

Suburban Life

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Madge Pollak and her daughter, Debbie Zimberg, pose in the Farmington Hills bridal salon that got its start 40 years ago in Detroit.



Mary Probst, a resident of Rochester, gets help with her bridal gown from Mary Kay Fleming, one of four bridal consultants in Pollak's Bridal Salon.

Pollak's Bridal Salon

Where the client always leaves with a perfect fit

By Lorraine McCilish
staff writer

DEBBIE ZIMBERG, who grew up knowing the finer points of weddings and weddings gowns as she tagged along with her parents on buying trips, describes her work in Pollak's Bridal Salon as "fun and hectic."

Her mother, Madge Pollak, describes it as "Many times emotional — a stressful time for a lot of ladies. So we guide them along as easy as

possible. We see a lot of tears falling — happy tears like when a mother sees her daughter trying on her own bridal gown."

Altering, or sometimes remodeling, a mother's or grandmother's gown was one of the early-on forays of Madge Pollak which established her bridal salon as the only one of its kind in Detroit where all of the bridal gowns were custom made.

Pollak opened her first salon 40 years ago on Seven Mile and Greenfield.

The next move to bigger quarters

was to Livernois. "The Avenue of Fashion."

The next move was to Farmington Hills where it's elbow-to-elbow on any given Saturday, and Zimberg says now "We're ready for another jump up."

Meanwhile, about a year ago, a Pollak's Bridal Salon opened in Rochester Hills.

Out-of-town clients are commonplace, especially Canadians. A teenager who flew from Colorado last week to purchase one specific gown for her senior prom from Pollak's was something either Pollak nor Zimberg thought was out of the ordinary.

MADGE POLLAK learned her trade in the Institute of Fashion Technology in Budapest. She taught sewing, styling, fashion coordination in an OIT school in Germany for a while, and boasts that she made the

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Dressmakers Agnes Panizzoli and Simha Hertzberg are kept busy in the back room of Pollak's, making sure that every gown that leaves the salon is a perfect fit for the client.

Staff photos by Randy Borst



Karissa Mohr poses in the dress she will be wearing to her senior prom. The 17-year-old from Louisville, Colo., made the trip to Pollak's to buy the black taffeta and sequined gown.



The bride-to-be is Janene Skrobot of Ann Arbor, who tries on a gown for the approval of her friend Mary Kay Wilson, a Waterford resident who will be one of the bridesmaids in the wedding party.