

Plymouth Observer

VOLUME 108 NUMBER 31

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Truck stolen: A truck valued at \$33,000 by its owner was stolen from a local motel. /2A

Yule memories: Readers tell us about their favorite Christmas memories. /3A

MEAP scores: The Plymouth-Canton schools released the test scores last week and we feature them in a chart. /4A

Cheer Club: From Monday through Wednesday this week, the Plymouth Salvation Army distributed to the needy items collected by the Plymouth and Canton Observer Christmas Cheer Club and by other community groups. /9A

Crossing troubles: City officials and Rep. Jerry Vorva, R-Plymouth, are rallying support in hopes of derailing an effort by railroad companies to extend the time trains can block street crossings. /11A

COUNTY NEWS

Schools of choice: Most parents are just looking for a good babysitter, says National Education Association president Keith Geiger. /5A

SPORTS

Blown out: The Madonna men's basketball team scored 107 points Monday night — and lost by 82 points to Division II Oakland University. In the process, OU set nine school records. /1B

SUBURBAN LIFE


Christmas story: With keen memory and hand gestures as varied as the stories she tells, Dinghy Sharp spins a Christmas tale with a surprise ending. /1C

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Discover where Santa is on Christmas Eve by listening to one of Santa's elves being interviewed by your hometown newspaper. Information updated every half-hour. Just call **953-2031** between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Tots safe after apartment fire



Two young children were tossed from the window of a burning apartment building Monday afternoon. The youngsters are doing just fine, thanks to two men on the ground who caught them, using sheets.

By KEVIN BROWN AND JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITERS

Parents of two young children, aged 3 months and 2 years, dropped them one by one out a second-story window to two young men who caught them in a sheet as smoke from a fire filled a

Plymouth Township apartment building Monday.

The children, and other residents at the Plymouth Heritage Apartments as the fire broke out in a basement at 1:52 p.m., were uninjured in the blaze, Plymouth Township fire Chief Larry Groth reported.

The apartment complex is located at 12811 Heritage near the intersection of Sheldon and North Territorial roads.

Three firefighters were treated for injuries. "One had a back injury, another an ankle injury and another was burned around the area of the ears," Groth said. All three were treated and released from St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

Groth said the fire is "suspicious," adding anyone with information on how the fire may have been set should call the Plymouth Township Police

Department at 453-3869.

The first fire trucks responded to the scene in six minutes, Groth said. Eventually, seven trucks and about 22 township and city firefighters were called to the scene.

The fire started in a storage unit in the basement of the 12-unit apartment complex. "It took about an hour to get it really knocked down," Groth said.

Upon arriving at the scene, most residents of the apartments had evacuated.

See FIRE, 4A

Student creations map out Plymouth perfectly

By M.B. DILLON
STAFF WRITER

Walk into Farrand Elementary School, turn down a hallway and you've entered a magical fantasy land. An entire wing has been trans-

formed into an illuminated gingerbread replica of Plymouth.

In colorful splendor for parents, merchants, and business folks to see is a recreation of everything from the McDonald's at Five Mile and Hagger-

ty to Unisys, Danny's supermarket and downtown Plymouth. The creators are four third grade classes and their teachers, Kristin Bertoia, Cathy Campbell, Ann Coker and Lynn Burns.



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christmas visions: From bottom left, Nicole Hoffman, Catherine Soodawa and Ryan Baumgartner dream of Christmas.

Student Cody Lobenherz explained how he and his classmates built an elaborate, edible model of Unisys.

"We put boxes together and graham-crackered 'em. We used a glue gun and sometimes frosting to stick it together. For the soccer field, we used a Styrofoam base and pipe cleaners and onion net for the nets. It was fun."

The Unisys clock was made of frosting, pretzels and Tootsie rolls.

On other buildings, candy canes doubled as shutters, licorice as shingles and cotton as snow. The creations are currently on display in the lower level of the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Museum hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Sunday.

The Farrand staff and students hosted an open house for all the merchants and employees whose buildings were recreated. On display, to name a few, were City Hall, the Penn Theater and Schrader's Funeral Home. Milk cartons served as the structure for some of the buildings, and adorning them were graham crackers, untold varieties of candy and frosting, and strings of tiny colored lights.

Third-grader Theresa Edwards said recreating Danny's supermarket "took us a long time; about two weeks. It was fun, but hard work."

The project ties in with the fourth classes' social studies unit on community. "Buildings were photographed and then divided up among

See CREATIONS, 4A

Happy holidays



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From us to you: We at the Plymouth Observer didn't have time to write all our readers Christmas cards, so we're doing the next best thing. We're wishing everybody happy holidays. Here is the staff from left to right, starting at the bottom row: Joanne Maliszewski, Canton reporter; Christina Fuoco, Suburban Life reporter; Nancy Pennington, receptionist; and Dan O'Meara, sports. Second row: Kevin Brown, Plymouth reporter; C.J. Risak, sports; Sue Mason, Suburban Life editor; Jeff Counts, Plymouth community editor; M.B. Dillon, schools reporter; and Bill Bresler, photographer. The photo was taken in Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

Holiday cheer



Friendship: Teacher Kathy Harenda and her third grade class from Hoben Elementary School in Canton lightened the hearts of seniors at Canton Place recently. The students sang carols for the residents and presented them with a friendship chain they made. Pictured at left is Agnes Irwin.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

Canadian man reports truck stolen from motel

A truck valued at \$33,000 by its owner, an Ontario, Canada man, was reported stolen Saturday from the Red Roof Inn, 39700 Ann Arbor Road.

The man said he last saw the locked truck at 12:30 a.m.; it was discovered missing at 3:45 a.m., according to the report filed with Plymouth Township police, who are investigating.

Officer's gym bag found

A Plymouth Township resident called police at 2:16 p.m. Sunday to say they'd spotted a neighbor placing two suspicious white gar-

bage bags in a trash bin.

Police opened the bags and found a gym bag with the address of a Livonia police officer. The officer arrived on the scene to say the bag was his, but that two silver pens were missing. The man seen placing the bags in the trash bin then produced the pens from his pocket, saying, "Sure, he can have them back."

The man, 22, told police he found the bag behind an area bar. Police have not filed charges against the man.

Drill press stolen

A one-third horsepower drill

press was discovered missing at noon Saturday from the attached garage to a Plymouth township home on Clare.

The 34-year-old homeowner said no other items were missing from the garage. Police have no suspects or witnesses.

Car windows broken

Windows to 10 cars at a Plymouth Township salvage yard at 1179 Starkweather were discovered broken at 7:30 p.m. Monday, according to a report filed with Plymouth Township police.

Police have no witnesses or suspects.

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Readers share stories of Christmas magic

We asked our readers to provide their memories of those special Christmases of years gone by. These stories are offered for your holiday enjoyment.

Christmas in Florida! No snow! An artificial tree! No way! That was probably my first thought when my husband, Frank, and I began discussing the possibility of packing up our two children, Kristen and Stephen, and driving down to Florida with Frank's sister, Karen, her husband, Rick, and their two children, Casey and Cody, to spend the holidays with my in-laws.

Frank's parents had moved to Florida seven to eight years earlier and had been back to Michigan for one Christmas. They said never again. They had gotten much too used to the warmer climate in Florida.

So it looked like if we wanted our children to spend the Christmas holidays with their grandparents it was going to be up to us to make the plans and go to Florida.

Now don't get me wrong, I like Florida and love spending time with grandpa and grandma in Florida (since they had moved down there we averaged a visit there every 18 months). But I've always enjoyed Christmas in Michigan. Even when we weren't blessed with snow. I grew up in Canton and my father sold Christmas trees to many of the residents in the Plymouth-Canton area for as long as I could remember from various places in Plymouth and finally right out of our front and back yard.

And there's something to be said for waking up in your own home on Christmas morning and watching the little ones come

down the stairs unable to contain themselves while dad gets the movie camera set up to film their first reaction to all that Santa left them.

But with much excitement and a little apprehension we loaded up our van and Karen and Rick's car with presents and luggage and headed for Florida one early December morning amid the sleet and snow.

The memory of that Christmas is a bittersweet one. In order to spend Christmas with my father-in-law and mother-in-law, I had to leave behind my mother who was in a nursing home.

This was hard to do as I had never in my 37 years spent Christmas without my mother. And grandma had always been around to heap lots of toys upon my children. This year, however, she barely knew it was Christmas. Little did we all know that this would be the last Christmas for both my mother and my mother-in-law, Marilyn. They both passed away within three weeks of each other the following August/September. My mother's death, not unexpected, was a relief, she was out of her pain from a brain tumor. Marilyn, however, died very unexpectedly in her sleep, at the young age of 62.

As I look back and remember that Christmas and all we did together as a family, shopping with grandma, going to the movies (the men took the boys to see "Star Trek" while Grandma, Karen and I took the two girls to see "My Girl," and especially Christmas Eve riding in the van to the Christmas Eve service singing Christmas carols, I now realize how blessed we were to be able to spend what turned out to be her last Christmas with my mother-

in law

We could have missed all that if we had stayed home to have a "White Christmas." Even though we didn't have a white Christmas, that Christmas showed me you can make Christmas whatever you want it to be no matter where you are. To our family, Christmas is being with family and friends, making happy memories and rejoicing in God's love for us.

May we all look at Christmas each year and rejoice in the blessings bestowed upon us (even if it means spending Christmas in Florida!)

P.S. My father-in-law is coming up from Florida to spend Christmas with us this year! I suspect he too realizes how precious Christmas memories are since he is braving the cold to spend the holidays with family.

From Becky Krohn, Canton

Santa's special

My favorite Christmas memory was one year when mom and dad told us we had to go to bed. Dad was going bowling, so mom tucked us into bed. It was dark. Just as we were falling asleep my Mom woke us up and said, "Look out the window!" My sister and I went to the window.

There was frost on the window. We had to wipe away the frost. We couldn't believe it. The snow was falling all around. Walking down the street was Santa Claus! He was bright as could be. The street light shone behind him. He was ringing a bell. "Ho, ho, ho. Merry Christmas," he said.

Next thing we knew, Santa came to our house! We ran down the steps and opened the door. He

had presents for each of the four of us. My sister and I each received a beautiful dress for church in the morning. Each of us sat on his lap as he asked us what we wanted for Christmas. He said we had been good children all year and that he would come back later in the evening.

We went back to bed. The next morning we went down the steps and saw a Christmas tree all decorated with sparkling lights! Under the tree was a 4-by-8 platform with a train running around the tree. Presents were everywhere!

It wasn't until years later that we heard the story that it was dad that dressed up as Santa Claus, visiting the neighbors' houses.

From Barbara Secord of Plymouth

Favorite dress

It's Christmas Day, and all I can say . . . is you made my day, by again going out of your way.

My beautiful yellow dress is the present I liked best. I will always remember this particular year. If I didn't get my yellow dress, I would have been in tears.

Just sitting around Christmas Eve, looking at the beautiful tree. Wondering what our gifts would be, hoping the yellow dress was there for me.

I didn't even know that you went out into the cold. Had the owner open the store, so that you could get in the door.

And what a delight to find, that the yellow dress was there and mine. I just have to thank you one more time, for a wonderful Christmas, and for you again being so very kind.

From Fran Crane Bernard, Canton



Insurance agents donate food to needy

The Independent Insurance Agents of Wayne County have delivered some 200 boxes of food to needy families in the Detroit metropolitan area.

More than 20 independent insurance agencies and companies in Wayne County participated in the food drive. Included with each box of food was a smoke detector and battery.

The boxes of food were dropped off Thursday and Friday at Timemaster Business Forms Inc. at 13000 Inkster Road in Redford Township.

The filled boxes were then delivered by insurance agent volunteers to local charities and distributed to needy families during this week.

A spokesperson for the Inde-

pendent Insurance Agents of Wayne County said the food drive donation presents agents with the opportunity to help those within the community they serve.

"It's important that insurance agents demonstrate that their concerns are not limited to selling auto insurance," said Denise McHenry of Cambridge Un-

derwriters in Livonia.

McHenry added that the free smoke detectors are designed to increase the chances of early fire detection during the holiday season.

Anyone wishing to contribute boxes of non-perishable food items can contact McHenry at 525-2442.

Middle school students have holiday spirit to spare, share

Students at Pioneer Middle School have had the Christmas spirit since September, when they began raising money to make this holiday season a bright one for five families they adopted.

The students raised \$2,500 at dances, and through sweat shirt sales, a Santa's Workshop and "candygrams" sent to fellow students. They then shopped for toys, clothing, books and food, and organized and wrapped the gifts for delivery to the Salvation Army. Their colorful wrapping paper and bows were handmade.

"This is a Student Council activity we've done for eight years in a row," said teacher Karen Barksdale, who worked with fellow teacher Sena Sherman on the project.

"The big thing we are really most proud of is that kids get a sense of doing for others in this age of me, me, me," said Barksdale. "We like to focus on what we can do for others. This really is a long-term project."

Many students have spent their own money on items for the families, she added. "It makes them feel real good, and we feel real good," the teacher said. "We tell the kids that we know the stores make it sound like it's the season for you, but it's the season for others."

Students have perfected the art of bartering and finding the best deal, Barksdale said. "One kid went to the manager and explained who the purchases were for, asking if she could do any better on the price. The manager knocked 10 percent off."

"Through it all, students have learned that to give is more im-



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Big hearts: Thanks to students at Pioneer Middle School, local families will have a happier holiday season. The middle school students began in September raising money to buy books, toys, clothing and groceries for the "adopted families" with which the Salvation Army paired them. Andria Johnson and Laurie Bilik are among the students.

portant than to receive. They've become good bargainers and become good shoppers."

The Salvation Army screens lo-

cal, needy families for the Adopt-a-Family program. Barksdale and Sherman are the Student Council advisers.

Local ice rink open for skating

Ice skating open to the public is available through Jan. 2 at the Plymouth Cultural Center ice arena, 525 Farmer.

Times for open skating are 9:40-10:40 a.m., 1-2p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Mondays; 9:40 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 4:35-5:50 p.m. Tuesdays;

8:30-9:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays; 8:40 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. and 4-5:20 p.m. Thursdays; 9:40 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Fridays and noon to 2:50 p.m. Sundays.

City resident fees are \$2.75 for adults, \$2 for kids, \$1.50 for sen-

iors and \$1.25 for skate rental.

Fees for non-city residents are \$3.25 for adults, \$2.50 for children, \$2 for seniors and \$1.25 for skate rental.

For more information, call the recreation department at 455-6620.

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BARBARA ARMSTRONG

Apartment fire: Firefighters work on the Plymouth Township blaze that forced residents to flee.

Fire from page 1A

uated. Groth said one elderly woman who was unaware of the fire was evacuated by firefighters.

"Everyone else was out at work," he said.

Parents of the children dropped out the window to flee the fire were unavailable for comment Tuesday. Groth said the two young men who held the sheet to catch the children were neighbors, probably in their early 20s.

Groth said heat and smoke damage to the apartments was extensive. Residents had to find lodging with friends or relatives. The Salvation Army provided shelter for some whose apartments were damaged in the fire.

Groth said on Tuesday a damage estimate due to the fire had yet to be compiled. Items stored in the basement were destroyed in

the fire, which was contained to the basement.

Under the Michigan Arson Reward Program, up to a \$5,000 reward is available for anyone with information leading to the conviction of a suspect in the fire, Groth said.

Barbara Armstrong, a resident of the apartment complex, said she was in her apartment just before the fire started when "I saw a guy running. Then I started to hear sirens."

"One of the tenants smelled smoke and they (other tenants) came out," Armstrong said. "There weren't too many people in the building."

As this was the second fire in the complex in the last six months, Armstrong said she was concerned that someone might be setting fires in the complex.



GUY WARREN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Smoky: Fire broke out Monday at the Plymouth Township apartment complex.

Creations from page 1A

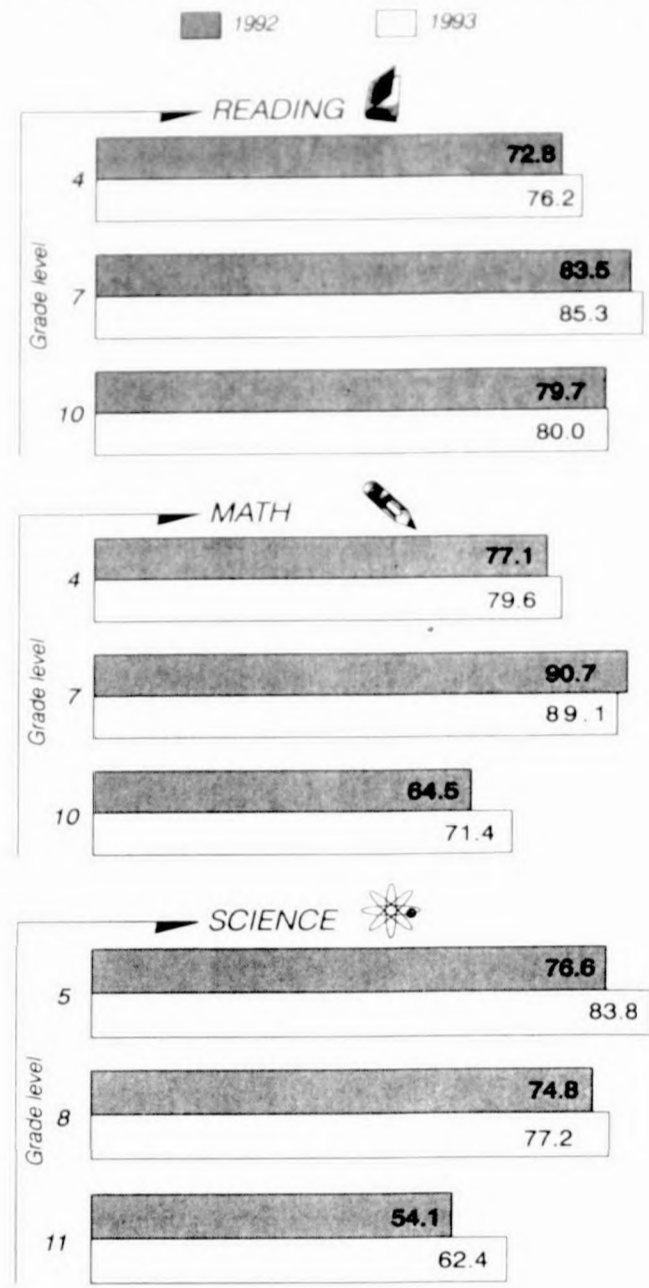
the kids," Campbell said. "We used math in calculating ratios for the biggest and smallest buildings. We brought in geometry and art by designing and constructing."

"We sent letters to the merchants, signed by the kids, invit-

ing them to come today and to take the gingerbread buildings to their stores when we're done," added Campbell. The dozens of business people and parents who attended the open house were treated, after their tour, to oodles of homemade holiday goodies.

Measuring the MEAP

Here's a district-wide breakdown of the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) scores for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The MEAP numbers represent the percentage of students who have at least a satisfactory mastery of the subject. "Satisfactory" is defined as achieving 75% or more of the subject.



Source: Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

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 - Item No. 9822:** Vehicles: Used trucks, vans and all makes of automobiles. Cost: \$39.95

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HOLIDAY SAVINGS

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You

Church musicians share sounds of the season

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Brightly-wrapped presents are nice to get, but musicians at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church prefer to offer the gift of music to concert-goers.

"It's our gift to the community," said Dr. Michele Johns, director of music at the Catholic church in Plymouth. "It's called 'Christmas Collage.' It pulls our own community together, working on a project."

The annual concert was presented the evening of Thursday, Dec. 9, at the church. The tradition started in 1985, with about 50 musicians performing that year.

"It's always bigger because we keep having more people involved. This year, it's over 200," said Johns, who's on the music faculty at the University of Michigan, where she teaches organ and

church music.

The recent concert featured six bell choirs, two children's choirs with a combined membership of more than 100 youngsters, the parish folk group and the parish choir. A choir for men and boys, formed last year with more than 40 current members, also performed.

Typically, the yule concert attracts about 500 people, including some from the community who don't worship at Our Lady of Good Counsel, said Johns, who earned a doctorate in organ music from U-M. The Rev. John Sullivan, pastor of the church, narrated the concert, as he did last year.

"He loves children, so this is just right up his alley." The concert featured a variety of holiday selections.

"It's all pretty familiar Christmas stuff," she said. A team of music directors from the parish met in the summertime to discuss

possible selections. "We see the strengths of our groups."

Rehearsals began in earnest in October, with musicians putting in many hours to polish their holiday performance. Soloists are featured each year; this year, four boy sopranos performed a portion of the "Messiah."

"They're terrific at it," Johns said of the four sixth-grade musicians.

The concert gives audience members a chance to sing such familiar carols as "Silent Night" each year. In fact, this year's concert ended with audience members lighting candles and singing that song.

"It's real pretty once everybody gets those candles lit. We always add Christmas carols and have everybody sing between the numbers the choirs sing," Johns said. "It's fun to sing Christmas carols, and people don't have very much opportunity anymore."

Typically, the yule concert attracts about 500 people, including some from the community who don't worship at Our Lady of Good Counsel. The Rev. John Sullivan, pastor of the church, narrated the concert.



Yule sounds: Susan Lindquist directs the Singations children's choir during the holiday concert at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

In recent years, Omnicom has taped the concert and shown it on local access cable TV. Parish members have gone through training at Omnicom, so they are able to handle the taping duties.

Music-lovers have the opportunity to see the concert on TV, but that doesn't mean the parish musicians plan to give up their holi-

day performance. People have it to look forward to that way," Johns said.

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Mozzarella Sticks	\$4.59
Mozzarella deep-fried with our marinara sauce.	
Supreme Nachos	\$5.49
Crispy tortilla chips with chili, Cheddar, jalapenos, lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream & fresh guacamole.	
Beer Batter Onion Rings	\$2.79
COMBOS	
Salad & Steamed Vegetables Plate	\$5.49
Our dinner salad or small Caesar salad followed by a plate of fresh steamed broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, new potatoes & zucchini.	
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Our soup of the day with a dinner salad or small Caesar salad.	
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Soup & Half Sandwich	\$4.99
Our soup of the day & your choice of a half Club Sub or a half Chicken Salad sandwich.	
Salad & Half Sandwich	\$4.99
Our dinner salad or small Caesar salad with your choice of a half Club Sub or a half Chicken Salad sandwich.	

