

# MALLS & MAINSTREETS

(F)5B

## SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

## Go out on limb when choosing tree toppers

The earliest Christmas ornaments were heavy blown-glass balls, lined in shiny lead and filled with colored wax. Known as kugels, they hung in windows until Queen Victoria and Prince Albert popularized the Christmas tree and the weighty balls were used to separate the branches that held flaming candles.

While the Victorians elevated Christmas to a pageant of tinsel and garland, and wrapped the celebration in heavenly angels and jolly Santas, the holiday grew even more opulent over the years and turned commercial just before World War II. It was then that the first American Christmas ball company, bearing the trademark Shire Brite, discovered a way to mass produce ornaments.

Each season as you dig through your boxes of tree trimmers, you probably recall a memory associated with every bauble. Whether a mouth-blown antique or a handmade paper cutout from kindergarten days, ornaments not only transform an ordinary tree, but envelop us in warm family tradition.

In searching for fun and imaginative tree toppers, I encountered shoppers with varying tastes and ideas. Each had a personal favorite.

Ruth Sella of Farmington Hills, for instance, is an Annalee Dolls collector. She always has a red and green tree and tops it with an Annalee snowman. "I've been collecting for years," she said. "I started with mice and added from there."

Annalee Thorndike is a household name to her devoted followers. She designs flexible felt characters like the elf pictured (\$17). The original hand-painted faces are filled with expression. You can see the entire Annalee Dolls collection at The Village Barn and Christmas Attic in Franklin.

Sella also admired this charming muslin-clad angel. Perfect for a homespun, country-look tree, Bethany (\$30) is trimmed in crocheted lace and gracefully spreads her delicate straw wings. I found Bethany in the Christmas store at Hudson's, Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, but she is available at all area Hudson's stores.

Of course, Christmas really celebrates the child in all of us and a child's tree wouldn't be complete without Santa. This whimsical red velvet Santa (\$22) from The Village Barn and Christmas Attic is handmade and features a pocket in the back for attaching him to the treetop. Once in place, he can be positioned as you wish.

"For years my children put Santa's cap on top of the tree," reminisced Bernie Nounan of Dearborn Heights as she contemplated new tree toppers. She chose an old-fashioned St. Nick cloaked in green and red velvet, and holding a lighted wreath.

Not to be mislead at The Christmas Attic are the Christopher Radko limited edition mouth-blown glass ornaments, crafted by Eastern European glass workers.

In addition to Santas, teddy bears are popular tree ornaments and Larry and Connie Beaber of Dearborn create an entire bear tree. I found them in Jacobson's Birmingham store carefully choosing among the glass bears. Jacobson's also has an array of stuffed bears and other lovable animals on a toy-themed tree.

Straying a bit from tradition, Harlessa Miller of Farmington enjoys designing her own contemporary creation for the crown of her tree. Shopping with her son, John, Miller described her extravagant decoration as a glittering mixture of silver spikes, tulle netting, tiny star garland, and a huge taylor bow with long trailing ribbons.

I found the silver sprays (\$6), gold netting (\$8) and silver and gold star garland (\$4) at Jacobson's and Miller suggested Jo-Ann Fabrics for the yards of tulle.

And so the tree-trimming party begins. Pop some corn for stringing and be patient with those endless strands of lights. Sing along with your favorite carols, a medieval custom renewed by the Queen of Christmas, Victoria.

Next week, I'll peek your entrance hall with welcoming ideas that cheerfully usher guests into your home.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. If you have a subject for her column, she can be reached via touch-tone phone at 953-2047, Ext. 1889.

## Hudson's NOSE PINOCCHIO

Northland store's exhibit pulls at holiday heart strings



It took seven semi-trucks to move the Pinocchio display to Northland Hudson's. The display is an adaptation of Carlo Collodi's version of the tale about a impoverished, lonely woodcutter who whittles a marionette boy.

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO  
STAFF WRITER

Joey Kleffer, 6, of Mount Clemens, skipped through the Hudson's parking lot at Northland Mall wearing a long, plastic nose secured to his face by an elastic band.

"I loved the Pinocchio show," he said. "It was very good. The best part I liked was when they were inside the whale."

Kleffer said his dad, Thomas, and little sister Veronica, 16 months, also enjoyed the Pinocchio display. After walking through the series of 20 animated vignettes, the children got their picture taken with Santa.

