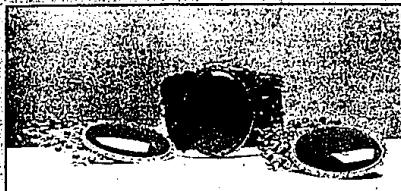


street seen

Charlene Mitchell



Street scene reporter Charlene Mitchell is always looking for the unusual and the unique. She welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and enterprising entrepreneurs. Write her in care of this newspaper, 32331 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-3300; Ext. 313.



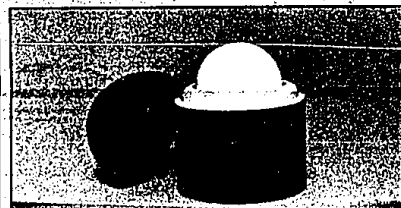
Bold and beautiful

The bold and chunky size of these oval earrings is calmed by the very feminine "crocheted" accents. The setting comes in a variety of colors. A wonderful accessory that's very eye-catching. \$55 each. Quintessence at LaMirage, Southfield.



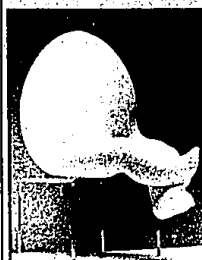
Fashion 'must'

One of the "must" fashion accessories for women this season are dainty touches of lace in the form of pocket squares. They add that necessary touch of femininity to man-tailored suits that otherwise look so severe and so — well, mannish. Whether you prefer cotton, linen or silk, the old-fashioned lace borders look absolutely great. From \$10 to \$40. Diane M, downtown Birmingham.



Let'er roll

This odd-looking item could double for a hard-boiled egg, but look again. It's the world's smallest massage machine. Exactly the size and shape of an egg, it runs for quite awhile on one AAA size battery. Perfect for rubbing on your temples when that afternoon stress hits you. Handy enough for your desk drawer, glove compartment, purse or brief case. \$20. Jacobson stores.



Eggs-actly exciting

This little egg baby is just as fragile as it looks. The faceless egg with dangling legs is handmade by American artist Mill Kleinman. A whimsical and decorative item that will look good in just about any decor. Lucite stand not included. Egg, \$119.95; stand, \$4.95. Gorman's Inner Circle, Southfield.



Chiquita style

The banana clip is a hair accessory that seems to stay in style season after season. It's practical use makes it popular. The fancy polka-dot turtles make this one extra special. One of a variety of styles. \$8.99. Nino Salon of Somerset Mall, Troy.

STREET WISE

Still showing

The Scarab Club Gallery is hosting its 45th annual watercolor exhibition now through Friday, Oct. 28, at 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. The juried exhibition features Michigan and Ontario artists. Its open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 2-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free and works of art will be for sale during the exhibition.

Trail walks

If you enjoy walking in the woods during the fall, then the University of Michigan has an invitation for you: Come and search for the fruits of the season at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens during its free, monthly trail walk at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6.

Fall is the time when most plants disperse their seeds to ensure species survival. Fruits, which are well hidden during the summer, are more apparent now. Bright berries adorn branches and nuts litter the ground.

Participants will have the opportunity to look at many of the fruits and discover the dispersal methods,

to figure out which are popular foods for wildlife and which are starvation foods, and to learn of human inventions which were patterned after some fruits.

Nature enthusiasts and families are welcome to join in this 1 1/2-hour walk along the trails that wind through the natural areas of the gardens. Docents will meet visitors at the front steps of the conservatory at precisely 2 p.m.

The Matthaei Botanical Gardens is at 1800 N. Diabolo Road, quarter mile south of the Plymouth Road intersection, Ann Arbor.

Tree trimming

Are you an artist? If so, you're invited to participate in the holiday happenings on Belle Isle this year by donating an original tree ornament to help decorate the Michigan artist Christmas tree.

The Christmas tree will be displayed in the main show house of the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory during the holiday season.

The only requirement is that the

ornament can be hung from a 12-foot fresh cut fir tree. There are no other restrictions. Subject, material and design are up to the individual artist. Artists can send their ornaments to the attention of Sandra Phillips, decorating chairman, Belle Isle Botanical Society, P.O. Box 14593, Detroit 48214, by Nov. 10.

A day with the doctor?

You can learn how they treat a giraffe with a sore throat or an elephant with a runny nose by spending "A Day with the Doctor" at the Detroit Zoological Park Thursday, Nov. 3.

The 7-9 p.m. program is part of the Detroit Zoological Society's class and lecture series.

