

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1993

(F)5A

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

New styles help pack your pouch

Let's talk bags. Not just handbags, but luggage, attachees, duffels, even a strappy little holder for your bottled water (\$18-\$24 at The Icings). A bag can be a case, a container, a pouch or a sack. It could be crafted of paper or leather, canvas or nylon. Above all, a bag should be functional, innovative and aesthetically pleasing.

With those qualities in mind, I searched the malls and main streets for some notable examples of extraordinary bags.

If you're looking for a handbag that makes a dramatic fashion statement, scan the display cases at Jacobson's for outrageously unique Tulum purses. Designed in Italy by Istanbul native Arzu Gunuc, these bags are meant to amuse the wearer and astonish the admirer.

Interestingly, Jacobson's buyers stumbled upon Arzu's boutique while window shopping one day in Florence. They arranged an appointment to meet with Arzu at her studio, which resulted in the initial order of these conversation pieces. Handbag collectors will love their sculptured shapes and finely detailed fittings. Crafted of calfskin and suede with brass, silver or frosted Plexiglas hardware, the bags retail for \$200-

\$350 and are available at Jacobson's Birmingham, Livonia and Dearborn stores. A new fall shipment is expected soon.

Expandable briefs

What's new in briefcases? Though aluminum cases are a symbol of status in California, the brief of choice in our area is the soft, expandable organizer, according to Rita Cutler at Baggit in Appleton Square, Southfield. Two favorites are the "Pie" leather bag (\$174) and the handsome Tumi case made of ballistic nylon, the most durable luggage material available. Both of these styles are lightweight, casually elegant and expand to accommodate a laptop computer, unlike the traditional rigid, hinged attachee.

The hottest product at Baggit is the Rollaboard Travelsystem, the luggage leader of the travel industry. If you're making summer vacation plans, stop in and see these remarkable bags. If you're a frequent flier, you've probably seen aircrews wheeling them around airports. The small 20-inch carry-on (\$135), perfect for a three-day weekend trip is pictured. It has built-in wheels, a telescoping handle and it is the exact width of the aisle of an airplane. It easily fits under the seat or in the overhead bin and, the most important feature, it is designed to "piggyback" other luggage pieces through a unique clip and hook system. You never have to lug

anything through an airport again. It's also water repellent and rip-proof and the attachments are patented, though knockoffs abound.

Pile 'em on

Iris Lewistown of Birmingham is one satisfied customer. She travels extensively and has lots of luggage but raves about her Rollaboard. "I went to New York for five days with my 20-inch," she bragged. She also bought the large duffel (\$162) and a hanging bag, both of which hook to the Rollaboard so that she can wheel around the large pieces. "My husband has a bad back, so this is perfect. We love it."

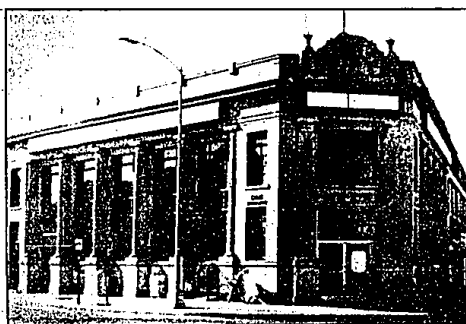
In case you're skeptical about squeezing all of your clothing into what appears to be a small compact, Baggit owner Arlene Singer conducts packing demonstrations. Some of her tips include rolling all of your garments except jackets, which should be folded on top and placed in a plastic bag, and utilizing every available space. For instance, the Rollaboard system cases have a special divider shelf to keep clothes wrinkle free, but there's just enough space underneath this tray to stash all of your undergarments. A back pocket holds three pairs of shoes, a small top pocket accommodates a jewelry roll and the large pocket in front is perfect for an umbrella and a coat or sweater.

Of course some people, like Iris, are experts at space planning. She showed us all of the basic necessities that she fit into her micro-sized shoulder bag — everything from keys to credit cards and cosmetics. Baggit carries these "wallet/purses" in fun colors for \$40.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her column ideas at 853-2047, mailbox 1889 or fax them to her at 644-1314.



