

The Community Crier

The Newspaper with Its Heart in The Plymouth-Canton, MI Community

Vol. 23 No. 47

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December 21, 1996

75¢



P-C Schools, Canton take first step toward possible joint theater project

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

The Plymouth-Canton Schools and Canton have held preliminary discussions to build a new Canton theater on school land.

According to Canton Supervisor Tom Yack, a committee organized to plan the theater project has met with school administration three times.

P-C Schools Superintendent Charles Little said he is "cautiously optimistic" that a theater could be part of the new high school complex at Joy and Beck roads if voters support the March bond issue.

Aaron Machnik and Mike Ager, who are on the committee to come up with a theater plan, recently visited Pinkney — where the community theater is part of the high school complex.

Although the committee is waiting for a feasibility study from Plante & Moran before the size of the theater is set, Yack said "the plan makes a lot of sense."

Little agrees with Yack. "I think there could be a lot of mutual gain in this," he said.

The idea of a Canton community theater was officially unveiled to the public last year during Yack's "State of the Township" address, but Yack said early brainstorming sessions have been ongoing for years.

"This really came out of informal discussions with the board (Canton Board of Trustees)," he said. "They said if the cost and O&M (operating and maintenance cost) were in line, they would consider a plan to build at theater."

By jointly utilizing a theater facility, both Canton and the P-C Schools could save a tremendous amount of money.

"There could be meaningful cost savings on site development, parking and roadways," said Little. "Think of the money we could save if we did it together."

Although plans are still sketchy, Canton would be the primary users of the theater and the schools would have sec-

ondary access.

The question of access may be the toughest hurdle for the two units of government to overcome, according to Yack.

"That's one of the difficulties we've had with the Salem High School Auditorium," said Yack. "When there's a full production going on at the high school level, and teaching, the building gets pretty busy."

"It's hard for an outside group to schedule time. They need all aspects of the theater weeks before the actual production."

Both leaders said the arts are important to the community.

"It's essential to a balanced communi-

ty," said Little. "We don't have enough art anywhere in the community."

"We have a lot of little gems, but what we need is a base of diamonds."

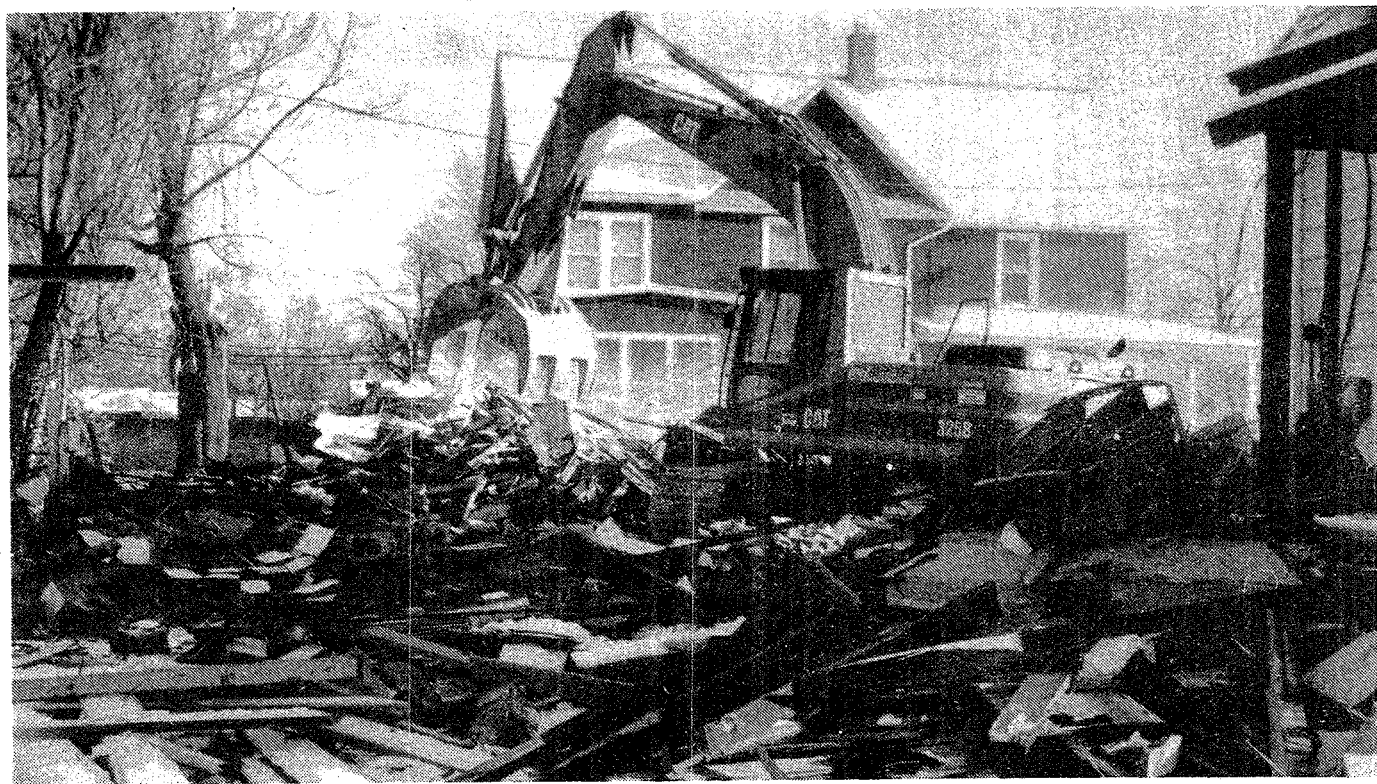
The schools and theater committee are expected to meet again in January following the results of the feasibility study.

This isn't the first time the schools have attempted to provide joint services with a branch of local government.

In 1973 a proposed joint service recreation plan between the schools, City, Township and Canton failed.

The Plymouth Cultural Center is actually located on school property, which the City rents from the school district for \$1 per year.

Wrecking is fundamental



Construction crews began demolishing houses on Union Street to make way for the new Plymouth District Library. It's the first step in a multi-year construction project. (Crier photo by Rob Kirkbride)

COMMA, Crier closed for holidays

The Community Crier and COMMA, offices will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The printing schedule will change for New Year's Day. The Jan. 1 paper will come out on Tuesday, Dec. 31 to allow Crier staff and carriers to celebrate the New Year's holiday.

All advertising and editorial deadlines will be one day earlier than normally scheduled.

Plan review

Canton officials are reviewing Yazaki's plan for huge addition

See Getting down to business pg. 8

Local awards

Canton and Plymouth residents honored for work with library


See Friends & neighbors pg. 6

Uphill battle

Canton gymnastics team tries to maintain position as state's best

See Sports pgs. 23-25

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Bus purchase on hold

BY BRIAN CORBETT

Busted.

That's what happened to the bus purchase agenda item that was expected to be approved at Tuesday's Plymouth-Canton School Board meeting.

The recommendation by Director of Business and Operations John Birchler to use \$531,949 in 1991 bond money to buy seven new and four used school buses was removed from the agenda.

"It didn't appear that everyone was pleased with the numbers, particularly to the used buses," said P-C School Board President Mark Horvath, "basically, to get data on why those numbers were what they were."

Birchler said the decision to delay the vote until January would allow the district to bid the bus purchase. "It was pulled from the agenda based on the decision to jump through all the loops to go out and

bid them to make sure we're not guilty of any improprieties," he said. "I don't expect we're going to find anymore buses out there."

Prior to the meeting, Horvath said he had procedural questions regarding the bus purchasing plan.

Secretary Carrie Blamer was one of the board members who expressed concern about the buses recommended for purchase from Hoekstra Truck Equipment Company.

She asked about the length of the buses and state mandates.

Trustee Liz Givens said she expected the same type of in-depth questioning concerning the bus purchase that preceded the unanimous board approval last month to re-establish five year old bond money, diverted to the construction contingency fund in 1993.

The Nov. 26 board action was in response to funds realized by savings in the technology budget and interest during the life of the bond project. The money became available this fall.

The P-C School District has spent \$202,735 since July 1 repairing an aging bus fleet.

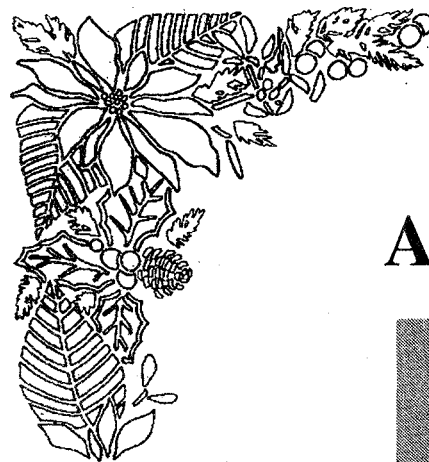
Blamer said she anticipates the Transportation Department will eventually receive some type of relief. The item will likely return to the school board agenda next month.

"Meanwhile, we're struggling," Birchler said. "We're juggling runs as we need to, the special education runs especially."

