

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1993

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SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

Boot scootin' around in style

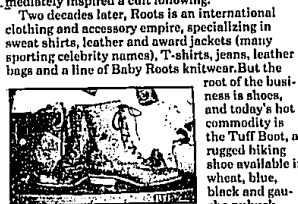
This winter's wardrobe essential is the boot. Short or high-rise, lace-up grannies or lug-soled work boots, it's the shoe of choice for the well-heeled this season.

The good news is that most boot styles can be worn with anything in your wardrobe. Wear the rugged heavy-duty construction styles with jeans or long skirts and swingy dresses. Don't forget a pair of slouchy, scrunchy socks. Clunky-heeled platform shoe-boots look great with wide-legged pants but give the classic suit a contemporary edge. ...Cranny boots? The funky lace-ups with sculptured heels redefine the Victorian look when paired with slim skirts and ruffled blouses.

Then there are motorcycle boots and cowboy boots and a must-have for Michigan winters, apres-ski boots. The choice is endless, but local shops may help you narrow the field.

Strong roots

Twenty years ago, Detroit natives Michael Budman and Don Green opened their first store in Toronto. They named the counter-culture shoe store Roots, symbolizing the feet as the ultimate foundation. "It's a good, strong, earthy word," says Budman. Their funny-looking, negative heel earth shoes were cutting-edge footwear in 1973 and immediately inspired a cult following.



Two decades later, Roots is an international clothing and accessory empire, specializing in sweat shirts, leather and award jackets (many sporting celebrity names), T-shirts, jeans, leather bags and a line of Baby Roots knitwear. But the root of the business is shoes, and today's hot commodity is the Tuff Boot, a rugged hiking shoe available in wheat, blue, black and gaucho nubuck.

(1115). Maggio Harlan of Farmington reminisced as she tried on a pair of "Tuff Boots." "I owned a pair of the original negative heel boots in blue suede," she said, fondly recalling the old broken-in favorites. The newest Roots Boot is a high-rise, stacked heel, logging style for women in black, blue and hunter green (\$140).

Fans call the Roots Boots the fad of the '90s. "I love 'em," gushed Dan Kerin, a Detroit Country Day senior. Roots, 138 W. Maple, Birmingham.

Another longtime purveyor of boots and activewear, Don Thomas Sporthaus, 6600 Telegraph in the Bloomfield Plaza, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The store specializes in ski



fashions and equipment, and has an impressive selection of apres-ski boots. Much of the skier this year sports a Native American-inspired

Southwest flavor. Tecnica has designed its fur-lined boots to coordinate with the Navajo look.

Look for the beacon blanket-trimmed Narvik 8 (\$249), the colorful leather-trimmed Skandia 2 (\$249), the soft fleece design on the Bahia (\$229) and the short moccasin-like Navajo 2 (\$189) with fringe and an embroidered band. The Navajo was Lauren Duerr of Birmingham's favorite. "I like the shorter style and the Indian trim," she said.

Also popular this season is the Nordic look. Vega (\$269) entices with its snowflake design. All of the Tecnica boots are made in Italy.

One final request of boot-lovers. Call me if you know where to find a boot called Herman's Survivors. I hear it's all the rage.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her column ideas at 953-2047, or fax them to her at 644-1314.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:

- Deck the malls with trees and holly. A visit to the more spectacular holiday productions at your favorite shopping centers.
- Added Attractions lists festive mall happenings.
- Linda Bachrack shops for special cookbooks.
- Two more days to Shop for the Frogs!

SHOP FOR THE FROGS



In a day-long fantasy trip for two to New York City! Everyone has an Uncle Fenton and Aunt Felicity on their holiday shopping list. These are the hard-to-please, hard-to-buy-for folks with no hobbies, no frills fashion sense and no obvious needs.

Super shoppers should send in gift ideas for this frankly fuddy-duddy family. The list must include 10 items and the stores and towns they can be found in—five gift suggestions for Felicity and five for Fenton. Gifts should range in price between \$1 and \$100. A trio of judges will select one winner based on originality and appropriateness of gift suggestions. Decision of the judges is final. The winning list and two runnerup lists will be published on the Malls & Mainstreets page to help readers "Shop for the Frogs" on their lists. The contest runs from Monday, Nov. 8 to Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 5 p.m. Winner will be announced Monday, Nov. 29. The winner and a guest must be able to travel to New York City on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1993, courtesy of Hamilton, Miller, Hudson and Payne Travel Corp. of Southfield. The prize includes roundtrip airfare only, with transfers to and from Manhattan. Winner is responsible for own spending money. The prize may not be substituted for cash. A liability waiver must be signed. Must be 21 years or older to enter. So if you'd like to see fantastic window displays, watch the holiday skaters at Rockefeller Center, tour the museums and smell the wonderful aroma of chestnuts roasting on every corner ... start shopping!

