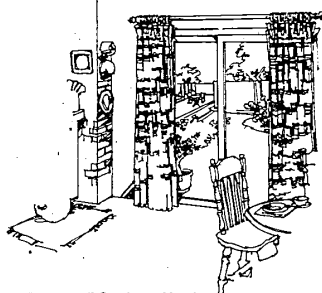
### Finishing touches

At Giftorama, you should be able to find something for everyone on your list. A handcrafted wooden puzzle by George Landino of Orchard Lake, or an enchanting handmade doll from the Thread Pantry in Lake Orion would make ideal children's gifts. A bird or wildflower sculpture from the Brumm Gallery of Charlevoix, or a custom-designed piece of Ted Striewski's copper, brass or bronze jewelry has great esthetic appeal. Last, but certainly not least, be sure to treat yourself to some of the heavenly candies from Harbor Sweets of Marblehead, Mass. After all, you certainly deserve some kind of award for being so organized this early in the Christmas shopping season.

Kingswood School, 885 Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. Sale hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9.



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