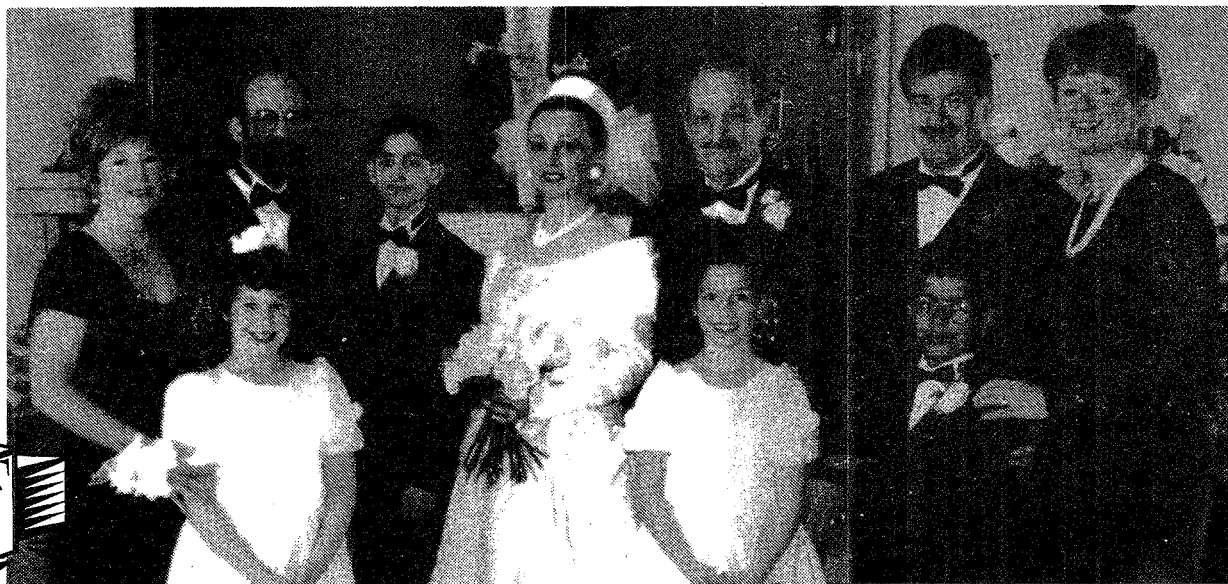
Addenda & errata

The Dec. 11 edition of The Crier contained a story entitled "Schools create 2 administration positions." The telecommunications clerk and fringe benefits clerk are clerical positions.

The Crier corrects any and all factual errors. If you find a mistake, call or write The Crier at 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170, (313) 453-6900.



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 Zan Jenna Jamie

Portable classrooms might be added to Bentley to ease school crowding

BY BRIAN CORBETT

In an effort to relieve student population numbers in southern Canton, the Housing and Facilities Committee made a presentation to the Plymouth-Canton School Board Tuesday night that would alter enrollment boundaries for Bentley and Hulsing elementary schools.

The board could vote as early as next month on suggestions to add at least two portable classrooms to Bentley, the district's southernmost school, and send current Bentley kindergartners and first graders, west of Canton Center Road, to Hulsing Elementary, in northeastern Canton.

Families would have an option of keeping K-5 siblings together by sending them to Hulsing, which may have four portable classrooms added to raise the enrollment level to 650 students.

The recommendations come nine months after a two-year plan was presented by the Housing and Facilities Committee March 11. The school board later approved the relocation of approximately 190 students.

The latest actions by the Housing and Facilities Committee are just fine-tuning to that plan, said David Rodwell, the district's executive director of research and technology and a Housing and Facilities

Committee member.

"We're trying to provide some stability," he said. "I think some people would rather go to Bentley, but we're out of room there."

Projections presented by the Housing and Facilities Committee show the geographic area served by Bentley, which includes students who attend Hulsing, growing by 160 students in the next three to five years.

Currently 58 students attend Hulsing in that area, and 638 attend Bentley, which opened in 1993.

In addition to adding portables and moving kindergartners and first graders, the Housing and Facilities recommendations also included:

- Allow students in grades K-5 east of Canton Center Road to attend Bentley, and do not allow enrollment to exceed 665.

- Offer an option to parents of the Bentley attendance area with students attending Hulsing in grades two through five to stay at Hulsing.

- Move two new subdivisions — Central Park and Fairways West, which are located south of Cherry Hill Road and west of Beck Road — from Hulsing to Gallimore Elementary School.



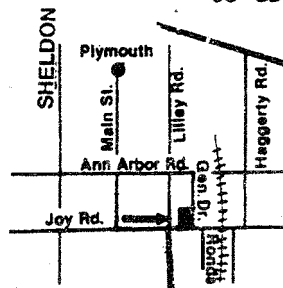
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Neighbors in the news

Twelve PCEP students recently learned that they qualified for the second part of the 40th annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition sponsored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America. The students qualified by placing among the top 6 percent out of about 16,000 participants in an examination given at more than 360 school across the state of Michigan on Oct. 16.

Qualifying from Canton were Brian Godfrey, Elizabeth Oatley, Michael Roberson, Angkana Roy, Philip Sands and Sanjay Sharma. Qualifying from Salem were Matt Bright, Brian Decker, John Harbar, Erin Lang, Katie McClain and Aaron Niemiec.

Ruth Niemiec, an Allen Elementary School parent who has served the students, staff, parents and entire Allen School community in numerous capacities for more than 10 years, received the Volunteer in Public Schools Extra Miler Award at the Board of Education meeting recently.

Niemiec has served as room mother, field trip chaperone, office helper, library helper, PTO special event planner and as various PTO officer positions including president for two years. She received a certificate of recognition, pins of the Flag of Liberty and Learning, and a dinner gift certificate, all presented by School Board Vice President Mike Maloney.

Marine Capt. Gary R. Fullerton, son of Graham A. and Norah I. Fullerton of Canton, and Marine Cpl. Patrick R. Martinez, son of Ronald P. Martinez and Sharon K. Martinez, recently departed on a six-month deployment to Okinawa, Japan with the Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines as part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

Jennifer Grutzka of Plymouth, a junior at Alma College and 1993 graduate of Ladywood High School, was able to travel to New York City last summer and work as a stage manager at the New Stage Theatre Company. She was responsible for all of the technical aspects of the play, Eric Overmyer's "On the Verge." His play was the first production performed by the New Stage Theatre Company, a division of the New York Historical Society.

Involved in theatre since high school, Grutzka has worked on many of Alma College's productions. She is a theatre and dance major and plans to stage manage after graduating from Alma while hoping to eventually teach at the college level.

Plymouth, Canton residents earn service awards from Detroit Public

Robert J. Garen, coordinator of the Detroit Public Library's TIP Database and Subscriptions Department, is the recipient of the library's 47th Staff Memorial and Fellowship Award. Carol I. Harrison is the recipient of the Staff Memorial and Fellowship Award for retirees. Garen and Harrison live in Plymouth and Canton, respectively.

Established by librarians to show respect and gratitude to colleagues, the award is given to staff who, by distinguished and faithful service to the Detroit Public Library for 10 years or more, merit recognition.

Garen joined the Detroit Public Library in 1970. His positions include head of the Film Department and SIR (Service to Shut-ins and Retirees) where he was promoted to coordinator.

After becoming coordinator of the Public Relations Department in 1985, Garen ran the Community Relations Department, a joint operation of the Public Relations Department



ROBERT J. GAREN

and the TIP Service. After another reorganization in 1994, Garen became coordinator of the newly formed TIP Database and Subscriptions Department.

Garen has served on many committees of the Michigan and American Library Associations, becoming president of the Michigan Library Association in the mid-1980s. As chairperson of the American Library Association's National Library Symbol Task Force, he led the group in the development and adoption by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration of the green and white library symbol, now used on federal highways in all 50 states and Canada.

Locally, Garen is significantly involved in the development of the Metropolitan Detroit Community Information and Referral Collaborative, a project that established the Detroit Public Library as a central resource for community information.

Harrison retired from the library this past summer after 33 years of service. Having worked as a manager in six of the library's branches, she worked the last 11 years as coordinator of SIR, then SIR/Douglass branch.

While there, she was an Advisory Council member of the Detroit Area Agency on Aging and also served on the statewide Older Learner Coalition. A member of the American and Michigan Library Associations, Harrison is now branch librarian at Livonia's Alfred Noble Library.

Commandry hosts regional conference



Northville Commandry #39 membership committee held a meeting recently for all Commandries in southeastern Michigan. The committee is: (seated, left to right) Don Haslett, Sr., P.C.; Robert Fitzner, P.C.; Eminent Commander James Hawn, P.C.; Ron Bone, chairman; Richard Suetterlin; and Ed Forbush. Thirty-five "Sir Knights" participated in the meeting, coming from Northville, Ypsilanti, Lansing, Durant, Detroit and Battle Creek. Most Eminent Grand Commander Richard Cooper, of the Grand Commandry of Knights Templar of Michigan, was in attendance as the meeting was conducted in order, and an exchange of ideas and programs was enjoyed.



Community deaths

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director or call (313) 453-6900

JUDITH IRENE HUNTER

Judith Irene Hunter, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 18, 1996 at the age of 54.

Mrs. Hunter was born June 10, 1996 in Wayne. She moved to the community 30 years ago. Mrs. Hunter worked as a nurses' aide at West Trail Nursing Home and she also worked in Northville. She loved her family, especially enjoying her grandchildren.

Mrs. Hunter is survived by her husband, Paul M. Hunter; son, Dani (Lisa Duvall) Hunter of Canton; daughter, Becky (Jerry) Brodzik of Livonia; sister, Donna Khalif of Westland; brother, Gary Simpson of Florida; sister-in-law, Pauline Talaga of Plymouth; parents, Alva and Oliva Simpson of Garden City; niece, Kelly Vida of Westland; and grandchildren, Matthew, Rebecca, Simon, Jacob and Amanda. She also had many close friends in the community.



JUDITH IRENE HUNTER

Arrangements were made by and services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with Fr. William Pettit officiating. Burial was at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. Memorial tributes can be made to the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

EMIL MUCHA

Emil Mucha, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 17, 1996 at the age of 73.

Mr. Mucha was born Jan. 5, 1923 in Detroit. He moved to the community in 1981 from South Lyon. He served in the Army Air Corps during W.W. II. He worked as an elevator engineer and was an avid stamp collector.

Mr. Mucha is survived by his wife, Mildred Mucha; daughter, Betty Michalak of Livonia and step-daughter, Margo Dichtelmiller of Plymouth; sister, Mary Garbacz of Livonia; and brother, Ralph Dietz of Canton.

Arrangements were made by and services were held at Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Plymouth with Fr. Robert Cislo of St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton officiating. Burial was at South Lyon Cemetery. Memorial tributes can be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

DOROTHY C. JACUPS

Dorothy C. Jacups, a Canton resident, died Dec. 10, 1996 at the age of 82.