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A 9-oz. choice sirloin steak.	
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Smothered with sauteed onions, mushrooms & green peppers.	
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Over a pound of slow hickory-roasted rib tips in our spicy Bar-B-Que sauce served with French fries & cole slaw.	
Steak or Chicken Fajitas	\$8.49
Strips of marinated steak or chicken breast char-broiled & served on a sizzling platter with sauteed onions & green peppers, fresh guacamole, pico de gallo & sour cream with soft hot flour tortillas served on the side.	
Chicken Fingers Platter	\$6.99
A hearty portion of breaded chicken tenderloins, fried & served with French fries, cole slaw & honey mustard sauce.	
Smothered Chicken	\$7.29
Our char-broiled, marinated chicken breast topped with Monterey Jack, sauteed mushrooms, green peppers & onions.	
	\$6.69
Without cheese, mushrooms, green peppers & onions.	
Char-Broiled Whitefish Filet	\$6.99
Whitefish filet, char-broiled & served in your choice of 2 different styles: broiled with a touch of lemon pepper & garlic butter, or Cajun char-broiled. Served on a bed of rice pilaf with fresh steamed vegetables.	

SANDWICHES	
Bacon Cheese Chicken Grill	\$5.49
A marinated, char-broiled chicken breast with bacon strips & Monterey Jack on a multi-grain bun with lettuce, tomato & onion.	
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Without bacon & cheese.	
Club House Grille	\$5.29
Applebee's signature hot club sandwich with warm sliced ham & turkey, Cheddar, tomatoes, mayonnaise & Bar-B-Que sauce on thick-sliced grilled French bread. Served with a side of cole slaw.	
Gyro Sandwich	\$4.49
Thin slices of Gyro beef grilled with sauteed onions & rolled in Pita bread with shredded lettuce & tomatoes.	
Club Sub	\$4.79
Thinly sliced turkey breast, smoked ham & bacon with two cheeses, shredded lettuce, tomatoes & mayonnaise on a hoagie roll.	
BURGERS	
Our Hamburgers are made from 100% ground beef, char-broiled and served on a fresh bun with shredded lettuce, tomato, red onion & a pickle spear.	
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Double-decker quarter pound patties, grilled with two cheeses, sauteed onions, lettuce, tomato & creamy mustard sauce on a toasted hoagie roll.	
Basic Burger	\$3.79
Cheese Burger	\$3.99
The Basic topped with American cheese.	
Bacon Cheese Burger	\$4.79
The basic topped with bacon & Monterey Jack.	

SUPER SALADS	
Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad	\$5.99
The classic combination of crisp romaine, garlic croutons & fresh grated Parmesan, all tossed in a tangy Caesar dressing. Topped with a char-broiled chicken breast.	
Classic Caesar without chicken	\$4.69
Blackened Chicken Salad	\$5.89
A spicy combination of blackened chicken breast on a bed of mixed greens with eggs, tomatoes & Cheddar served with hot bacon mustard dressing & garlic bread.	
Fried Chicken Salad	\$5.89
Bite-sized chicken fingers on a bed of salad greens surrounded by Cheddar, diced tomatoes & eggs. Great with honey mustard dressing. Served with garlic bread.	
Applebee's House Salad	\$2.79
Mixed greens, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers & red cabbage topped with eggs, seasoned croutons, Cheddar & chopped bacon.	
JUST RIGHT BITES	
Riblet Basket	\$5.99
A hearty portion of slow hickory-roasted rib tips basted in our spicy Bar-B-Que sauce & served with fries.	
Chicken Fingers Basket	\$5.49
Breaded chicken tenderloins, fried & served with French fries & honey mustard sauce.	
Riblet & Chicken Fingers Basket	\$5.79
Fajita Quesadillas	\$5.79
Your choice of our famous beef or chicken fajita meat folded into crisp cheese, tomato & bacon quesadillas. Served with guacamole, sour cream & picante sauce.	
DESSERTS	
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A big, thick fudge brownie with a scoop of rich vanilla ice cream topped with hot fudge sauce.	
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Apples, cinnamon, raisins & spices baked with a streusel pastry, topped with vanilla ice cream & honey sauce.	
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Plymouth duo seeks hosts for exchange students

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Wanted: Open-minded, fun-loving families who enjoy teens and international cultures. Persons don't need to have children living at home.

Volunteers Lynn and Gideon Levenbach, of Plymouth, are looking for you.

Host families are needed for high school students from foreign countries.

These teenagers, ages 15-17, will be here from mid-January to mid-June and will attend the host family's public school.

"They are eager to learn as much as possible in five months about life and customs in the

United States," said Lynn Levenbach, a placement coordinator.

"In return, they'd like to share their cultures from their homelands with their host family and American friends," she said.

The Levenbachs donate time to two non-profit agencies: World Learning (formerly Experiment in International Learning, which started in the 1960s) and American Institute for Foreign Studies.

Foreign countries represented include Argentina, Peru, Columbia, Brazil, Germany and Poland.

The couple estimate they have placed 80 students.

For more information, call 453-8562 or 453-6851.

Lynn works as a transcription-

ist for Citizen Insurance in Livonia and Gideon is a management consultant.

All of the exchange students have studied English for at least three years, have full medical and liability insurance and have enough money to cover their personal expenses.

Students receive academic credit, on a case by case basis, for studies done in the United States, Lynn said. Students from Brazil and Spain always receive credit, she said.

"Every high school has a quota of how many exchange students they will accept into a school," Levenbach said.

In addition to finding host fam-

ilies, the Levenbachs keep track of which high schools have space for more students. Some schools don't want second semester students, she said.

Levenbach also strives to clear away some commonly held misconceptions. Exchange students are also welcome in private schools. The student pays for his own tuition. Tuition is not the responsibility of the host families.

A German female student has made a special request to attend Ladywood, Levenbach said.

Host families are expected to provide a bed and meals for five months. The natural parents provide clothing, medical insurance and spending money. Students are told to budget \$200-\$250 a

month for expenses and are always expected to offer to pay their fair share, Levenbach said.

The Levenbachs hosted a Spanish student five years ago, who is now attending college in California. "We just received a Christmas card from him that read, 'Every year, I think about the wonderful Christmas I spent in Plymouth,'" she said.

Most exchange students build relationships with their host families that last a lifetime. People with or without children of their own can become a host family.

"Sometimes families are afraid they will have to entertain the students," Levenbach said. Students are quick to become involved in school activities. About

every three weeks the Levenbachs organize parties and outings. Families travel to places like Niagara Falls, Cedar Point, Gov. John Engler's office, the Cadillac Assembly plant. This year they walked the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day.

Host families select the student whose interests and lifestyle most seem to fit theirs.

"I start getting applications in February for (placement) the end of August," Levenbach said.

The Levenbachs have two children of their own, Stuart, 19, a sophomore at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Gary, 13, a student at West Middle School in Plymouth.

Number of kids killed in fires rises

Children younger than 10 accounted for 41 percent of Michigan's fire deaths in 1992, a 7-percent increase from the previous year.

"Children need to know the sound of a smoke detector and what the proper reactions are for fire emergencies," said Jerry Basch, AAA Michigan Community Safety Services manager.

"We are working with fire departments to reduce casualties by conducting school safety programs for kindergarten through sixth-grade students," he said.

Results of AAA Michigan-conducted research indicated that to escape fires children were often crawling under beds and hiding in toy bins instead of independently

making their escape. "We realized that we had to teach children how to help themselves," Basch said.

So, AAA developed a school assembly program that teaches five important concepts:

■ Be sure there are two exits from every room. Children need to know how to unlock doors as the first choice, and learn a second emergency exit, as well.

■ Children should know to touch a closed bedroom door with the back of the hand and feel for heat to determine if there is a hallway fire. The back of the hand is more sensitive than the palm. A burned palm would impede progress.

■ Crawl low under smoke. Toxic gases -- produced by burning syn-

thetics in carpet, counter tops, upholstery -- rise with smoke. The air closer to the floor is less toxic and cooler.

■ Have a pre-determined, safe, family-meeting place outside the home.

■ Stop, drop and roll. In the unlikely event that children find their clothes on fire, they are instructed to immediately stop, drop to the ground and roll to smother flames.

To reinforce these concepts, AAA safety education consultants visit schools throughout the state and help children act out the steps. A smoke chamber simulates smoke and flames triggering a smoke detector. A cot and door recreate a child's bedroom. Chil-

dren have the opportunity to roll off the cot, crawl under the "smoke" (a dark cloth billowed low to the ground with the help of classmates) and make it to the door to touch it to determine safe exit.

After the presentation, each student is given a take-home reminder for his or her parents. The letter describes what was learned and gives valuable suggestions. For example, parents are asked to hold practice drills with all family members.

It also reminds parents to check smoke detectors regularly. Studies indicate that nearly two-thirds of battery smoke detectors are inoperable due to dead or removed batteries.

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Circuit judges aid recorder's judges, wonder if it helped

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

Eight Wayne County Circuit Court judges have successfully completed the disposition of almost 500 Recorder's Court cases as a favor to the 29 Recorder's Court judges, but now wonder how much good they did.

Circuit Court Chief Judge Richard Kaufman said Thursday that the Recorder's Court docket is still pretty crowded. "There are some of us who thought there would be a greater impact on the docket than there appears to be," he said.

Circuit Judge Michael Talbot said the Recorder's Court backlog

Madonna hosts visitation day

Madonna University will host a Campus Visitation Day from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 17.

Prospective students will have the opportunity to tour the campus, meet with faculty, staff and students, and learn about the more than 50 undergraduate majors and growing number of graduate degrees offered at Madonna.

Day, evening and weekend classes are available and transfer students are welcome.

For more information, call (313) 591-5052.

Madonna University is located at 1-96 and Levan Road in Livonia.

Schoolcraft offers European food tour

Schoolcraft College is accepting reservations for its second-annual Culinary Educational Tour of France and Switzerland.

The tour will occur March 4-13, but only 25 spots are available, so call soon. The cost will be about \$2,800, which includes airfare, hotels (based on double occupancy), continental breakfast, ground transfers and some meals. Call 462-4448.

Highlights of the tour include visits to Paris and Lyon, France, and Lausanne, Switzerland, visits to cooking schools, restaurants, a winery and a marketplace. Schoolcraft Master Chef Jeff Gabriel will be the guide.

SC teaches CPR

Schoolcraft College offers a course called "Basic Cardiac Life Support" 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6.

Fee is \$40. Call 462-4448. Designed for nursing students and health-care professionals, this course presents infant, child and adult CPR as well as airway obstruction management.

of cases is growing. "I think that instead of getting better it's getting worse. Informally I've heard numbers that say they're not in good shape at all."

Three Observer phone calls to Recorder's Court administrator George Gish in the last three weeks have not been returned. Chief Recorder's Court Judge Dalton Roberson didn't return a phone call Friday.

Since 1987 the Recorder's Court has been aided by five ro-

Since 1987 the Recorder's Court has been aided by five rotating Circuit Court judges who help try criminal cases. In the recent experiment, eight additional circuit judges completed 493 Recorder's Court cases in less than four months.

tating Circuit Court judges who help try criminal cases. In the recent experiment, eight additional

circuit judges completed 493 Recorder's Court cases in less than four months. Talbot said that

Roberson had promised to make administrative changes to speed up the process. It's unknown if that has occurred.

The circuit judges who heard all these cases are William Cahalan, Michael Callahan, Richard Hathaway, Susan Beike Neilson, James Rashid, Michael Stacey, Edward Thomas and Andrea Ferrara.

Kaufman said that only the Circuit Court's efficient processing of civil cases made it possible

to cut eight judges loose for this special duty.

In 1985 Wayne County Circuit Court had more than 17,000 civil cases that had been pending more than two years, Kaufman said. Recently there were 194.

The administration system Wayne County Circuit Court uses to process civil cases has been "adopted exactly" by the Washington, D.C. Circuit Court and the St. Louis County Circuit Court, Kaufman said.

YEAR-END MOVE OUT!

Advance Payment Plan and conventional lease payments based on 1993 Villager GS with PEP 692A MSRP \$20,095 excludes title, taxes, license fee. Lease payment based on average capitalized cost of 93.35% of MSRP for 24-mo closed-end Red Carpet Leases purchased in the Great Lakes Region through 10/31/93. Some payments higher, some lower. See dealer for payment/terms. Lessee may have option to buy vehicle at lease end at price negotiated with dealer at signing. Lessee responsible for excess wear/tear and mileage over 30,000 at \$.11/mile. Credit approval/insurability determined by Ford Credit. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/03/94. Total amount of monthly payments is \$6,696. Savings based on comparison of total of monthly payments plus down payment under a conventional 24-month Red Carpet Lease vs one advance payment. \$8,342 vs \$7,801. For Cash Back take new retail delivery from dealer stock and finance purchase through Ford Credit by 1/03/94. Offer available to residents of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. *Excludes tax and other fees.

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Plymouth Observer

NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1993

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

New VP

James Bills of Plymouth Township has been appointed vice president and economist at Comerica Bank in Detroit.

Bills joined Comerica Bank in 1984. He is responsible for monitoring and forecasting national and regional economic trends.

He is a former officer of the Detroit Association of Business Economists and holds master's degrees from Wayne State University and Eastern Michigan University.

No change

The Plymouth Township department of public services reported several calls in recent days from residents wondering if garbage pickup schedules are changing during the holidays.

The answer is: There's no change. Garbage will be picked up on normal collection days.

Meals On wheels

Meals On Wheels, which provides meals for seniors, wishes Merry Christmas to all who support the Plymouth Community Council on Aging.

Those who support the group with donations include the Plymouth Community United Way, City of Plymouth, Plymouth Lions Club, Plymouth Rotary Club, Evening Plymouth Kiwanis, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and individual donors.

The community council serves seniors in greater Plymouth, and the Senior Sentinel newsletter reaches about 2300 seniors and interested groups.

Meals On Wheels donation envelopes are available at local funeral homes, the cultural center and city hall. Information on senior services and delivery of the meals is available at the Plymouth city hall from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays at 453-1234, extension 236.

Artist talks

Artist and teacher Edee Joppich will talk about ideas and inspiration, and how to jury art shows, and will demonstrate water-color techniques and her color system at 7 p.m. Jan. 10 at the Plymouth Township annex at Lilley and Ann Arbor Roads.

There is no charge for the event sponsored by the Three Cities Art Club. It is open to the public.

Reaching out

Cheer Club's cheerful givers brighten holiday



Christmas Cheer Club donations this year helped the Salvation Army help needy people in the Plymouth-Canton community. This is the third year for the Observer's Cheer Club.

From Monday through Wednesday this week, the Plymouth Salvation Army distributed to the needy items collected by the Plymouth and Canton Observer Christmas Cheer Club and by other community groups.

Salvation Army corps commander Lt. Jeffrey Beachum said that while the distribution of toys and food — along with coats and mittens — was mainly wrapped up on Wednesday, "On Thursday and Friday we'll be having stragglers who didn't realize what was going on coming in."

Beachum said the number of donations compares well with previous years.

"We're very surprised and pleased with the number of toys, we've got turkeys coming out of our ears and a good supply of coats and canned goods are coming in pretty good," Beachum said.

"It's going well especially for the (slow) start we had," he said.

Parents from families getting help from the Salvation Army go to the Plymouth distribution center and pick out items including toys their children might like.

"We try to have the parents give Christmas to their kids, they don't need to know it's the Salvation Army," Beachum said.

"If they do bring in kids we try to keep them busy in another part of the building," he said.

Plymouth Salvation Army office manager Linda Spilos said that for Plymouth, Canton and Northville — the area they serve — the kettle drive has netted \$71,848.

"It looks like the kettles might fall short," Spilos said, of the amount collected last year.

Yet, \$94,220 has been collected locally through direct mail appeals. Combined with the kettle collection, "We might make our total goal," she said.

Spilos reported that the Adopt-A-Family program is serving around 400 families, up from about 350 last year.

Last-minute donors can drop off checks by 1 p.m. Christmas Eve at the Salvation Army office, 9451 S. Main across from Silverman's Restaurant, or put money in kettles until 2 p.m. Christmas Eve.

We at the Observer want to send out a big "Thank You" to the 130 contributors who filled our office with donated toys, canned goods and boxed food. You made the third year of our Christmas Cheer Club the biggest yet.

Those who donated were:

Mark, Elise, Jeffrey and Courtney Simpson of Canton; Eugene and Gloria Hammonds of Canton; Tom and Barbara Tucker of Plymouth; Rosita Smith of Plymouth; Stephanie LaGosh of Plymouth; Cathy Rakozy of Plymouth; Ed Andryziak; Andy and Sarah Stolaruk of Plymouth; Paul Sincock of Plymouth; Sheila Place of Plymouth; Harold and Joann Rocholl of Plymouth Township; John and Kristine Lamphear of Plymouth Township; Kristofer Wellman of

Livonia, previously of Plymouth; Suzanne Russell of Canton; Emily, Andy and Barb Swanson of Canton; Lauren and Lisa Valentine of Plymouth; Susan Gronau of Canton; Lucy Portelli of Plymouth Township; Emerson and Diane Coates of Plymouth Township.

Juanita Fenkell of Plymouth Township; Judy Logan of Canton; Gayle Meade of Canton; Mildred and Charles Domke of Plymouth Township; Kris Karol of Canton; Roberta Hilbrandt of Canton; Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Perry of Plymouth; Ann, Bill, Janet and Brian Confer of Canton; Susan Fennelly of Canton; Bea and Doyal Gray of Plymouth; Alan Shinn of Canton; Brad Kaufman of Canton; Matt Hurst of Canton; Jim Bonneau; Scott and Jay Obsniuk of Canton; Nancy Riemenschneider of Plymouth; Erv and Adeline Litobar of Plymouth Township; Brian and Sheila Friedrich of Canton; Bev Bettega of Plymouth Township; Marilyn Alimpich of Plymouth; Brett Russell of Canton; Sarah and Andrew Cassidy of Canton; Sue O'Donohue of Plymouth; Peggy and Chris Soave of Plymouth.

Frank and Elaine Polgar of Canton; Andy and Elizabeth Day of Plymouth; Janelle, Justin and Jeremy Broadway of Canton; Erin, Kyle and Jean Ording of Plymouth; Ed and Betty Lane of Plymouth; Ryan and Kris Eggenberger of Canton; Diana, Kathryn, Joanna and Jessica McLean of Canton; Jody Trame of Canton; The Barnett family of Canton; Janice Pizii of Plymouth; Megan Camann of Plymouth; Joe and Fran Murawa of Plymouth; Katie and Jennifer Waldeck; Katy, Mark and Jack Tucci of Canton; Tim and Amy Boes of Canton; Carol and Beth Curd of Plymouth; The David Baranski family of

Salvation Army corps commander Lt. Jeffrey Beachum said that while the distribution of toys and food — along with coats and mittens — was mainly wrapped up on Wednesday, "On Thursday and Friday we'll be having stragglers who didn't realize what was going on coming in." Beachum said the number of donations compares well with previous years.

Plymouth; Sue O'Donohue of Plymouth; Darlene Stevenson of Plymouth Township; James Dyer of Plymouth; Janice Jacobs of Westland; Karen Gould of Plymouth; Tom and Mary Ann Lehnis of Canton; State Farm Insurance; The Artleys of Canton; Childtime Child Care; Adam Gannons family of Plymouth; Larry, Maria and Jim Proodian of Novi; Ron, Dar and Todd Proodian of Plymouth; Bob and Carol Proodian of Canton; Mike and Nancy Skibinski of Novi; Cathy and Steve Szuper of Livonia; Brett Kavulich of Plymouth; The Plymouth-Salem Rockettes; Cindy and Tim Russette; Bill Parson; Dennis, Gloria and Tracy Good of Plymouth; Pisani family of Plymouth; Reliance Mortgage of Livonia; Ryan family of Plymouth; Melanie Winslow; Adam Barbara of Plymouth; Lee and Erin Dreps; Jason Pennebaker of Plymouth; Dominic Bonell; and Joseph Mitchell.



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Plymouth fights railroad crossing bill

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

City officials and Rep. Jerry Vorva, R-Plymouth, are rallying support in hopes of derailing an effort by railroad companies to extend the time trains can block street crossings.

A bill to increase that time to seven minutes was debated in the state House on Thursday and Friday. On Monday, Vorva told city commissioners a vote on the bill could come in the next week or two, or more likely after the state Legislature resolves the school financing issue.

On Thursday, Vorva failed to win enough support for two amendments to the bill that

would benefit the city of Plymouth.

The first would have kept the maximum time trains can block crossings to five minutes. The second amendment would have removed a provision sought by the railroads.

That provision requires a municipality that fines railroads for blocking crossings to put collected fines in a fund. That fund would be earmarked for future grade improvements. City officials reject this provision, saying the railroads shouldn't be allowed to tell the city what to do with its money.

The amendment to scrap that provision failed by just eight

votes. But city officials and Vorva say they'll try to lobby state legislators to get the votes necessary to win approval for the amendment — if Vorva is allowed to bring it up again.

"We want to strike the fund idea altogether," said Vorva, who with city attorney Ron Lowe presented an update on the activity in the state House.

Lowe, who testified before the House Transportation Committee in recent weeks, told city commissioners the city was fortunate to win a compromise that extended the time the railroad can block a crossing to seven minutes.

That's because there was much support for the time limit origi-

nally proposed, 10 minutes, he said.

Commissioner Robert Jones asked what is driving legislators to support the railroads on the issue. Vorva said the railroads had won points with the House Republican Caucus in saying Michigan law is more restrictive on railroads than law in other states, and restrictions hurt the railroad's ability to do business.

"Ron and I said the railroads are a very important service," Vorva said, "but it's incumbent on them to be good neighbors also."

City commissioners now have a list of legislators who voted no on the amendments proposed by

Vorva. "Look at that list of no voters and see if there's anyone you know you can contact," Mayor Doug Miller urged.

Lowe said his argument — that restrictions on how a municipality can earmark railroad fines take away from its home rule autonomy — "is playing well" among some legislators.

The action in the state Legislature follows a 1992 suit by CSX Transportation Inc. against the city of Plymouth for levying fines when trains block crossings for more than five minutes.

The suit is awaiting resolution in federal court.

Designer



Citation awarded:
Janet McClintock received a presidential citation and first place in the contract category of 1993 from the Michigan chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers for her design of the Plymouth corporate offices of Library Design Associates.

