



Table treats: "Ornaments" is Tiffany's porcelain design for the holidays. The pattern includes mugs and dessert plates, \$30 per piece.

Holiday tables sparkle in style

If you're looking for ways to liven-up your table this holiday season, here are some tips I got from the experts at Hestop's, Jacobson's and Hudson's. Ziegler, of Hestop's, with stores in Livonia, Novi, Rochester, Troy and West Bloomfield, assured "The more eclectic approach is in vogue right now."

In other words, not everything has to match.

Say, you have some china that belonged to your grandmother, and some from your great-uncle, and some that you bought yourself - all in different patterns. Mix and match these different pieces on your table, to make it more interesting to the eye, Ziegler insisted.

What if you have only one china pattern? You could buy individual pieces (salad plates, for example) in patterns that are different from - but complimentary to - your existing china, said Ziegler. "A lot of (china) manufacturers are offering open stock now, so you can buy individual items instead of just five-piece place settings," she said.

Another way to liven up your existing china is to use chargers, said Steven Lewis, display manager for Hudson's at Oakland Mall, Troy. Chargers look like over-size plates, but their purpose is purely ornamental. They're meant to go under regular-size dinner plates, for a decorative look.

"They can really change the look of your table," Lewis said. Hudson's carries chargers in a variety of colors and designs, starting at \$15 each. The eclectic approach also applies to table linens and candles, which are a must for the holiday season, said Ann Massey, tabletop manager of Jacobson's in Birmingham, and Michelle Shulman, spokeswoman for Hudson's.

They suggested draping two or more tablecloths - in different colors and textures - over a table in such a way that each cloth shows. You can top it off by adding a crocheted or lace tablecloth, a table runner, and rich colored napkins. As for candles, "Use a variety of votives, rather than candlesticks, to provide a more subtle, yet warm glow," Shulman said.

For a centerpiece, mix silver, bronze and brass candle holders on a decorative tray (and don't forget to put candles in the holders), Massey said. She suggested using a tray made by Pfaltzgraff, which is Hestop's top-selling china pattern, and the one that is requested the most by brides.

"It's rustic-looking, and the rustic look is in," Massey said. As evidence of that, Ziegler said that *Natureworn* by Pfaltzgraff is Hestop's top-selling china pattern, and the one that is requested the most by brides.

"It has a sage-green and ivory pattern, and features leaves and birds," Ziegler explained. "It's more for casual entertaining."

Casual entertaining is very popular, these days. So much so, that leading china manufacturers are adding casual pieces to their formal lines. Lenox, for example, added bakeware to its traditionally-formal Holiday pattern this year. Bakeware can go straight from the oven to the table.

Jacobson's Massey, said there is a trend toward more casual dining, but not during the holidays.

"I still think that when people want to bring out their best china and silverware," she said. "And, formal entertaining doesn't have to be any more time-consuming than casual entertaining. Fine china can be placed in a dishwasher, as long as you don't put it through the heat cycle."



BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
EDITOR

Three Michigan companies are behind a new book chronicling the career of a local broadcaster who, for the past 30 years, celebrated Detroit, uniting city and suburbs through the information he presented with sophistication and style.

J.P. McCarthy, "Just Don't Tell 'Em Where I Am," a biography penned by his producer Michael Shiels of West Bloomfield, assures J.P. fans that though he is gone, he is not forgotten. The book is also a mini history of WJR, "The Great Voice of the Great Lakes," published by Sleeping Bear Press of Chelsea, Michigan, and promoted by Jacobson's of Jackson, Michigan.

It was launched at a cocktail party hosted by Jacobson's Laurel Park Place store in Livonia, last Monday night, where the second floor overflowed with celebrities from the media, govern-

ment, and sports, among them Ken Calvert, Guy Gordon, Robbie Timmons, Ron Kramer and J.P.'s family.

Jacobson's spokeswoman Chris LaRock said the retailer got behind the book because of a long association with McCarthy.

"He was the voice over our commercials, and he got us to sponsor the PAL Golf Tournaments for years," she said. "We've been a venue for his cassette tape which was marketed after his passing in 1996."

Jacobson's stores will host book signings for holiday shoppers through December and sell the book in the stationery or men's departments, \$24.95.

Sleeping Bear Press president Brian Lewis said when Shiels approached him with the idea for the book, he knew at once, he had to do it.

"It allowed me to meet J.P. McCarthy," he said with a wide grin. "This guy was in my house everyday growing up, heck, he's a legend. It would be nuts not to publish his story. And it is such a great story."