Ms. Jacups was born March 27, 1914 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. She

Please see pg. 18

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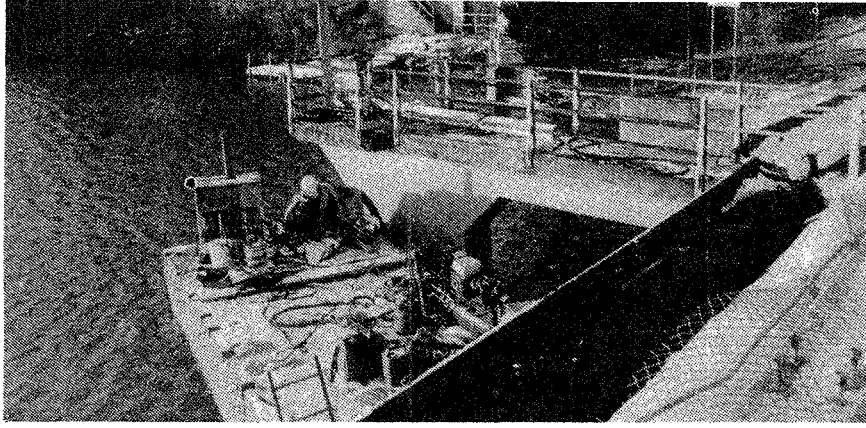
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Contest Rules:

No purchase necessary to win. Must be 18 years or older to enter. Drop off or mail completed entry form to participating dealership. All entries must be received by Friday, January 3, 1997, 5 p.m. Winners will be notified Monday, January 6. Night on the Town prize is valid for Saturday, January 11 only.

Below sea level



Crews are working to drain Newburgh Lake as part of an environmental project. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr)

City Manager defends Scoggins

Plymouth City Manager Steve Walters has sent a memo to City officials and employees supporting Police Chief Bob Scoggins.

Thursday's memo was issued in reaction to an opinion column in Wednesday's Community Crier by Publisher W. Edward Wendover saying that the chief had left his position. City commissioners, department heads and all police department employees received Walters' memo.

Walters wrote: "You may have seen the column 'With Malice Toward None' in the Dec. 18 issue of The Crier. It appeared to report that Police Chief Bob

Scoggins had resigned or been forced out of his job.

"It is unfortunate that the author made the same mistake that Orson Wells once made, by failing to let his audience know whether the Martians were real or imaginary."

As a result, it upset and misled many readers, who have called to object to Bob's alleged departure.

"Therefore, I want to assure you that Police Chief Scoggins has no intention of leaving his position, and that I have no intention of suggesting that he do so. He continues to do an excellent job, and I am grateful to have his service to the City."

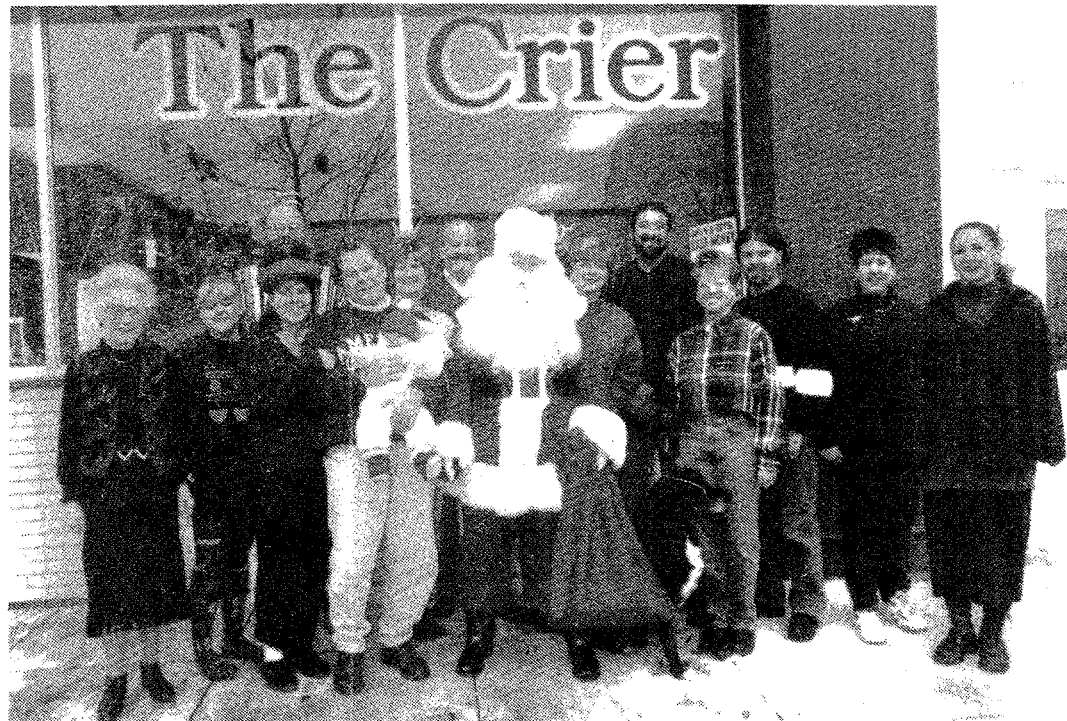
Ho, Ho, Ho Beau



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From

Sally, Ed, Jess & Beau



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4:30 & 10:00 p.m.
CHRISTMAS DAY-Dec. 25th
10:30 a.m.
NEW YEAR'S EVE- Dec. 31st
4:30 p.m.
NEW YEAR'S DAY-Jan. 1st
10:30 a.m.

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CHRISTMAS EVE
3:00P.M.... God's Gang Puppets
and Handbells
5:00P.M.... Christmas Around the
World with Living Nativity
8:00 & 11:00P.M....Candlelight Services of
Lessons and Carols
(special music begins 30 min. prior to each service)

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10:00A.M.... Service of Worship

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Dec. 24... *5:00 Family Candlelight
Service
... *7:30 Candlelight Service
... 11:00 Candlelight Service

*(Nursery, and toddler through
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Christmas Eve:
...*4:00p.m. Family Holy Eucharist
...*7:00 Festival Holy Eucharist
of the Nativity
...10:30 Christmas Musical
...11:00 Solemn Holy Eucharist of
the Nativity
Christmas Day:
...10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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Risen Christ Lutheran Church

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Dec. 24... 4:30 & 7:30pm
Christmas Eve
Candlelight service

Dec. 25... 10:00am The Scenery
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
Morning Worship Services - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
6:00 p.m. - Family Worship
8:00 P.M. - Festival of Lessons & Carols
10:00 p.m. - Traditional Worship

Pastors:
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Rev. Tonya M. Arneson, Associate Minister

Peace on Earth



Goodwill to All!



What's Happening

To list your group's event in this calendar, send or deliver the notice IN WRITING to: The Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170. Information received BY NOON FRIDAY will be used for Wednesday's calendar (space permitting).

Health...

NEW BEGINNINGS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every Monday at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon Rd., just south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth. Anyone who is grieving a loss because of death or divorce is welcome to attend. There is no charge. For more information, call 453-7630.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Meals on Wheels program serves a hot, nutritious lunch five days a week at Tonquish Manor. A donation is requested for the meal, but not required. For more information, call 453-9703 weekdays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

WARM CLOTHING FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

The Clothing Bank will be open to distribute donations of clothing to families in need on Tuesdays only from 9-11:30 a.m. and from 1-3:30 p.m. during the school year. To make an appointment or for more information, call 416-6179.

RESPIRATORY DISEASE ASSISTANCE

For those with respiratory diseases. Second Wednesday of each month at the Arbor Health building in Plymouth from 2-3 p.m. Free of charge. For more information, call 712-5367.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

Available twice monthly by appointment at Plymouth Township Hall. For more information, call Frances Rudd at 455-7526 between 1-4 p.m. weekdays.

OAKWOOD CLASSES/SCREENINGS

Blood pressure checks, breast feeding support groups, childbirth preparation classes and infant CPR. For more information, call 454-8001.

Upcoming...

SANTA CLAWS

For a \$5 donation pets and children can have their picture taken with Santa at Specialty Supplies Plus, 1498 S. Sheldon Rd., all proceeds will go to local animal shelters. For more information, call 453-6930.

CROSSROADS CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH BEGINS HOLIDAY TEACHING SERIES

Tomorrow- "The Joy of Jesus: Celebrating his goodness to us." The church meets at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday at West Middle School in Plymouth. For more information, call Pastor Rob Eddy at 641-6400.

CANTON COMMUNITY CABLEVISION TALENT SEARCH

Canton is beginning a search for talented residents who are interested in helping with the creation and production of its expanding television network. Residents who would like to offer their services for cable television work should call the communications office at 397-5472 or Scott Zuchlewski at 397-5360. Residents can also send a resume to Zuchlewski at 1150 S. Canton Center, Canton MI 48188. Interested residents will be interviewed and auditioned for various programs. Voice-overs, narration, writing, producing, on-camera, etc.

SATURDAY STORY TIMES FOR CHILDREN

Story times are open to children in kindergarten through third grade. Dates are Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1 and April 5. Sessions begin at 10 a.m. and are 45 minutes long. No registration required. For more information, call 453-0750.

Groups...

PLYMOUTH UNITED WAY AND ROTARY TOY DRIVE

The United Way, Rotary and Midas Muffler of Plymouth are collecting new, unwrapped toys at various locations through the holiday season. Plymouth locations include: Community Federal Credit Union, First of America, Midas Muffler, NBD, Papa Romano's Eatery Tavern, P-C Schools District Office, Bird Elementary School, East Middle School, Plymouth City Hall, Plymouth Cultural Center, Plymouth Township offices, Township Police Department, United Way and Water Club Seafood and Grill. For more information, call 454-4130.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS AUDITIONS

Open auditions Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m., and auditions by appointments Jan. 14, 21 and 28 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., west of Sheldon Road in Plymouth. All voices, but especially tenors are needed. Call 455-4080.

