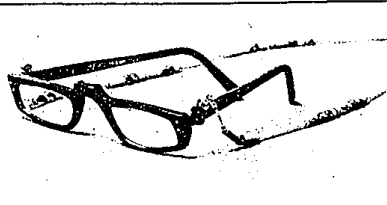


street seen

**Charlene Mitchell**



Street Seen reporter Charlene Mitchell is always looking for the unusual and the unique. She welcomes comments and suggestions from readers. Write her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 313.



**And now — 'Eyecatchers'**

First glasses were put in pockets or purses when not in use. Then they were hung by standard-issue black cords around necks. Now there are "Eyecatchers," made from antique settings and designed by Virginia Schneider in Birmingham. Prices range from \$15-\$20. For a fitting, call 540-7686.

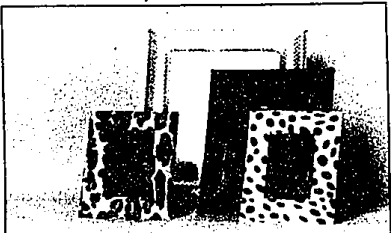
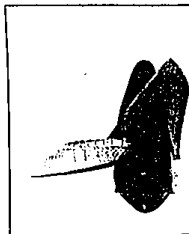


**Day to remember**

For hard to please relatives or friends who deserve something nice, try a gift certificate for a Day at Bloomies Face and Body. It is presented rolled like a scroll, services are hand written in beautiful silver ink calligraphy. Comes inside a silver bag with an attractive holiday ornament or fresh flower attached. Includes pedicure, facial or body massage. Packages of Farmington Hills, 553-9550.

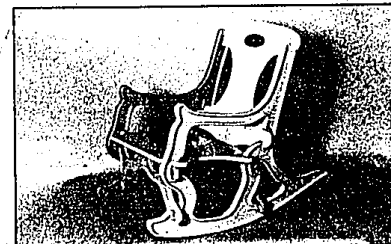
**Fancy ancy**

Come and see one of the largest selections of fancy-dance footwear in all of Michigan. Styles are definitely "Hollywood" oriented although basic everyday footwear is available too. Buy one pair and get the second pair for one cent. Dress-up styles with feminine bows and sensible heels are the hottest looks. Celebrity Shoes, 27600 Schoolcraft, Livonia.



**Out of Africa**

Ever since Meryl Streep and Robert Redford's came out of Africa, skins have been in — and that includes picture frames as well. They only safari you have to make is to Gorman's Inner Circle shop for these snake-skin, faux leopard and zebra fur frames sure to call attention to any favorite photo. Wonderful and arty for the truly adventurous. Priced according to size and skin type.



**Strong as a rock-er**

Here's a child's rocking chair that actually breaks apart into six pieces for easy storage and cleaning. The multicolored chair is extremely sturdy when put together and recommended for toddlers 2-6 years. And mom, it's OK if junior drops ice cream all over the chair. The pieces can go into the dishwasher. \$28. Smart Alecs, Birmingham.

**STREET WISE**

**Erudite delight**

Educational extravaganzas, you say. Well the Cranbrook Institute of Science has a bevy of fun-filled activities now through Tuesday, Jan. 3. Retrace the cosmic event of the past by taking an imaginary journey into the distant past during planetarium demonstrations titled "The Christmas Star." Hours are 1:30, 2:15 and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (7:30 p.m. Saturday). There will be additional performances from Sunday, Dec. 27, through Tuesday, Jan. 3.

"The Wall" by Pink Floyd will be highlighted by an all-new laser light show at 8:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Fridays and at 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays. "Ornaments," starring Frosty the Snowman and other whimsical creatures, will be shown at 3:45 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays with weekly performances at 3:45 p.m. Dec. 26 through Jan. 2.

Rodney the Singing Rocket provides a holiday treat for children ages 3-6 who ordinarily cannot enjoy traditional planetarium programs. Young participants can sing along with Rodney as they are introduced to the planetarium through a fanciful excursion on an imaginary spaceship. Hours are 11:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday, Dec. 21 to Jan. 2. Other educational activities and attractions during regular museum hours include physical science and

chemistry demonstrations, an unusual rock and mineral exhibit, and special programs on Eskimos, Indians, dinosaurs, animal life and zoology. Most of the events and demonstrations are included in the regular museum admission of \$3 for adults; \$2 for seniors and children. There is an additional 50-cent fee for planetarium demonstrations and a \$1.50 admission for the laser light shows. (Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7-10 p.m. Friday evenings; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays; and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. Cranbrook Institute of Science is at 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. For more information, call 645-3200.)

**Homework theater**

"Educating Rita" will open for a four-week run at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester.

Terence Kilburn, artistic director for Meadow Brook Theatre, will direct the Willy Russell's comedy. The Meadow Brook production will feature Cynthia Darlow as Rita, a culture-starved hairdresser and wife who gets a good-off English professor to teach her literature and literacy in an adult-education tutorial. Darlow, who is from Detroit, appeared in the Broadway production of "Grease" and has extensive credits in off-Broadway and regional

theaters. She is a regular on "Square One TV" for the Children's Television Workshop on PBS. David Regal will play the professor, who reluctantly makes Rita starts him on the road to salvation. Regal is head of the University of Detroit Theatre Department and artistic director of the Theatre Company. He was named best actor in 1985 by Detroit Monthly magazine. (Tickets are available by calling the Meadow Brook box office at 377-3300. Meadow Brook is a non-profit cultural program of Oakland University.)

