

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

(F) 5A

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1995

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

New Year's Eve by the fire's glow

December 31, 3 a.m.

The images of a recurring nightmare flash before her eyes. Yet again, she relives the torment of last New Year's Eve. The flu-stricken baby-sitter canceled at 5 o'clock. The dress barely zipped after too many holiday parties. A driving snowstorm left the roads almost impossible to maneuver. And then, the crowded, noisy party; the smoke-filled rooms... 6 a.m. She awakens feeling light-headed and filled with anticipation. She nudges him. Asks him to ready the children. Her mother will arrive to pick the kids up at 10 o'clock. The rest of the day and night belongs to just the two of them...

Time alone

10:30 a.m. With the kids safely ensconced at Grandma's, they're ready to kickstart the New Year. She has reserved the next several hours at Tamara Institut de Beaute in Farmington Hills.

The Grand Getaway for Twos their destination.



How better to relax and rejuvenate than a private soak in a candlelit whirlpool bubble bath. He proposes his first New Year's toast with champagne and feeds her strawberries. A soothing body massage and European facials combine to mellow their moods and they laugh and whisper like children as they enjoy hot oil manicures, side by side. Recharged, the lovefest continues...

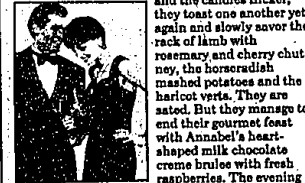
Built for two

3 p.m. She urges him to take a nap as she prepares for the evening. Snow begins to blanket the yard, and she stakes the fire in the fireplace. She smiles as she positions the new "fireless" chair at just the right angle to the dancing flames.

Her Ligne Roset chair for two from ItalModa was a surprise from her mom this Christmas. A soft giant-sized pillow, its sink-in cushions are like a gentle embrace. They will nestle into this chair and savor the remarkable quiet of the night...

4 p.m. As the snowstorm rages outside, she congratulates herself for planning this intimate evening at home.

8:30 p.m. She sends him to Annabel's & Co. to pick up a wonderful and romantic five-course New Year's Eve repeat for two. They are without words to describe the salmon, caviar on eggplant blini, the roasted red pepper soup, the salad of baby field greens with poached pears. As the fire blazes and the candles flicker, they toast one another yet again and slowly savor the rack of lamb with rosemary and cherry chutney, the horseradish mashed potatoes and the haricots verts. They are satiated. But they manage to send their gourmet feast with Annabel's heart-shaped milk chocolate creme brulee with fresh raspberries. The evening is



a success and it's barely begun...

8 p.m. Strains of Mozart and Beethoven echo in their ears as they snuggle together, sharing thoughts on life, on love. Tonight they dance slowly, as one, to the music...

Midnight. As they share a kiss and a wish for the New Year, they resolve to make this day and evening their own New Year's Eve tradition.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. She welcomes merchandise information to share with readers. Call her at (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1889. Or fax ideas to (810) 644-1314.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:

- **Touche!** A local family markets a game that's a winner.
- A conversation with the woman who will manage Hudson's flagship store at Somerset North.
- Shape up and get your weight down by joining a mall walker's club near you.
- Retail Details briefs give you the latest marketplace news.

Summit Place spiffs up its retail mix



Area residents are discovering what one local TV anchorwoman called "the best-kept shopping secret." It's the "new" Summit Place mall in Waterford.

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Shedding its old reputation as "the Pontiac Mall," Summit Place at Elizabeth Lake and Telegraph in Waterford, has added 22 new stores and 30 aisleway vendors to its lineup since March.

Hudson's upscaled and remodeled its Summit Place store last year and worked with local owners Ramon-Gershenson, Inc. of Southfield, to bring its annual holiday exhibit (which attracts some 300,000 visitors) to Summit Place from Northland Center.

Restaurateur Matthew Prentice (owner of Morels in Bingham Farms, Relish Grill in Farmington Hills,

Sebastian's Grill in the Somerset Collection, America in Royal Oak and Bruschetta Cafe in Oakland Mall) just opened a sordough bread bakery and court restaurant at Summit Place, bringing his unique food vision to shoppers at the center. (Not to mention 17 varieties of fresh bread to go.)

General manager Joe Tyree joined the center in 1991 with the goal of improving the retail offerings to attract upscale shoppers.

"We're currently developing a repositioning plan that could include an expansion," he said, refuting the department store's claim that the center is "We serve a very diverse population here — the residents of Clarks-

ton, Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield. Plus, we have a strong community presence with Waterford and Pontiac shoppers."

Tyree said the Hudson's renovation "absolutely affected sales dramatically." He wouldn't give any sales figures, but said they were good enough to impress Prentice and win an attractive dining facility for the mall.

"The Sourdough Cafe will draw Hudson's shoppers out into the mall to lunch," he explained. "The mall sorely needed a restaurant like this."

Summit Place was built in 1962 and expanded and renovated in 1989 to become one of the nation's largest single-level shopping center with 1.5 million square feet of retail space.

New stores are The Sourdough Cafe, Heidi's Salon, Windship, Crafter's Corner, Home for the Holidays, Bhogal's Leathers, The Body Shop, Hickory Farms, City Sweets,

Christmas by Franks, Berry Baby, San Francisco Music Box Company, Royal Goldsmith, Glass Gallery, Kids Corner by Franks, In The Garden by Franks, Luna Gallery, Soft Impressions, Galerie Internationale, World of Science, It's Perfume Oil and Native Design.

Merchandise carts present such items as personalized cartoons, blown glass collectibles, phones and beepers.