GROUPS RAISING FUNDS BY SELLING ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

The Plymouth Business and Professional Women, the Plymouth Symphony League, Plymouth Community Chorus and Plymouth Optimists are selling Entertainment Books '97 for their respective group functions. The Entertainment Book '97 contains hundreds of 50 percent and two-for-one discounts on dining, travel, movies, sports and more. Plymouth BPW: call Joanne Delaney at 455-5171, a portion of the \$40 cost will go to scholarships. PSL: call 453-3016, profits will benefit Symphony. PCC: Call Stan at 459-6829, the \$40 costs will help fund Chorus' charitable and educational activities. Optimists: Call Bill at 453-8253 or Ken at 728-7619, the cost is \$40.



What's Happening

To list your group's event in this calendar, send or deliver the notice IN WRITING to: The Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170. Information received BY NOON FRIDAY will be used for Wednesday's calendar (space permitting).

Volunteer...

GUEST SPEAKERS NEEDED AT P-C SCHOOLS

The Plymouth-Canton Business Education Partnership is looking for individuals to share information about their occupation to students in classroom settings. To volunteer, call 416-4903.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS TREE OF LIGHTS

Each \$5 donation to honor an individual will illuminate a light and place a personalized angel on the Tree of Lights. Proceeds benefit patient-related projects. For more information, call 467-2530.

SALVATION ARMY NEEDS BELL RINGERS

The most difficult times to fill are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday. For more information, call Jackie at 455-0530 or Martha at 453-5464.

DONATE PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTION

The Plymouth District Library is seeking individuals, businesses, and community groups to donate the cost of a subscription to one of the more than 300 periodicals to which the library subscribes. Sponsor's name will appear on the front cover of the periodical. Donation is federal, state tax deductible. For more information, please call the library at 453-0750.

PLYMOUTH CHAMBER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is always in need of volunteers, especially preparing information handout packages. For more information, call 453-1540.

FISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FISH of Plymouth/Canton is always looking for volunteers to assist in its purpose of aiding neighbors who cannot help themselves. If you would like information on being a driver, a "caller", or just running errands, call 261-1011 and leave a message.

HOSPICE OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

The hospice is seeking patient care, patient companion and team support volunteers in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community. For more information, call 291-9700.

PLYMOUTH COURT NURSING CENTER

Plymouth Court Nursing Center in Plymouth is looking for volunteers to help with activity programs for residents. For more information, call Maralena Howard at 455-0510.

MICHIGAN CANCER FOUNDATION

The Michigan Cancer Foundation-West Region is looking for volunteers to provide transportation for cancer patients in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community. For more information, call 561-8880 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for volunteers in the Canton area to help children needing tutoring with basic math and reading skills. Training is free. For more information, call Joy Graves at 883-2100 ext. 368.

Schools...

TAG SCREENING IN JANUARY

The Plymouth-Canton Schools will be screening for admission to the Talented and Gifted Program for the 1997-98 school year. The TAG Department screens all third graders when they take the Cognitive Abilities Test in January. Parents of eligible third graders will be contacted by mail. Parents of second and fourth through seventh graders need to contact their school office for a nomination form, available NOW, and return the completed form to their building principal no later than Jan 17. Nominate forms for second graders need to be sent to the TAG office no later than Jan. 31. There is an informational meeting regarding the TAG program scheduled for Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at Miller Elementary School, 43721 Hanford Rd., in Canton. For more information, call the TAG office at Miller at 416-4867.

FREE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

State-funded program offered to families who meet income guidelines or "at-risk" factors. Children must be four years old on or before Dec. 1. Classes begin in January and run for 20 weeks Monday through Thursday at Hoben and Truesdell schools. For more information, call 416-6190.

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Computers, tutoring, games, etc. The program runs Monday through Friday and begins after school ends and concludes at 6 p.m. \$5 per student per session with a minimum of two sessions per week. For more information, call 420-7040.

KIDDIE KAMPUS REUNION

25th anniversary of the P-C Schools' preschool program. June 4 at the Canton High School cafeteria from 7-9 p.m. All former staff and students are invited. To make a reservation, call 416-4927.

P-C SCHOOLS NEED GUEST SPEAKERS

The P-C Business Education Partnership is looking for individuals willing to share their expertise with local students. To volunteer, call 416-4903.

WSDP, 88.1-FM REUNION

WSDP, the student-operated station of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is planning its 25th anniversary reunion for 1997. Former staff members are asked to send their current addresses to the station at 46181, Joy Rd. Canton, MI 48187 or call 416-7732.

Send your listing to:

**"What's Happening" The Community Crier,
821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170**

THE MOOSE

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New Year's Eve at the Lowertown Grill

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Call for reservations and more information

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Rev. Tonya M. Arnesen, Associate Minister

Services at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages

Nursery Provided

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Lutheran Church**

(Missouri Synod)
46250 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
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(313) 453-5252

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Family Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Rev. K.M. Mehrl, Pastor
Hugh McMartin, Lay minister

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PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
at Gottfredson & Ann Arbor Rd.
(From M-14 take Gottfredson Rd South)

Worship Services

8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Wm. C. Moore - Pastor
Rev. Wm. Branham - Associate Pastor

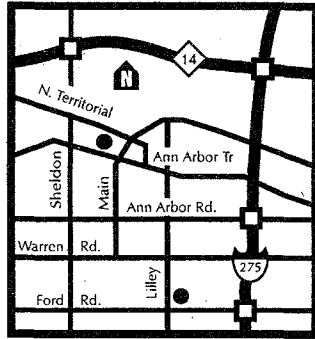


Nursery Provided
(313) 459-9550

**Worship
with us this
week!**

Bumps, bruises, breaks or a bad bug on Christmas Day?... Visit Canton Urgent Care.

Canton Urgent Care will be **open** Dec. 25, 8 AM – 10 PM
St. Joseph Mercy Health Building
42180 Ford Road
398-7557



Plymouth Urgent Care will close at 3 PM December 24 and all day December 25.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.

MISSION HEALTH

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor

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Be sure to call for your New Year's Eve Reservations soon!

**From Our Family to yours...
Happy Holidays!**

Monday - Thursday Early Bird Special

Come in and choose any entree from our early bird menu and the time when you arrive is the cost of your entree. Arrive at 5:00, and your special entree will cost you \$5.00; arrive at 6:15, costs you \$6.15. Starts at 5:00 until 7:00—so get here early! Includes soup, salad and dessert.

Tuesday Night Crab Night

Complete dinner includes soup, salad and entree for only \$9.95!! That includes our special dessert, too!! Make your reservations before we sell out!!!

Wednesday Night Prime Rib

Includes a mouth-watering portion of prime-rib, soup, salad, baked potato and vegetables for only \$10.95. We hope you still have room for dessert, because that's included too!

Every Night Dinner Specials

Tired of the same old burger and fries for dinner? Then come in and be pampered by our award-winning chef, Stefano Bellante, as he prepares the finest mes Michigan has to offer. We promise you'll be back to try them all.

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Owner/Chef: Genesio Masciulli
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Open menu available

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Accepted

Not Required

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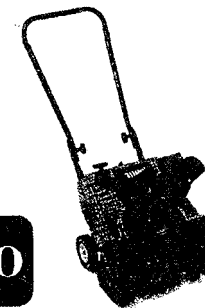
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Canton • (313)981-9191

O & D Bush Jewelers, Inc.

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Plymouth • (313)455-3030

Steve Petix Clothier

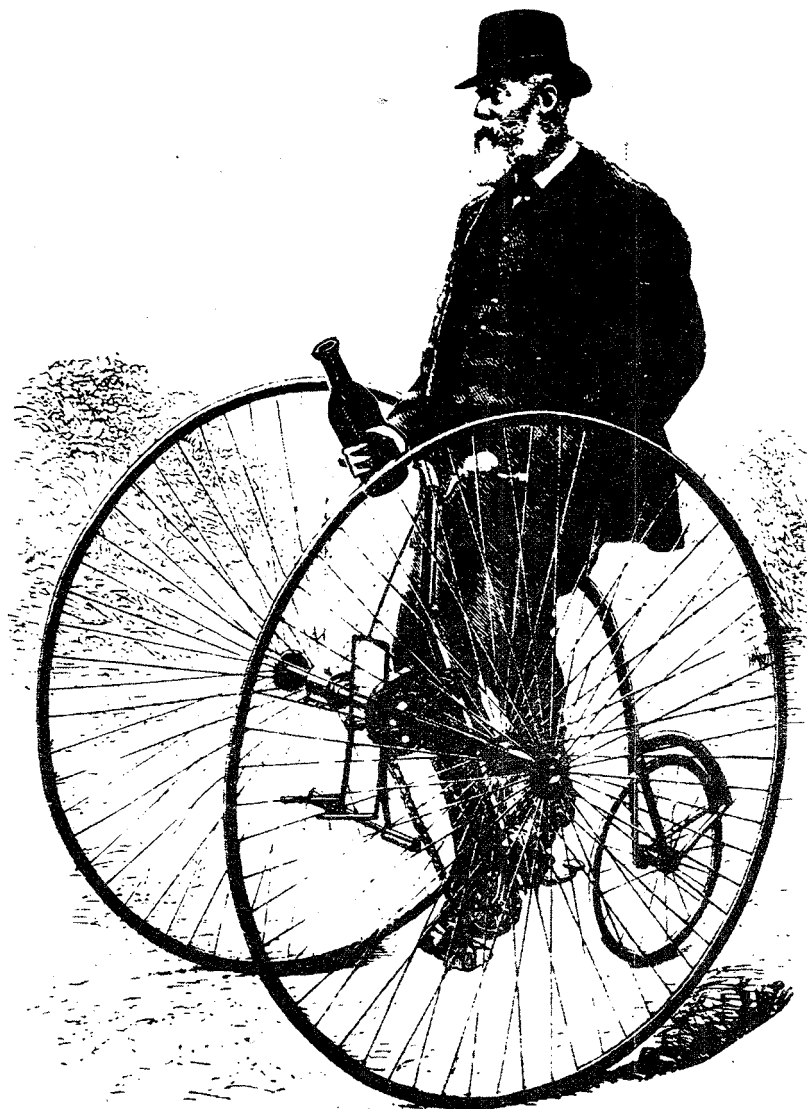
340 S. Main St
Plymouth • (313)459-6972

Mr. B's Plymouth Grill

1020 W. Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth • (313)459-4190

S & W Hardware

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Plymouth (313)453-1200
Canton (313)455-0400
Northville (810)348-2920