**Ice invitational**

The 23rd Annual Great Lakes Invitational College Hockey Tournament will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 29-30, at Joe Louis Arena.

The University of Michigan will face off against the University of Wisconsin at 5 p.m. Tuesday. The Wolverines, coached by Red Berenson, feature such area players as Jim Ballantine of Birmingham and Alex Roberts of Bloomfield Hills. Chris Tancill of Livonia will return home as a member of the Badgers. At 8 p.m. Tuesday, five-time GLI champion Michigan State will meet Michigan Tech in the second game of the night. The Spartans, coached by Ron Mason, include Mike Gilmore of

Farmington Hills while the Huskies feature Tom Hussey of Livonia. The winner of Tuesday's contests will meet in the championship game at 8 p.m. Wednesday. The consolation match is at 6 p.m. Wednesday. (Tickets for the GLI are \$11, \$9.50 and \$8 and are available at the Joe Louis Arena and all TicketMaster Outlets. To charge tickets by phone, call 423-6666. For special group rates for 20 or more people, call 567-7474.)

**Fiddle fun**

George Bedard and the Bonnevilles will perform honky-tonk and rockabilly numbers Saturday, Dec. 26, at the Apartment Lounge in Ann Arbor. The group will even pull out the fiddle for some of its tunes.

The Apartment Lounge is in the Huron Towers complex across from the Veterans Administration Hospital. There are jazz jam sessions on Thursdays, dance bands on weekends and Mondays, and a DJ on Wednesday. On Dec. 31, the Daytonos will perform. (The Apartment Lounge is at 2200 Fuller Road. For more information, call 769-4060.)

**Novi restaurant: 'roaring success'**

Your traveling taster visits area eateries and rates them on a 100-point scale. Up to 30 points are awarded for ambience, which includes general atmosphere and service; 55 points for food, and 15 points for price/value rating. A total count of 59 points or less indicates a restaurant is not recommended; 60-74 points mean passing to good; 75-88 points designate very good with some extraordinary features; and 90-100 points show that a very special dining experience awaits you.

**HOME SWEET HOME** — 13180 NINE MILE, NOVI (347-0955), provides a return to the "good old days" of traditional American meals and decor. This new, lively and exciting restaurant is located in a magnificently remodeled old home, and its style is exceptional.

Each of the different dining rooms — on two floors — has its own style, but certain common, uncommon elements can be seen throughout. The lighting, for example, is provided by unusual and creative fixtures; the salt and pepper shakers differ on each table. Interesting prints, mirrors and art objects decorate the walls and even the floors.

The approach is "down-home casual" rather than elegant; the atmosphere is fun-filled and warmly inviting. The house itself and the attention to detail in the decor make this a most unusual setting. Most guests were casually dressed — in sports shirts or sport coats without ties for men, and slacks or informal outfits for women.

The restaurant is closed on Monday, and reservations are accepted for large groups only. There is an attractive bar in case you need to wait for a table, and it was more than 30 minutes before we were seated. Dinner took an hour and a half. **GENERAL ATMOSPHERE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 15.

Our hostess was gracious and made us feel welcome, she set the table while we were eating to be certain that everything was "just right." Waiters are casually dressed, and our's made a few helpful suggestions about the menu offerings. The restaurant is still new but so busy that there are some lapses in service. Our waiter apologized several different times for delays in taking care of us. The bus person forgot to bring rolls until we asked for them but did keep our water filled and our silverware clean. **SERVICE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 11.

Wiley's sly pie pieces of chicken (\$3.75) are an excellent appetizer. They are plentiful, tasty and well worth trying. The pork tenderloin and chicken skewer (\$3.50) is also quite good. The delicate ginger and scallion glaze is a nice complement to the grilled items. The seafood chowder (\$1.95) with a tomato base, has loads of seafood, tomatoes and other vegetables; it was served piping hot.

Entrees are served with a fresh, cold salad which is adequate but not imaginative. The Caesar (\$3.50) was disappointing because the dressing was too heavy. The shortbread biscuits which accompany the meal are "homey" and delicious. Drinks are average in strength. **BEFORE THE ENTREE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 12.



Home Sweet Home: high marks all around.

**a counting for taste**  
**D. Gustibus**

what we had expected; the gravy added to the flavor. A special sweet fish djonaise (\$13.50) was slightly burned on the grill. Its charred flavor blocked out the mild djon sauce. The stuffed cabbage (\$6.95) had cranberries served over it, a surprising, but nice, touch in appearance and taste. The dish was very good, both sweet and hearty. We also enjoyed the onion nest (\$3) which consists of loads of thin onion strips that

are fresh and not at all greasy. **ENTREE, VEGETABLES AND garnishes** — 30 points maximum. Points awarded — 25. Whatever else you do, don't miss the brownie with ice cream and chocolate sauce. It is rich and wonderful, beyond compare. The sweet potato pie is also quite worth trying, but it does pale next to the brownie. There's nothing like a hearty "homemade" dessert, and Mom

would have been proud to have done as well. **DESSERT** — 10 points maximum. Points awarded 10. Dinner cost about \$45 per couple with tip, but you could easily eat for less if you ordered more moderately. The style of the food and the low prices on many entrees help account for the enormous popularity of this very new eatery. **PRICE/VALUE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 10. **COUNTING FOR TASTE** — 100 points maximum. Total points awarded: 87. Home Sweet Home is a roaring success. It's worth the wait, especially if you want old-time cook-ing and a casual — but exciting and appealing — eating environment. D. Gustibus welcomes your reactions, comments and suggestions.

**Outlying Areas** — a continuing story

by Ray Kosarin