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Now and then: The neo-classical structure on the corner of Grand River and Farmington roads is a landmark. Opened on March 18, 1922 as the Farmington State Bank, it was sold and turned into the current Village Mall in 1959. Some of the stores use the bank's old vaults in their new back rooms.

Mangia! at Bruschetta's Cafe

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO

Star Wars

Stella Tyburski and her daughter, Candace, took a break from their day at Heidi's Salon in the Oakland Mall to have lunch at the week-old Bruschetta Cafe.

"Tell everyone to order the soup," Stella insisted. "It's the real thing. Made fresh, not salty. And I know, my family used to own a restaurant in Hamtramck. The ladies will appreciate the dishes, too. Ceramic pieces in all different colors — blue bowls, orange plates. Real cute."

College-aged Candace eyed the wait staff.

"They all look good," she pointed out. "You can tell they're professionals. I like that they talk to the patrons and greet everyone. That's real important to me."

Walter Mark Sanders of Troy reported that the Italian eatery has been very busy since it opened last week in the former location of Jonathan B. Pub, near Penney's across from Big Boy.

"City people, business people and shoppers are all stopping in to check

us out," he said. "We got a good review in the papers, too, so that has helped business."

Bruschetta's, with its hanging vine garland, ceramic pottery and five-foot tall sunflower bouquet, brings a lot of provincial Italy to the suburban Oakland Mall. It's the ninth restaurant from owner Mark Prentice, who only improves on his track record with Sebastian's Grill, Tavern on 13, Deli Unique, Cafe Jardin and Morelia.

"City people, business people and shoppers are all stopping in to check

Times change Main St.

Main Street metamorphosis. That's when old banks, former farmhouses and out-dated post offices become mini-malls, coffee houses and craft shops. To see how it works, just look at your favorite landmarks in Birmingham, Plymouth, Farmington and Rochester.



lock, and scramble into the Comix Plus shop.

After buying Spiderman's latest adventure or a pack of Marvel Universe trading cards, they hop back on their bikes for a cone at the Baskin-Robbins 31 Flavors across the street. A little card-swapping of the latest takes place among friends and then it's home for soccer practice, dinner and homework.

The kids are unaware that their corner destination was once The Farmington State Savings Bank, which was robbed in 1924 by six bandits wearing scarves over their heads.

The bank robbers got away with \$11,000 in cash and \$75,000 in Methodist Church bonds even though their get-away tires were shot out. To this day, the crime has never been solved. Many of the new shops use the bank's original vaults. Where is Spiderman when you need him?

Businesses come and businesses go through the years as new entrepreneurs create niches in a community with their dreams. Those lucky enough to live near these downtowns, say downtowns enrich their lives, stabilize their property values and give their hometowns a focus. "I remember coming home from Plymouth High," recalled Mary Arbour of Westland, "and we never went right home. We'd either stop at the bakery or Cloverdale's Dairy or the Rexall's Drugstore for a treat. Those places are gone now, just like the Kresge and the D & C."

The downtown Plymouth shopping district changed most dramatically in the early 1970's when Rucker's Stop and Shop Market on Forest became the Westchester Mall and the old Hines Park Market dealerships became the Forest Place Mall. These two mini-malls were divided up to

See CAFE, 6A

See MAINSTREET, 6A

MONDAY, MAY 24

WALKERS WELCOME

Beginning today, keep track of mail miles walked to earn colorful walking club T-shirt. Stop by mail management office for official mileage chart. 200 miles wins the prize and entitles walkers to Walking Club Newsletter as a member of the 200 Mile Club. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Nearburg. 644-6900.

CAMP SOMERSET

Registration begins for summer fashion camp for boys and girls ages 6-18. Saturdays, June 12-July 24. Cost is \$95. Application forms available at the mail office. Somerset Collection. Big Beaver/Coolidge. 643-6360.

