

Handmade gifts: A personal touch

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Photos: MINDY SAUNDERS

In 21 days we'll be watching family members and friends open the gifts we so carefully selected for them, hoping to see a glint of joy come to their faces from our choices.

Though most of the gifts we give for the holidays will be purchased in stores, there's something personal about buying gifts that you know are hand made—even if the hands aren't your own.

There's a jewelry store in north Oakland County that features jewelry made with the special touch of an artist's hands rather than the touch of mass production.

At P.R. Haig Custom Jewelers in Rochester, customers will not only see display cases filled with handcrafted rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings and belt buckles, they'll be able to talk to the owner, 28-year-old Paul Haig, who will tell you how the jewelry was made, who worked on it and who cut the stones.

"I fashioned this store after the jewelry shops that were common in Europe before 1885," said the red-bearded jeweler. "Before then, craftspeople worked in the shops, finishing each piece by hand."

"I'm involved with every aspect of the jewelry making. I cut all the stones in the shop, except for diamonds," said Haig.

There are 10 employees in the upstairs store at 3074 Main who make jewelry and create the gold, melting it into whatever the customer wants. Other jewelers have pieces at the store sold on consignment.

EITHER HAIG, who began his first jewelry business at the age of eight, or the others in his shop design the pieces that are not custom ordered. Haig personally handles the custom designs. They make the pieces, constructing them either from wax or directly from the metal.

"About 20 per cent of our pieces are constructed from the metal itself," said store manager Greg Gordon. "Most of the jewelry, however, is first designed in wax. Once that's approved, the wax is put into plaster and burned out to make a mold. Then

the piece is cast in metal and the stones are inset."

Haig's main interest, in addition to designing jewelry and cutting gems, are the gems themselves.

He specializes in opals and unusual color stones, selecting each one himself for his store.

"We have over 500 types of stones and different varieties of most of them. We only deal in natural stones, he said.

Haig is busy transforming one of his favorites—opals—from un-cut gems into watch faces, putting them into antique watches he's collected.

He won't work on older old watches until customers place orders. There are platinum watches with diamonds and rose-gold ones with rubies and diamonds to choose from.

"There's a story behind each of these watches," said Haig, continuing his repair work on an antique ring, "and a story for every piece in the store."

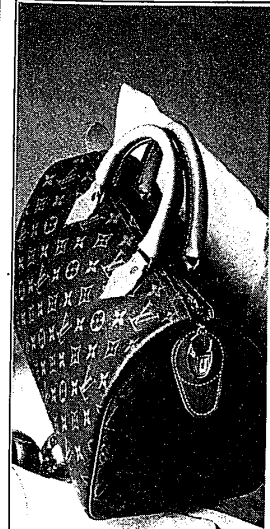
Just ask him. He'll tell you.



Paul Haig is a jeweler specializing in opals, gems and designing and making jewelry in his Rochester shop.



Ornately decorated watches range from platinum with diamonds (far left), to rose gold (far right). Of particular interest is a 1930 gold watch (third from right) with an pearl embedded face.



Christmas LV: our classic Louis Vuitton satchel! Big, squashy, with room to spare, it's zip-topped, LV-fleuron'd on the special brown canvas, trimmed and double-handled in leather; \$130. Handbag Collections.

Saks Fifth Avenue

We are all the things you are... gifts just right for you



Holiday LV: our exclusive Louis Vuitton disco bag! With a facile closure and leather spaghetti straps long enough to let it be worn over your shoulder or across your body; \$100. Handbag Collections.

Saks Fifth Avenue

We are all the things you are... gifts just right for you



Under-the-tree—LV: our exclusive Louis Vuitton bucket! Double-shoulder-strap and bound with rich leather, it's big enough for all your indispensable, and even has an attachable LV change purse inside; \$115. Handbag Collections.

Saks Fifth Avenue

We are all the things you are... gifts just right for you



Saks Fifth Avenue, Detroit, Second at Lothrop, open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 A.M. till 5:30 P.M. Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, open Monday through Saturday from 10 A.M. till 9 P.M., Sunday from noon till 5 P.M.

Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

For openers

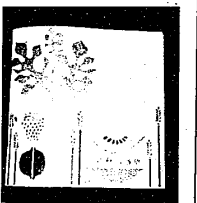
Perrier water was first bottled by a decree of Napoleon III "for the good of France" in 1883. Curiously, while it has been an "in" beverage in Europe for a long time, its popularity among U.S. gourmets, nutritionists and jet-setters has been very recent. Now Cartier has gotten on the band wagon with a Perrier sterling silver three-piece bottle stopper set (\$45). Packaged in a red leather box, the set contains two bottle caps engraved with the Perrier logo plus a bottle opener with an engraved outline of the Perrier bottle.

Le Must de Cartier, Renaissance Center, Detroit, 259-2055.



Good and healthy

If you're into nutrition but not into Cartier or Perrier, here's another good item to know about. Concern, Inc., Detroit, has just published a cookbook entitled, "This can't be healthy like it!" The easy-to-make recipes take the "junk" out of the snack foods. Things such as cookies, ice cream and pizza are made without refined white sugar, white flour, salt, preservatives or additives. Attractively illustrated and printed on 100 per cent recycled paper, the cookbook can be obtained by sending \$3.95 plus 50 cents for postage and handling to: Concern, Inc., Detroit, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 46038, 879-1333.



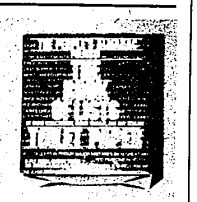
Being catty

These purrable stuffed animals (\$26) were undoubtedly designed for children but, as I see it, they'd also be a comforting gift for any adult you know who's in need of a little TLC (tender loving care). The handcrafted non-allergenic plush animals each feature a Velcro stomach seam. First you open the seam and insert two D-cell batteries. Then, when you hold the animal in your arms, it purrs and vibrates (small amounts of pressure activate the batteries). Approximately 22 inches long, black panthers, spotted leopards, two-toned orange lions and fuzzy white cats are all in stock. Air and Sea Travel Boutique, 28671 Northwestern, Southfield, 355-2277.



Bottom lines

Last year it featured Gucci stripes or IRS forms. This year's status toilet paper is far more interesting: it's printed with excerpts from the number one bestseller, "The Book of Lists." Some of the information you'll pick up: "Famous highschool dropouts," "Famous events that happened in bathtubs," "Most popular main dishes in the U.S.," and "13 activities and the calories they consume." Priced at \$2.50, it's a great gimmick for the person who has everything, including a sense of humor. Crown House of Gifts, Somerset Mall, Troy, 643-6555.



Fashion Calendar

Monday, Dec. 4

Sussex House — Fashions by Leytons will be featured during informal modeling during the luncheon hour at Sussex House, 19701 W. Twelve Mile, Southfield. For reservations call 659-3377.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Chaire Pearone — A grand benefit for Orchestra Hall will mark the unveiling of the expansion that has taken place at Chaire Pearone's in Somerset Mall. A donation of \$7.50 is requested to toast the future of the legendary cultural center and the expansion. Celebration will also include top designers who have interpreted fashion of the future, plus imaginative masks interpreted in a futuristic manner by students at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. 5-8 p.m. For information call Orchestra Hall at 833-3700.

Cooper's Arms — Designer fashions from Janet Varner's of Rochester will be modeled informally from noon to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the restaurant, 306 Main, Rochester.

Friday, Dec. 8

Jacobson's — Ernst Strauss presents his resort into spring collection of suit and coat ensembles during informal modeling from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wardrobe classics include tailored coordinates in flannel, silk and ultra-wool in soft neutrals. The Birmingham store.

Lord & Taylor — Santa Claus has come to town at the Fairlane, Lakeside and Twelve Oaks stores to invite boys and girls to have breakfast each Saturday, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Red and white helium-filled balloons wafting the young guests happy holidays float from the backs of chairs, where the children will sit while being served breakfast while their parents get coffee. Entertainment will include local magicians performing at 9:40 a.m. and the arrival of Santa at 10 a.m. Reservations are necessary. There is a \$2 charge per child. For information call Fairlane at 336-3100, ext. 203, Lakeside at 247-4500, ext. 203, or Twelve Oaks at 348-3400, ext. 203.

Class Reunions

ROYAL OAK HIGH SCHOOL 1954
The January and June Royal Oak High School graduating classes are planning a reunion at 6:30 p.m. June 23 in Peeking House, 215 S. Washington, Royal Oak.
The planning committee is seeking to locate more class members. Those having information on fellow graduates or interested in attending the 25-year reunion may call Joyce Nash, 595-5419, or Barb Dorris, 647-0613.