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Wayne • (313)721-2600

Laird's Auto Glass & Trim

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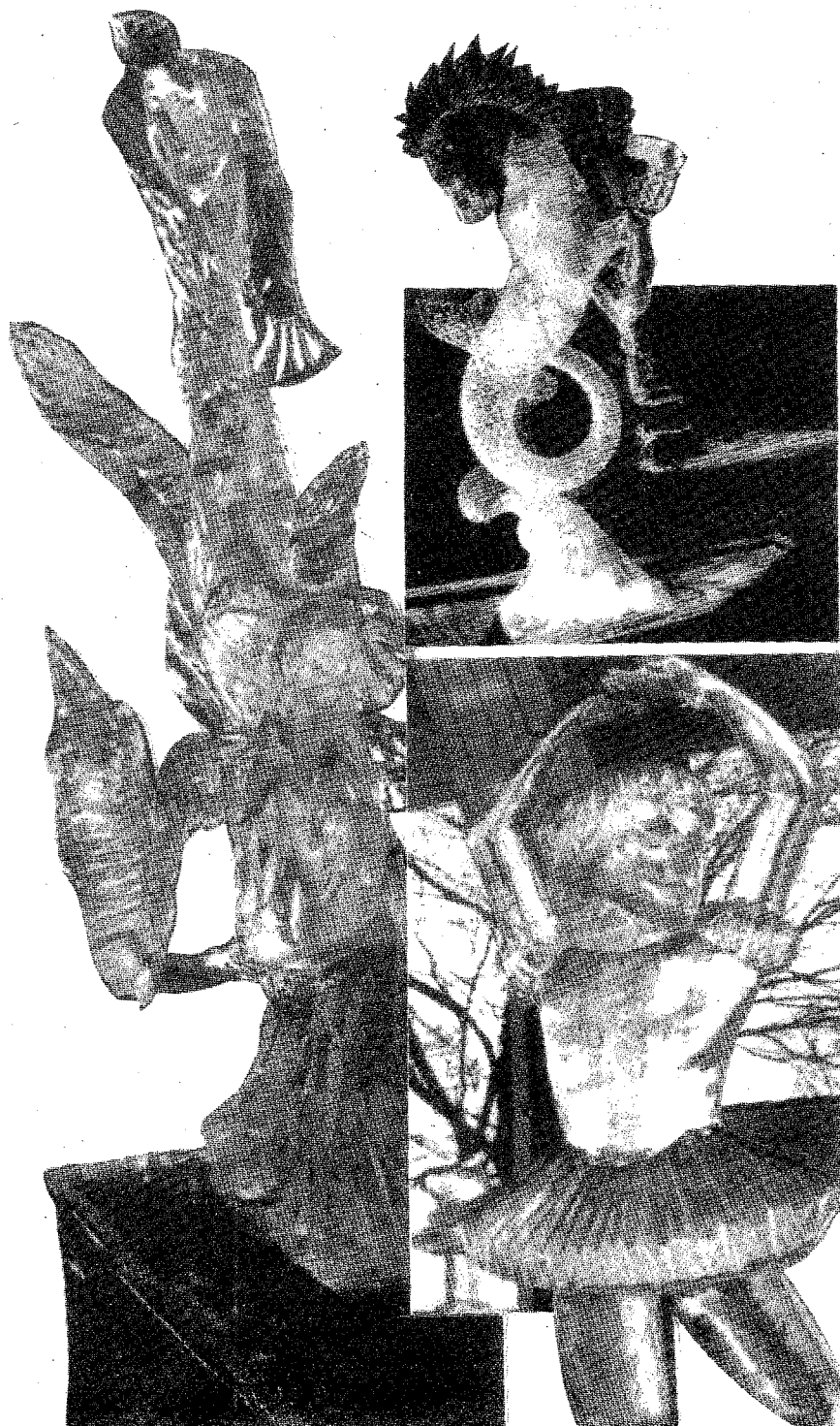
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JANUARY 15-20

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**The
Community Crier**

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director or call (313) 453-6900

Continued from pg. 7

came to the community in 1995 from the Livonia/Westland communities. She was a homemaker who loved to shop, cook and play bingo. She was a very loving grandmother and mother.

She is survived by her sons, Robert (Janet) James, Conrad (Judy) Jakubowski, and James (Carmelita) Jakubowski of Canton; sister, Evelyn Schultz of Plymouth; six grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by and services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with Rev. Douglas W. Vernon officiating. Burial was at Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia. Memorial tributes can be made to the American Heart Association.

MARCELLA (MARCIE) J. MAY

Marcella (Marcie) J. May, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 15, 1996 at the age of 69.

Ms. May was born July 27, 1927 in Kimberly, WI. She moved to the community in 1952 from Detroit. She was a homemaker.

Ms. May is survived by her daughter, Sheila K. (William) Kniss-Knapp of Howell; son, Donald (Cynthia) May of Ionia; 10 grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by and services were held at Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Plymouth with Rev. Carl Simon of St. Augustine Church in Fenton officiating. Burial was at St. Patrick Cemetery in Whitmore Lake. Memorial tributes can be made to Hospice of Washtenaw, 860 Airport Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI, 48108-1642, or mass offerings.

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The Community Crier's Holiday Schedule

SPECIAL PAPER DATES



TUESDAY, DEC. 31st, 1996
(replaces Jan. 1st paper)



AD DEADLINES • Classified Fri., 12-27 4pm
• Display Fri., 12-27 5pm

EDITORIAL • What's Happening, Obituaries, Letters to
the Editor Thurs., 12-27 4pm

Wednesday, January 8th, 1997
The Crier will be back to normal



The Community Crier

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\$5.50 for the first 10 words, 20¢ each additional word.
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Next Auction Sat. Dec. 21st
 Plymouth Cultural Center
 525 Farmer
 Door's open at 6 p.m.
 Auction Starts 7 p.m.

Furniture - Antiques - Tools - Household
 Items - Coins - Sports items

• Full Service Auction Firm •

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NANNY NEEDED: Enthusiastic, loving & experienced person to provide care 3 days per week in our Northville home for 7 month and 4 year old Beginning in January, non-smoker, own transportation, references required. (810) 380-7781

Children's Resale

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PRIME DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTH- storefront-Penniman Ave - handicap accessible - 750sq. ft. Call 313-453-6905 for information.

Prime downtown Plymouth loft apartment for rent. Call 313-453-6900 for info.

For Sale

Kittens & Cats - many to choose from - "safehouse" Call Rita at 313-663-1618

CHRISTMAS TREES - CHOOSE AND CUT

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GRANDFATHER CLOCK BY RIDGEWAY Cherrywood & beveled glass case. Triple chimes & moon dial \$1095 (Retail \$2800)

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Upright piano w/ bench. Good condition \$500.00. Call (313)397-3625
 "ELMO" - BEST OFFER. 313/455-2562

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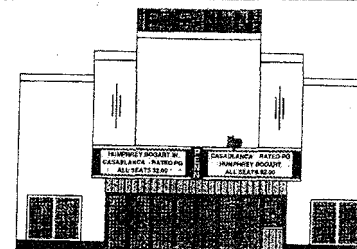
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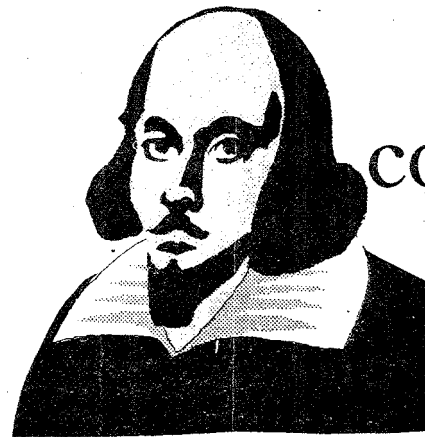
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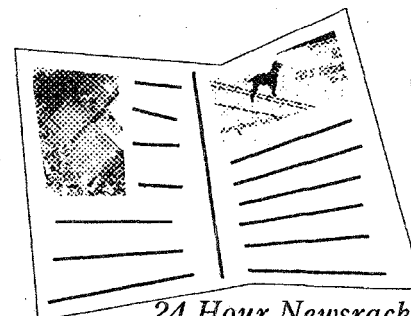


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YEAR IN REVIEW

1996

— Top stories in the Plymouth —
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Just before we leap into 1997 is the right time for a look back at the events of 1996 in our Community.

With stories ranging from the effects of the year's events on the Plymouth-Canton Schools, to the ever-changing face of local business, 1996 was filled with important milestones and changes in our Community.

To help us reflect on 1996, and prepare for the challenges of the coming year, The Crier presents its Year in Review edition on December 31, 1996. This section and edition will take a close look at the top stories, interesting personalities, and major issues in our Community. Reports will cover government, business, sports, law enforcement, as well as the human faces that affected us all this past year.

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Sports

Sports shorts

Amanda Humphrey of Plymouth, a freshman member of the Adrian College women's cross country team, placed in eight events this season for her squad.

At the Hope Invitational on Sept. 10 Humphrey had her best finish of the year placing 47th with a time of 25:43.