OBITUARIES

REV. LEONARD KOENIGER

Services for the Rev. Leonard J. Koeniger, 73, were Tuesday, Dec. 21, at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Plymouth. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

He was born July 16, 1920, in Raymond, S.D. He died Saturday, Dec. 18, in Ann Arbor. He graduated from Northwestern College in Watertown, Wis. in 1942. He graduated from Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wis., in 1945. He then served as an assistant instructor at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, then was ordained at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor. He served the congregation until 1953 when he was called to Emanuel Lutheran Church, Lansing. In 1968 he was called to serve at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Plymouth. He retired in 1988.

In addition to his service to his parishes, Koeniger had a record of service to the synod and the community. He was a member of

Plymouth Rotary Foundation.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret I. Koeniger of Plymouth; one daughter, Kristine Wolfe of Livonia; three grandchildren; two sisters, Ruth Kirst of Wauwatosa, Wis. and Lenore Winter of Milwaukee, Wis.

Memorial contributions may be given to St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, WELS Lutheran World Relief and WELS Lutheran World Missions, 2929 Mayfair Drive, Milwaukee, Wis. 53222, and the Rotary Foundation.

HOWARD L. CARSON

Services for Howard L. Carson, 81, of Plymouth were Tuesday, Dec. 21, at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Burial is in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi.

He was born May 8, 1912, in Cherryvale, Kan. He died Friday, Dec. 17, in Plymouth. He came to the Plymouth community in 1935

from Kansas. He was a mechanic at Michigan Bell Telephone for 25 years. He served in World War II and was a member of the VFW Post in Plymouth.

He is survived by four nephews and four nieces, several of which are from the Plymouth community; and one sister, Lucille Skaggs of Missouri.

The Rev. Mel Stout officiated the service. Memorial contributions may be given to the Salvation Army.

MYRL W. SCHANTZ

Services for Myrl W. Schantz, 73, of Middleville, Mich. were Wednesday, Dec. 22, at Caledonia United Methodist Church. He died Sunday, Dec. 19, at Butterworth Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Betty J. Schantz; two daughters, Barbara Judd of Owosso and Nita Hotchkin of Milford, Mass.; two sons, James R. Schantz of Dexter and David M. Schantz of Plym-

outh; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one sister, Edna Wood of Middleville and many nieces and nephews.

The Rev. Bobby Dale Whitlock officiated the service. Memorial contributions may be given to Heart Association or Caledonia United Methodist Church. Arrangements were made by Beeler Funeral Home in Middleville.

FRANK L. WHITTEN

Services for Frank L. Whitten, 71, of Canton were Wednesday, Dec. 22, at Green Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery. Burial was in Green Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Ind.

He was born March 25, 1922, in Oakland City, Ind. He died Sunday, Dec. 19, in Livonia. He was employed as a sales engineer at DeVilbiss Company in Fort

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**CITY OF PLYMOUTH
ORDINANCE NO. 93-9**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1.131 OF TITLE 1, CHAPTER 3, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE MEMBERSHIP ON THE CEMETERY BOARD FROM THREE TO FIVE MEMBERS.

The City of Plymouth ordains:

Section 1. Section 1.131 of Title 1, Chapter 3, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Plymouth, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.131. City Cemetery Board. The Cemetery Board of Trustees heretofore established for the operation, control and regulation of the City's cemeteries or burial grounds is hereby continued. The Cemetery Board shall consist of six (6) members, one of whom shall be the City Manager ex officio, and five (5) of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of the City Commission.

The first five appointive members of said Board of Trustees shall be appointed, two for a term of one (1) year, two for a term of two (2) years, and one for a term of three (3) years, beginning on and dating from the first day of July following such appointments. Thereafter, succeeding appointments shall be made for a term of three (3) years. Vacancies for any reason shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the Mayor, with the approval of the City Commission.

Section 2. Rights and duties which have matured, penalties which have incurred, proceedings which have begun and prosecution for violations of law occurring before the effective date of this ordinance are not affected or abated by this ordinance.

Section 3. Should any section, clause or paragraph of this ordinance be declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same will not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or part thereof other than the part declared invalid.

Section 4. All other ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are to the extent of such inconsistencies hereby repealed.

Section 5. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after enactment hereof and after publication hereof.

DOUGLAS A. MILLER
Mayor
LINDA J. LANGMESSNER
City Clerk

December 20, 1993
Published December 23, 1993

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
SNOW PLOWING**

The Western Townships Utilities Authority is requesting proposals from interested firms to provide snow removal services to its Middle Rouge and Lower Rouge Equalization basins and pump stations. The contract will be awarded for March through December 1994. Multi-year contracts will be considered. The contract will be based on a per-push price.

Proposals must be received by 4:30 p.m., January 24, 1994. Interested parties may receive the full RFP or additional information by calling WTUA, 453-2793.

Published December 23, 1993

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
LAWN AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

The Western Townships Utilities Authority is requesting proposals FOR lawn and landscape maintenance services to its Middle Rouge and Lower Rouge equalization basins and pump stations. The contract will be awarded for March through December 1994. Multi-year contracts will be considered.

A full RFP and additional details may be obtained by calling WTUA, 453-2793.

Published December 23, 1993

**PROPOSED ADVERTISEMENT
JANITORIAL SERVICES**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The Western Townships Utilities Authority is taking proposals for the cleaning contract for the Middle Rouge Equalization Basin and Pump Station and administrative areas. The cleaning contract will be awarded from March through December 1994; multiple year contracts will be considered. Proposals must be received by 4 p.m., January 24, 1994.

A complete Request for Proposal may be obtained by calling WTUA, 453-2793.

Published December 23, 1993

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**

TO REZONE FROM: R-1-E, Single Family Residential District
TO REZONE TO: R-1-H, Single Family Residential District
DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, January 19, 1994
TIME OF HEARING: 7:30 p.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 42350 Ann Arbor Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received a petition to rezone the following described property from R-1-E, Single Family Residential District, 9.18 acres, more or less, to R-1-H, Single Family Residential District. Application No. 1230.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the West 1/4 corner of Section 29, T. 1 S., R. 9 E., running thence North along the West line of said Section 342.14 feet; thence due East 1304.43 feet; thence S. of 21° 30' E. 170.43 feet to the East and West 1/4 line of Section 29; thence S. 69° 51' 30" W. 1308.76 feet to the Point of Beginning.

**ORDINANCE NO. 83
AMENDED ZONING MAP NO. 72**

PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON _____
EFFECTIVE DATE _____

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the proposed amendment to the map, as printed, may be examined at the Plymouth Township Hall, Community Development Department, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting.

The application review, meeting and address for written comment is Plymouth Charter Township, Community Development Department, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Telephone No. 453-3848, ext. 209.

At the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend rezoning of the premises to any use allowable under the provisions of the Plymouth Township Zoning Ordinance No. 83.

December 23, 1993
Pana January 13, 1994

Donald Spragg, Secretary
Planning Commission

Help needed Salvation Army fund drive lags

Perhaps people are just too busy this year or maybe it's the weather. But whatever the reason, Salvation Army bell ringers in Canton and Plymouth aren't hearing the clink of change or seeing folding money being stuffed into kettles at the same rate as in past years.

This is especially troubling because of this year's problems with the Salvation Army's direct mail solicitation. It seems that about 150,000 letters seeking donations didn't make it out in time.

Salvation Army officials contend that a drop in the amount of donations doesn't mean people don't care, it's just that they haven't been reminded by a letter.

Well, we're giving the Salvation Army a hand with delivering its message. If you didn't receive a letter, you have now.

Meanwhile, in Canton and Plymouth the army of local bell ringers has come up with a little more than \$71,000, much short of the goal of \$100,000. That's the amount raised last year.

But there is something folks here can do about it. The kettle drive ends at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve. All you have to do is find a kettle and drop some money in it.

Salvation Army officials contend that a drop in the amount of donations doesn't mean people don't care, it's just that they haven't been reminded by a letter.

In Plymouth, bell ringers are at Kmart, Danny's Market, Kroger, Arbor Drug, National Bank of Detroit, the post office on Penniman, and Ann Arbor Trail at Forest on Saturdays.

In Canton, kettles are at Meijer, Kmart, Kroger, F&M Drugs, Target and Farmer Jack.

The money buys food, clothing, toys and other gifts for Christmas. Prescriptions, utility bills and rental payments are also covered by contributions.

It's time for all of us to count our Christmas blessings and make a donation to the Salvation Army.

Last minute donors can drop off checks by 1 p.m. Christmas Eve at the Salvation Army office, 9451 S. Main across from Silverman's Restaurant, or put money in kettles until 2 p.m. Christmas Eve.

A donation is the least we can do for our fellow citizens.

Give schools forfeiture funds

Coming up with new and continuing revenue sources for public education has consumed the Michigan public for years — climaxing (we hope) in the current efforts in Lansing. But one revenue stream that could be a year-round Santa Claus for education seems to have been overlooked.

A source of supplemental income that ought to be considered is drug forfeiture funds. Forfeitures made under federal laws require that the money be spent specifically on drug-related programs. Forfeitures made under state law give the police more leeway. Each local police department gets to keep money and property that is confiscated during a drug-related arrest.

In either event, earmarking forfeiture money for education could go to provide a better education, probably the most effective tool against drug use. An education offers opportunity. Those who take advantage of opportunities are less likely to be involved with drugs. And they won't be as vulnerable to the desperation of the semi-literate.

Another advantage is that the money would stay in the community where drugs are a problem. That makes it equitable since those communities with less of a problem will see fewer dollars going to their public schools, while those communities where drugs threaten the coming generation will see an increased amount deposited in their general funds.

For example, if an arrest is made in Livonia, the forfeiture money would be earmarked for that district. In all of 1992-93, Birmingham took in only \$63,953 from drug sources. Under this plan, the money would go to the Birmingham Public Schools rather than be used to purchase new squad cars or traffic counters. Similarly, large cities with larger incidents of drug use — Detroit, Flint, Pontiac — would get a larger piece of the pie.

The forfeiture money earmarked to education would be used to provide a better education, which is an effective tool against drug use. An education offers opportunity. Those who take advantage of opportunities are less likely to be involved with drugs.

The investment would be with the kids, rather than with the police departments. For years, the lip service has been to "save" the new generation. This plan would do more than tell the students that they are the future; they'll be the prime beneficiaries of the money.

The police shouldn't object to this solution. It's their job to arrest law-violators so the change in funneling funds shouldn't have an impact on the professional performance of our police officers. And they should be pleased with any plan that will steer people clear of drugs, preventing the problem rather than trying to stop it once the wildfire starts.

Taking drug forfeiture money from the police budget and putting it into school budgets seems the wisest way to convert something harmful into a benefit for the children. It also takes away any suspicion that a police department more strongly enforces drug laws because there is a direct pay-off.

School districts should latch on to this as a new revenue source.

And legislators, scrambling to put a package together, should see this as a valuable addition — much like the Lottery money designation.

And if the legislators are too shy to make the suggestion, perhaps some anti-drug units will DARE to make a difference, and ask that the spoils of drugs be used for a more long-term solution to the drug problem.

Sweet wishes



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Holiday spirit: As busy a season as it is for the post office, Birmingham postal worker Mike Nixon plays a ready and willing Santa for Brittany Totten. There's still time to make sure no child goes without a holiday wish coming true.

LETTERS

Moral obligation

In regard to the Dec. 2 article, "Parent angered by charge," as the parent involved, I was furious to see that pertinent facts were omitted from the story.

School records contained the information needed to clear up any suspicions Mrs. Kuhn or Mrs. Martin may have had about my son Ben's story. However, they both failed to check the records. No one checked to see that I have two other children enrolled at Farrand, a fifth-grader and a third-grader.

No one checked to see if the boys were enrolled in the Extended Day Program at Farrand as my son Ben had told his teacher, Mrs. Martin. No one checked the boy's emergency cards to see that there was no work phone number entered in the space provided. There was no number because I was not working outside of the home at that time. I can't imagine anyone mistaking a tiny bike lock key for a house key.

Mrs. Kuhn and Mrs. Martin could have spared five minutes of their time to check my child's school records to clear up any suspicions they might have had. This could have been done while Ben was still in school. If they had done their jobs this entire incident could have been avoided. I find it very disheartening that the school administration feels there is no legal obligation on their part to apologize for a wrong... what about a moral one?

Kristen Schneider, Plymouth

A conquest

I would like to congratulate the editor of the supplement to the Observer, "Conquest," for the courage to print an article that needs to be addressed by the media but rarely is.

It is called "The Miracle of Christmas" by John MacArthur Jr. and dealt with the fact that "A subtle but sure erosion is eating away the season's true significance."

"What Christmas is really about is the birth of Jesus — Immanuel, God with us, the promised Messiah — who came to save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21)."

His column was an excellent antidote to the prevailing philosophies that are stealing Christmas — the tendency to mythologize and secularize it.

I believe most of us get caught up in the gift-giving, parties, etc., but his article is a reminder that the true joy should come from the realization of what Christmas is all about and from knowing the One whose birth we celebrate.

Which reminds me, why doesn't Canton have a beautiful display in front of City Hall similar to Westland: Santa, reindeer and the manger scene?

Take "Christ" out of "Christmas" and just what are we celebrating?

Barb Schmid, Canton

There's always a knife

When composing this letter, I could not get a pencil. I was then informed that I would have to wait five days to buy a

pencil legally. I certainly was not going to abandon my purpose, so I considered my options.

I could:

- Wait five days and write my letter as intended.
- Buy an illegal pencil in some alley and write my letter.
- Steal a pencil.
- Use an alternative method, such as my word processor.

This is exactly how I feel about The Brady Bill. Wake up America, this will not stop anyone from using a gun to kill.

If one intends to murder someone, five days will not change their mind. In fact, they would have just that much more time to plan the perfect murder, ensuring that they'll never be caught.

President Bill Clinton apparently thinks that if getting a gun immediately is illegal, nobody will be able to get a gun on impulse. Sounds logical, maybe it will work as well as Prohibition.

The simple truth is, anyone can buy almost anything on the street if they want it badly enough. Besides, if someone was intelligent, they wouldn't go out, buy a gun in their name, and murder somebody. They might as well sign their name on the body.

If all else fails, well, there's no waiting period for a knife.

Erica Werpetski, Troy

Fence preserves

Miller Woods, our own old-growth forest, finally has its fence. This nature preserve, like most other preserves, now has its border defined, its space set aside for its own special purposes: Study and enjoyment in a very rare setting.

The gifts from hundreds of local residents have made the fence possible. Friends of Miller Woods extend thanks to all. They invite you to walk the trail often to enjoy four seasons of beauty.

I'm still being asked, "Why fence it?" says FMW president Emily Kennitz. Seventeen years of vigilance by our group, with records of the growing abuses, convinced us of this need. Other preserve managers and naturalists say that it cuts down on the serious problems of dogs, bikes and off-road vehicles. University of Michigan professors, who bring their students here, urged us to add the fence.

FMW members plan to encourage and add native vines and shrubs along the fence to obscure its shiny unnaturalness and to aid the inhabitants with increased food and cover.

FMW will hold a community celebration during spring flower time to express appreciation of this gift to our community.

Emily Kennitz, president
 Friends of Miller Woods

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:
 What predictions do you have for 1994?

We asked this question in downtown Plymouth



'Shared services.'
 Hugh Harsha
 Plymouth



'A cold winter and a good ice festival.'
 Libby Smith
 Plymouth



'A better economic year and the Pistons in the playoffs.'
 Frank Heyniger
 Plymouth



'The Lions will shut them out.'
 Tom Berry
 Plymouth

Plymouth Observer

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POINTS OF VIEW

Tax questions separate new lawmakers from old

There's bad blood between some of our state representatives in Lansing.

I'll just report it. I won't get into the fray.

Some troops who have been around awhile — two or more terms — are unhappy that many freshmen voted for SB 1, the \$6.9 billion school property tax cut, and against replacement taxes.

Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, studied the roll calls. Her chart shows how everyone voted on SB 1 and five replacement taxes (income tax, single business tax, real estate transfer and two property taxes). "It's interesting to see who voted for SB 1 and who voted to keep schools open," she said. Of those who voted against the replacement taxes, she said, "They must believe in the tooth fairy."

Tim Skubick, dean of the Capitol correspondents, took Dolan's side, accusing the other side of "profiles in hypocrisy."

Let's see whom they're talking about:

■ Perhaps Penny Crissman, R-Rochester — for SB 1, against the income tax and SBT, for the real estate transfer tax and property taxes.

■ Perhaps John Jamian, R-Bloomfield Township — for SB 1, against the income tax and SBT, for the real estate transfer and property taxes.

■ Likely Jerry Vorva, R-Plymouth — for SB 1, against the income tax, SBT and real estate transfer, for the property taxes.

■ Certainly Deborah Whyman, R-Canton — for SB 1, against all the replacement taxes.

On the other hand, Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, Barbara Dobb, R-Union Lake, Dolan, Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, and Richard Young, D-DeARBorn Heights, all voted for SB 1 and all or most of the replacement taxes. Voting against SB 1 but for the re-



TIM RICHARD

Before using a remark like 'profiles in hypocrisy,' examine the reasons of those who voted against the replacement taxes.

placement taxes were Maxine Berman, D-Southfield, David Gubow, D-Huntington Woods, and William Keith, D-Garden City.

Before using a remark like "profiles in hypocrisy," let's examine the reasons of those who voted against the replacement taxes.

Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills, issued statements on virtually every bill, citing a poll in his district showing Troy-Rochester Hills folks asked for cuts in overall spending, not dollar-for-dollar replacement. "It (the package) is a net tax increase, not the net tax cut supported by the majority" of his constituents.

Whyman put a statement in the House Journal saying she opposed the real estate transfer tax because of the partial reinstatement of the property tax. She voted against the use tax because it would be applied to interstate telephone calls.

Whyman also objected to the split rate for homes (16 mills) and business (20 mills). A farm adjacent to a homestead would be taxed at 16 mills; a farm not adjacent to a homestead would be taxed at 20 mills. "This bill has serious problems constitutionally and lacks fairness," she said.

Most of the dissenters were in their first terms (Jamian is in his second). As I've noted in other columns, Vorva is sore at the way the leadership negotiates deals without consulting them and forces them into a take-it-or-leave-it vote.

In this analysis, I left out Justine Barns, D-Westland. Her Wayne-Westland school district got such a royal shaft that she voted against SB 1 and almost everything else.

Tim Richard reports on the local implications of state and regional events. His touchtone voice mail number is (313) 953-2047 ext. 1881.

Eliminate portrayals of the wicked side to cut crime

Ordinarily, when we talk about crime prevention, we mean taking measures to protect ourselves from criminal acts by others.

As a further precaution, we send people who commit crimes to prisons — partly as a punishment, partly so that they, being confined, cannot commit more crimes, at least until they are released. We also hear proposals such as putting more policemen on the streets, making it more difficult to obtain weapons, even legalizing certain dangerous crimes and criminal behaviors.

All this is fine, and it may to a certain degree keep the rate of crime increase in check, but it is nothing more than treating symptoms and neglecting the causes of this disease.

It is a known fact that the behavior of people, especially the underaged and those having limited intelligence or some other mental disability, is greatly influenced by what they read, hear, and see others do. As long as we allow pornography, near-pornography, violence, and all kinds of other immoral presentations in books, radio, movies, video cassettes, and most of all on television, corruption of minds will continue to take place. Crime, as one of the symptoms of the resultant malaise, will get worse — not better.

The sociologists and psychiatrists who tell us that observing, hearing, and

reading about criminal, antisocial behavior has little or no negative effect on people's conduct are quacks unworthy of the names of their professions. They keep themselves busy inventing all kinds of nonsense theories lacking one of the most important aspects, common sense.

The mind corrupters use and abuse the First Amendment, mostly for their own material gains, disregarding the vital interests of the society. Using powerful media, they were able to brainwash lots of judges and to a great extent the general public into believing that the First Amendment allows them to teach and promote depravation, immorality, and crime techniques.

The mind corrupters promote depravation, immorality and crime techniques by portraying plots, incidents, and all kinds of gruesome, suggestive stories instructive of criminal behavior. Some plots are based on true-life happenings but most are created in the imaginations of unscrupulous writers, feeding this garbage to the public.

So far the mind corrupters have been successful in preventing society from seeking meaningful recourse, claiming that the First Amendment gives it no right to defend itself against this assault on its proven, traditional values.

Moral decline is, to a great extent, the direct result of this constant dis-

GUEST COLUMNIST



JOE WIRA

semination, in many instances glorification of evil conduct, and of not-so-subtle hostility toward and attacks on religions (especially Christianity), which are the teachers and defenders of moral principles.

Where moral constraints are weak or nonexistent, the fear of being caught and punished is the only constraint one has against the commission of crime.

In our slow and deficient judicial system, the punishment for crimes happens in a relatively small percentage of cases, hence the general belief is that the crime pays and the risks are small.

Unless we do something radical to stop these incessant attacks on morality and vigorously reverse its downward

slide, there is no hope that crime will somehow magically go away, or even subside.

There is another significant aspect to the existence of the unusual high rate of crime within our society. Millions, perhaps tens of millions, of people profit directly or indirectly from crime and have little or no interest in its elimination or reduction. Some hold high governmental positions, or as organized groups are highly influential on government. Maybe that is why for many years now we have been hearing from Washington politicians how they are against crime, how they are enacting supposedly anti-crime legislation to show something is being done but, as we can see, not much good came from it all.

What needs to be done is to return the society to decent, old-fashioned moral principles; above all, not to allow the indoctrination of our people in the ways of crime, perversion, and other immoral behavior through literature, television, and other media. However, being realistic, we cannot expect much help in this from our government, which is neither willing, capable, or even allowed by the powerful forces of antisocial morality to rectify the situation.

It seems government is neither willing, nor capable, nor even allowed by the powerful forces of anti-social morality to rectify the situation in a meaningful way.

Recently we have heard about the anti-crime legislation President Bill Clinton promised during his campaign and has submitted to Congress. From what we know about it, the proposed legislation will have about as much impact on crime as his earlier anti-deficit package will have on the deficit. So not much good can be expected, unless concerned people of principle wake up and see to it that our minds are no longer poisoned by conveyors of harmful ideas and portrayals of the wicked side of life. If so, then righteousness will prevail.

Some maintain that criminals aren't really criminals but victims and that the societies that produce them in excessive numbers are the real criminals. Undoubtedly, there is some truth to that.

Guest columnist Joseph Wira of Livonia is a retiree and World War II veteran who holds a degree in electrical engineering from Wayne State University.

Violence in our suburbs forces us to seek answers

No matter how prettily we wrap the holiday season, the issue of violence keeps bursting through the gaily colored paper and shiny ribbon — even in our suburbs.

