

'Thrill of the Hunt' Cont. from Page 13

for their clients.

"Today we found a Marc Jacobs short-sleeve sweater, for \$40," said Naomi Bergknogg, director of stores for Housing Works.

"I was very impressed with the selection of jeans, everything from Joie to paper denim and cloth, \$20," said another Housing Works shopper.

She found casual and chic, and loads of labels -- a Baby Phat jacket for \$75, a Shearling for \$200. A coat in fabulous condition from Club Monaco was just \$45.

"People are gravitating to our stores and realizing that they can find great value and bargains in our stores as well as a diversity of merchandise similar to a department store,"

"Some customers are coming in that hadn't before that are looking for interesting and exciting items that are more reasonable than are buying full price, though we need more donations of gently used product," said Housing Works president Richard Vorisek.

For now, shoppers can still find plenty of fashion gold -- Armani, Polo and a brand new Diane Von Furstenberg are just a few of the designer labels that can be found. "There's always the thrill of the hunt when you go to thrift stores,"

At the store where Rose Barton shops, Van Heusen blouses go for \$4, brand-new black leather jackets sell for \$8, and you can snap up a Christian Dior necktie - normally a steal for under \$100 - for just two bucks.

"Being frugal is in," she said. "For the price of going out to eat, you can get a whole new outfit. I would think you can get nice shoes, a skirt and a sweater for less than \$50."

Consignment-shop merchandise isn't as cheap as the items sold in the not-for-profits, like Goodwill, where people donate items. But you can go swanky on a budget. "For the high-end stuff, you can buy a \$2,500 St. John suit, for example, for \$300 to \$500."

Consignment shops sell anything from vintage clothing to furniture. Some have added men's wear recently.

Thrift stores like Goodwill's and Good Samaritan's finance community projects, such as job-

training programs, shelters, soup kitchens and more.

"One day I saw a girl carrying the most beautiful purse I'd ever seen," said one recent shopper in Escondido. "I walked up to her and asked her what it cost, expecting her to say \$60. She said, 'I got it at the Salvation Army for 50 cents.'"

"I offered her \$10 for it, and she wouldn't take it."

Sources for this story:

Deborah's Next to New

1624 E. Valley Pkwy
Escondido, CA. 92027
760.743.8980
www.deborahsnexttonew.com

Assistance League of Inland North County

2068 E Valley Pkwy
Escondido, CA 92027
(760) 746-7532
www.assistanceleague.info

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Carlsbad, CA.
760.434.0101

Vintage Sanctuary

625 S. Coast Highway
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Gems 'N Loans

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760.712.3298 (Vista)
760.429.7289 (O'side)

Salvation Army, Escondido

183 E. Washington
Escondido, Ca.
760.746.8321

Goodwill, Escondido

506 W. Washington Avenue
Escondido, Ca.
760.739.0200



Dining Room ensemble, from Deborah's Next to New, Escondido



Hutch, from Deborah's Next to New, Escondido \$299, normally \$499



Dining room ensemble and assorted other fine pieces of furniture from Assistance League of Inland North County, Escondido



Dining ensemble, coffee tables, wall art . . . from the Assistance League of Inland North County, Escondido



Assorted glassware, knick-knacks, all from the Assistance League of Inland North County, Escondido

Right, a variety of dining ensembles plus hutches and book shelves, all from Deborah's Next to New, Escondido



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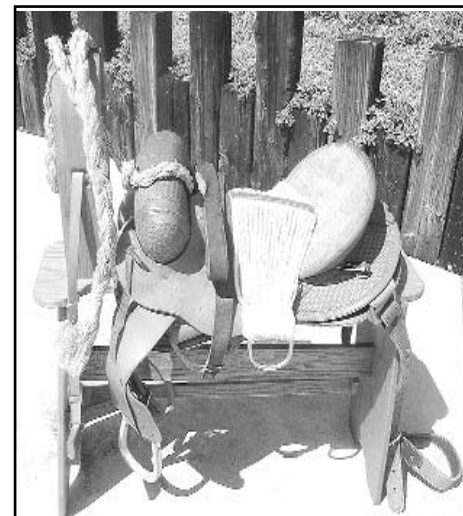
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