HOMETOWN PRODUCTS

Celebrate Made-in-Michigan products through May 30 with recipes and samplings in Jacobson's Store for the Home. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also Culinary Cooking Demonstration noon to 3 p.m. on May 29. Birmingham. Maple/Bates. 644-6900.

COTTON CASHMERE

Sally's Design Boutique shows Joan Vass, USA Signature cotton Interlock collection for Fall 1993. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Clean-lined separates and dresses. Coordinated wardrobe concept mixes clothes great for packing. Crosswinds Mall. Orchard Lake/Lone Pine. 626-0888.

TUESDAY, MAY 25

BIG BAND

Shoppers can listen or move to the beat while 19-member Glen Miller Orchestra performs 5:30-8:30 p.m. on stage in front of Crowley's. Band directed by Larry O'Brien, features vocalists Carol Kory and Jeff Collins. Free. No reservations necessary. Livonia Mall. Seven Mile/Middlebelt. 476-1168.

SUMMER ENTERTAINING

Workshops all week long at various Hudson's Dept. Stores. Weight Watcher's food advice create recipes, noon to 1:30 p.m. Local hostess Sharon Koma demonstrates picnic packing and buffet tips noon

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

to 2 p.m. May 26 at Oakland Mall. May 27 at Fairlane Mall. Childhood entertainment author Elyse Field will discuss her new book "Kids Catalog of Michigan Adventures." Noon to 1 p.m. Book Dept. May 25 at Twelve Oaks Mall. May 27 at Fairlane Mall. Twelve Oaks Mall. 12 Mile/Nov. 344-6800.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

VETERANS PLAQUE

On Sept. 10, 1947, Hudson's dedicated a plaque to honor the 1,148 employees who served in World War II. The plaque was displayed on the first floor of the Woodward Avenue Building. Rededication of the plaque at the Hudson's Northland store at 10:30 a.m. Color guards, Midnight Rider's Fire and Drum Corp of Pleasant Ridge. Northland Mall. Eight Mile/Southfield. 443-6000.

THURSDAY, MAY 27

GRAND OPENING

T.J. Maxx store re-opens with expanded store. Features larger giftware dept. Closed May 26 to prepare for opening. Bloomfield Hills. Telegraph/Square Lake. 338-8610.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

FARMER'S MARKET

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Village Commons Parking Lot. One-half mile east of Farmington Road on Grand River. Will be repeated every Saturday through October. Downtown Farmington. 474-3440.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Through May 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Municipal Park. Parade on Monday. Games, demonstrations, refreshments.

Downtown Rochester. University/Pine. 656-0060.

SUNDAY, MAY 30

STORYBOOK SUNDAY

"Anders" of WNIC radio will read "Ride A Perfect Policeman" 1 p.m. Center court. Children can earn reading points for gift merchandise. 99-cent meals at participating restaurants. Fairlane Mall. Michigan/Southfield. 593-3330.

CLASSICS AND CROISSANTS

Noon to 2 p.m. Co-sponsored by WQRS. Brunch catered by Sebastian's Grill. Tickets \$20 per person. Available at congregate desks. Somerset Collection. Big Beaver/Coolidge. 643-6360.

MONDAY, MAY 31

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

9:30 a.m. in front of Rochester City Hall. Parade to Mount Avon Cemetery. Speaker, music, 21-gun salute. Historical Society will receive Historical Marker for cemetery's 1826 dedication as Oakland County's first official cemetery. Gravestones date from 1817. Downtown Rochester. Pine/University. 651-6700.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

10 a.m. beginning at American Legion Hall, Lakeway and Grand River to the monument for brief service, this year honoring the Marines. High school bands perform. Downtown Farmington. 474-8554.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans. Parade begins at 10 a.m. along Theodores between Main and Farmer Streets. Parade concludes at Kellogg Park for memorial service. Congressman William Ford is scheduled to speak. Downtown Plymouth. 453-1234.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Most malls will be open for limited hours today. Laurel Park Place in Livonia will be closed.