Send gift lists to: Shop for the Frogs Contest, c/o Malls & Mainstreets, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Include your name, address and daytime phone number. Direct queries to Susan DeMaggio: 953-2134.



Titles 'R Us: Curling up with a good book doesn't require a fireplace, a cup of tea, or Fido at your feet anymore. These shoppers at Borders Books & Music in Novi seem to feel right at home.

Big bookstores battle for bucks



BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO

They are the Big Three of the book world, according to the American Booksellers Association. And their latest adventures, pardon the pun, would make a good book.

Their construction, stocking and staffing of book and music superstores, complete with espresso cafes, literary events and educated sales consultants, are a reader's paradise.

In first place with 1992 sales of \$1.14 billion is Waldenbooks, owned by Kmart Corp., which is based in Troy. The number-two player with 1992 sales of \$1 billion is New York-based Barnes & Noble, which also owns the B. Dalton and Doubleday mall bookstores. Barnes & Noble went public in mid-October.

Entering the third spot is Ann Arbor-based Borders Books with 1992 sales of \$400 million, acquired by Kmart in a stock swap in 1992. A future public offering is being considered.

Borders just announced it will move its headquarters into the old Jacobson's building on State Street in Ann Arbor, simultaneously open-

ing a 40,000-square-foot flagship store with more than 200,000 book and music titles in summer 1994.

A typical Borders superstore offers 130,000 book titles in 35,000 square feet. Borders stores can be found in Beverly Hills, Novi, Utica, Ann Arbor and next year, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Novi. They have stores across the nation as well. Barnes & Noble superstores try not to be out-booked and provide 100,000 titles in 15,000 square feet of selling space. Spokeswoman Kim Becker said the Rochester Hills at Rochester and Auburn and Bloomfield Hills store at Maple and Telegraph are doing so well that a third metro store will open in Ann Arbor on Westlawn by the end of November. There also are stores in Grosse Pointe and Lansing.

The small but mighty Waldenbooks stores sit in 3,000-square-foot mall stores with 15,000 to 20,000 titles. Waldenbooks and More Books, the freestanding version of a Walden superstore, is scouting new locations although no specifics have been announced, according to Susan Arnold.

See BOOKSTORES, 9A

M & M toasts first year

With this issue, Malls & Mainstreets marks its first-year anniversary.

We're blowing out one candle with one big cheer: Malls & Mainstreets won third place for Lifestyle Section in the Michigan Press Association's annual awards for excellence.

Here's an excerpt from the judges' comments about the page: "Congratulations on the guts to try something innovative, informative and fun!"

Working with the local retail community this year has surely been informative and fun. We've reported on trends, promoted community-service programs and examined various aspects of running a shopping center where thousands of people gather each week.

Looking ahead to our second year, we'll keep you posted on the new re-

tailers entering our marketplace. We'll examine fresh and unusual retail approaches. We'll continue to hunt down the latest inventories in our Shopping Centered column. We'll keep the calendar of Added Attractions full of the special events happening at your favorite mall or Main Street.

Stay tuned. We've only just begun to shop!

And speaking of shopping, why not enter our Shop For The Frogs contest? You have until Nov. 23 to come up with five gift ideas for a hard-to-shop for woman and five gift ideas for a hard-to-shop for man. Next add the stores you found the gifts in, then mail your list to us. You might win a trip to New York City for yourself and a friend!

— Susan DeMaggio

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

MONDAY, NOV. 15

NEW KIDS STORE

Troy's Palace, featuring moderate to better-priced clothing and accessories for infants and children to size 14 opens. Now lines include Four Quoi, JoJo, Tickle Me for girls and Tickle Me for boys. Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. 356-5040.

NEW CARD SHOP

Lee's Specialty is open specializing in stationery, gifts, and custom invitations. Details are retailer's trademark. Services include calligraphy and counseling on proper paper etiquette. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. 643-6350.