■ On a quiet Lathrup Village street, where Christmas decorations adorn lawns and outline trees, residents heard gunfire three times last week in what appears to be a related series of drive-by shootings.

No one was hurt; a 19-year-old and 16-year-old are charged with illegally firing into a building; the shootings are thought to be an extension of problems between two groups of students at Southfield-Lathrup High School.

■ As West Bloomfield and Rochester-area residents finished up their holiday shopping, also last week, they were shocked to hear that a former school administrator had been shot and killed while carrying out his duties as superintendent of Chelsea schools.

While still in his 20s, Joe Piasecki was an assistant principal at Rochester Adams High School where he had also been a teacher and assistant track, football and basketball coach. At 30, he was named an assistant principal at West Bloomfield High School. At 33, he was recruited by neighboring Orchard Lake St. Mary's to be superintendent/principal of that Catholic prep school — where he once had been a boarding student.

The first in his family to attend college, Piasecki had plans to be superintendent of ever-larger districts. Eventually he wanted to be state superintendent of schools, according to St. Mary's chancellor, Monsignor Stanley Milewski. His dreams were cut short at the age of 47.

A disgruntled chemistry teacher fired shots, killing Piasecki and wounding the high school principal and another teacher.

■ School vacation was about to start in the West Bloomfield School District, but some unfinished business remained. Late last week, a West Bloomfield High School student was expelled and another was suspended for 30 days and required to perform community service. They had stun guns in their lockers at school.



JUDITH DONER BERNE

The first in his family to attend college, Joe Piasecki had plans to be superintendent of ever-larger districts. Eventually he wanted to be state superintendent of schools. His dreams were cut short at the age of 47.

Two guns — plastic weapons with a trigger that, when pressed, can produce up to a 70,000 volt shock — were found in the lockers of the two 15-year-olds. They did not contain the batteries necessary to activate them.

Another four stun guns were found at the home of the boy who was expelled. He had ordered all the guns through the mail, selling one.

The guns are both dangerous and illegal, according to the West Bloomfield chief of police. Generally, we don't deal with problems until they touch us personally.

We probably don't want to wait on this one.

As we gather with our families and friends this holiday season, we should talk about what we may never have had to think about before — violence in our own neighborhoods.

Why is it here? And what can be done?

Judith Doner Berne is managing editor for the Eccentric Newspapers. You can reach her at 901-2663.

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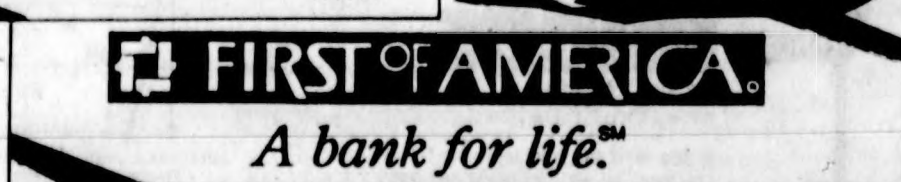
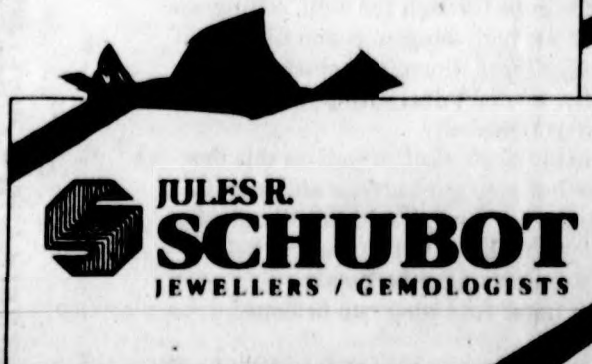
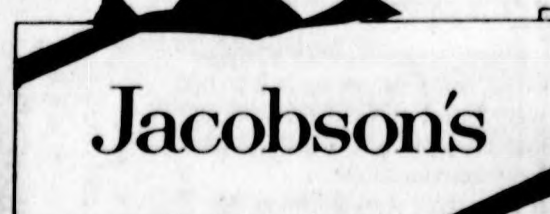
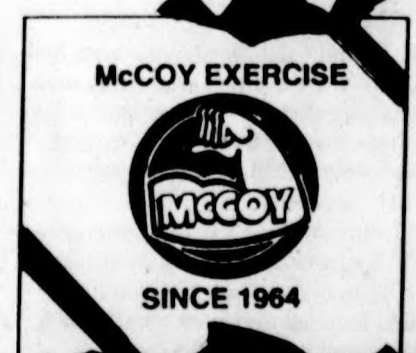


DECEMBER 24

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|-------|--|---------|---|
| 6 AM | A Festival of Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge | 2 AM | On Yoolis Night: Medieval carols and motets sung by Anonymous 4 |
| 7 AM | To Catch A Christmas Star, with the Roger Wagner Chorale | 3 AM | The Bach Choir Family Carols |
| 8 AM | James Galway's Christmas Carol | 4 AM | Old Christmas Return'd, with The York Waits |
| 9 AM | NOEL: A Christmas Celebration from The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. | 5 AM | Christmas Carols sung by Musica Sacra |
| 10 AM | The First Nowell, with The Robert DeCormier Singers | 6 AM | An American Christmas, with Joel Cohen and the Boston Camerata |
| 11 AM | A Festival of Christmas, with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra | 7 AM | The Many Moods of Christmas, with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus |
| 12 N | Sing We Now Of Christmas, with the Crystal Cathedral Choir of Garden Grove, California | 8 AM | A Procession With Carols from King's College, Cambridge |
| 1 PM | Joy To The World, with the Empire Brass and Friends | 9 AM | Christmas Carolling with the Gregg Smith Singers and Friends |
| 2 PM | Star of Wonder, with the San Francisco Choral Artists | 10 AM | Christmas Day in the Morning, with John Rutter and the Cambridge Singers |
| 3 PM | A Christmas Festival with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops | 11 AM | A Little Christmas Music, with The King's Singers |
| 4 PM | Masters in This Hall, with the Washington Men's Camerata | 12 N | Sleighride! Classic Christmas Favorites |
| 5 PM | A Merry Christmas with Simion Stanciu ("Syrinx") and Friends | 1 PM | Sing the Carols of Christmas, with St. Michael's Choir School of Toronto |
| 6 PM | Christmas with The Westminster Choir | 1:30- | |
| 7 PM | A Carnegie Hall Christmas Concert, featuring Kathleen Battle, Frederica von Stade, Wynton Marsalis, and Andre Previn | 4:30 PM | The Metropolitan Opera |
| 8 PM | Essentially Christmas, with the East London Chorus and the Locke Brass Consort | 4:30 PM | Silent Night, Quiet Night with Musicke's Pleasure |
| 9 PM | A Dickens' Christmas...Inside Fezziwig's | 5 PM | Carols From Cleveland, with the Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus |
| 10 PM | Christmas Eve at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine | 6 PM | Christmas in Vienna, with Placido Domingo, Diana Ross and Jose Carreras |
| 11 PM | An English Christmas with the Choir of Westminster Cathedral, the Alexandra Choir and the Cantorum Choir | 7 PM | MENOTTI: Amahl and the Night Visitors — the original cast recording |
| | | 8 PM | A St. Paul's Christmas Concert from London |
| | | 9 PM | Sounds of the Season, with Maggie Sansone and Friends |
| | | 10 PM | Christmas Night: Carols of the Nativity with John Rutter and the Cambridge Singers |
| | | 11 PM | Joy to the World! A Christmas Celebration with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra and Chorus |

DECEMBER 25

- 12 M CHARPENTIER: A Midnight Mass for Christmas
- 1 AM CELEBRATION! Christmas Fanfares and Carols with the BBC Welsh Chorus



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1993

PLYMOUTH
SPORTS
SCENE

Skating for gold

Two Plymouth Figure Skating Club members will compete at the National Figure Skating Championships in January in Detroit.

Jennifer Katulski, from Livonia, finished third overall in the novice division (second in technical, fourth in original program). She will compete Jan. 3 and Jan. 5 at the nationals at Joe Louis and Cobo arenas.

Richard Brown of Canton, an intermediate dancer, and his partner Tara Eshaki, were second at the Midwestern sectional in Indianapolis. They will compete at the Junior National Championships in New Jersey in April.

Carrie Wolak, a junior competitor from Livonia, was 11th at the Midwestern Championships.

Kicks win again

The Plymouth Kicks won their third-straight indoor soccer championship, winning the Under-11 Boys A Division at Total Soccer in Farmington. The Kicks were undefeated, 7-0-1, and outscored their opponents 78-28.

In six regular seasons of play, the Kicks have won five championships and have a combined record of 48-4-5.

The Kicks are: Oliver Wolcott, Andrew Holmes, Nick Tochman, Brian Thiess, T.J. Tomasso, Danny Gill, Shane Smith, Brian Conway, Marty Kane, Derek Vermeulen, Jon McGlone, Chris LaMasse, Phil Marrone, Jay Smith and Justin Griffin. The team is coached by Dennis Tochman and Bill Thiess.

Racquetball league

The Canton Parks and Recreation Services Department is sponsoring a winter session of its men's racquetball league beginning Jan. 12. The 15-week league will play on Wednesday nights at 7:30 and 8 p.m. at Rose Shores of Canton. The cost is \$105 per person.

A 15-week women's league will begin Jan. 11. It will play at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Cost is \$100. Call 397-5110 for information on either league.

Teen ski trip

Canton Parks and Rec is also organizing a ski trip to Alpine Valley Ski Area for kids ages 13-18 for Friday, Jan. 14. The bus will leave the township administration building at 5 p.m. and return at about midnight. The cost is \$19 for those with equipment, \$27 for those without.

Vardar beats Vardar

Vardar's under-16 boys soccer team took first place recently at a regional indoor competition held in Akron, Ohio.

Vardar under-16 beat Vardar under-15 in the championship, 3-0. Both teams qualify for the national indoor tournament in March in Atlanta, Ga.

Members of Vardar's under-16 squad include: Ben Upward, Chris Charboneau, Andre Ware, Tim Castillo, Jon Schack, Marco Jovanovic, T.J. Lieckfelt, Todd Smith, Nick Stocky, Ryan Wells, Larry Mercier, Chris Piazza, Scott Sersen, Jeremy Stillings and Steve Williford. W

Members of Vardar's under-15 team include: Jason Alexander, Chris Curry, Ali Curtis, Ryan Gibbs, Chris Glime, Kirk Hodges, Virgil Humphreys, John Mack, Pat Mahoney, Kyle Marshall, Tony Moucoulis, Matt Sarkesian, Jeff Schlicht, Gary Shear, Wayne Thomas, Paul Van Huysen, Corey Woolfolk. The team is coached by Mark Christensen.

Vardar's under-14 also qualified despite losing to the Internationals in the final, 3-1.

Members of Vardar's under-14 team, coached by Matt Paukovits, include: Shawn Alexander, Marco Cracchiola, Joe Gallagher, Brian Garstecki, Nicholas Grandchamp, Drew Harris, Steve Howson, Luaiy Leon, Vito Pampalona, Richard Perry, Sammy Piraine, Michael Riemma, Donald Sigler, Patrick Stranahan, Shawn Wilson and Paul Yeskey.

Vardar's under-12 team, coached by Mike Lupenec and Vito Pampalona, also reached the final before losing to Cleveland United, 2-1. Members of the under-12 Vardar team include: Vince Alexander, Chris Combs, Jeffrey Conner, Kevin Cooper, Kenneth Furphy, Andrew Hulings, Kelen Kalso, Harry Moreno-Compos, Trevor Pampalona, Kevin Robinson, Mike Robinson, Nick and Anthony Sanchez, Robert Turpin, Andrew Upward and Patrick Wilson.

Vardar victorious

Guess what? Vardar's under-13 boys team won its division with a 2-1 victory over Cleveland United to capture the second annual Soccer First Tournament, Nov. 28-29 in Columbus, Ohio.

Members of Vardar III '81 include: Adam King, Nick Debraw, Elliott Belden, David Burnett, Yuri Burrell, Corey Cecchini, Marcus Chorvat, David Dwaiby, Josh Epstein, Danny Ferrin, Victor Gordon, Steve Kleczynski, Steve Kolb, Tyler Mehl, Rajev Mehta, Tom Thompson, Stewart Yingst. The team is coached by Mark Christensen.

Vardar under-15 topped Ohio Premier, 3-1, to win its division for the second-straight year in Columbus.

Cha-Ching!

Oakland registers record 189-107 victory over Madonna



It was a night to forget for Madonna University and a night to remember for Oakland University. Several scoring records were established as the two teams combined for 296 points in a college men's basketball game.

BY CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

Here's why a first-year Division III basketball team should never, under any circumstances, schedule a game against an established, Division II team: Madonna University scored 107 points Monday against Division II Oakland University — and lost by 82, 189-107.

How bad was it? Check it out:
■ Oakland scored 91 points in the first half, 98 in the second. It scored in 85 of its 124 possessions. And the team was playing without two of its top three scorers (Tom Eller, 23 points per game, and Ty McGregor, 13).

■ Eight Pioneers had career-high scoring nights, three of them set their marks by halftime.

■ Nine of the team's 11 players scored in double figures.

■ Nine team records were set including: points in a game, points in a half, victory margin, field goals made (63), 3-pointers made (27) and rebounds (83).

How bad was it? With just four seconds remaining in the first half, Oakland was set to inbound the ball from underneath Madonna's basket. The Madonna gym was silent. Coach Greg Kampe stood up and yelled, "One to Buza, one to Buza." Everybody in the gym knew the ball was going to No. 22, Dan Buza.

Everyone except the Crusaders. The ball was inbounded and fed inside to Buza for an uncontested layup.

That was basically the game story. Everything OU did went virtually uncontested. The Pioneers attempted 57 triples, yet throughout the game they were left free on the perimeter. No wonder they hit 27 of them.

"I know a lot of people are going to wonder if we ran up the score," said Kampe, whose team stunned Division I Toledo by 21 points Saturday night. "But I don't think so. They scored 98 points in a half. That's something these kids are going to talk about the rest of their lives. They'll be talking about it at their 50th reunion. I subbed as much as I could. The guys that were in there hadn't played much this year, but they work hard in practice. I can't tell them not to play. That wouldn't be fair to them."

No, Kampe would have had to remove his team from the floor to keep the score down. The more relevant question would be, why? Why would Madonna schedule such an opponent in its own gym?

Madonna coach Bill Sharpe would be the guy to answer that question, but he wasn't talking.

"We got our butts kicked and I don't have anything to say," he said. "I'm done, I'm not talking."

Kampe said he accepted the game as a favor to Sharpe.

"He's a friend of mine and he was having trouble getting people to play him here," Kampe said. "We just worked it out where I'll play here and



GUY WARREN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Closed lane: Mike Slone (front) of Madonna tries to find an opening against Oakland University's Dan Buza.

See SHOOTOUT, 2B

Ocelot calls North Pole home

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

You'd think opponents would be a bit nicer to Jennifer Samson, particularly at this time of year.

You'd think they'd give her a gift or two... a couple of baskets (not the kind filled with fruit, either), a few uncontested rebounds, something like that.

After all, she's in good standing. She must be.

And opponents should realize it can only be advantageous, knowing someone on the inside — right?

Well, it hasn't worked out like that at all for Samson. And in the second half of Schoolcraft College's basketball season, she'd like nothing more than to deliver, in person, the consequences for being naughty instead of nice.

No toys for you, not after the way you treated Samson on the court through SC's first 10 games. And believe me, she's in prime position to make good on her threats.

She is, after all, from the North Pole.

It's true. Really. Samson can prove it, and has, on more than one occasion.

"Even in Alaska, people wouldn't believe me," she said. "They just laughed. I had to show them my driver's license."

Samson graduated from — where else? — North Pole High, located in



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

S'no joke: Schoolcraft College basketball player Jennifer Samson is too tall to be an elf but she's from Santa's neighborhood: North Pole High School in Alaska.

North Pole, a small town situated (contrary to popular belief) 20 minutes outside of Fairbanks.

She moved there nine years ago with her family. Her father, an electrical engineer, decided to relocate for a good reason: "He could make more money," said Samson. He now owns his own business.

The differences between Michigan and Alaska are like night and day — at times, quite literally so. Yes, winter lasts from October until May, and it is cold. Samson said Michigan winters seem so mild to her, she's tempted to unpack her shorts.

But there's also that night and day thing. Because Fairbanks is located

so close to the Arctic Circle, the winter solstice allows only a few hours of daylight. "When you go to school it's dark, and when you come home it's dark," she said.

But in contrast, the summer solstice is a joy — nearly 20 hours of sunlight. And, according to Samson, the weather is mild, with temperatures comparable to Michigan's in summer.

So what led Samson back to Michigan and, ultimately, to Schoolcraft's basketball team? "It's so isolated up there," she said. "You end up seeing the same people, over and over again."

Her grandparents still reside in Brighton, where she lived prior to Alaska, so she came back here after graduating from North Pole HS. She enrolled at Central Michigan, where she met current teammate Leandra Hoffman, a Livonia Clarenceville graduate.

At CMU, they shared a common interest: "She was the only one who wanted to play basketball all the time, like me," said Samson. When they came back to the metro-Detroit area last summer, they started making weekly trips to the open gym at Schoolcraft. That's where SC women's coach Jack Grenan spotted them. The rest, as they say, is history.

See SAMSON, 2B

Cooley escapes Wayne in OT gem, 72-69

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

When Sylvester Dotson's number 52 was detected as being omitted from the official scorebook for Detroit Cooley, referee Angelo Gust was in the process of awarding a technical free throw to Wayne Memorial.

But Wayne coach Chuck Henry, showing the true Christmas spirit, told Gust that he did not want the foul shot. Gust then had Dotson's name entered and waived the 6-foot-6 1/2 Cooley sophomore center into the game as a sub without penalty.

The potential point loomed large later on as the Cardinals beat Wayne in overtime, 72-69.

But Henry, who treated his opponents to a pizza party afterward, said he would have done it all over again.

"We wanted things to go right tonight," he said. "It's something I chose not to do and I really don't regret it. I wanted the game to get off right and end right."

A lot of good things happened in between as fans were treated to a fast-paced game between two of the state's top 10-ranked teams in Class A.

Wayne, which suffered its first loss in five games, battled back from an eight-point third-quarter defi-

cit to send the game into overtime.

A steal and layup by Courtney Howard with 36 seconds to go in regulation followed with a drive by Gerald Adams with 17 seconds left tied the game at 65-all.

But point-guard Brian Williams, the only senior starter for Cooley, went to work in the three-minute extra session, scoring five of his seven points to secure the victory.

Dotson's block of Lorenzo Guess' three-point attempt from the corner as time expired sealed the victory for Cooley.

Tramaille Bullock led Cooley (2-1 overall) with a game-high 22 points. Dotson added 15, while Dawson Hale and Brian Ponder contributed 12 and 11, respectively.

Guess, a 6-3 freshman, led the Zebras with 18 points.

Adams, the senior point-guard, added 15. Rod Hardison, who heated up in the second half, scored 11 of his 13 to help erase a 36-26 deficit at intermission.

Wayne got back into the game using a full-court press.

"They (Cooley) are a clever basketball team," Henry said. "You're not sure you can be effective,

but the press was our last option. We were fortunate because the refs let it go. We were able to bang them and get some steals."

Cooley coach Ben Kelso was glad to come away with the victory.

"We've played each other so many times that you can't fool anyone," Cooley coach Ben Kelso said. "We were very lucky to get the ball at the end when we did. Wayne did a very good job. They shot well, and we were doing a pretty good job of guarding them. They had a good game plan."

Cooley shot 50 percent from the floor (32 of 64), while Wayne was slightly lower at 46.8 percent (30 of 64).

Wayne committed 19 turnovers, while Cooley had 21.

"I'm disappointed we didn't win, but we hope we can improve by watching this videotape," Henry said. "It was a good game for us to play. Our league (Mega-Red Division) is really tough with teams like Belleville, Monroe, Woodhaven and (Dearborn) Fordson coming up. For us to win we have to beat a good basketball team like Cooley."



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SWIMMING

Farmington wins WLAA Relays

BY CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

Ross Bandy was cold and his clothes were soaking wet. He didn't have anything to change into and he could already feel the cold coming on.

But he never felt better in his life.

"This was the most thrilling moment of my coaching career," said Bandy, whose Farmington swimmers dunked him into the Plymouth Salem pool Saturday after they won the Western Lakes Relays for the first time ever. "We came in hoping to place in the top four. But to win it like we did was quite a shock. It felt wonderful."

Farmington won two events and placed second in three others to score 231 points. Plymouth Salem was second (223) and Plymouth Canton was third (194).

"We have this in the right perspective," Bandy said. "I know North Farmington was without two of its best kids (Karl Kozicki and Jon Kershaw) and I know Salem was disqualified in one event and Northville didn't put a relay in the last event. But people opened the door for us and we tipped on in."

Farmington won the 400-yard medley relay with Scott Brown, Danny Belanger, Jon Reed and Don Boyer swimming a 3:54.1. Steven Scanio, John Hawkins, Belanger and Reed teamed for a 4:04.38 to win the 400 individual medley relay.

The Falcons took second in the 200 backstroke, 200 butterfly and 200 medley.

"We knew Farmington had quite a few coming back, but we didn't know they were that deep," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "But throughout the meet, they just kept on scoring."

Salem took three firsts: 400 freestyle with Aaron Berlin, Ryan Petroskey, David Bracht and Fred Locke going 3:31.58; 200 medley, John McLenaghan, Andy Dettling, Mark Dettling, Matt Martin, 1:50.43; 200 freestyle, Locke, Marc Levitt, Pat Morgan, Bracht, 1:33.57.

"We gave quite a few upperclassmen a chance," Olson said. "We held some of our kids to one event because we have to find out what kind of team we have."

Canton set a meet record with Anthony Ballis and Jason Fowler

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOYS SWIM RELAYS Saturday at Plymouth Salem

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Farmington, 231 points; 2. Plymouth Salem, 223; 3. Plymouth Canton, 194; 4. Northville, 189; 5. North Farmington, 185; 6. Livonia Stevenson, 156; 7. Livonia Churchill, 144; 8. Walled Lake, 94; 9. Westland John Glenn, 89; 10. Farmington Harrison, 68; 11. Livonia Franklin, 56.

FINAL RELAY RESULTS

400-yard medley: 1. Farmington (Scott Brown, Dan Belanger, Jon Reed, Don Boyer), 3:54.15; 2. Northville, 3:55.51; 3. Salem, 3:59.79; 4. N. Farmington, 4:03.47; 5. Canton, 4:14.16; 6. Harrison, 4:17.99.