On Sept. 13 she placed 55th with a time of 25:08 at the Eastern Michigan University Invitational.

At the MIAA Jamboree #1 on Sept. 21 Humphrey finished 83rd at 24:21 and at Jamboree #2 on Oct. 12 she was 84th at 24:18.

At the Heidelberg Invitational on Sept. 28 she was 60th at 23:13; at the Roadrunner Invitational on Oct. 4 she was 57th at 23:49.

Humphrey finished in 60th place with a 24:38 time at the MIAA Championships on Nov. 2. A week later at the Cross Country Regional Championships she came in 170th place at 25:20.

The City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department has **open skating** throughout the holidays from Dec. 22 through Jan. 5, with the exception of Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Saturdays. Call the department office at 455-6620, or the open skate line at 455-1782 for more information.

The City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with Tripmasters are sponsoring **Alaska and Roman tours**.

The Amalfi Coast of Italy and Roman Holiday will take place from Feb. 25 through March 6, at a cost of \$1,399 based on double occupancy. The package includes round-trip air transportation, hotel accommodations, meals and extensive sightseeing in southern Italy and Rome. Alaska's Interior and Inside Passage will take place from June 12 through June 23 at a cost of \$3,299 based on double occupancy. The package includes round trip transportation, a four-night tour of Alaska's interior, a seven-night cruise of the Inside Passage aboard the Star Princess, meals and much more. For more information call 455-6620.

Plymouth-Canton's Community Education Department has announced **registration for racquetball** will be held on Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at Canton High School's Little Theater. Registration numbers will be issued. An 18-week block will be available for one hour each week. The cost for 18 weeks will be \$110 and block times are 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Proof of residency is required. Call Dee Masteller at the Community Education Department at 416-2937 for more information.



Canton gymnast Audrey Harrison and the rest of the team will have to perfect all of their routines for the team to remain a state power. They have already found out how hard it's going to be this year: Canton placed behind Freeland and Vasser with 121.6 points to start the season. (Crier photo by Matt Hucal)

Chief gymnastics fights to stay on top

BY MATT HUCAL

The Canton gymnastics team finished second overall in the state last year, but the process of staying near the top of the heap this season was stunted Saturday.

At Freeland for their first meet of the year, the Chiefs fell to both Freeland and Vasser. Canton finished the day with a significantly lower total than usual of 121.6 points while Freeland accumulated 131.4 points and Vasser grabbed 126.2 points.

Although the Chiefs lost the meet they did have a minor problem going into it — coach John Cunningham was forced to leave half of his squad at home due to illnesses, including three of his top six gymnasts.

Bringing to light the positives of the meet, Cunningham said, "People who usually don't compete were able to and we were able to get our new kids and their new routines some experience."

Canton's top gymnast and co-captain, Katey Gilles, was still in top form. She finished third overall in the meet with three events — bars, beams and floor — in the nines.

Also performing well throughout the tri-meet were co-captains Beth Muylaert and Holly Graham along with sophomores Michelle Farnsworth and Marcie Emmerick and freshman Liz Fitzgerald.

As the season rolls on Cunningham sees his team being very competitive in floor exercises while they continue to improve in the bars, beam and vaults.

Cunningham notes that many teams are a lot weaker this year than in the past, but that the Chiefs' prime competition concerning conference teams should be Salem, Northville and a combined squad of North Farmington and Farmington. He expects throughout the year his girls will total points relatively higher than Saturday's total, somewhere around the middle 130s.

Asked whether he believes this year's team could possibly repeat or even out-perform last year's second place in the state, Cunningham said, "This team has a lot of character and ability that once we get back to states I think we could get back into the top 10. But this whole year is going to be a step-by-step process."

West stops 34 shots, Whalers still fall

BY BRIAN CORBETT

If there was any question how rookie goalie Nathan West would play during Robert Esche's absence, it was answered Thursday night in Windsor.

West stopped 34 shots and was named the game's number three star, but it wasn't enough to down the Spitfires, who defeated the Whalers, 3-2, at Windsor Arena.

The loss dropped Detroit to 2-2 against their division rival this season, and moved Windsor into third place, one point ahead of the Whalers.

Windsor scored first when defenseman Glenn Crawford, who had four points in the Spitfires' 5-4 loss to Detroit last weekend, beat West for his fifth goal of the season at 4:44 of the first period.

Matt Cooke and Deam Mando assisted.

Detroit was held to four shots on goal during the opening stanza.

The Spitfires added to their lead at 8:14 of the second period when Crawford and Mando set up forward Cooke for his 19th goal of the season. Down 2-0, Detroit got on the board when Bryan McKinney and Mark Cadotte assisted on a goal by Steve Dumonski at 9:02 of the third period. It was Dumonski's ninth of the year.

Mando got his third point of the game when he scored at 18:08, on assists from Jeff Zehr and Denis Smith. Detroit closed within one goal in the last minute of the game when Randy Fitzgerald scored. Dumonski and Troy Smith assisted.

But Detroit was unable to tie the game before regulation ended.

Canton volleyball swamps Huron

This was no mouse trap that the Ann Arbor Huron River Rats ran into Wednesday night.

The Canton varsity volleyball team continued to tomahawk their opponents, defeating Huron 15-12, 15-6, 15-12, in their first match since going undefeated in last weekend's Allen Park Invitational.

According to coach Steve Anderson, the Chiefs' defense was the shining point of the match. Jessica Orleman had 28 digs, Nikki Kovachevich had 20 digs and Jenny Sikora had 14 digs.

Amy Plagens made her varsity debut at middle-hitter replacing Stephanie Chefan, who was ill. Plagens made a good showing contributing with five kills and seven digs on the night. Jessica Bradley and Megan Weller also were key contributors to the Chiefs' victory, combining for 10 digs and a pair of aces.

Sports

Chief, Rock swimmers finish 1,2

BY MATT HUCAL

The Canton and Salem boys swimming team showed some PCEP strength on Thursday at the conference relays in the Salem pool.

With every conference team on hand the Chiefs raked in a first-place finish, with the Rocks right behind them in second place.

Although Canton and Salem placed back to back, Chief coach Kyle Lott mentioned that his team and Salem's team were at an advantage because of the number of swimmers they each hold, which helps out in relay competition. They each have about 40 swimmers, while most of the other schools have about 20.

But that doesn't undermine the fact that both squads performed well. "Winning this is exciting going into the break," Lott said. "It's a good indication of how we're doing."

These are the results of Canton's performance:

200 breast stroke relay/first place (2:02.98) — Alex Rottgers, Ryan Dahlman, Matt Heiss, and Scott Mincher.

200 back stroke relay/first place (1:52.09) — Justin Allen, Don LeClair, Aaron Reeder, and Mike Rourke.

400 medley relay/second place (4:13.04) — David Lee, Matt Heiss, Pat Crous, and Adam Allen.

400 free relay/second place (3:36.09) — Curtis Hornick, Dave Schacht, Jason Musson, and B.J. Page.

200 free relay/second place (1:37.21) — LeClair, Hornick, Page, and Mike Dempsey.

200 fly relay/fifth place (1:49.89) — Crous, Steve Blossom, Dempsey, and John Theisen.

Diving relay/fourth place (3:36.40) — Rob Brooks and Jim George.

400 individual medley relay/third place (4:08.03) — Dahlman, Rottgers, Reeder, and Lee.

500 freestyle relay/fifth place (1:49.03) — John Cook, Adam Allen, Musson, and Schacht.

200 medley relay/fifth place (1:54.05) — Justin Allen, Mincher, Blossom and John Tyson.

Salem slides by Ypsi; Canton pounds Pioneer

BY MATT HUCAL

SALEM

There's something about the final two seconds of a basketball game that the Rocks seem to have attached themselves to.

Coming off a tough one-point loss to Ann Arbor Huron in which they lost in the final two seconds, the Rocks found themselves with the upper hand when they defeated Ypsilanti, 62-59, in the final two seconds Tuesday on Salem's home court.

Neither team led by more than five points throughout the game, much like the see-saw affair that Salem/Huron game was. After one quarter of play Ypsilanti held a 17-16 lead and entered halftime with a 28-27 lead. The Rocks grabbed a one-point lead of their own at the end of the third quarter, 44-43.

As the seconds ticked away the back-and-forth leads continued. When the final two seconds of the game arrived, the Rocks lead 62-59 and understandingly put their opponent on the free throw line in order to hold Ypsilanti to only two points.

Ypsilanti missed their first shot, so the second was purposely missed to get the ball back to attempt a tying three-point shot. When that strategy didn't pan out for Ypsilanti the Rocks ended the game victoriously.

"We had contributions from lots of different people, which in turn creates a lot of depth and experience for our young guys," Salem coach Bob Brodie said.

Leading the Rocks in scoring once again was Andy Power with 14 points. He was joined in double-digit scoring with Bhavin Patel's 13 points. The Rocks had six other players contribute in the scoring department.

Power was bombing shots from three-point range against Huron, totaling five for the night. But against Tuesday's opponent Brodie believes good scouting by Ypsilanti coaches held Power to only one, and the team to a low output.



The Rocks got by Ypsi, but the Chiefs will face them Thursday. (Crier photo by Matt Hucal)

"These close games are a good test of our character and should help us in future close games," Brodie said. "I think we're doing a good job competing in these kind of games and we should be able to handle them even better as the season goes on."

Salem (2-1) played Thursday against a Brighton team that Brodie says is typically an up-tempo, well-coached team that can shoot the ball well.

During the Christmas vacation the Rocks have a game Jan. 3 at Ypsilanti-Lincoln. Brodie said Lincoln has a new coach, a young team and that they're a little unknown because they've never been on the Rocks' schedule.

CANTON

The Chiefs captured their second win in as many games on Tuesday at home against Ann Arbor Pioneer by the score of 59-38.

Pioneer implemented a zone defense on Canton throughout the game, and according to Chiefs coach Dan Young, his team was a lot more successful in cracking and attacking the defense in the second half as compared to their first half play. Going into halftime Canton held a 23-14 lead.