THURSDAY, NOV. 18

SANTA PARADE

Horsedrawn carriage brings Santa Claus to the Sesame Street display in center court after a parade through the mall. Troy Athens Marching Band plays at 6:30 p.m. Oakland Mall, 14 Mile/John R. Troy. 585-6000.

COFFEE WEEK

Hudson's Marketplaces through Nov. 24. Hands-on demos and product sampling throughout the day. Meet representatives from Rowenta, Braun, La Pavoni, Sako, Krups and DeLonghi. Oakland Mall, Troy; Twelve Oaks in Novi; Lakeside Mall, Sterling Heights, only. 597-2200.

FRIDAY, NOV. 19

GRAND OPENING

The Cowboy Trader Gallery, 5-8 p.m. Where the Old West meets the Midwest. Blankets, beads, turquoise and silver gallery, baskets, books, pottery and more. 725 S. Adams, Downtown Birmingham. 647-8933.

SATURDAY, NOV. 20

HOLIDAY PARADE

11th annual civic and mall-sponsored "Spirit of Christmas" parade, 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to Six

Mile and Middlebelt for mile-long march to Seven Mile with floats, bands, costumed characters, marching bands, Santa Claus and more. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt, Livonia. 476-1160.

SANTA PARADE

Santa arrives at Lakeside, escorted by 20 children in native costumes from countries around the globe. Big Christmas Tree lighting at 7 p.m. Fountain stage. Santa rides the Worldmobile while parents and kids sing "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" and other popular tunes. Children receive a snowman-shaped notepad from Santa. Santa's workshop is a high-tech wonder featuring monitors, international clocks and world flight maps. Lakeside, M-59/Schoenherr, Sterling Heights. 247-1744.

SESAME STREET SANTA

Gordon and Susan from Sesame Street perform live in Lord and Taylor Court, Noon and 3 p.m. Santa appears during noon performance on Sunday, Nov. 21. Goodies for children attending. Kids can send letters to Santa at the North Pole from giant Magie Mailbox in center court. Animated musical instruments provide the mall's holiday theme. Twelve Oaks, 12 Mile/Novi. Nov. 348-9438.

SANTA ARRIVES

Sing-along begins at 11 a.m. outside entrance 6, east of Penny's. Santa arrives by horse and carriage, escorted to center court by a brass ensemble playing holiday tunes. Children attending receive a free Holiday Bear. Photos with Santa continue through Dec. 24. Westland Shopping Center, Wayne/Warren, Westland. 425-5001.

SANTA AND SCOUTS

Join the Boy Scouts and Santa as they fight The Giving Tree, to collect gifts for 800 needy children who are wards of the state. 11 a.m. center court. Pictures with Santa through Dec. 24, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily performances of "Dinosaur" puppet show at Six

near main entrance. Meadowbrook Village Mall, Walton/Adams, Rochester Hills. 375-9451.

SANTA ARRIVES

Elegant, horse-drawn carriage brings Santa to Laurel Park Place at 6:30 p.m. along with trumpeters, mimes, jesters and dancers. Parade through mall features dancers of Story's School of Dance in Novi. Children attending receive treat from Santa. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. 462-1100.

SANTA IN SOUTHFIELD

Santa Claus arrives 11 a.m. to host visits and photo sessions through Dec. 24. Mallwide animated display features eight vignettes depicting holidays around the world, through Saturday, Jan. 1. Regular mall hours. Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. 353-4111.

GOOSE AND SANTA

Christmas parade led by Snoo Goose and Mother Goose characters, floats, marching band and Santa. Noon. Mallwide holiday displays feature interactive children's fun. Summit Place, Elizabeth Lake/Telegraph, Waterford. 692-0123.

SUNDAY, NOV. 21

SANTA AND THE SPINNERS

Motown stars entertain. The Spinners perform a free holiday concert, 11 a.m. Hudson's Court. Martha Reeves reads a holiday story to children. Santa appears during the performance to begin his own holiday gig through Dec. 24. Bring your cameras! Fairlane Town Center, Michigan/Hubbard, Dearborn. 593-3330.

MONDAY, NOV. 22

DIABETES INFO

Blood pressure screening and diabetes update courtesy of Botsford General Hospital (in Farmington Hills) and mall's Walking Club, 8-10 a.m. Jacobson's court area. Newcomers welcome. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. 462-1100.