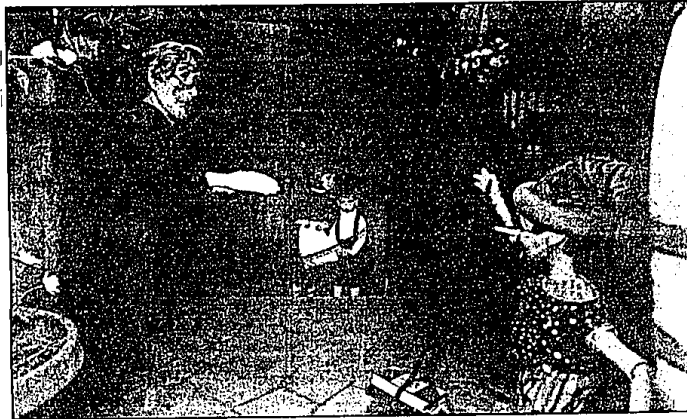
Ed Czarnicki of Huntington Woods, had the same idea as he guided his two toddlers through the Italian village of enchantment last week.

Emma, 5, spoke while her brother Nicholas, 3, shook his head in agreement.

"It's a good, good show," she said. "We have the tape of Pinocchio and we watched it three times. But this is better than the movie."

Charles Lamphear, marketing Southland Mall, Taylor

The man in the red flannel suit will arrive at shopping centers this week



GUY WARREN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pinocchio's promise: "I'll study hard," the puppet tells Gepetto in a scene from Hudson's holiday exhibit at the Northland Mall in Southfield. Watching Pinocchio swing his new schoolbooks are Caitlin and Ian Pasqualone of Redford.

a team of talented artisans created the backdrops. Jack Edwards, noted for his work with the Guthrie Theater, designed all the characters' costumes.

"Last year we depicted Peter Pan in our holiday gift to the community," she said. "In 1990 we presented Cinderella. Northland Hudson's was selected for the display because it's our flagship store and the store with an exhibition hall large enough to accommodate the crowds and scenery."

It took seven semi-trucks to move the Pinocchio display from its birthplace in Minneapolis to Michigan last January.

In August a group of artists began painting and rebuilding the little Italian village.

Watch for the magical illusions created to change Pinocchio from a donkey back into a puppet and later from a puppet into a real boy.

Before it comes down on Dec. 31, more than 400,000 visitors are expected to view the exhibit.

The tour through Gepetto's village takes 20-40 minutes. Visitors read storybook passages over each scene as they move through the displays. Background music and theatrical lighting provide an added dimension to the animation.

At the end of the tour a roomful of Pinocchio merchandise awaits

shoppers who want a souvenir of the exhibit.

## Group reservations

School and group reservations are available from 9-1:30 p.m. daily through Dec. 18 by calling 443-4138. Angelo and Ann Pasqualone of Redford brought their grandchildren Ian, 3, and Caitlin, 5, to Northland "to see Pinocchio."

"It's Ian's birthday so we took the children to lunch and to have their pictures taken with Santa," Ann said. "We wanted to spend a special day with them, a day that would bring happy memories to all of us." The Rivera Family of Redford also toured the exhibit hoping to start a holiday tradition with their daughters, Rebekah, 2, and Rachel, 4.

"This is really nice," said Rachel tugging her little sister onto the next scene. "I think all the kids should come to see Pinocchio and watch the tape at home. We love it."

Separate from the Pinocchio exhibit, but also on the lower level, Santa's Workshop is a second holiday treat.

The 1,300-square-foot shop features 30 elves busily preparing packages for Christmas. Santa moves about the workshop wearing either his traditional suit or suspenders over his work shirt and pants. Photo packages run \$6-\$16.

## Yes, Virginia, there are Santa Clauses

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO  
STAFF WRITER

"Every year we try and come up with a new way for Santa to arrive at the mall. This year someone suggested Santa bungee jump down from our new 85-foot-high glass pyramid. We liked that plan. Too risky. He will arrive at the Southland Mall following a musical performance by Ebony and Ivory."

Charles Lamphear, marketing Southland Mall, Taylor

The man in the red flannel suit will arrive at shopping centers this week

and every which way but down the chimney. He'll be introduced by television stars, preceded by marching bands, heralded by knights on horseback and driven to his workshop in a gilded carriage.

At Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights, Santa will host eight hot breakfasts at six different eateries beginning at 9 a.m. from Dec. 7 through Dec. 20.

This is very special for the little ones," said Karen McDonald, Lakeside marketing director.

