

STREET SCENE

Inside **S²**

At your fingertips

The crowning touch to a pair of nice hands is a nice set of fingernails. And the crowning glory for nails is . . . nail art. Manicurists have become miniature "Picassos," taking the standard manicure beyond buffing a polishing by adding everything from stars and stripes to holiday scenes and such. Find out more on Page 6D.

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★ ★ 10



By Joan Boram
special writer

Once upon a time, catalog shopping was reserved for rural folk, an urban type would have considered ordering from the two main catalogs available to their country cousins.

Informally known as "Monkey Wards" and "Sears and Sawbuck," these black-and-white "dream books" were issued twice a year and were really complete department stores, offering not only clothing and household goods, but the houses themselves, prefabricated and ready to be assembled on the land of your choice.

Here we are in the '80s, the age of cocooning, and the more than 6,000 catalogs issued in 1988 tempt us with the same, expensive, the fabulous. No spare parts for your "couch here."

They are still "dream books," but instead of relieving rural isolation, they offer isolation to the busy urban working person.

You don't have to cope with crowded malls, indifferent sales clerks, or commonplace merchandise. In

Classy catalogs: Home shopping comes of 'age'

stead, you can kick off your shoes, curl up with a glass of white wine and today's trove of catalogs. Voilà! You're shopping! Just be glad you're not the mail carrier.

NEIMAN-MARCUS, of course, was the pioneer of

conspicuous mail-order consumption, and the annual tradition that always earns the store lots of publicity.

Over the years, NM has offered his and her ermine bathtubs, submarines, camels, robots, windmills and

striches raised by monks in a monastery in Oklahoma City.

In 1971, they offered his and her mummy cases. When opened, it was found that one of them actually contained a mummy!

The 1988 offering was dubbed his and hers because there's only one of them in the whole world — a one-person, hot air balloon. And with a 10-foot-tall (and 100-pound) balloon, this backpack balloon offers the possibility to "see the world with new eyes as you skim the sky with the birds." The royal blue balloon is tastefully decorated with a black-and-white cow with bright pink extremities. Symbolically, it's jumping over the moon.

The NM Cloudhopper requires instructions and should be bought only by a person who is prepared to obtain them. They're included in the \$18,000 price tag. (If you're that person, call 1-800-NEIMANS before it's too late.)

If over the rainbow is too much for you, how about a nice, damp historical country? Great Britain, for in-

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Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



"Our fellowship time has really warmed up since I switched the name from 'ritual of friendship' to 'networking'."

Shakespeare 'lives' at Stratford

By Mary Augusta Rodgers
special writer

G: We're thinking about a weekend trip to the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford and need up-to-date information on places to stay, restaurants, etc. We were there once, six years ago.

M.V.
Birmingham

A: There's good news and more good news. Stratford stays essentially the same — a nice, sleepy, old-fashioned Canadian town on the banks of the Avon River — while the festival, now in its 37th year, gets better and better. There are more choices in accommodations and restaurants, too.

Recently, some Birmingham people, experienced travelers all, were talking about favorite places. Exotic destinations were discussed, like Morocco and Nepal. But the winner in the "easy weekend trip" category was Stratford. One of the group

said, "I'm always happy there."

From the Detroit area, it's a pleasant three-hour drive through flat farmland and little towns like

Alix Craig (stop there sometime and catch the turtle races).

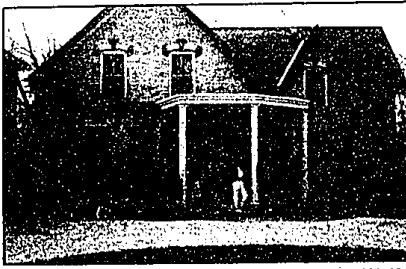
If you've been to Stratford once, certain sights are immedi-

ately familiar — the rococo red brick city hall building, Victorian houses with porch swings and potted geraniums, swans and paddleboats on the river and lawn bowling nearby, children, joggers and artists in the park near the Festival Theatre, and people having picnics before the next performance.

Stratford is the kind of town that takes the Shakespearean Festival, the Ontario Pork Congress and the International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show with equal aplomb.

When the Shakespearean Festival began in summer 1953, the play was "Richard III," the star was Alec Guinness and the theater was a tent. The original air condition system was a ton of ice in a shed dripping on burlap and big fans blowing the air into the tent. Meals were served in a church basement.

SO THERE have been some changes. One is a greater variety



The Baker House is a popular bed-and-breakfast inn in Stratford, known for its good breakfasts and a friendly, homely atmosphere.

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