400 freestyle: 1. Salem (Aaron Berlin, Ryan Petroskey, David Bracht, Fred Locke), 3:31.58; 2. Canton, 3:32.61; 3. Stevenson, 3:36.87; 4. Farmington, 3:42.58; 5. John Glenn, 3:51.41; 6. N. Farmington, 4:03.66.

200 breaststroke: 1. N. Farmington (Ryan McKelley, Paul Ryan, Phil Zald, Drew Sopha), 2:01.9; 2. Northville, 2:06.18; 3. Farmington, 2:19.0; 4. Stevenson, 2:19.8; 5. Churchill, 2:19.87; 6. Harrison, 2:21.73.

200 backstroke: 1. Churchill (Rob Grant, Rob Jones, Jon Carlson, Mark Campbell), 1:49.9; 2. Farmington, 1:56.36; 3. Salem, 1:57.29; 4. Canton, 2:06.45; 5. Northville, 2:12.71; 6. Stevenson, 2:13.36.

200 butterfly: 1. N. Farmington (Jason Speer, Pat Duthie, Chris Drelles, Drew Sopha), 1:47.48; 2. Farmington, 1:48.08; 3. Northville, 1:48.65; 4. Walled Lake, 1:52.43; 5. Salem, 1:52.64; 6. Churchill, 1:55.45.

Diving: 1. Canton (Anthony Ballis, Jason Fowler), 485.45 points (breaks meet record); 2. Northville, 415.25; 3. Walled Lake, 378.00; 4. Salem, 326.85; 5. Stevenson, 266.60; 6. John Glenn, 251.80.

400 IM: 1. Farmington (Jon Reed, Steven Scanio, John Hawkins, Danny Belanger), 4:04.38; 2. Salem, 4:06.41; 3. Stevenson, 4:15.04; 4. Northville, 4:19.47; 5. Canton, 4:25.12; 6. N. Farmington, 4:33.42.

500 freestyle (crescendo): 1. Churchill (Greg Kasprzak, Rob Grant, Jon Carlson, Mark Campbell), 4:27.08; 2. Northville, 4:29.44; 3. Canton, 4:32.86; 4. Salem, 4:45.41; 5. N. Farmington, 4:48.63; 6. Farmington, 4:57.09.

200 medley: 1. Salem (John McLenaghan, Andy Dettling, Mark Dettling, Matt Martin), 1:50.43; 2. Farmington, 1:52.45; 3. N. Farmington, 1:53.75; 4. John Glenn, 1:57.0; 5. Canton, 1:57.11; 6. Northville, 1:59.02.

200 freestyle: 1. Salem (Fred Locke, Marc Levitt, Pat Morgan, David Bracht), 1:33.57; 2. Stevenson, 1:36.11; 3. Walled Lake, 1:39.86; 4. Canton, 1:40.16; 5. John Glenn, 1:41.36; 6. Farmington, 1:50.65.

teaming for 485.5 points.

North Farmington and Livonia Churchill also won a pair of events.

For North, Ryan McKelley, Paul Ryan, Phil Zald and Drew Sopha won the 200 breaststroke in 2:01.9. Jason Speer, Pat Duthie, Chris Drelles and Sopha won the 200 butterfly in 1:47.48.

Churchill's Rob Grant, Rob Jones, Jon Carlson and Mark Campbell won the 200 backstroke (1:49.9). Greg Kasprzak, Grant, Carlson and Campbell won the 500 free in 4:27.08.

BASKETBALL

Plymouth Canton Jr. Basketball Association

Girls A

Rockets	10-0
Pistons	6-4
Celtics	6-4
Kings	4-6
Lakers	2-8
Nets	2-8

Results: Lakers 39, Nets 29; Kings 43, Pistons 39; Rockets 43, Celtics 41; Celtics 58, Nets 37; Rockets 45, Kings 33; Pistons 61, Lakers 34.

Girls B

Celtics	2-1
Lakers	2-1
Pistons	2-1
Kings	2-1
Nets	1-2
Rockets	0-3

Results: Nets 41, Rockets 35; Pistons 41, Lakers 18; Kings 30, Celtics 25.

Boys B National

Hawks	3-0
Bulls	3-0
Blazers	2-1
76ers	2-1
Jazz	2-1
Kings	2-1
Magic	1-2
Nets	0-3
Lakers	0-3

American

Knicks	2-1
Bucks	2-1
Celtics	2-1
Rockets	2-1
Pistons	1-2
Sonics	1-2
Pacers	1-2
Hornets	0-3

Results: Jazz 46, Spurs 31; 76ers 37, Bulls 32; Blazers 47, Nets 35; Hawks 57, Lakers 34; Rockets 65, Knicks 55; Spurs 61, Hornets 52; Celtics 56, Sonics 42; Bucks 44, Pacers 34; Kings 48, Pistons 45.

Boys A National

Hawks	8-2
Sonics	8-2
Pacers	7-3
Spurs	6-4
Pistons	6-4
Bucks	3-7
Kings	3-7
Bulls	1-9

American

76ers	8-2
Rockets	7-3
Jazz	6-4
Knicks	5-5
Lakers	5-5
Celtics	3-7
Nets	2-8
Hornets	2-8

Results: Kings 65, Bulls 64; Pistons 52, Bucks 50; Nets 58, Hornets 45; Lakers 50, Celtics 48; Jazz 84, Knicks 63; Hawks 75, Pacers 54; Sonics 54, Spurs 51; 76ers 51, Rockets 49.

Patriots drop Churchill

Livonia Franklin is at the break-even mark for the holidays after spanking city rival Churchill in a non-league boys basketball game Tuesday, 75-48.

The Patriots are now 2-2 overall, while Churchill drops to 1-4.

Host Franklin, which held a 38-30 halftime lead, broke it open with a 20-6 run in the third quarter.

Senior forward Paul Kruachka scored 10 points during the surge. He finished with a game-high 20 points.

Ten of 12 Franklin players scored.

Three other Patriots netted double figures including senior forward Jason Maschke (14), sen-

ior guard Greg Maple (12) and freshman center Matt Bauman (10). Senior forward Mark Baluk grabbed nine rebounds. Jedd Thorderson, a senior forward, scored 13 to pace Churchill. Junior guard Tim Wrublewski added eight points. Senior center Adam Bowser grabbed 14 rebounds.



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ON THE MARQUEE

It's time to make your New Year's Eve plans

Be sure to let us know about your favorite places to spend New Year's Eve. Check out the listings in this week's Entertainment section, and make plans for the biggest night of the year.

For something different, spend the evening in Birmingham at First Night (see related story) or downtown with the Detroit Symphony at Orchestra Hall.

The symphony's New Year's Eve Gala, "Night In Old Vienna," offers guests an evening of celebration that concludes with dancing on the stage. Neeme Jarvi returns to conduct this spectacular event 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31.

Accompanying the program of waltzes and other Viennese favorites will be several ballroom dancers demonstrating their professional steps, plus an outstanding vocal soloist. The Matt Pitt Orchestra will play for dancing revelers as they welcome in 1994.

Tickets range from \$20 to \$75. Call 833-3700 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666. The symphony is also presenting the "Nutcracker" ballet at Fox Theatre in Detroit. Evening performances are scheduled 8 p.m. Dec. 21-23; Dec. 26, 28-30; matinees, 2 p.m. Dec. 23 and Dec. 26; 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Dec. 24. Tickets available at the Fox Box office, or by calling, 645-6666.

If "the weather outside is frightful," turn on the TV, put your feet up and tune in Channel 56, or your local cable TV station for a local production of "The Nutcracker."

The presentation is a joint project of Oakland Community College and Oakland Festival Ballet Co. It is directed and choreographed by Cornelia Sampson of the Oakland Festival Ballet Company, based in Rochester.

The ballet featuring locally and nationally known artists will be shown on Channel 56 — 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24.

It will also be aired on these local cable stations — Booth (Birmingham/Bloomfield Hills) 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 22-23, Continental (Southfield) 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1. TCI (Rochester) 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23; 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27; and 9 p.m. Dec. 28-29; 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30.

Broadcasts are also scheduled on Metrovision, Comcast, McClean Hunter, and Continental Dearborn Heights, Westland and West Bloomfield. Check your cable guide for times.

Keely Wygonik is editor of the Taste and Entertainment sections of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She welcomes your calls and comments, 953-2105, fax 591-7279, or write: Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc. 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

Meet Charles Busch, star of the musical "Little Me" now playing at the Birmingham Theatre.

Find out what's new at the movies

Count down to new year at 'First Night'

Put on your dancing shoes, sharpen your skates, gather family, friends for a fun-filled, affordable New Year's Eve at First Night in Birmingham.

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER



In ancient times, and even now, New Year's Eve is a time of reflection of the year gone by, and resolve to make the new year better. Old traditions like sitting around a bonfire telling stories and writing down New Year's resolutions, and new traditions like spending an evening with family and friends enjoying top-name local entertainment in an alcohol-free setting are what makes First Night in Birmingham a New Year's Eve to remember. This year's headline acts at the fourth annual celebration of the arts, include Carvin and Michael of the Grammy Award-winning Winans.

"You have to come experience it," said First Night producer Jill Riddle. "The weather can be cold, but you forget it, and get caught up in all the wonderful performances. The downtown setting is beautiful, all the trees are lit up, it's a wonderful reprieve."

During the First Night celebration, which begins 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, and concludes at midnight in Shain Park with a countdown to 1994, downtown Birmingham churches, community centers and schools host a variety of entertainment.

"People will start gathering in Shain Park around 11 p.m. At 11:45 p.m. Pat Roan Judd will say the farewell benediction for 1993. We'll herald the new year with the Trinidad Steel Band, dancing in the park, special effects, and a surprise."

Admission is \$7 per person, the price of a First Night button, which allows patrons access to all events. Children under 5 are free, and children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Buttons can be purchased until 3 p.m. New Year's Eve at participating Birmingham/Bloomfield locations in-

PREVIEW

cluding Crowleys, Jacobson's Women's Apparel Store, Birmingham Ice Arena and City Hall.

After 3 p.m. on New Year's Eve, First Night buttons can be purchased at the Celebration Center on the corner of Pierce and Merrill, Seaholm High School, 2436 Lincoln; First Presbyterian, 1669 West Maple, and First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple.

Helping defray the cost of the celebration are over 30 corporate sponsors. "It's so affordable," said Riddle. "Whether you go to one show, or stay all night. If we didn't have corporate sponsors, the cost would be about \$45 or \$50 per person."

Volunteers are also a critical part of the event's success. Last year, over 300 people volunteered to help with First Night. For more information about becoming a sponsor or volunteer for First Night, or about button sale locations, call 540-6688.

Free parking will be available for First Night goers in city-owned parking garages from 3:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Depending on where you park, you can walk to events, or ride the free shuttle buses which will start at 3 p.m. and run until 2 a.m.

New this year are three outdoor events — the Celtic Stone Circle, The Oracle, and Resolution Wall.

At the Celtic Stone Circle, nationally-known mime and story-teller Pat Roan Judd of Birmingham, and Terry Woolen will be telling stories and legends around a bonfire.

The Oracle is a pyramid shape in which an actor is sitting. "People can go up to the oracle and ask questions about the new year," said Riddle. "It's all for entertainment. You can write your resolutions for the new year in charcoal on the Resolution Cave Wall."

This year's First Night theme is "Hot Arts for A Cold Winter's Night." There's plenty of entertainment to choose from — theater, classical music, jazz, bluegrass, and dancing.

Carvin and Michael of the Winans



Headline act: Brothers Carvin and Michael of the Grammy Award-winning gospel singers, The Winans, will perform at First Night in Birmingham.

will be performing songs from their newest release "All Out," 8 p.m., 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. in the Seaholm High School Auditorium. Born and raised in Detroit, the Winans began their recording career in 1981 with the album "Introducing: The Winans." Their major label debut "Let My People Go," was their second of four gospel Grammy winners.

Here's a sampling of the groups that will be performing:

For children — Sally Rogers and Howie Bursen's, "Big Laughs" version of "Jack and the Beanstalk," which involves lots of audience participation. "The Brainstormers!" a combination comedy club and classroom where kids learn a lot. The Pippin Puppets, "Cinderella," presented by Birmingham's own Village Players Ensemble, the Dinosaur man.

For the first time, there will be participatory events for adults too. Tell your family legends at the Celtic Stone Circle.

Don't forget to bring your dancing shoes. There will be country line

dancing lessons at the First Presbyterian Church-Knox Auditorium. Dance to contemporary and Top 40s sounds of The Big Picture, Michigan's own premier dance band in a cabaret setting at First United Methodist Church-Fellowship Hall. A dance 7-11 p.m. at Seaholm High School Gymnasium will feature the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band and Francisco Mora's Nuevo Mundo Jazz Band.

Classical events include performances by the Detroit Brass Society, Emmon Scott's re-creations of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig von Beethoven, and Detroit Symphony flutist Jeffrey Zook.

Jazz lovers will enjoy The Wendall Harrison Jazz Ensemble. The blue grass band Cyporyn will perform at First Presbyterian Church-Sanctuary.

There will be family and teen open skating at the Birmingham Ice Arena. Food and refreshments will be available for sale at many First Night stops.

Classy musical celebrates 1930s at the Gem Theatre

"The All Night Strut! Holiday Show!" a classy, sassy musical celebration of the 1930s and 1940s continues through Jan. 2 at the Gem Theatre in Detroit. "Strut!" is a musical melting pot of blues, swing, jazz, gospel, pop and dreamy Christmas favorites in a cabaret-style setting.

Tickets are on sale now at the Gem Theatre and all Ticketmaster outlets. Weekday shows, matinees and Sunday performances are \$19.50. Friday and Saturday 8 p.m. performances are \$24.50. For

more information, call 963-9800 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

The cast featuring Gary Thompson, Mary Bentley-Lamar, Michael Kelly, and Lori Flynn sing songs from Christmas past and present including "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," and "White Christmas."

A three-piece combo, led by Ed Wells, turns out old favorites like "In the Mood," and "Tuxedo Junction."



Holiday show: Lori Flynn (left to right), Michael Kelly, Gary Thompson and Mary Bentley-LaMar, star in the "All Night Strut Holiday Show," at the Gem Theatre.

Rock Out, 1993. Roll In, 1994.



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CURTAIN CALL

On Stage lists upcoming theater performances. Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Entertainment editor, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is 591-7279.

AUDITIONS

THEATRE GUILD
Need nine men, ages 20 to 70, one woman in her early 20s for John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11 at the playhouse, 15138 Beech Daly, 1 1/2 blocks south of Five Mile. Readings from script, no prepared monologues required. Call 537-4145. Performance dates, Feb. 18-19, 25-26, March 4-5.

RIDGEDALE PLAYERS
Adult singers and dancers of all ages needed for "Lil Abner" based on the Al Capp comic strip at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake Road Troy, (between Crooks and Livernois) 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11. Show dates are March 4-6, 11-13, 18-20. Come prepared to sing, bring sheet music in your key. Call director Genie Garner, 852-2728 for information.

COMMUNITY

COMEDY
Ridgedale Players present "Catch Me If You Can," a comedy murder mystery written by Jack Weinstock and Willie Gilbert, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 7-9 and 14-16. Tickets \$8 with \$1 discount for seniors on Sundays. Call 433-1572.

NANCY GURWIN
"The Wiz" opens 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8 at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Shows Saturdays and Sundays through Jan. 30. Call 661-1000 or 354-0545.

YOUTH

GENETTI'S
Mary Bremers Lunch Bunch Players present "Wizard of Oz" at Genetti's Hole in the Wall restaurant, 112 E. Main Street, Northville. Spaghetti dinner at noon followed by luncheon. Shows Dec. 23, 30 and Jan. 8. Tickets, \$11.50 for kids, (\$7.50 show only), \$13.50 adults (\$8.50 show only). Call 349-0522.

HENRY FORD MUSEUM THEATRE
"Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp," playing at Henry Ford Museum Theatre in Dearborn through Dec. 30, call 271-1620.

MARQUIS THEATRE
Magical musical "Aladdin" at the theater, a135 E. Main Street, Northville, through Jan. 2. Call 349-8110.

PROFESSIONAL

JET
"The Price" continues through Dec. 26 at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre, Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Call 788-2900 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

MEADOW BROOK
"A Christmas Carol" continues through Dec. 30 at the theater on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester. Call 377-3300 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666. "Shirley Valentine," opens Jan. 6 with shows through Jan. 30.

ATTIC
"Beehive" the musical tribute to the girl groups and pop queens of the 1960s is Rockin in the new year at the Attic Theatre with a New Year's Eve performance. Catered by the Rhinoceros restaurant, the evening includes the show, hot and cold appetizers,

Magical musical



HENRY FORD MUSEUM AND GREENFIELD VILLAGE

Enchanting tale: *There's enchantment in store for young and old alike as "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp" takes the stage at Henry Ford Museum Theatre. The original musical play was adapted for children from the traditional "1001 Arabian Nights" tale and features Timothy Campos (from left), Irene Hublick as the flying Genie, and Lisa Andres of Livonia, who also created the music and lyrics. Performances through Dec. 30. Call 271-1620.*

soft drinks, champagne toast at midnight, coffee and dessert and cash bar. Doors open 8:30 p.m. performance begins 9 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person. Call 875-8284.

BIRMINGHAM
Musical comedy "Little Me," opens Dec. 29 through Jan. 30 at the Birmingham Theatre, 211 S. Woodward. Call 644-3533 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

'Little Me' opens Dec. 29

Birmingham Theatre will present its third production of the season, "Little Me," Dec. 29 to Jan. 30. Worth Gardner returns to direct this musical parody with actor Charles Busch playing the role of Belle Poitrine. Performances run 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays; 7 p.m. Sundays. Matinees are 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Sundays and Thursday, Jan. 27. Special New Year's Eve performances begin at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$19.50 to \$37.50. Call 644-3353, or Ticketmaster, 645-6666. Author, Patrick Dennis (Auntie Mame) wrote the original book "Little Me" in 1961. One year later, Neil Simon adapted it for the Broadway

stage and Cy Coleman composed the score. "Little Me" comically dramatizes the life of Belle Poitrine, stage and film star, in her efforts to acquire wealth, culture and social status. Charles Busch has been selected to play the female narrative role of Belle Poitrine. Following in the fashion of Greek and Shakespearean theater in which men played women's roles, Worth Gardner is using the element of non-traditional casting, both men and women exchanging roles, to achieve a more inventive, tongue-in-cheek production. As an actor, comedian, playwright and author, Busch is well known for the female characters he brings to life on stage.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Classicalists upcoming classical music concerts. Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Entertainment editor, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is 591-7279.

iev, Poulenc, and Scott Joplin's "Rags." The Saturday children's concert "Paint a Picture," will feature caricaturist, Chuck Barshanian. Call 421-1111 or 464-2741.

COMMUNITY

L50
Livonia Symphony Orchestra will present two chamber concerts — 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28 and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road. The Jan. 28 concert will feature the music of Prokof-

SERIES

AMERICAN ARTISTS
Series continues 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9 with a recital by the Ann Arbor based duo, Bolcom & Morris, at Kingswood Auditorium on the Cranbrook Campus, 1221 N. Woodward, north of Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. Call 851-5044.

Send us 'his' special recipe

Guys, send us your favorite recipe, and we'll send you an oven mitt with the words "Mrs. Doubtfire" printed on it. The mitts are part of our "Mrs. Doubtfire" promotion for the newly released movie starring Robin Williams. We've received quite a few recipes for "his speciality" already, but still have mitts to give away, so we're extending the deadline. Send recipes to: Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150. If you have any questions, call 953-2105.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
9:30 P.M. - 6:30 A.M.
\$18.00
ALL NIGHT SKATE
Price Includes:
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Reservations Required
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Comedy reunites two 'Grumpy Old Men'



"Grumpy Old Men," a rollicking romantic comedy, reunites one of the great screen duos of all time, Oscar-winners Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, in the story of a lifetime rivalry that only two fiercely individualistic curmudgeons could sustain — and the jolt that relationship undergoes when a lovely, romantic and available widow, played by Ann-Margaret, moves in across the street.

Shot on location in Minnesota, Warner Bros.' "Grumpy Old Men" examines the decades-old love-hate relationship between next-door neighbors John Gustafson (Jack Lemmon) and Max Golden (Walter Matthau).

John's and Max's greatest pleasure consists of thinking up new ways to embarrass, ridicule or ambush each other in the course of their everyday campaign of revenge and retribution.

Max and John might recall the shadowy beginning of this lifetime love-hate relationship, but they're not telling. They greet each other every morning, it's true — but their greeting usually consists of profanity mixed with insulting one-upsmanship.

They're ice-fishing buddies, to be sure — but they mock each

PREVIEW

other's catch and hurl invective when they share a "friendly" chat about their hobby.

Not even John's daughter Melanie (Daryl Hannah) or Max's son Jacob (Kevin Pollak) know what started their father's feud. But with John and Max wifeless and retired, and the indignities of the "golden years" encroaching, hating each other's guts has become their greatest pleasure in life.

Their greatest pleasure, for 56 years, to be exact, until radiant, free-spirited and enchantingly eccentric college teacher Ariel Truax (Ann-Margaret) moves in right across the street from them.

Ariel gives both grumpy old men new leases on life, as she innocently escalates their mutual loathing to new heights (or depths), with each furiously jockeying for first position in her affections.

"Grumpy Old Men" is directed by Donald Petrie, whose "Mystic Pizza" impressed audiences and critics with its humor and humanity. The producers are John Davis ("The Firm") and Richard C. Berman ("December"), with Dan Kolsrud ("Falling Down") as executive producer.

Darlene Chan is the associate



RON PHILLIPS

Rollicking comedy: John Gustafson (Jack Lemmon, left) and Max Goldman (Walter Matthau) are the best of enemies in "Grumpy Old Men."

producer. The film is written by Mark Steven Johnson.

"Grumpy Old Men" is a very personal project for me," said

Johnson. "It's a valentine to my home state of Minnesota, and the character of John Gustafson is based on my own grandfather."

Animated feature reveals Batman's secret past

Batman — a hero to the citizens of Gotham City, the nemesis of criminals, a mysterious figure to those who want to uncover his secret identity — was he ever simply an ordinary man, with ordinary longings to find happiness, to be loved, to forget the dark past that sent him on his lonely career as a crimefighter?