WJR first mentioned the book on the air, 500 copies sold in minutes. The calls blew apart our 10 phone lines. And the best part was listening to all the stories callers wanted to relate about their memories of J.P.'s broadcasts."

The three-year-old Sleeping Bear Press, specializes in printing "fine, quality books." It's already had a couple of Michigan best sellers with *The Spirit of St. Andrews* and *Kirk Gibson's*

book, *Bottom of the Ninth*, also available at Jacobson's.

Author Shiels, who currently produces Ken Calvert's 10 a.m. to noon broadcast and Sports Rap on WJR, said he wrote the book simply, "Because J.P.'s story should be told."

"There is nothing to compare with what he did, on the radio today," Shiels said. "His death changed the entire radio market. In '92-'93 he commanded a 14 share. Today a 9 share is spread across several at the top. It's a shocking match now. You've got local teams vying for market share with the syndicated shows like *Don Imus*. Nobody knows where it's going next. But this book will help everyone remember where it's been."

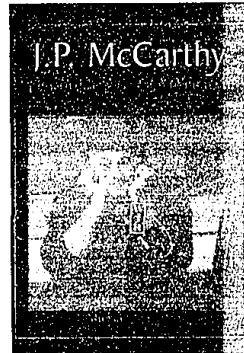
Shiels said all proceeds from the first 1,000 biographies sold will be donated to the J. P. Foundation to fight blood diseases. "That's \$25,000," he pointed out. "Afterward, a percent of each sale will go to the Foundation. The sales of the CD made in his memory two years ago have reached \$400,000 for the foundation, so far."

Broadcaster Ken Calvert was among the party-goers, a member of WJR's new generation of "Great Voices."

"J.P. was the guy I most respected in all of radio," he said. "And I miss him." Warren Pierce also shared his thoughts.

"I worked with him for 18 years," he said. "He was the best at what he did. Listening to a J.P. interview was like honing in on a conversation. Listeners felt they were a part of it. That was his magic."

In the words of J. P.'s son, Jamie, composed for the foreword in the 312-page book, "He was a man who practiced what he preached, worked hard, played hard, and always answered the bell... A man who respected those who



Gift for gab: Jacobson's, WJR, and Sleeping Bear Press hope J.P.'s biography makes its way to everyone's holiday gift list. It's now in bookstores, or available by calling 1-800-487-2323.

came from nothing and worked their way to the top... much like himself."

J.P. McCarthy graduated from DeLaSalle High in Detroit. While in the Air Force in Alaska, he worked for the Armed Forces Radio Network. After service he returned to Detroit. He started at WJR in October, 1956. In August 1995, he passed away from a blood clot at Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Book signings at Jacobson's stores:
Nov. 9 2-4 p.m. Birmingham
5-7 p.m. Rochester
Dec. 20 2-4 p.m. Rochester
5-7 p.m. Birmingham

AirTouch makes hi-tech buys a no-brainer

BY JUDY SOLOMON
SPECIAL WRITER

AirTouch Cellular opened its new concept "Easy Store" in Birmingham, the second such store to open in the U.S., with a Troy location starting operations at the end of the month.

The new stores, designed by Jon Greenberg & Associates of Southfield, were created to take the intimidation out of shopping for high tech communication devices.

"Cellular phone service is a complex, technology-oriented business, but the potential cellular customer is interested in a simple thing - phone service and plans that suit their particular needs," said Greg Haller, regional director at AirTouch. "With the 'Easy Store,' customers can now make that decision in a setting that focuses on their individual needs in a cellular phone."

At the light and bright, contemporary-design "Easy Stores," cellular phones and their accessories are grouped according to the intended use: Safety, Convenience, Business/Mobile and Efficiency/Executive. And there is no specific signage. Rather, large, colorful blow-up photos show you where to go.

Additionally, a live phone display provides customers with an opportunity to try both the analog and digital telephones by making calls to outside sources right from the showroom floor.

Shoppers will also find audio-visual displays to help them understand their AirTouch options, plus hot lines to enable customers to immediately reach Customer Care or Accounts Receivable. Lost or stolen telephones can be replaced, pagers can be purchased. And with seven full-time service representatives on hand, service should be very prompt.

