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ROCK IT: "When you make clothes for musicians you have to think of how they feel when they play—whether they can sweat without getting all icky." Jean Rose writhes in mock discomfort, her long jet hair falling across her gold Guatemalan bolero.

Making clothes for musicians is her specialty. The clientele of her New Age Creations reads like a who's who of rock. The narrow hall closet in her rickety third floor Victorian flat in San Francisco is crammed with clothes for The Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane and Mother Earth.

"I like to make clothes that make you feel like nature when you're in the country and clothes that are geometric for the city so you fit in," she philosophizes. "I like organic fibers. Living fibers feel good. But I don't like wool—it makes me itch. And cire cloth is slimy."

Jean shuns the rtw look, goes for rich silks, lavish brocades, heavy laces and ornate antique trims. When a rock group steps on stage in her creations they present a totally theatrical effect that some people call smashing.

Her approach to fashion is outrageously individualistic and she believes "you have to know bodies" to be good at it. She says she has never duplicated anything. What she does is "I put it all together in my head, then from that point it's done. Putting together the seams is just busy work."

She once made 18 items in 10 days for the Jefferson Airplane's European jaunt, cutting fabric on a makeshift board in the hall, and sewing frantically in a corner of the disorganized bedroom she calls "the animal room."

A Spanish-Canadian, Jean, 28, who admittedly looks more American Indian than



Jean with Jefferson Airplane's Jorma Koukonen

many a hippie imitator, is still far from being an old pro. "When I got divorced from my second husband two years ago," she explains, "I didn't have anything to do. So I just read all the books on sewing and poked through men's stores. I came out of Big Sur where I was making shirts for people and moved in with Tracy Nelson, lead for Mother Earth. That's when I started meeting the guys I design for now."

And, though she makes most of her own clothes and those for her daughter Amber, 4, she has no plans to add women to her list of customers. "I like men," she candidly admits. "Besides, when I do things for women I have more trouble working around the lumps and bumps."

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