The zoo's chief veterinarian, Dr. Albert Lewandowski, will host the two-hour class on zoo animal medicine. Through a slide presentation, he will give insight into the daily tasks faced by the veterinary staff and how they keep the zoo's animal collection healthy.

The cost is \$15 for society members and \$20 for non-members. Tickets can be ordered by calling the zoological society at 541-5717.

Three-ring glasnost

The world famous Moscow circus, one of the USSR's greatest art forms, will be coming to the Palace of Auburn Hills Nov. 15-20.

The circus will feature the likes of the Flying Cranes, 10 aerial artists whose act combines quadruple somersaults and other daring and dramatic moves with the choreography of a ballet in telling the story of soldiers who died in World War II and their souls becoming like those of cranes.

Performances of the Moscow Circus will be 7:30 p.m. Nov. 15-19. There also will be shows at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 16, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Nov. 19 and 1 and 5 p.m. Nov. 20.

Tickets cost \$7.50, \$10, \$12.50 and \$15. They're available at the Palace box office and all Ticketmaster outlets. For more information, call 423-6666.

Convertibles: A new love affair

Continued from Page 1

Dean Mooney, 42, floral manager for Bordin's Better Blooms in Rochester, bought a cobalt blue Dodge 600 in 1982, the year of rebirth for the American convertible.

"It's something I always wanted; I love it," Mooney said, expressing an often-heard refrain among convertible lovers. His only problem: Decid-

ing on a new model since the Dodge 600 was discontinued in 1986.

Women are big buyers, buying convertibles 6 percent more often than their models.

"YOUNG WOMEN are more inclined to seek uniqueness in their automotive product than are men," Windecker said. "It stands to reason.

To suit your fancy

Continued from Page 1

● Ford Mustang — Introduced in 1983, three models are available, the LX with a 2.3-liter 14 engine and the LX 5.0L and GT with V-8 engines. Features back window in glass and powered side-windows. Suggested retail price: \$14,140 for the LX, \$17,001 for the LX 5.0L and \$17,512 for the GT.

● Chevrolet Cavalier Z24 — Introduced in 1984. Features self-aligned steering wheel. Suggested retail price: \$16,615.

● Chevrolet Corvette — Introduced in 1986. Features low-tire-pressure warning system and tuned-port injection. Suggested retail price: \$36,785.

● Pontiac Sunbird GT — Introduced in 1986. Features new "cock-

pit" dash console. Suggested retail price: \$17,324.

● Chevrolet Camaro — Introduced in 1987, two models available, RS and IROC-Z. Features electronic theft-deterrent system, and IROC-Z available with Corvette V-8 engine. Suggested retail price: \$17,395 for the RS and \$18,945 for the IROC-Z.

● Cadillac Allante — Introduced in 1987. Features manually operated, removable hard top with self-storing convertible top. Suggested retail price: \$57,183.

● Chrysler's TC by Maserati — Will be available in late 1988. Fully equipped, luxury sports car. Estimated price: \$30,000.

● Buick Reatta — Now a coupe with a 380 V-6 engine, will be available in 1990. Estimated price: \$28,000 to \$30,000.

They seek more differentiation in clothes. Unlike birds, they are the peacocks of humans."

A Bloomfield Hills matron exemplifies the point. Self-described as conservative in most things, she drives a shocking-red Mustang convertible with black trim because "it goes well with my milk."

"Convertibles are a very hot market niche, an option vehicle," said Mark Gebhard of American Sun Roof. Sun Roof converts autos into convertibles at various stages of production in four locations in Michigan, including Livonia.

Conversion, which started in the United States as early as 1980, is now an international business, according to Gebhard who said "there are 22 convertible manufacturers worldwide and we do business with all of them."

Chrysler Corp. was the first U.S. firm to hit the market with two models, the Dodge 600 like Mooney bought and the LeBaron. Both cars were unveiled at the Detroit Auto Show in 1981. Sales started in 1982.

Cars and Concepts in Brighton

converted 12,743 LeBarons into convertibles the first half of 1987, installing body braces and strengthened windshield posts to ensure safety.

"We had orders for more than one-third of them before they were built," said Tom Jakubowski of Chrysler. The LeBaron was so successful, Chrysler assumed in-house production in mid-1988.

FORD MOTOR Co. launched the Mustang convertible one year later, followed by models by Chevrolet, Pontiac and Cadillac.

Today's models, featuring back windows of heated glass, fully power-operated lined tops and hi-tech dash consoles, differ considerably from earlier models.

An all-season Sludebaker roadster in 1929 was one of the first. The car sported wind-up windows of canvas and flexiglass and a removable canvas top. Production was discontinued in 1934.

Today, convertibles constitute 1 percent of the total U.S. auto market.

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