Watching Bill Blass's fall fashion collection was a pleasant way to spend an hour on a hot summer afternoon, even if it seems somewhat tronic to think of fall when we are just having our first real taste of summer.

Still, the designer salon at Saks Fifth Avenue's Troy store was filled with customers eager to see what direction this popular American designer is taking for the fashion season ahead.

If the Blass collection is an accurate forecast of things to come in cold-weather dressing, we will be going back in time by several decades when

Paper doll buffs meet

The Lowe Paper Doll Convention will be held at the Northfield Hilton, Troy, Saturday, July 24. The sales room will be open to the public 3-5 p.m. Collectors and dealers will be showing and selling. Admission to the sales area is \$1.50 per person.

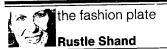
making wardrobe selections this year.

If you were around 20 years ago, let's hope you saved your long, black kid gloves. Blass uses them this season with everything except the most formal evening wear.

But those old felt or yelour hats from another decade probably won't recycle.

But those old felt or velour hats from another decade probably won't recycle this season. The newest hats are very soft and floppy. Blass uses them in black with everything, except, again, the most formal evening wear. Shoes for daytime were flat with many-tie orfords. Legs will be dressed in dark; opaque stockings or tights. Late-day and evening shoes are high-heeled, plain black pumps to be worn with sheer black stockings. Jewelry is architectural with a focus on huge, flat earrings in hammered

Jewelry is architectural with a focus on huge, flat earnings in hammered metals or black plastic. There were low-gorge suits and coats reminiscent of the '50s, and knee-bar-ing chemises that reflect the '20s. Rose-print silks reminded us of the



'40s, and bias-cut gowns recalled the '30s. A couple of bubble-skirted, knee-baring cocktail dresses recalled the '60s. The below-call length of the liste '70s was everywhere. And, the architectural infence of the '80s, slong with a hint of the orient, were apparent throughout.

The designer accomplished a melange of attitudes toward dressing, and packages it all up in quality faires, stamped Bill Blass.

Blass's shimmering, sequinanchemize gowns, which obviously are intended for glittering evenings, are

works of art with diagonal or spherical stripings. Lest they be too reminiscent of something else seen in recent years, Blass parades them with flat-heeled, leather riding boots.

Now that's not only amusing but it also is definitely news. And, more important, it's a sure indication of how women in snowy Michigan probably will dress up for New Year's Eve.

But it's our distinct impression that, "Oh, if I could only learn to shimmy like my sister Kate," . . . I'd leave my riding boots at home.

Thursday, July 15, 1982 O&E

studio opens

A new art studio and teaching facility, Demers Directions in Art, recenting to open at a 1169 Floyd, Birmingham. It is owned and operated by Delores Demers, a native of Birmingham who had a studio and teaching center on Woodward in downtown Birmingham for eight years. She has been teaching for 30 years and continues to pursue instruction and attend painting workshops. pursue instruction and at-tend painting workshops. She presently teaches at the Birmingham Commu-

ne Birmingnam Commu-nity House.

Demers Directions in Art offers classes in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pas-tel, airbrush, stained glass and calligraphy.

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