Now, for the first time, Warner Bros. brings to the motion picture screen an extraordinary saga of the Dark Knight, an adventure that reveals Batman's most difficult battle, as well as his confrontation with a mysterious killer, the Phantasm, who holds the key

PREVIEW

to Batman's secret past.

In a full-length animated adventure opening at metro Detroit movie theaters Dec. 25, Warner Bros. carries its exciting, stylish animated hit television series one step farther with an all-new story that recalls Batman's beginnings. Once again Batman encounters his long-lost love, Andrea Beaumont, and considers giving up his cape forever. The film stars characters voiced by Kevin Conroy, Mark Hamill, Dana Delany, Hart

Bochner and Abe Vigoda. The story is based on DC Comics characters created by Bob Kane, and the music is by Shirley Walker. The executive producer of the film is Tom Ruegger and the co-producers are Alan Burnett, Eric Radomski and Bruce W. Timm. The producers are Benjamin Melniker and Michael Uslan.

When television's "Batman: The Animated Series" premiered on Sept. 7, 1992, viewers immediately knew they were seeing something unique and very special. It's striking appearance, consisting of stylized characters against strong, graphically designed backgrounds, were characterized by the show's producers as "Dark Deco."

"We've created a look that's

somber, psychologically moody and very exciting," said Jean MacCurdy, executive producer of the series.

In addition to its memorable look, "Batman: The Animated Series" carried the legend of the popular DC Comics hero to new heights, bringing infamous villains to life on the screen in all-new stories that built on the sensational success of Warner Bros.' two live-action films about the Dark Knight, "Batman" and "Batman Returns."

"I was very interested in doing a Bruce Wayne love story," explains Alan Burnett one of the co-producers whose contributions are primarily as a writer and story editor.

UPCOMING MOVIES

There's something for everyone at what's in the wings:

■ **Opening Saturday, Dec. 25:**

■ **"Tombstone"** — The story of Wyatt Earp and the events that occurred before and after the infamous battle at the O.K. Corral. Stars Kurt Russell, Sam Elliot, Dana Delany.

■ **"The Summer House"** — Amusing, charming story of a young woman's attempt to escape her imminent marriage to a most unappealing man. Stars Jeanne Moreau, Joan Plowright. This film is a Main Art Theatre exclusive.

■ **"Schindler's List"** — The true story of Oskar Schindler, a war profiteer and Nazi crony, who protected and saved the lives of over 1,000 Jews during the Holocaust.

■ **Opening Wednesday, Dec. 29:**

■ **"Ghost in the Machine"** —

A techno thriller about a serial killer whose reach becomes limitless when he is transformed into a computer virus and is able to use everything electrical — from common household appliances to complex computers — as tools of murder. Stars Karen Allen, Chris Mulkey, and Ted Marcoux.

■ **Opening Friday, Jan. 14:**

■ **"Philadelphia"** — A drama about a rising young lawyer who, when fired when he develops AIDS, hires a personal injury attorney to help him win redress. Stars Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington, Jason Robards, Mary Steenburgen and Joanne Woodward.

■ **"Wrestling Ernest Hemingway"** — Story of friendship that develops between two dissimilar men whose loneliness propels them to overlook their differences.

KURT RUSSELL VAL KILMER
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TOMBSTONE
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AMC WOODS 6	AMC CANTON	NORWEST
QUO VADIS	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE
SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE	STAR GRANT AT 15 MILE
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR TAYLOR	STAR WINCHESTER 8
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"SEE IT!"
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— Ralph Novak, PEOPLE MAGAZINE

"WONDERFUL!"
"Whoopi's Wonderful!"
— Joel Siegel, GOOD MORNING AMERICA

WHOOPI SISTER ACT 2: BACK IN THE HABIT

AMC AMERICAN WEST	AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC EASTLAND 2
AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC SOUTHFIELD 4
AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC WONDERLAND	NOVATOWN
NORWEST	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE
SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE
STAR WOODS 6	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR 12 OAKS
STAR WOODS 6	STAR WOODS 6	STAR WOODS 6

NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

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— Joel Siegel, GOOD MORNING AMERICA

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— Jeffrey Lyons, SNEAK PREVIEW/CRUISE

"SPEND THE HOLIDAYS WITH WAYNE AND GARTH - THEY'RE HILARIOUS! MORE FUN THAN YOUR RELATIVES AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY THEM A GIFT!"
— Pat Collins, WWOR-TV

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AMC WOODS 6	CANTON	QUO VADIS
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STAR GRANT AT 15 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR TAYLOR
STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	FAIRLANE	LAKESIDE
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JACK LEMMON WALTER MATTHAU
ANN-MARGRET

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A FIFTY-YEAR FIGHT.

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SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE
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■ **Schedul** hour and Also offer tives. Don forcing dri

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■ **Encoura** and make alcohol du allow an drive. Call home or ments.

Ma Banquet

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Restaurants, hotels offer lots of ways to greet 1994

Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment editor, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our Fax number is 591-7279.

■ CAFE CORTINA
Christmas Eve dinner featuring a six course menu, harp music. Seating at 6:45 p.m. Cost \$42 per person. Call 474-3033 for reservations and information about New Year's Eve dinner. The restaurant is at 30715 W. 10 Mile, Farmington Hills.

■ SECOND CITY
Special New Year's package combining humor with Risata's contemporary cuisine, can be purchased at The Second City — Detroit Comedy Theatre box office at the corner of Woodward and Montclair in Detroit. Tickets can be reserved for two shows. The first package (\$60) includes dinner at Risata at 5 p.m. and The

Second City performance at 7:30 p.m. The second package (\$80) includes dinner at Risata at 8 p.m. and The Second City performance at 10:30 p.m. followed by a midnight toast and the "Afterglow Buffet" with coney island hot dogs and other late-night snacks. Call 965-2222 for tickets.

■ NORMAN'S ETON ST. STATION
Special New Year's Eve menu prepared by Chef Jeff Baldwin includes appetizers such as shrimp bisque and Cajun tenderloin tips, and entrees such as filet mignon and potato crusted Atlantic salmon. Prices for appetizers start at \$1.95, main courses prices \$14.95 to \$22.95. Dancing begins at 8 p.m., there is a \$5 entertainment fee after 8 p.m., party favors, champagne toast included. Reservations can be made for seatings as early as 4 p.m. Call 647-7774. The restaurant is at 245 S. Eton Street, south of Maple in Birmingham.

■ HYATT REGENCY HOTEL
Musical Explosion featuring 14 bands highlighting sounds of Top 40, Country, Motown, Ragga, Rhythm & Blues, and Alternative Rock at the hotel in Dearborn. Beginning at 6 p.m. the party will feature non-stop live entertainment throughout the hotel. Admission tickets are \$39 per person and include five food and five drink tickets per person, party favors and parking. Those wishing to dine prior to or during the festivities, can choose from one of three restaurants, no reservations necessary. Tickets are available at the New Year's Eve desk in the main lobby of the hotel, or call Ticketmaster, 645-6666. For more information, call 593-1234.

■ LA CASA
New Year's Eve Concert featuring Steve Young and Katy Moffatt, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31 at the Birmingham Unitarian Church. Call 646-4950.

■ HOTEL BARONETTE
New Year's Eve celebration begins 8 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner 9 p.m. features prime rib. Entertainment by Sterling featuring sounds from the 1950s through today. Dinner, dancing and guest room, \$239 per couple, includes three drinks and brunch. Call 349-6666.

■ MORELS
Open seating 5-7 p.m. A Spectacular featuring four course dinner begins at 9 p.m. followed by piano music and dancing at 10:30 p.m. Cost is \$75 per person. Call 642-1094.

■ SEBASTIAN'S GRILL
New American Feast, open seating 5-7 p.m. at 9 p.m. a four-course menu prepared by Chef Greg Ervin will be offered followed by dancing to the Ken Wolinski Band. Cost \$50 per person. Call 649-6625.

■ TRATTORIA BRUSCHETTA
Open reservations 5-7 p.m. At 9 p.m. festivities begin with a Prix Fixe dinner prepared by Chef Tim Cikra. Short walk to Savory Ballroom for after-dinner drinks and dancing to Sterling. Cost \$175 per couple for feast and dancing. Cost for feast, dancing, guestroom and brunch is \$250 per couple. Call 305-5210 for reservations.

■ MORTON'S
Morton's of Chicago, The Steakhouse in Southfield, provides an alternative for New Year's Eve partygoers who want to design their own dinner, and not be limited by package deals: Morton's regular menu at regular prices and a selection of champagnes and sparkling wines. Reservations available for three seatings, 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., a \$25 per person deposit is required. Call 354-6006 for reservations.

■ OPUS ONE
Three seatings beginning at 5 p.m. The third at 9:30 or 10 p.m., priced at \$75 per person includes four-course dinner, ordered off the menu, plus listening and dancing to Mutual Admirations Society and party favors. Call 961-7766.

■ WESTIN
Michigan Opera Theatre's First Annual New Year's Eve Opera Gala in the Westin's Renaissance Ballroom, black tie event begins 8 p.m. with dinner at 9 p.m. Dinner followed by a performance of Act II of Johann Strauss' Die Fledermaus, champagne toast at midnight, dancing to the Emil Moroc Big Band. Tickets \$85 per person, \$299 for an overnight package for two. Two other options are dinner at The Summit or River Bistro and lounge party. Call 567-XMAS for reservations and information.

Pointers for planning holiday parties

When hosting a holiday party, AAA Michigan recommends emphasizing food and fun activities to take the focus off of alcohol. Here are some tips:
 ■ Schedule only a short cocktail hour and serve measured drinks. Also offer alcohol-free alternatives. Don't be a "pour" host by forcing drinks on guests.
 ■ Stock your buffet table with starchy and protein-rich foods such as pasta and potatoes to help retard the absorption of alcohol into the bloodstream.
 ■ Encourage "designated drivers" and make sure they don't drink alcohol during the party. Do not allow an intoxicated guest to drive. Call a cab, drive the guest home or make other arrangements.

Here are some holiday party pointers from Marjorie Reed-Gordon, a consultant to Stouffer Foods.
 ■ Plan on 2½ drinks per person. Separate the drink serving area from the buffet to control traffic flow. Make ice cubes ahead of time and store them in plastic bags in the freezer or in an ice chest. One pound of coffee yields 24 cups.
 ■ Allow for six to eight appetizers for each person.
 ■ Figure a 6 to 8-ounce entree serving per guest.
 ■ Serve fruit and two other dessert choices. Prepared grapefruit sections, marinated overnight in cranberry juice for color and served in a large bowl, is festive and low in calories.

■ Add a caterer's touch with garnishes of fruits, vegetables, evergreens, flowers or herbs.
 ■ For a party of 25, you will need 35 wine glasses, 75 cocktail napkins, 32 dinner plates, 32 sets of silverware, 30 dinner napkins, 32 dessert plates, 30 coffee cups, and 30 dessert forks and teaspoons.
 To create a dramatic centerpiece for a buffet, float two white lilies in a shallow glass bowl filled with fresh cranberries and a little water. Surround the bowl with boughs of evergreens and continue them down the table, along with various size candles for height

Here's a recipe to try. Submitted by Laura Huzar of Reese, it was a third place winner in the Alpena Regional "Great Pretenders," contest sponsored by AAA Michigan.

HAWAIIAN HOLIDAY
 ½ cup pineapple juice
 ½ cup orange juice
 ½ banana
 5-6 strawberries
 1 cup 7-Up
 Scoop of ice
 Blend together ingredients. Garnish with orange slice and maraschino cherries. 1 serving.

Cake, gingerbread house contest deadline nears

Student, amateur and professional cake decorators are invited to enter cakes in a contest being hosted by the 12th annual Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular.
 Cakes will be on display, indoors, during the Ice Sculpture Spectacular Event.
 Forms are available at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland, 261-3680. If you'd rather, call the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular office and they'll mail you one.

A Gingerbread House Contest, open to adults and kids, ages 10 and under, will also be held during the Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular. For more information, call 455-0052. Forms are available at Days Gone By, 550 Forest in the Westchester Mall, Ply.
 The houses will be on display in the Westchester Square Mall on Forest Avenue throughout the festival. Entries must be delivered to Days Gone By no later than Monday, Jan. 10.

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Shooting ranges would benefit from legislation

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Local governments would have a more difficult time pushing shooting ranges out of business under two controversial bills passed by the state Senate.

"It's totally unregulated. You can have them open 24 hours a day," protested Sen. George Z. Hart, D-Dearborn, whose hometown had an indoor range just a block from a high school.

"This would take away the right of local units to control hours of operation," said Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, an opponent. "I believe people who live in the neighborhood need to be able to turn to local elected officials for protection."

"These regulations have one purpose: to harass sport shooters," said the bills' sponsor, Sen. Phil Hoffman, R-Horton. "I have 60 townships in my district, and they would have 60 different sets of regulations," said the rural Jackson County lawmaker.

"I used to think the National Rifle Association was unreasonable," said Sen. Don Koivisto, D-Ironwood. "NRA said there would be licenses, taxes and harassment. It turned out to be true. The NRA was right. You (opponents of Hoffman's bills) want to license, tax and take guns away."

The Senate Tuesday passed, 25 to 11, the key measure declaring

■ 'It's totally unregulated. You can have (shooting ranges) open 24 hours a day.'

Sen. George Z. Hart
D-Dearborn

"a sport shooting range is not a public or private nuisance" if its operation "conforms to generally accepted operation practices." Those practices are defined as standards of NRA, although NRA isn't named in the bill.

The bill, opposed by the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Townships Association, also prohibits local units from restricting shooting ranges already in operation but not from writing restrictions prior to establishment of a range.

Area lawmakers voting yes: Republicans Michael Bouchard of Birmingham, Mat Dunaskiss of Lake Orion, Robert Geake of Northville and David Honigman of West Bloomfield.

Voting no: Democrats Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills, William Faust of Westland and Hart, whose district includes Garden City.

Faust offered an amendment that would allow local units to impose "impact fees" on target ranges and use the money to buy nearby houses that are affected by noise. It drew only nine of the

necessary 20 votes.

"This says, 'Soak 'em,'" said Sen. Chris Dingell, D-Trenton, opposing Faust's amendment. "This Legislature has expressed strong aversion to impact fees." Dingell said the Dearborn range attacked by Hart was moved out.

The debate turned bitter with religious and ethnic remarks.

Said Pollack: "We can get re-elected even if we're not blessed with the holy water of the NRA."

Added Virgil Smith, D-Detroit: "You white folks may be afraid of them (NRA). I'm not."

The Senate's position was the same as it took in prohibiting local units from having tighter handgun restrictions than the state. It asserts the state's pre-emption of gun regulation.

Michigan's constitutional protection of gun ownership, stronger than the U.S. Bill of Rights, says: "Every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state."

The bills have been sent to the House. Refer to Senate Bills 788 and 789 when writing to your state representative.

New area code kicks in

Blame it on the fax machines. For the first time since 1947, southeast Michigan has a new area code, 810, which splits the former 313 code area in half along Eight Mile Road.

Wayne County residents, except for a few Livonia inhabitants, retain 313 for an area code. All Oakland County residents get 810.

Ameritech officials say the new area code is necessary because new ways to use phone lines keep being invented. "Designers of the original area code plan back in the 1940s could not have anticipated just how quickly available numbers would be used up by the skyrocketing popularity of personal pagers, cellular mobile tele-

phones, computer modems and fax machines," said Ameritech area code manager Dean Hovey.

More than three million new phone numbers have been created by the new area code for southeast Michigan. Even so, Ameritech expects to reach capacity again in 20 years.

Ameritech spokesman Leon Sowell reports that some people have had difficulty getting calls to go through when they dial the new area code. But the fault lies in non-Ameritech phone-line switches that haven't been programmed to recognize 810 as an area code, Sowell said. This problem is expected to be fixed soon, as the switch owners are notified.

Ameritech is anxious to have it

known that the new area code won't make anyone's phone bill higher. Calling Southfield from Redford will still be a local call, even though the caller has to dial 1-810 to do it. No call that was local before will be long-distance now, Ameritech says.

Also, calls will still go through using 313 until Aug. 10 so that we all might grow accustomed to the change. After that, Wayne County residents calling individuals in Oakland, Sanilac, Lapeer, St. Clair, Genesee and Macomb counties must dial 810 to do so. Oakland County residents calling folks in Wayne, Washtenaw and Monroe counties must dial 313.

For additional data on area codes, call (800) 831-8989.



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Cadillac Memorial Gardens West Cemetery and Crematory is pleased, during this holiday season, to help promote Easter Seals in their programs to assist the disabled. Easter seals assists more than 7,000 children in the metropolitan area each year.

During the month of December, with a donation of \$50.00 or more to Easter Seals, Cadillac Memorial Gardens West Crematory will waive the normal cremation fee and give the cremation process free. All proceeds will be given to Easter Seals. This holiday Easter Seals program extends through the month of December - 1993.

If you need more information, or would like to take care of this service, please feel free to call 721-7161, or visit our office located at 34224 Ford Rd. - Westland, MI.

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SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1993



Bill Hansen

At home: Dale Myers used his home computer to create his "Robo Jr." cartoon.

He 'toons' at home with his Amiga

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

It doesn't take millions of dollars or a prestigious studio to produce an award-winning cartoon. It could take just an Amiga home computer.

Dale Myers of Livonia used that to create the endearing story of "Robo Jr.," a mischievous young robot/space alien who causes a little trouble while his parent searches for motor oil. It debuts on WDIV-TV Channel 4 at 8 p.m. Christmas Eve.

So far the seven-minute cartoon has received rave reviews during the SIGGRAPH (Special Interest Group on Graphics) 1993 convention and in October earned a Joey Award at the San Jose Film & Video Festival for best computer animation. "SeaQuest" and "Unsolved Mysteries" (television shows) are using the same software. Compared to those things, mine was impressive because it was one guy . . . as opposed to Amblin Entertainment," Myers explained in an editing suite at WDIV-TV.

WDIV vice president of programming and production Henry Maldonado agreed. When he saw it for the first time, he had big plans for it.

"I showed it to him and he flipped out and said, 'Let's make a half-hour special with it.' I said, 'OK. Let's talk,'" Myers said with a laugh.

The half-hour special will include the cartoon as well as a step-by-step demonstration of how Myers created the character of Robo Jr. The show opens with the tuxedo-clad Myers emerging from a limousine to attend the "world premiere" of "Robo Jr." at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. ("We're playing up the whole star aspect of it," he said.)

Kids pile into the theater following Myers. When the hype dies down, he tells them, "Something that's more fun than watching cartoons is making them."

The story is told through flashbacks. He tells the children that he came up with the idea while playing Frisbee with his dog. Any human situation lends itself to a cartoon storyline, he said.

"Ideas are all around; you just gotta pick one," he said.

Myers explained that unlike most animated specials that are created in production companies, Robo Jr. was done entirely on Myers' home computer system. After conceiving the story idea, he scripted, directed and spent close to a year animating the short by using a myriad of sophisticated desktop computer programs.

"The big appeal to the kids is that they can do it (at home) and it doesn't have to be done at Disney studios or something," he said.

Myers has produced computer graphics for industrial and broadcast films on a free-lance basis since 1989. A former WNIC-FM disc jockey, he has worked a total of 20 years in radio and video production. He began his career in computer graphics as a writer/producer for the Detroit branch of CBS/Fox Video.

When the division that produced industrial training films folded, he bought the Amiga for word processing. In his spare time, he started fiddling around with the graphics programs. He decided to pursue it seriously in 1989.

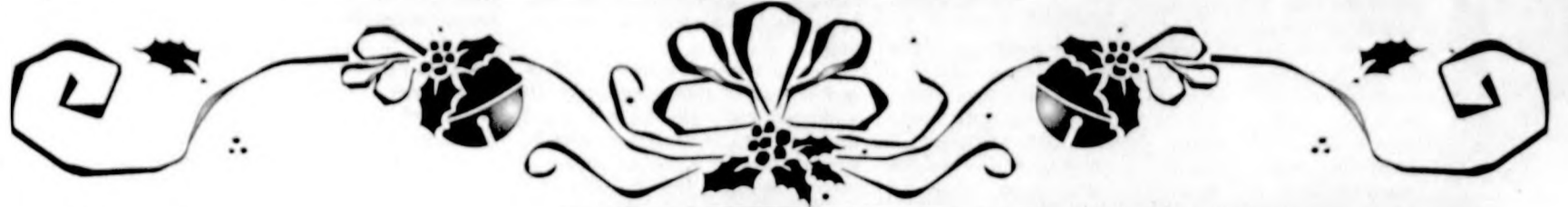
Although the 38-year-old would ideally like to see Robo Jr. the subject of its own TV series, it's a nice surprise to have WDIV's interest, he said.

"Doing a local broadcast is a nice thing," although it wasn't his ultimate goal, he said.

"It came along the way. It's one of those situations that fall out of the sky. You grab it and run with it," he said.

"The World Premiere of Robo Jr." will air 8-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, on WDIV-TV Channel 4

Endearing: Robo Jr. is Myers's mischievous space alien.



'Twas the night . . .

Dinghy Sharp sure knows how to tell a story. With keen memory and hand gestures as varied as the stories she tells, Sharp spins a Christmas tale with a surprise ending.

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER



There are different ways of experiencing a story. You can write the story; you can read the story; or you can tell the story.

For Florence Dinghy Sharp, telling the story is the favored course. A longtime member of the Detroit Storytellers League, Sharp has a way with stories that leaves an audience hanging on her every word.