"We played very well defensively and were able to get good scoring opportuni-

ties off of our defense," Young said.

Keeping his torrid scoring pace on track, the Chiefs Nick Hurley scored 21 points, which is his average through Canton's first three games. Rob Johnson added 15 points of his own, while grabbing eight of his team's 35 rebounds on the night. Pioneer could only pull down 14 rebounds.

Canton took a 2-1 record into their game Thursday at Ypsilanti.

"Right now we're playing very hard, solid defense and we're improving offensively every game," Young said. "We're looking forward to playing our next game."

Don't stop here!

The Crier has added another sports page!

On deck

SALEM BOYS BASKETBALL

Salem's next game is at Ypsilanti Lincoln on Jan. 3 with the J.V. game starting at 5:30 p.m. and varsity beginning immediately afterwards.

SALEM BOYS SWIMMING

Their next meet will be at North Farmington on Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.

SALEM WRESTLING

At home for the Salem "B" Tournament next Saturday at 9 a.m.

At home for the Salem "16" Invitational on Jan. 4 at 8:30 p.m.

SALEM GYMNASTICS

Always one of the best team in the state, the Salem gymnastics team's next meet is Jan. 8 at home versus Hartland.

SALEM VOLLEYBALL

The JV team is at the Madonna Invitational on Dec. 28.

The next varsity match is in the Portage Northern Invitational on Jan. 4.

CANTON BOYS BASKETBALL

Canton's next game is at Farmington on Jan. 3 with the J.V. game starting at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity beginning immediately afterwards.

CANTON BOYS SWIMMING

After the holidays the Chiefs travel to Ypsilanti to face Ann Arbor Huron on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.

CANTON WRESTLING

At home today for the Canton 8 Invitational at 9:30 a.m.

At Salem for the Salem "B" Tournament next Saturday at 9 a.m.

At Salem for the Salem "16" Invitational on Jan. 4 at 8:30 a.m.

CANTON GYMNASTICS

The Chiefs' next match takes place at Northville on Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.

CANTON VOLLEYBALL

At the Walled Lake Central Varsity Invitational on Jan. 4 at 9 a.m.

Sports

Although Detroit Whalers are great community addition, simple changes would make them better



When the puck drops in Compuware Sports Arena, the crowd needs to get into the game. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Thursday night's game in Windsor marked the midway point of the season for the Detroit Whalers, their first in Plymouth Township.

At 13-18-2, the Whalers have posted relatively impressive numbers for a team with 11 rookies in the lineup.

Detroit's home rink — Compuware Sports Arena — has received similar praise from visiting teams and media familiar with the hockey circuit.

The adulation is deserved at first glance, especially when stories of the league's aging arenas are passed on.

(Just ask the folks in Erie about the Civic Center.)

But the fact of the matter is, Compuware Sports Arena still has a long

way to go to become the league's premier fan destination.

And I'm hoping these suggestions will help the organization speed up that process.

They should begin by waking up the walking stiffs who are sitting in the 4,000 seats each night. For a so-called "hockey town" the crowds are quiet. Quiet enough to watch a movie, which is good I guess because it looks like the concession stands belong in a theatre lobby.

Besides the passing "oohs" and "yeahs" in response to a great save or a goal, and the extraordinary interest taken in the pee-wee teams that play during the first intermission, the crowd is more entertained than they are involved.

For example, the team mascot Slapshot the Whale, who appears with freebies during the second intermission, gets a great response because he starts a cheering competition between sections.

Why not have Slapshot walk (or swim) around the arena during the game? That's what most mascots do during sporting events. I hate to say it, but the Whalers should bring in a noise meter if they have to, until the fans get used to using the vocal chords. Some more antics from the arena announcer would help too. The crowd already reacts to some of his calls, but take a trip along M-14 to Yost Arena in Ann Arbor, which has a capacity of approximately 6,000, and see a real home crowd in action.

It's the most intimidating place to play in college hockey. Speaking of intimidation, those banners that hang across the ceilings in so many arenas add to the home team's mystique. For being such a young franchise, the Whalers have established a winning tradition. They should remind visiting teams of their three consecutive divisional titles and one OHL championship.

The 1995-96 Central Division banner was raised at the Oct. 5 home opener, but it was taken down. Painting action murals along with statistics of Whaler graduates at each end of the arena would also improve the pale interior presentation.

But there is only so much noise 3,700 people can make, which is the approximate number of spectators watching the game when the Whalers have a "sellout."

It's a common occurrence in today's sports world: The best seats in the house are purchased by companies, who often don't use the tickets for every game. Meanwhile, fans that show up for game day tickets are shut out.

Empty seats are usually paid for, yes. But can they cheer? No. Institute a sell back policy. Offer an incentive to season ticket holders to return their unused games to the Whalers for re-sale.

Truth is Tough

By Brian Corbett



There is no shortage of community interest in the team. The average attendance is 3,202. Which makes you wonder: Did they build Compuware Sports Arena too small? With population in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community growing, and a Michigan Hockey Hall of Fame slated for installation inside the arena next year, expansion will likely be needed. That means annoying eyesores, dust, noisy construction traffic and more money.

With all that ruckus, people will no longer have to search for the arena, which is set back from Beck Road on a downward slope. I still have people asking me where and what Compuware Sports Arena is. Put up a sign, "Home of the Detroit Whalers", with an electronic board flashing upcoming dates. You might even be able to see it from the freeway. And another one should go on Five Mile Road when the new entrance/exit is built — hopefully soon — to alleviate traffic congestion.

Now it's time to be selfish. The press box seating needs to be raised so the media doesn't have to jump on the ledge to see over the standing patrons. And, since most games are taped anyway, a replay monitor would help infinitely. It's not an easy undertaking to make the cross-city move that the Whalers did. It takes a little time to get settled in a new community — and be accepted. The Whalers have initiated that by becoming a large supporter and provider for local hockey and skating, and assisting community service groups in their holiday drives. With a little more hard work and ingenuity, the Whalers will solidify their future as a winning franchise no matter what their record is.

OHL STANDINGS

East Division	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts
Ottawa	25	4	2	9-1-0	52
Oshawa	19	10	3	6-2-2	41
Peterborough	17	15	2	5-4-1	36
Kingston	12	16	3	4-5-1	27
Bellefonte	11	17	5	4-5-1	27
North Bay	6	28	2	0-9-1	14
Central Division	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts
Guelph	20	10	2	5-5-0	42
Owen Sound	20	10	1	9-1-0	41
Kitchener	18	11	3	7-3-0	39
Barrie	16	14	3	5-3-2	33
Sudbury	11	16	3	3-6-1	25
Erie	10	22	2	1-8-1	22
West Division	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts
S.S.Marie	18	10	7	4-2-4	43
Sarnia	18	8	4	4-5-1	40
Windsor	12	18	5	7-2-1	25
DETROIT	13	18	2	5-4-1	24
London	6	25	1	0-10	13

WHALERS STATISTICS

Season leaders:
 Goals-Taylor (16)
 Assists-Cadotte (18)
 PIM-Boulerice (189)
 PPG-Taylor (6)
 SHG-Cavanagh, Cadotte, Terzo (1)
 GWG-Cavanagh (4)
 Plus/minus-Pawlaczyk (+5)
Week leaders:
 Goals-Dumonski, Fitzgerald (1)
 Assists-four players (4)

CATCH OF THE DAY:

Who?	When?	Where?
North Bay	Sa 7:30	home
London	Dec. 28 7:30	home
Windsor	Dec. 30 6:00	away
North Bay	Jan. 2 7:30	away
Sudbury	Jan. 3 7:30	away

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Community opinions

Dialogue between Yack, Little deserves praise

As a newspaper reporter or editor, covering any kind of government is the same wherever you go. The problems are identical — just add a few zeros to the budget items.

All public entities face similar money problems, deal with irate citizens and are hounded by nosy reporters.

Unfortunately, it's almost unheard of for different branches of local government (i.e. school boards and city government) to work together to solve common goals.

That's why the genuine teamwork that's taking place between Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Charles Little and Canton Supervisor Tom Yack is so exciting.

Although the decision to build the Canton theater on the PCEP site isn't etched in stone, simply discussing the possibility of joint services between the schools and Canton is an enormous step in the

No curves

By Rob Kirkbride



right direction.

In a way, Little and Yack are very similar. Both men are visionaries who have goals for their respective governments. Some of their ideas are ill-conceived. Sometimes they don't go about achieving their dreams in the right way. But at least they have dreams.

Little and Yack have nothing but good things to say about each other. It seems that they really are friends.

"I think Chuck sees — and I commend him for this — how to draw the community into the

schools," said Yack. "He finds a way to reach out and create partnerships with the schools."

Maybe it's Yack's long history with the P-C Schools that creates a common bond between the two men, both of whom have made a tremendous impact on their respective governments.

Both leaders agree: It's going to take creative management to add more services with a dwindling amount of funds the public is willing to dish out.

At this early point, it doesn't matter if the Canton theater is a good idea or if the PCEP site is the best place to put it.

It does matter that two leaders, both of whom have different goals and (sometimes conflicting) objectives, get together to sit down and have a cup of coffee and discuss how they can make this community a better place.

For this simple, neighborly act, they deserve a round of applause.

West Middle Science Camp could be run by parents

EDITOR:

How would you define the word "disappointment?" Well, the sixth graders at West Middle School define it as an "opportunity lost" because of the cancellation of Science Camp for them this school year.

Eight of the 10 sixth grade teachers at West Middle School have chosen not to conduct Science Camp for their pupils this year. Why? We don't know for sure.

The parents have been told there are several reasons, but no specific reasons have been given to us. If these reasons are because it involves

too much work on the teachers' part outside of their contracted hours, let us know.

There are more than enough parents who are willing to do whatever work is needed to assure a successful Science Camp.