"A customer shouldn't have to jump through hoops to do business," Haller said. "We want our stores to be user-friendly. Our goal is to become a world class retailer. We've looked at a lot of different national companies who really do it well such as The Gap and Nordstrom, and we learned four things: it's important for your store to be appealing to look at; the location must be good; you need an excellent product; and the biggest piece to the puzzle - the people who work in the

stores." The shop is at 128 S. Old Woodward in Birmingham, (248) 723-7800.



Keep in touch: Michela Treharne of Troy demonstrates how easy it is to buy a cellular phone at AirTouch in Birmingham.

News of special events for shoppers is included in this calendar. Send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o The Observer & Eccentric 805 East Maple, 48009; or fax (248) 644-1314. Deadline: Wednesday 5 p.m. for publication on Sunday.

SUNDAY, NOV. 9

Black history exhibit
An exhibit that chronicles the dedicated men and women who brought education to African Americans despite danger and difficulty, is set up next to Saks Fifth Avenue on the upper level of Fairlane through Nov. 15. Presented by the African American Media Archives Society, the exhibit includes more than 200 images from national archives.
Fairlane Town Center, Michigan/Southfield Fwy. (313) 593-1370.

Holiday exhibit open
Through Dec. 31, stroll through Victorian England recreated in 23 animated vignettes portraying the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*. The 8th annual holiday exhibit is presented by Hudson's during regular store hours. Group tours are available to classes, clubs. No charge for admission.
Summit Place Mall, Elizabeth Lake/Telegraph, Waterford. (248) 683-5293.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

Chair auction/benefit
The Michigan Design Center presents *The Chair Affair* from 7-10 p.m. to benefit The Furniture Resource Center of Oakland County. Metro artists have "redone" 20 gently-used chairs into works of art. Wine, hors d'oeuvres by Opus One. Auctioneer is David McCarron of Frank Boos Gallery. Guest Emcee is Colleen Burren, owner of Kathryn Scott shop in Birmingham. Tickets Are \$50.
1700 Strutz Dr. Troy. (248) 649-4772.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

Artist visits

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

South Carolina modular jewelry designer Lynn Strong meets customers 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sandra Collins Gallery.

470 North Old Woodward, Birmingham.

(248) 642-4755.

Jewelry trunk show

Tapper's presents David Yurman designs through Nov. 15 during regular business hours.
Orchard Mall, Maple/Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield. (248) 932-7700.

Fine Arts/Crafts Show

Holiday gifts by the Pontiac Oakland Society of Artists for show and sale through Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Sunday to 5 p.m.) among the offerings - paintings, drawings, pottery, decorations and accessories. Admission is \$4-\$6.
Springfield Oaks County Park Activity Center, 12451 Andersonville, Davisburg. (248) 887-4844.

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

Storyhour benefit

To kick off the holiday season and the Toys For Tots Program, Jim Harper and the Breakfast Club from WNIC will read Matt Faulkner's *The Giving Season* and segments will be performed by the Children's Theatre of Michigan, 7 p.m. at Somerset South Rotunda. Cost is \$4.95 per family. Admission includes an autographed copy of the book, a voucher for a free photo with Santa Claus, and refreshments from Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Sebastian's Grill. Reservations required.
Somerset Collection South, Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. (248) 816-6484.

Tea with Madeline

Madeline hosts a special tea with guests in Hudson's Kids Department 1-3 p.m. Lakeside, Sterling Heights. Somerset Collection North, Troy, stores only. (248) 666-2800.

Collectors Shows

Model Railroad and Toy Train Show from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. featuring new, used and collectible items and accessories. The highlight is a Lionel display with vintage trains from the post war era. On Nov. 16 an Antique and Collectible Toy Show/Sale with items that will delight families. Entry \$4, kids \$1. Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. (313) 455-2110.

SUNDAY, NOV. 16

Arthur visits children

Hudson's hosts a storyhour with a reading of *Arthur's New Baby*, featuring a visit by the PBS character, 2-3 p.m. in the Kids Department. Somerset Collection North, Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. (248) 816-4000.

Holiday Puppet Event

Children's Theatre of Michigan presents *Whose Earmuffs are these anyway?* at the Paganet Wagon Theater in the Somerset Collection South rotunda, through Dec. 24 at 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays 1,3, and 5 p.m. Free.

Today at 11 a.m. costumed characters will perform a short show to welcome Santa Claus to his three-story castle in Somerset Collection North's Grand Court. Photo operation runs through Dec. 24 with option of Polaroid shot with Santa \$10, or roll of 36mm film for \$15, processed at parent's convenience. Appointments with Santa optional.
Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. (248) 816-6484.