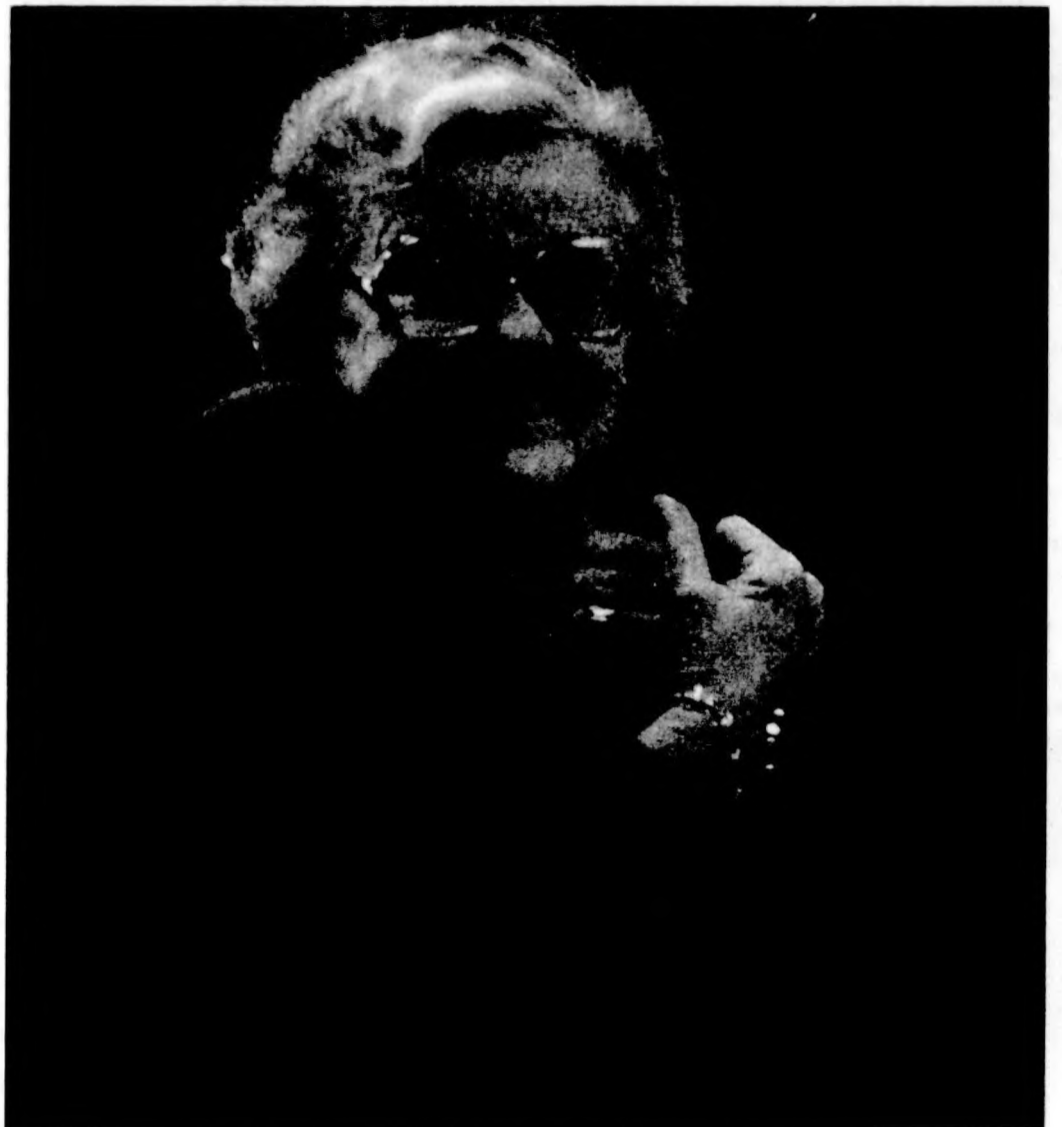
With hand gestures, facial expressions and voice inflections, she makes even putting on a microphone sound interesting. "Getting wired is difficult; I feel like an astronaut on a tether."

The main "dessert" for the last of the three fall luncheons sponsored by Schoolcraft College's Women's Resource Center, Sharp left participants with holiday cheer as she recalled a childhood story and some of the history of our very American Santa Claus.

A former Farmington special education teacher who has been recognized as a pioneer in remedial education, Sharp works as a consultant with school systems across the country and as a speaker for educational groups. She also performs storytelling programs for organizations and schools as well as libraries and hospitals.

She offers a wealth of knowledge about the jolly old elf. She quickly tells of his evolution from the European St. Nicholas to a Santa Claus who lives at the North Pole, has elves help make toys, and travels with reindeer. The talk is interspersed with explanations of Victorian customs.

"Thomas Nast put Santa Claus at the North Pole and had the elves help make the toys, but Mrs. Claus didn't come along until 1927," Sharp said. "The reindeer came from



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JAGDFELD

Magical: Using her voice, facial expressions and hand gestures, Dinghy Sharp casts a Christmas spell over her audience.

Washington Irving."

Nast was a 19th century political cartoonist and illustrator who spent 44 years entertaining people with his work. His version of Santa Claus debuted in 1868. The original of the highly recognizable lithograph that shows Santa with a clay pipe and holly wreath is at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, according to Sharp.

Deep interest

Her interest in Santa includes 187 versions - old and new - of Clement Moore's "A Visit From St. Nick," better known as "The Night Before Christmas." And her story repertoire includes a Cajun version of the poem that has Santa riding a skiff and being pulled by eight tiny alligators.

But interesting tidbits aside, it was the story with its surprise ending that keep the audience transfixed. It comes from Sharp's childhood, from her grandfather who lived in Maryland. Normally, the family didn't visit at Christmas because of the weather, but one year they did visit, much to the delight of her grandfather.

"Grandpa was excited because he never got to really share Christmas with us," she said. "He said, 'There's a story I want to share with you that I've wanted to share since you were born, but couldn't. It was told to me by my grandfather.'"

The story centered on Christmas Eve in 1822 and Sharp's great-great-grandfather, whom the family called Papa. The family lived on a six-acre estate in New York; Papa was a professor of Greek, Latin and Hebrew at what was then Columbia College in New York City.

Papa had figured he had done all of his chores for the holiday, including making a new

wax candle, when Mama reminded him still had to go to town to get the Christmas goose and make up a story for their oldest daughter, who was seriously ill with tuberculosis, Sharp said.

Papa hitched up the team of horses to the sleigh to head to town. It was snowing so heavily that he couldn't see, but he knew the horses would get him there like they did every day.

"The snow was so heavy and so wet, he couldn't see, but then a miracle happened," Sharp said. "Like turning the handle on a pump, the snow stopped and the wind blew down the Hudson River, freezing it into icicles. The moon came out and it looked like a dream."

Among the things Papa saw was Peter, the town handyman, with his big, round tummy and flowing beard and wearing a red parka.

"The children would tease him, wanting to know if he tucked his beard in his nightie to sleep," Sharp recalled. "He was always telling the children stories of his homeland, Denmark, especially about St. Nicholas. He told wonderful folk tales about his homeland, and the children were always anxious to hear them, especially at Christmas."

Peter would chop wood and deliver it to the homes in town. On Christmas Eve, he was busy "giving the only gift he could afford, the gift of his labor. He was leaving wood at every home so no one would be cold for Christmas," Sharp explained.

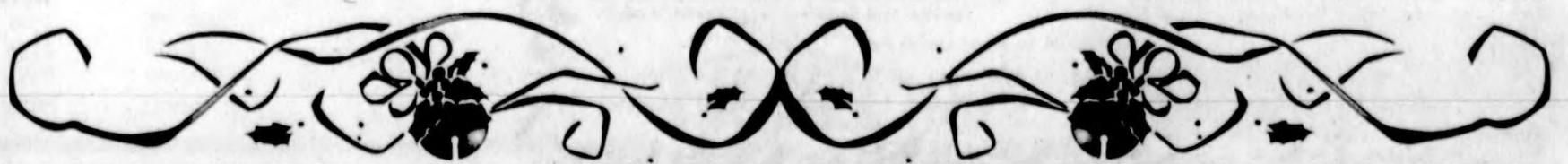
Papa's story

Papa got the goose and headed home. The children were busy getting ready for bed. They washed in a pan of soapy water water Mama

See CHRISTMAS, 2C



Sharp has a way with stories that leaves an audience hanging on her every word.



Writer likes orderliness and has a place for everything

GRAPHOLOGY PROFILES



LORENE GREEN

Dear Ms. Green,
I really want my handwriting analyzed. My letter to you a couple of years ago was not selected for publication. If it isn't this time I have enclosed a SASE for more information.

I am trying to write in a regular fashion (that's not easy). At times my penmanship is quite good and at other times it's just terrible. I usually write "uphill." I don't think I'm doing that now. Is it because I'm aware of my penmanship now?

I love your column in the Observer and look forward to seeing it. I would like to have your talent, which intrigues me.

Here's hoping we "link up" soon.
I'm a 74 years young right-handed female.

M.R.,
Farmington

Although time does not allow me to answer all the letters I receive, I do try to select those who have written more than once. I also selected this writing as I feel she is a nice person to feature during Christmas week.

In this handwriting sample is a spirit of orderliness. Her surroundings would be neat, tidy and attractive. She has a place for everything and likes things in their place.

Her daily routine is well-organized. I can see her objective planning and the implementation of it. Her strong desire for accuracy suggests one who strives for perfection. The small details receive careful attention even

though they may also be a source of annoyance sometimes.

Good concentration is evident here. She can zero in on one thing at a time and lends exclusive attention to whatever it is. She probably has a retentive memory also.

Hers is a keen mentality and an innate love of mental activity. In addition, she may have a good mind for figures or money. This is a woman with a strong sense of responsibility. She is efficient, conscientious and disciplined. She is also thorough and works hard. Those who know her best have learned she can be counted upon to fulfill her obligations.

Her foundation was laid in a conservative upbringing and she has not strayed too far from it. Her attitude regarding morality and ethics is rather rigid and her conscience is her guide.

Dignity is much in evidence here. She is a sensitive woman.

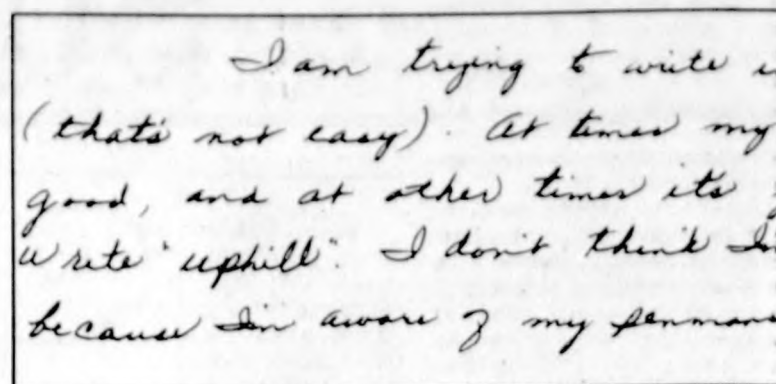
She fears criticism and can usually be found conforming to the mores of society.

This is a modest woman. She does not feel the need to be in the limelight to be happy. There is little pretense about her. She is the same personality in public as she is in private life.

At times she feels she has been taken advantage of and has her guard up to prevent this from recurring. Sarcasm is her defense when she feels threatened. Perhaps this is the reason for a little irritability I see.

Close friends are chosen with care. She tends to keep her own counsel and is reluctant to reveal too much of her inner life. Although emotional, she appears to have a strong need to exercise control.

The empathy in her handwriting tells us she is caring, friendly and often helpful. The lessons of life have taught her not to be



wasteful with time, talent or her resources.

With regard to her question: If she writes uphill most of the time and considering the rest of her handwriting, I see a positive person with faith in a higher being.

If you would like to have your

handwriting analyzed in this newspaper, write to Lorene C. Green, a certified graphologist, at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please use a full sheet of white, unlined paper, writing in the first person singular. Age, handedness and full signature are all helpful, and objective feedback is always welcomed.

Coupon book helps Foundation

Looking for a gift that would please any golfer? The Arthritis Foundation is offering a great holiday stocking stuffer, a Michigan Golfer's Coupon Book with 500 rounds of free golf.

The book is available for a \$25 donation. The 264-page coupon

Exercising for fitness is as important for people with arthritis as for anyone else, and golf is a good form of exercise for people with arthritis.

book lists all the public golf courses in Michigan, including the address and directions to the course, telephone number, number of holes, par for the course with total yardage and cost to play the course.

There are more than 350 public golf courses throughout Michigan that are participating in offering two for the price of one coupons in the book. Several of the courses

have validation coupons for more than one round of golf.

Exercising for fitness is as important for people with arthritis as for anyone else, and golf is a good form of exercise for people with arthritis.

For more information about arthritis or the Golfer's Coupon Book, call the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter, at (800) 968-3030 or (810) 350-3030.

Christmas from page 1C

had made for them, then rinsed out their stockings, hanging them by the chimney to dry. When they were done, they gathered around Papa and he told his story.

"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house," Sharp said, waving her hands in an all encompassing motion. "Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse..."

Her presentation of Moore's poem was a memorable one, but it wasn't until she finished with the "Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night," did she let on why she chose to use it for Papa's story.

"That was written by my great-grandfather, Clement Moore, in 1822," she said. "Actually, written is probably the wrong word. I think he must have put down some couplets on the back of an envelope, but it was never written down."

Moore's poem was such a hit that even more relatives came the next year to hear him tell it.

"A cousin came from Yonkers and wrote it down on the back of the envelope," Sharp said. "She

'Thomas Nast put Santa Claus at the North Pole and had the elves help make the toys, but Mrs. Claus didn't come along until 1927.'

Florence Dinghy Sharp

went home and had it published in the Troy Sentinel. She was so excited she hurried back to show Papa. He was so furious because she had given away his Christmas present that she was banished from the house for many years."

Parts of the published poem reflect the cousin's lack of knowledge of the Danish language. According to Sharp, Donner and Blitzen should have been "dunder and blitzen," meaning thunder and lightning.

The poem became part of public domain because of its appearance in the newspaper, but in 1848 Moore did an anthology of children's stories and the last one in the book was his beloved "A

Visit from St. Nick," Sharp said.

Moore willed his estate to Columbia, which maintained it as a children's museum. "It was kept going by the pennies of New York school children," Sharp noted. "Today, what's left of it can be found "on Ninth Avenue between 21st and 22nd Street by the Big Boy and the Gap."

Up in years, Sharp has had to curtail her travels, although she said her holidays will take her to Charlotte, N.C., and San Diego, Calif., with a stop in Chicago — "If you care to come along, just hop on my sleigh."

So, with the help of Visual Specialties of Farmington Hills, Sharp has come up with video presentation about Papa and his poem. The cassettes cost \$20 each, plus 4-percent sales tax, payable by check, Visa or MasterCard, and are available in a regular version and signed for the hearing-impaired.

To order, write to Visual Specialties, 26105 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48334. For more information, call 476-5400.



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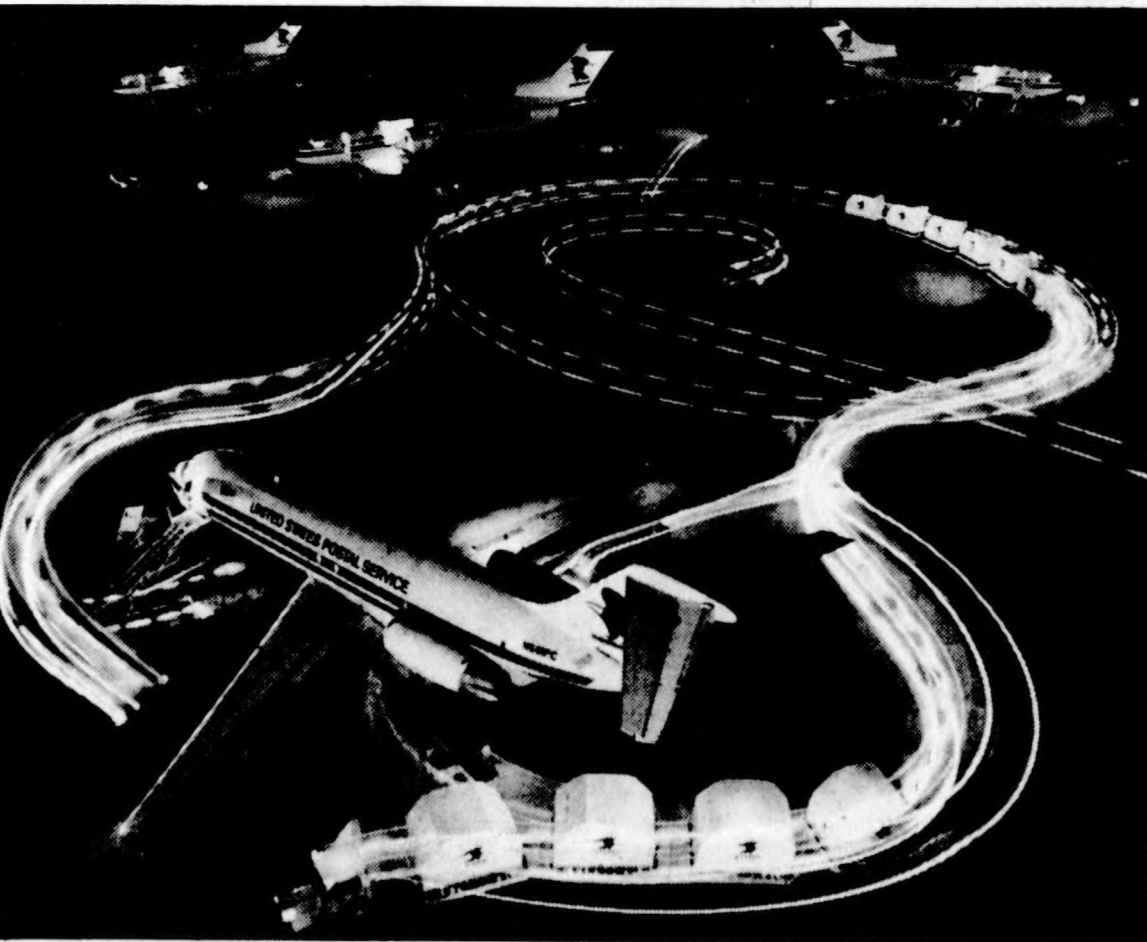
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Alzheimer's: More than memory loss

Memory loss. Disorientation. Night wandering. Tantrums. These have become the all-too-familiar signs of someone suffering the degenerative effects of Alzheimer's disease. Recently, however, several other characteristics have been added to the list.

According to research conducted at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, people with Alzheimer's who live at home — even those who are still relatively young and physically fit — are far more susceptible to falling than elderly people who do not have the disease. In many cases, all it takes is one serious injury from a fall to start the downward spiral toward death.

There are two large contributors to the increase in falling in the Alzheimer's population, said Dorothy Booth, assistant professor of nursing. "The cognitive impairment caused by the disease has something to do with it, but home safety may also play a critical role."

In a yearlong study, Booth and two graduate nursing students followed 11 people with Alzheimer's who were living at home with a full-time caregiver. The median age of the patients and the caregivers was 68, although some patients were as young as 59. In that year, 36 percent of the Alzheimer's patients fell at least once, while none of the caregivers fell. One patient even fell 10 times in a month.

■ 'These patients don't know where their body is in space. When you ask them to grasp an object, they may come in way below or above it.'

Dorothy Booth

"These patients don't know where their body is in space," Booth said. "When you ask them to grasp an object, they may come in way below or above it. That's why pathway clutter, stairways and poorly lighted areas are particularly hazardous for them."

To protect those with Alzheimer's from dangerous tumbles, and in the process keep them living at home as long as possible, Booth urges caregivers to have a health professional skilled in this area conduct a home safety evaluation.

Often, the suggestions will be as simple as switching to a cordless phone or improving the lighting. But in other cases, pieces of furniture that emerge as obstacles may have to be removed or relocated.

"It behooves us to preserve the dignity of people afflicted with Alzheimer's by keeping them active and preventing injury," Booth said. "And safety-proofing the home is a big step caregivers can take in that direction."

A significant but sometimes overlooked reason behind the falling is that Alzheimer's creates ha-

vic with visual-spatial perception. According to Dr. Jonathan Trobe, professor of ophthalmology and associate professor of neurology at the U-M Medical Center, poor visual judgment is an early warning sign of the disease.

Common symptoms include difficulty recognizing people, interpreting pictures and distinguishing between objects, especially when their borders are obscured or overlap. For example, someone with Alzheimer's may have difficulty identifying a bottle of beer in a crowded refrigerator or a particular article of clothing in a full drawer.

Yet when such people get their eyes checked, the results are normal. This is because the vision problems associated with Alzheimer's have nothing to do with the eye itself, but with the way the brain interprets the eye's signals.

"It seems as if their problems are visual, but they aren't; they're spatial," Trobe said.

After years of research, Trobe and collaborator Charles Butter, a U-M professor of psychology, have come up with a simple

screening test for the visual-spatial impairment typical of Alzheimer's, a test that may lead to earlier diagnosis of the disease.

It is a user-friendly screening designed to help optometrists and ophthalmologists easily distinguish between a visual-spatial impairment and a merely visual one.

"Often these patients are told they are crazy, that there's nothing wrong with their eyes," Trobe said. "This test allows us to make the diagnosis early and keep them from circling around trying to figure out what the problem is."

Trobe emphasized, however, that the test itself cannot make a diagnosis of Alzheimer's. Rather, it is designed as a screening tool that tells eye-care providers when a patient should be sent for a full neurological evaluation.

Trobe's screening test, described in a recent issue of "Archives of Ophthalmology," consists of four exercises. Patients must identify a simple line drawing, a drawing embedded in a grid of lines, drawings that overlap each other, and images that are fragmented and have deleted parts.

Currently, Trobe is sending the test to selected eye-care providers around the country who will use it on their patients and report back on its effectiveness. He eventually hopes to distribute the test to optometrists and ophthalmologists nationwide.

Memories



ART EMANUELE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Holiday event: Mary Letters, director of special events, hangs special remembrance ornaments on the Hospice Services of Western Wayne County Inc.'s Tree of Memories. Set up in the J.C. Penney Court of Westland Mall, the tree helped raise money to help terminally ill patients and their families.

ANNIVERSARIES

Douglas

Eugene and Elanore Douglas recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary with a family dinner.

The couple exchanged vows on Nov. 18, 1948. She is the former Elanore Pfau.

Twenty-year residents of Livonia, the Douglases have three children — Edward of Texas, Ruthann of Canton and Sheila of Rochester Hills. They also have five grandchildren.

He is a retired Detroit Police sergeant. Members of St. Collete's Church in Livonia, they recently returned home from a trip to Europe.



Elmendorf

Leonard and Mary Kathleen (Kitty) Elmendorf of Garden City celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 28.

The couple exchanged wedding vows in 1943. She is the former Mary Kathleen Pritchett.

The Elmendorfs together built the home they have lived in since 1949. They have four children — Leonard Jr. of Livonia, Robert of Garden City, Darlene of Livonia and Claudia of Garden City —

and two grandchildren — Bryan and Christina Joy.

He is currently the superintendent at Schreiber Roofing Company where he has worked for more than 42 years. He also is a private pilot and enjoys making frequent scuba-diving trips to the Caribbean.

She also is very active in water sports and swims five days a week at the YMCA. She also enjoys traveling and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Together, they have enjoyed many activities, such as roller skating dancing, square dancing, boating and water skiing.