All that would be required of you is to teach the curriculum.

This hands-on experience has proven to be highly successful and educational over and over to the learning process of our children. Remember, only part of what we learn from books can help our children through their lives.

The parents of our sixth graders at

West Middle School request that you reconsider your decision for cancellation of Science Camp and

let the parents work with you on resolving any concerns you have.

DEL TEMPLETON

Wise Men never saw Jesus in manger

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter is in response to a letter last week criticizing the weekly movement of the wisemen in Kellogg Park closer to the manger scene.

EDITOR:

In response to Sheryl Tripp Khoury's letter to the editor in the Dec. 18 issue of The Crier, I would like to give reference to the Bible. Matthew chapter two and Luke chapter two tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

Mary and Joseph went from their home in Nazareth to Bethlehem to pay taxes. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The Wise Men traveled over a long period of time. When they finally saw Jesus he was between one and two years old and living in the house of his mother, Mary and Joseph. Therefore, the Wise Men never saw the baby Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem.

MARY HESKETT

City of Homes?

Although Plymouth is known as the "City of Homes," you'd never know it from the way they're torn down.

The expansion of the library is important for the community, but what about the houses on Union Street?

They should have been saved, especially since they were located in the City's historic district.

THE COMMUNITY CRIER

Community
editorial





Community opinions

'Christmas Story' right on target

Movie brings back memories of Plymouth for reporter

BY BRYON MARTIN

Holidays, holidays, they're certainly not hollow days. Plenty to do. Places to go, people to see. Traditions to keep up, both Big and Little.

Decorating your pad, visiting family, buying gifts — Big Traditions, ones that people share across cultures.

Sticking empty beer cans in the Christmas tree, singing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," but replacing the words "nose," and "reindeer," with suggestive hand gestures — these are Little Traditions, kept strictly within families (which is probably for the best.)

Some traditions are smaller still. Personal. Little things that are significant to ourselves only. I've got one of these, a Little tradition I follow around this time of year. And in my first column writing for The Crier, for better or for worse, I'm going to share it with you.

"A Christmas Story," is a movie many of you have probably seen. If you haven't, it's about a kid, Ralphie, living circa 1940 in a quaint, Rockwellian town that looks more than a little like Plymouth. The story centers on Ralphie's quest to get a Daisy Red Rider BB Gun for Christmas. He envisions himself fighting off roving thugs, defending the family — a gift with practical applications. Who would deny him that? His teacher, his parents, the department store Santa would. "You'll shoot your eye out, kid!" is the cheap, easy-out excuse that Ralphie gets from every adult to whom he pitches his sell.

Long story short, in the end he gets his gun. And at his zenith, that beatific moment when he's in his snowy backyard, still in his pajamas, gun sights trained on a tin can, ready to loose the .44 centimeter fury of copper, he fires and...

PING — ricochet! and we hear Ralphie's thoughts in a voice over: "Oh my gosh, I shot my eye out!"

Well, not exactly. The BB hits his glasses, breaking them, and leaving a pink welt under his eye.

Much worse than the physical pain is the realization that his teacher, his parents, even the traitor Santa, that chump, were all right. They knew better than he did.

I can relate.

For years I've rented this movie. I've always attributed my affection for the film to its connections with Plymouth — both in the way it looks, and because Ralphie wants a Daisy BB Gun (Plymouth being Daisy's birthplace, if you were unaware). These were familiar elements, things from my life which made the movie feel real. But seeing it recently I had a new insight. There's more to it than verisimilitude.

Summertime. It's 1987, and I'm between eighth and ninth grade. I'm in a field at the not-yet-developed edges of a subdivision in Canton. I used to live here, but have recently moved to Plymouth. I'm with my best friends Rob, Brandon, John, and a few others. It's late in the afternoon, and we're standing in tall yellow grass. We've got BB guns. We've been hunting each other, hiding behind trees, in thickets, lying low in the grass. Shooting each other. Not distracting ourselves with the premise of playing war, we were hunting each other.

Dumb.

Some Might Say

By Bryon Martin



Dumb, dumb, dumb, but that's what we did. Actually, unwise, but not dumb. I mean, we knew there were risks, we weren't blind. But that was part of the thrill. You might get hurt, but you played anyway. And when you won, (shot others more than you were shot), you got bragging rights — very big.

This day I won. It was one of my first times playing, and I hadn't been shot. Not ever. The group of us were trading stories, "remember when I shot you that time." I was the only one without a scar to show. The only one never shot.

Now, I won't try to explain the logic involved in this next part, but bear in mind that among young guys, courage often means more than sense, and gang mentality can quickly swing things out of your favor.

I didn't have a scar, and my best friends thought I should. This is why I ran into the grass as my friends counted to 10 with their backs turned, waiting for me to hide before they each took one shot to try and "find" me.

They found me. Specifically, Brandon and his trusty Daisy air rifle found the space between the top of my eye and the bottom of my eyebrow, and marked it with a Copperhead BB. (I find this impressive, seeing as the space is such a narrow one).

I hopped up, howling, "My eye! My eye!"

"Shoot him, he's faking!" my best friends said.

When I turned around, they saw that I wasn't. I was bleeding. They lowered their rifles, and took me home.

Yes, getting shot in the eye hurt. But like Ralphie, dealing with my parents was worse. (For some reason, a good BB gun wound doesn't impress parents as much as it does friends). Even if I never heard them say it, I knew they were thinking, "See, you will shoot your eye out." Whenever I left the house with my gun, I would groan as my mom reminded, "Be careful."

"We are, Mom," I'd whine. But we weren't. And as it goes, it turned out they were right. They knew better than I did.

I can relate, because I've been where Ralph is. We live in similar towns, have both taken slugs from a brutal Daisy rifle. But more significantly, we've both been in that position where we've faced the fact that in moments of self confidence, we fell.

Ralph, man, I feel your pain.

I also share one other thing with Ralphie: After facing that moment of truth, we lied.

In the movie, Ralphie runs into the house, crying, and tells his mother an icicle fell from the house and hit him in the face. Although he knows his parents were right, which is privately humiliating, he avoids the public embarrassment of I-told-you-sos by lying.

I told my dad that we were shooting at a No Trespassing sign, and I was hit by a ricocheting BB. Thus, not only did I evade humiliation, but also probably saved Brandon from criminal charges. (After all, what are friends for?)

To this day, or should I say *until* this day when they read my column, they have never known that I was shot intentionally. Nor have they known that the BB is still in that narrow crease between my eye and my brow.

"Why not take it out?" people ask. But it's a part of me. Like "A Christmas Story," it's a reminder to listen when someone warns me, "Be careful," a reminder of a time when I wasn't.

Sorry Mom, sorry Dad. I wish I could have told you another way. Hope you're not mad, but like I said, for better, for worse, I had to tell my story. My Christmas Story.

It's a Little Tradition I have.

The Community Crier



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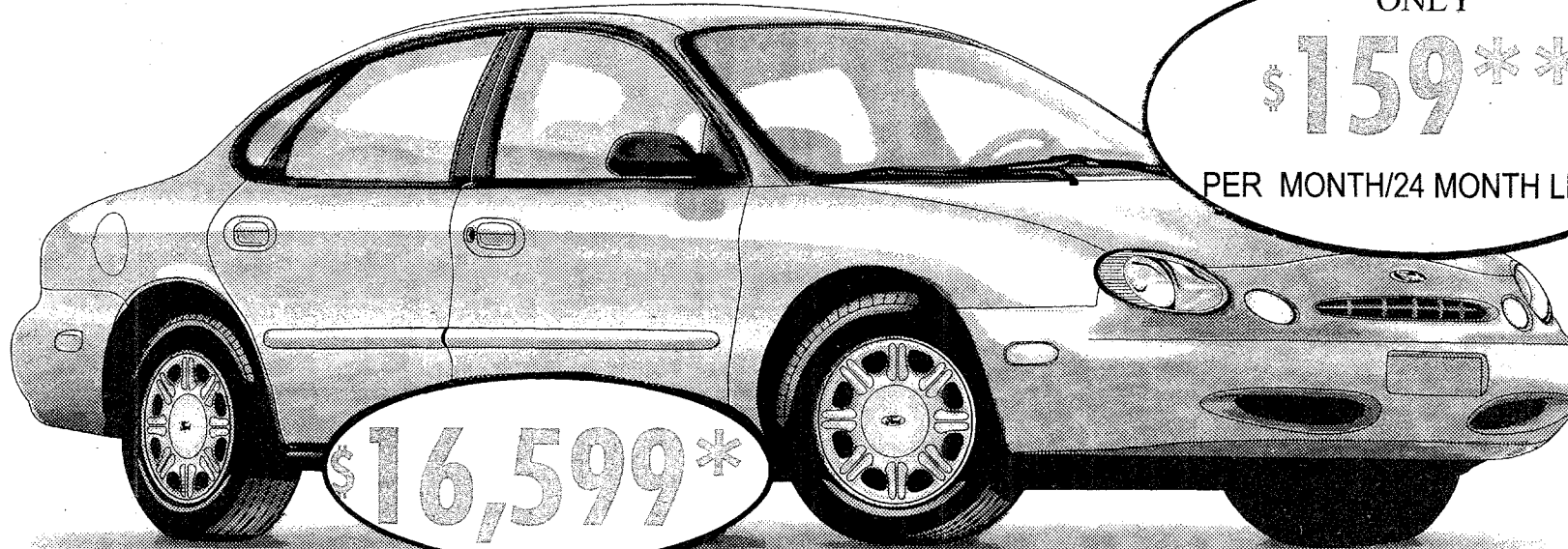
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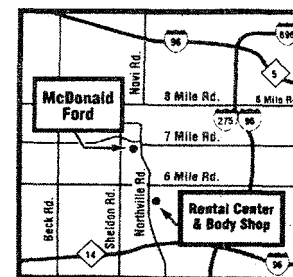
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