Santa will also speak in American Sign Language from Dec. 11-13 dur-

ing a weekend of special holiday activities for hearing-impaired youngsters at Lakeside.

At Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, Santa will receive his letters from a magic mailbox that shoots a child's note up a 40-foot tube, chased by lights, accompanied by a little explosion and popping sounds.

"Every child who sends a letter to Santa at the Twelve Oaks North Polelet Service is guaranteed a reply from Santa himself," said Elaine Kah, marketing director.

At the Somerset Collection in Troy, Santa will be the guest of honor at a

week of teas in the Rotunda at 4 p.m. Dec. 10-13. Reservations are a must. Parents are advised to bring their own cameras and video equipment.

Santa will arrive at the Mainstreet shopping districts leading Christmas parades and caroling. He'll be in Plymouth at 12:45 p.m. Dec. 6 at Kellogg Park. In Rochester at Lagniappe, throughout the evening of Nov. 30, and again Dec. 6-24 for pictures at Lindmeyer Photo.

Santa will visit downtown Farmington Dec. 5 after a helicopter landing at 11 a.m.

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

MONDAY, NOV. 23

Carousel rides  
Now through Dec. 31. \$1. Full-size 36-foot high, old-fashioned carousel, located between JC Penney and Kohl's, across from food court. Bring a camera.

NORTHLAND MALL, EIGHT MILE/GREENFIELD.

443-5242.  
Santa photos  
North Court now through Dec. 24. Special "Carousel Christmas" display features hand-painted Perrot dolls, gliding horses and sparkling ice lights.

LAUREL PARK PLACE, W. SIX MILE/NEWBURGH.

462-1100.  
Magic mailbox  
Kids send letters off to North Pole via dazzling holiday display. Now through Dec. 24. Display includes four-piece band of giant musical instruments and concert hall complete with marble arches, golden garlands, red drapery and brass instruments. Santa nearby for photos.

TWELVE OAKS MALL, 1-96/NOVI ROAD.

348-9419.  
Sesame Street Santa  
Photos available in hands-on display featuring Big Bird, Mavis Monster, Oscar the Grouch, Cookie Monster, Bert and Ernie. Now through Dec. 24. Christmas trees decorated with ABCs.

OAKLAND MALL, I-75/14 MILE ROAD.

655-6000.  
Aisleway Market  
Six vendors move into shopping carts throughout the mall. Gift items include water sport accessories, western wear, candle equipment, video games.

SUMMIT PLACE MALL, TELEGRAPH/ELIZABETH LAKE.

682-0123.  
Abercrombie & Fitch store in Michigan. Men's and

women's leisure wear. Men's fragrance. Division of The Limited Inc.

LAKESIDE MALL, HALL/SCHOENHERR.

885-7818.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

BLOOD DRIVE

American Red Cross, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt. 522-4100.

SANTA ARRIVES

Waterford Kettering High School Band will lead parade through mall. Free balloons and candy. Puppet mobile performs weekends through Dec. 6. Santa photos 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays Grand Court stage arch.

Summit Place Mall, Telegraph/Elizabeth Lake.

682-0123.

LIONEL HOLIDAY TRAIN

Two-tier display on stage in front of JC Penney. Whistles and wheels. Features trestles, mountain ranges, ice skating and hockey rinks, lighted villages and Santa as engineer. Now until Jan. 2.

Summit Place Mall, Telegraph/Elizabeth Lake.

682-0123.

HOSPICE BENEFIT

LIGHT UP A Life With Love. Third annual through Dec. 30.

Jacobson's Court. Shoppers can buy memorial ornaments and place on special tree. Proceeds to Angela Hospice of

Livonia, Redford Harmony Quartet performs near tree at noon, Saturday, Nov. 28.

Laurel Park Place, W. Six Mile/Newburgh.

462-1100.

SANTA VISITS

Saks Fifth Avenue. Third floor. Through Dec. 24. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Westland Mall, Wayne/Warren.

427-2260.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Sponsored by American Heart Association. Free. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt.

522-4100.

Monday, Nov. 30

LAGNIAPPE

Downtown Rochester. 6-9 p.m. Shoppers receive "a little something extra" from participating merchants. Tree lighting in front of City Hall, 127 University at Walnut 7 a.m.

Santa, visitors can vote for best holiday window display. WCSX-radio van.

Rochester Road/University.

656-0000.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Now through Dec. 20. Bring new, unwrapped toys for distribution to the needy. Information booth in front of Woolworth's.

Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt.

522-4100.