Jill Wilkins of Clarkson stood in line at Kohl's next to a local news broadcaster who begged anonymity. Both agreed that the mall has changed for the better and is a good place to shop because it's still not well known enough to be crowded.

"You have the merchandise selection, but not the long lines," Wilkins said.

Sock monkeys return in mom's storybooks

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Editor's note: Malls & Mainstreets ran a feature recently on where to find the red-heeled socks used to craft monkey dolls. In the ensuing weeks, many readers called to share their experiences with the beloved monkeys, wanting the pattern, the socks — or both! Ann Mooney of Ann Arbor tells the ultimate sock monkey tale.

Once upon a time in the early 1990s, a very loving mom named Ann Jacobs Mooney made a sock monkey doll for her little boy, Danny.

Ann wanted Danny to have the fun she remembered having when her mother made her a sock monkey in the 1950s.

Danny loved his monkey doll so much that his mom made him more stuffed animals — an elephant named Ellie, and a tiger named Tiger. Ann loved to watch Danny play in their Ann Arbor backyard with his animals, perching them in trees, pushing them in his swing, and hiding them in her flower beds.

Some of the poses were so adorable, so amusing, Ann began photographing them. Delighting in the pictures, she decided to weave a story around them and have it published with the photos illustrating the trio's adventures.

Ann was a very clever mom and very talented. She was also looking to end a 15-year career as a psychotherapist that took a lot out of her. Perhaps becoming an author would be a good idea, especially if her stories could take some pain out of the world.

When "Tiger's New Friends" was published by diamonds Press in 1992, it included a story about accepting newcomers, 19 wonderful col-

or photographs, and patterns for making three sock animals. The book was also available in a gift pack with a pair of socks inside to get others started making sock animals for their children.

Then one day Ann had another little boy, Scott's almost-first words were, "Can I be in your next book?" Because Ann was a very smart mom (and a psychotherapist) she knew there must be a sequel to "Tiger's New Friends" and that it be

See MONKEYS, 6A



Family affair: Ann and Tom Mooney share the success of the family's sock animal books with sons Danny and Scott (seated).

A Sock Monkey History

■ Red-heeled socks were first made on machines built in the late 1800s. But making toys for children out of old socks is an American tradition that dates back farther.

■ The socks were manufactured by the Nelson Knitting Co. of Rockford, Ill., until a few years ago when the company sold the patent to Fox River in Oaage, Iowa and went out of business.

■ The popularity of red-heeled sock monkeys reached a peak in the 50s and 60s.

■ In 1992, the sock monkey made a

comeback thanks to baby boomers recalling the joys of days gone by.

■ The sock monkey appears on a Muppet TV special in the nursery scenes.

■ The sock monkey is featured in the "I Spy" children's books.

■ The sock monkey is one of Catwoman's toys in "Batman Returns."

■ The sock monkey is featured in David Letterman's skit in the movie "Cabin Boy."

■ The sock monkey appears on the 1995 Academy Awards broadcast.

Four malls collect items for DePaul

Four Shostak shopping centers will accept non-food and non-cash items for St. Vincent DePaul through Dec. 26: Laurel Park Place and Wondersland Mall in Livonia, Macomb Mall in Roseville, and Universal Mall in Warren.

Shoppers are asked to bring their donations to each mall's information center with the exception of Laurel Park Place where goods should be brought to the security desk at the office building across from the AMC Theater.

A Wonderland Mall spokeswoman said shoppers have been very generous with clothing and household donations to date. "They're bringing in items by the carloads," she said.

Retail Realities:

Blockbuster Video celebrated its 10th Anniversary on Oct. 19. During the last decade, it averaged one store opening a day.

Retailers can submit news of upcoming events and promotions for Added Attractions. The deadline is the Wednesday before publication on Monday. Send facts to: Malls & Mainstreets, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 806 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. Or fax to: (810) 644-1314.

TUESDAY, DEC. 26

WIZARD OF OZ

21 animated vignettes tell Dorothy's tale during walk-through exhibit on display from Hudson's through Dec. 31. Free. Additionally, the Summit Place mall has playground for children with daily holiday activities near Kohl's. Mother Goose decor theme. Summit Place, Elizabeth Lake/Telegraph, Waterford. (810) 653-5299.

SALES AND RETURNS

Look for winter discounts as retailers prepare for year-end inventories.

ADDED ATTRactions

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

MUSEUM SHUTTLE

Roundtrip motorcoach trip from mall to Detroit Art Institute. Leaves mall at 9 a.m. Departs museum for mall at 2 and 4 p.m. Ticket price \$8, includes transportation, docent-guided DIA tour, museum admission. Lunch available at American Grill or Krone Court Cafe. Time to browse in museum's gift shop. Tickets available at DIA Museum Store, mall's upper level. Twelve Oaks, 12 Mile/Hov. Mall. (313) 833-9730

IMPASSABLE RESEMBLING

Fashions from Heron's presented noon to 2 p.m. during lunch at Stage & Co. Boardwalk, Orchard Lake/Maple, West Bloomfield. (810) 655-0622.

SATURDAY, DEC. 30

HOLIDAY MUSIC

Hammerson outdoor player Julie Hunter 4-9 p.m. Canterbury Village, Jostynoff 1-75, Lake Orion. (810) 391-5700.

SUNDAY, DEC. 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Extended holiday hours: Most malls close at 8 p.m. First Night Party

5 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT IN DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM. Alcohol-free festival of arts for families. Entertainment and refreshments at various venues. Call for details or be volunteer. Birmingham, Maple/Woodward. (810) 540-6688.

MONDAY, JAN. 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR! MANY MALLS OPEN UNTIL 8 P.M. today.