MICHAEL and TISH LINDMAN of Garden City announce the birth of **MATTHEW MICHAEL** Oct. 27 at Annapolis Hospital. He has a brother, Brent. Grandparents are Bob and Doris Jean Lindman of Plymouth and Virginia Kozakowski of Southgate.

CRAIG and CATHY GIBSON of Inkster announce the birth of **ALLISON RENEE** Oct. 30 at Annapolis Hospital. She has two sisters, Catelynn Elizabeth and Samantha Ruth. Grandparents are Al and Sandy Harrison of Garden City, Carl Renard of Alpena and Roy and Rachel Gibson of Curtis.

DREW and JAN STIRTON of Northville, formerly of Plymouth, announce the birth of **IAN ROBERT** Oct. 7 at Providence Hospital. He has a brother, Alec. Grandparents are Ned Stirton of Novi and the late Carol Stirton and Robert and Sandra Briggson of Saline.

RANDY and MICHELE BIRDWELL of Plymouth announce the birth of **MEGAN DANIELLE** Oct. 25 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. She has a brother, Trevor.

ROGER and KRISTIN COPE of Inkster announce the adoption

of **CHRISTIAN MICHAEL**, born Dec. 8, 1992. Grandparents are Dolores Voss of Canton and the late Harold Voss, William and Bertie Cope of Symsonia, Ky., William Chambers of Springfield, Mo., and the late Diane Chambers, and Bill and Kim George of Springfield, Mo. Great-grandparents are Hoy and Opal Cope of Benton, Ky., Gladys George of Springfield, Mo., and

the late Leland George, and Dale and Elizabeth Chambers of Nixa, Mo.

PHILLIP and VALERIE CARMACK of Livonia announce the birth of **MOLLY KATHLEEN** Oct. 29 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She has three sisters, Allison, 6½, Melanie, 4½, and Andrea, 2½.

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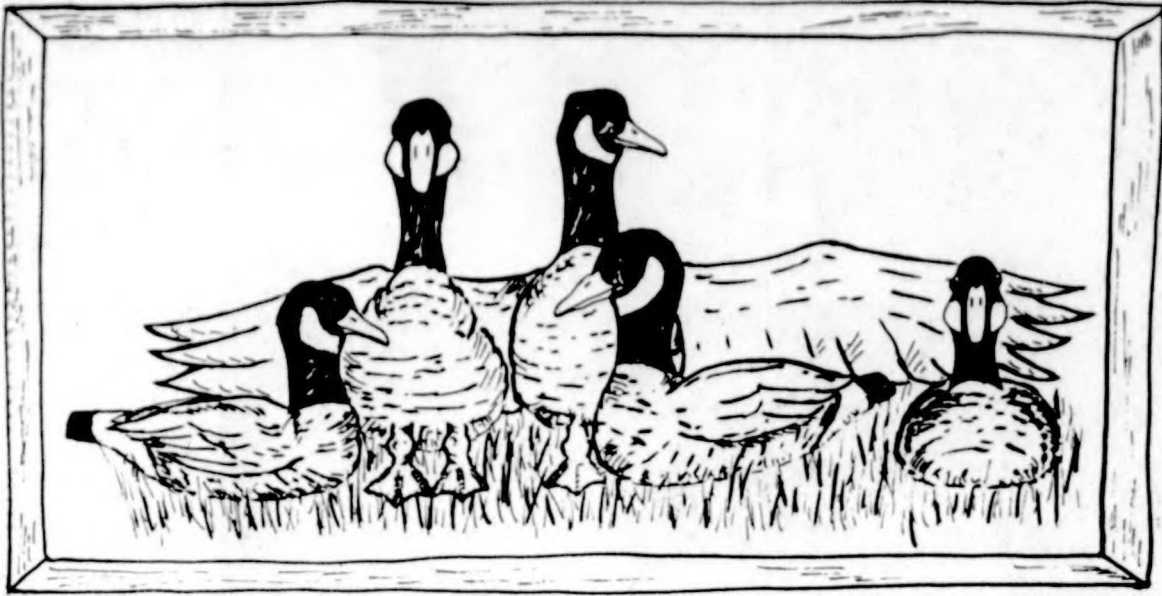
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Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

HOME LINE 953-2020



Natural world provides interesting family portraits



Family reunion: Mallards begin pairing in fall. Courtship activities can be seen before ice forms on ponds and lakes. A pair that has bonded together will stay close to each other, demonstrating their attachment.



TIMOTHY NOWICKI

NATURE TRAILS

The holidays are a time of the year when families make every effort to get together. Sharing stories, helping with the meals and maintaining that family bond are just some of the reasons why people enjoy gathering for the holidays.

When you look out your window into the back yard, you are also looking at some family gatherings. Though it is hard for us to recognize the Corvus from the Brachyrhynchos in the crow family gathering, or the Branta from the Canadensis in the Canada goose reunion, there are family units making up the group.

Not all birds stay in family units after nesting. Many birds actually force their young from the area in which they were raised. When the young return from migration, or establish their own nesting territory next season,

they will return to the general vicinity of where they were raised.

Some adult birds, like cardinals for instance, remain close to their mate of the previous season. If that season was successful, and both birds are alive, they will likely mate and raise another brood. Maintaining a bond through winter allows early nesting in spring.

Mallards begin pairing in fall. Courtship activities can be seen before ice forms on ponds and lakes. A pair that has bonded together will stay close to each other, demonstrating their attachment. In winter, when food can be scarce, it has been shown that bonded pairs are dominant over pairs that are not bonded. So it is to their advantage to pair early.

A small group of crows seen in our yard is a family unit made up of the two adults and their young of the previous nesting season. Large groups are composed of two or three family units. Next nesting season the young from the previous season will help the adults gather nesting material and feed the young — their brothers and sisters.

Small groups of Canada geese seen in winter are also family units made up of the adults and surviving young of the year. Adults help to protect inexperienced young, and if they migrate, the adults show the young where to go. It was once thought that all animal behavior was inborn, or innate. Behaviorists are now recognizing that there is more learning involved in all kinds of animal behavior.

Next time you look out your window, you may be framing a family portrait of backyard birds.

Tim Nowicki is a naturalist at Independence Oaks County Park in Oakland County. He lives in Livonia.

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Meet a couple of old war heros.

A couple of old war heros marched into the First Battle of Bull Run in 1861 and lived to tell about it. They carried young Michigan Captain William Withington into a bloody battle. They caught the red dirt as he collapsed from a gunshot wound. And endured six long months imprisoned behind enemy lines. But these boots definitely shined as the Captain received his Congressional Medal of Honor.

An old war hero's story is just one path you'll take by joining the Historical Society of Michigan. Since 1828 this group has been dedicated to preserving Michigan's past for a richer future. Become a member and join in our enlightening conferences and meetings and receive Society publications. Come along on trips to historical sites and museums and meet new members and friends. It's a journey well worth taking.

For more membership information, please call: (800) 437-1828

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CREATIVE LIVING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1993

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

Book beat's rich with good reads

This is such a busy time of year that once in a while we need to put our feet up and read or study a good book. Following are a few for your consideration:

■ "Enjoying Roses" (Ortha Books, \$39.95) is a beautiful and beautifully written account of these popular flowers. The history of the rose is fascinating reading and is just the beginning of the abundant information. Major classes of roses are presented in very clear terms so that the proper rose can be selected for a particular site. Information about planting roses in the ground or containers guides the most novice gardener. Nothing has been omitted — from their care, arranging, displays for judging, propagation and hybridizing, to enjoying them in crafts and recipes and photographic tips. The encyclopedic section of the "most outstanding roses available commercially in the U.S." is icing on the cake.

■ In "Designing a Garden" (Camden House, \$19.95 paper), author Allen Peterson guides us through the seasons in his one-acre garden in southern Ontario. He explains how the garden is an extension of the home and how and why he combines many kinds of plants for great effect and continuous bloom. Peterson gives design ideas that can easily be adapted to our own gardens. I like the way he correlates everything and the naturalness of his garden. A wealth of information.

■ "The Living Garden: The 400-year History of an English Garden," by George Ordish (Houghton Mifflin, \$10.95 paper), describes a tract of land first cultivated in 1556: the first garden planted by the homemaker, with herbs. We become acquainted with and follow the family and the subsequent owners, and learn about the earth and all the intricacies of plants and animals (domestic and wild) and their relationships to the ecology and each other. Captivating narrative.

■ "Invitation to the Garden: A Literary and Photographic Celebration," edited by Ferris Cook (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$45), contains exquisite photos taken by nine distinguished garden photographers that artfully illustrate the plants. Cook reminds us that the garden season begins at different times of the year for gardeners and there is hope and anticipation whenever that is. The photos are accompanied by poems and essays that relate to the garden and the plants.

■ Enjoy a section of "The Secret Garden" by F.H. Burnett (when Mary opens the door for the first time); H.G. Wells' account of orchids; a letter by William Morris in 1888 to his daughter; and much more. This is a volume to treasure at any time of the year, to reflect upon nature and its meaning. Beautiful.

■ "Willows, The Genus Salix," by C. Newsholme (Timber Press, \$34.95), may surprise you with the number of these plants suitable for home gardens. Newsholme takes us through the selections by size, which will help in siting them. They have grown throughout the world since before the Ice Age and have been used in medicine, for crafts and as ornamentals and ecological plants in the landscape. The line drawings show the complexity of the various species.

■ "Miniature Orchids," by Jim and Barbara McQueen (Timber Press, \$24.95), is just the book for orchid lovers with limited space. The McQueens operate an orchid nursery in Australia and write from personal experience. The descriptions and growing needs of 298 of these small plants are accompanied by color photographs.

■ "Improving Your Garden Soil" (Ortha, \$8.95) gives all the lowdown on how to accomplish this goal and suggests plants for problem places. Several public gardens that had poor soil and their success in improving conditions are featured. A good basic book on the subject.

■ "Wild Woodlands: The Old-growth Forests of America," by Bill Thomas (Taylor, \$35), eloquently tells the story of the native forests from under-water forests and deserts to alpine peaks. Thomas describes the life that exists here — birds, mammals and the vegetation — and explains the way they are interrelated; how the forests can regenerate through natural progression. He shares his personal experiences in these forests. His photographer's eye takes us on a visual visit with fascinating photographs.

A most happy holiday season to you all!

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859. Her fax number is 644-1314.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

- "Art As Gift" at Nelson's Gallery in Livonia features the work of area artists.
- Bob Sklar's Creative Encounters column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.



BILL HANSEN

Wily words: Librarian Federico Acerri displays the power of prose in an exhibition "Postmarks from the Heart" at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Bookmarks, collages carry his feelings

Feast on food for the soul at an exhibition by the Mad Monk. Federico Acerri brings his words of wisdom to the Livonia Arts Commission showcases in the Livonia Civic Center Library.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER



Federico Acerri's words of wisdom color bookmarks and abstract collages in a one-man show entitled

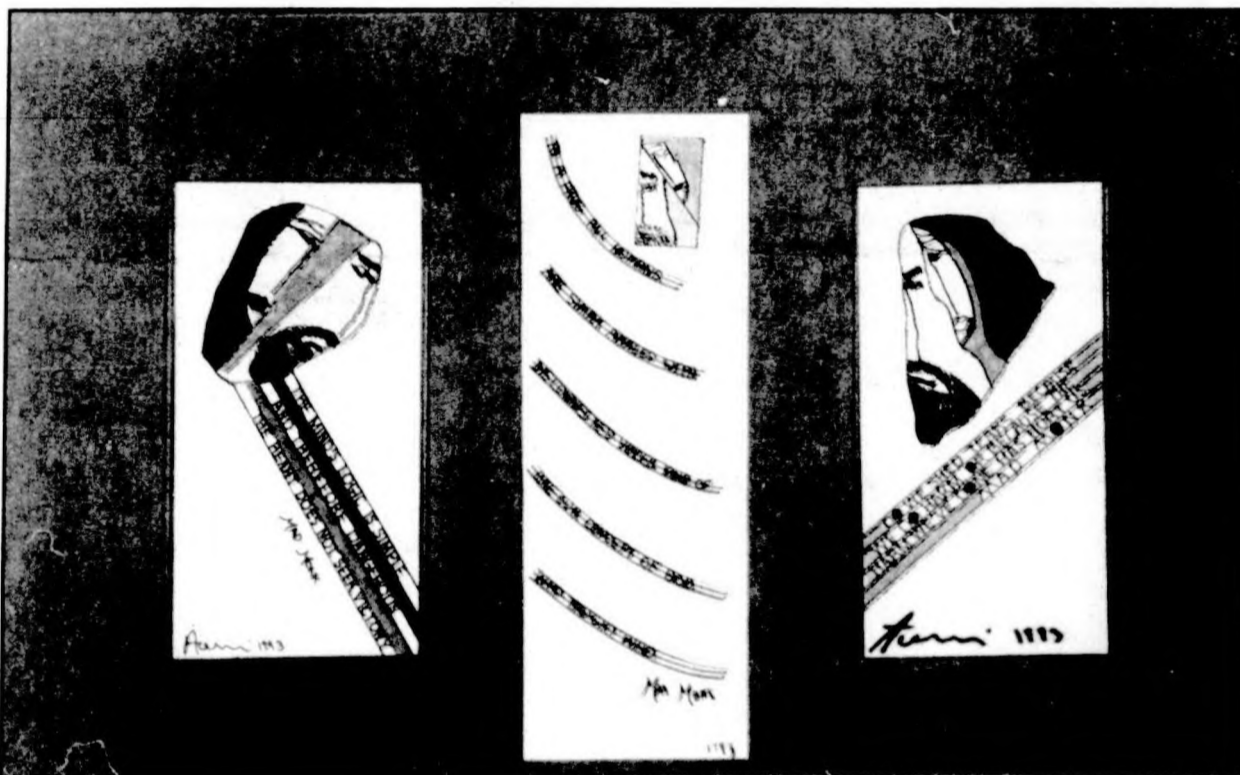
"Postmarks from the Heart" through Dec. 29, courtesy of the Livonia Arts Commission.

At least one is sure to stir you to thought.

Why not drop by on your lunch hour to feast on a little food for the soul in the two circular showcases on the second floor of the Livonia Civic Center Library, Farmington Road and Five Mile.

By day, Acerri is a mild-mannered librarian; by night, the Mad Monk, a thespian acting through an alter ego crafting prose. Culled from 54

See **BOOKMARKS**, 4D



Mad Monk: Federico Acerri crafts bookmarks to fill with thought provokers like, "A broke heart gives one more flexibility because the cracks allow the heart to expand."

DiBlasi applauded for artistic excellence

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Francesco DiBlasi's trombone-playing grandfather started him on cornet at age 3½, inspiring a lifelong love affair with music.

By age 12, DiBlasi had played the 1939 New York World's Fair. At 19, he made his conducting debut at Town Hall, directing the New York Little Symphony, comprised of 50 New York Philharmonic members.

On Dec. 14, the 66-year-old conductor/music director of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra received recognition for a lifetime of musical accomplishments. He received the Wayne County Artistic Excellence and Community Commitment Award from the Wayne County Council For

The Arts at a reception in the Historic Wayne County Building in Detroit.

Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara, a former Livonia mayor, presented the awards to 13 recipients in honor of Italian-American history. Other winners were Joseph Maniscalco, Tony Spina, Steve Antoniotti, Edward Baker, Florence Maiullo Barnes, Louella Barons, Andrea di Tommaso, Reno Garagiola, John Lobbia, Mary Castelvetero Siciliano, Frank D. Stella and Oreste J. Verlarlo.

"It was an honor to be associated with Joseph Maniscalco, Tony Spina, Frank Stella and the other recipients," said DiBlasi in an interview at his Livonia home of 24 years.

DiBlasi has had a long and illustrious career as both a musician and

conductor, his training rooted in the most prestigious music schools, including The Juilliard School of Music, L'Ecole de Pierre Monteux and Detroit Institute of Musical Art.

In 1948, he left Juilliard to accept a position conducting and playing with the famed Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo for three seasons.

Over the past 45 years, he has conducted the International Symphony of San Diego, Buffalo Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Little Symphony, Michigan Opera Company, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, Juilliard Opera, Canton (Ohio) Symphony, St. Cecilia Orchestra (Rome) and Scandinavia Symphony as well as performed under conductors Stravinsky, Copeland,

Bernstein, Mitropolous, Paray, Stokowski, Fritz Reiner and Arthur Fiedler.

One of the high points in his career came in 1950 when he "joined the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as assistant first trumpet playing on all the famous 1953-62 recordings at old Orchestra Hall."

While with the DSO, he organized the Pontiac Symphony, which recently celebrated its 40th season. At the same time, he was music director of the Michigan Opera Company for five years.

In 1964, DiBlasi went to New York for four years to play with the Metropolitan Opera, Stokowski's American

See **DiBLASI**, 4D

Artbeat features vignettes from the suburban arts scene. Write: Artbeat, Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is 313-591-7279.

■ COLOR IT BLUE

The \$1,400 in proceeds from the Livonia Historical Society's eighth annual progressive dinner Nov. 13 is ticketed for the Alexander Blue House restoration project at Greenmead Historical Village.

Local history buffs envision the 142-year-old, white-clapboard house becoming a self-supporting setting for receptions, conferences, meetings and parties. Period furniture will reflect 1880s Livonia Township.

The money will go toward expanding the road-house kitchen and living room in the back of the

Art Beat

house into a banquet room that seats 150.

The eight dinners have raised about \$25,000.

Overall, more than \$65,000 has been raised toward the \$700,000 needed to restore the two-story, 12-room house, once home to a Livonia Township civic leader on Middlebelt and Greenmead's only example of Italianate architecture.

The house was moved to Greenmead in 1987.

■ EXHIBITERS WANTED

Superior Arts, in conjunction with Westland Parks & Recreation, will sponsor the Westland

Spring Craft Show March 25-27 at the Melvin G. Baily Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road.

The new event will become a twice-yearly show, in spring and fall.

There's room for 120 artisans at the 17,000-square-foot site. Call Westland Parks & Recreation: 313-722-7620.

■ VERY SPECIAL ARTS

Very Special Arts Michigan's southeast regional committee will host a "Celebration of Arts Ability" May 6-7 at Wonderland Mall in Livonia, it was announced last week.

Meanwhile, a Very Special Arts regional art exhibit will be held March 11 to April 4 at Trappers Alley in Detroit.

Very Special Arts provides opportunities for people with disabilities to develop through the arts.

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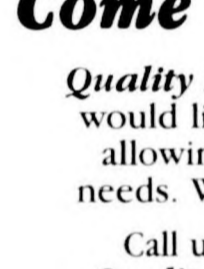
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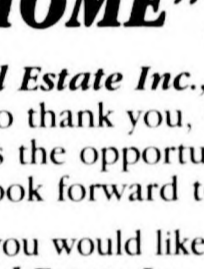
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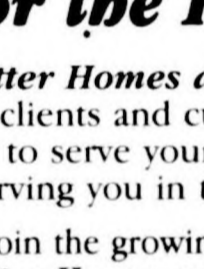
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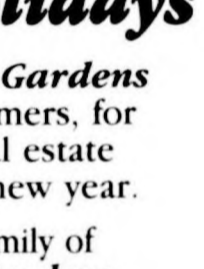
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700 sq. ft. \$225 per month

362 Real Estate Wanted
CASH NOW
Any Condition

362 Real Estate Wanted
CASH NOW
Any Condition

362 Real Estate Wanted
CASH NOW
Any Condition

362 Real Estate Wanted
CASH NOW
Any Condition

COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL OFFICE
Area Properties for Sale or Lease

366 Otc.-Bus. Space
Sale/Lease
BIRMINGHAM
SOUTH ADAMS SQUARE

366 Otc.-Bus. Space
Sale/Lease
BIRMINGHAM
Suites of 500 sq. ft.

366 Otc.-Bus. Space
Sale/Lease
ALTERNATIVE OFFICE
1-275 & 8 MILE

366 Otc.-Bus. Space
Sale/Lease
LIVONIA SHOPPING CENTER
5 Units in 1000 sq. ft. room suite

366 Otc.-Bus. Space
Sale/Lease
WALLED LAKE, Office/Warehouse
1000 sq. ft. \$400 per month

366 Commercial/Retail
CITY OF WAYNE
Michigan Ave. building on 1.2 acres

366 Commercial/Retail
FARMINGTON DOWNTOWN
Location/Location/Location!

366 Commercial/Retail
LIVONIA, PRIME LOCATION
29102 - 29120 S. Mile, 5 Mile Plaza

366 Commercial/Retail
WALLED LAKE, Office/Warehouse
700 sq. ft. \$225 per month

400 Maple EXECUTIVE SUITES
Downtown Birmingham
Private Offices From \$500

Announcing
Executive offices from 150 sq. ft.
with complete secretarial services

367 Bus.-Prof. Bldgs.
Sale/Lease
LIVONIA
Office space to share, furnished

367 Bus.-Prof. Bldgs.
Sale/Lease
WALLED LAKE, Office/Warehouse
1000 sq. ft. \$400 per month

367 Bus.-Prof. Bldgs.
Sale/Lease
WALLED LAKE, Office/Warehouse
1000 sq. ft. \$400 per month

367 Bus.-Prof. Bldgs.
Sale/Lease
WALLED LAKE, Office/Warehouse
1000 sq. ft. \$400 per month

367 Bus.-Prof. Bldgs.
Sale/Lease
WALLED LAKE, Office/Warehouse
1000 sq. ft. \$400 per month

367 Bus.-Prof. Bldgs.
Sale/Lease
WALLED LAKE, Office/Warehouse
1000 sq. ft. \$400 per month

367 Bus.-Prof. Bldgs.
Sale/Lease
WALLED LAKE, Office/Warehouse
1000 sq. ft. \$400 per month

FREE APARTMENT LOCATOR
Over 120,000 Apts on Color Video
Open 7 Days/4 Evenings

FREE APARTMENT LOCATOR
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Open 7 Days/4 Evenings

FREE APARTMENT LOCATOR
Over 120,000 Apts on Color Video
Open 7 Days/4 Evenings

FREE APARTMENT LOCATOR
Over 120,000 Apts on Color Video
Open 7 Days/4 Evenings

APARTMENTS

400 Apts. For Rent
BIRMINGHAM 870 ANR. 1 bedroom, carpet, blinds, dishwasher, walk-in closet, heat & water included. Lease \$525. 647-7079

400 Apts. For Rent
FAIRWAY CLUB
Goatside Apts. 1 & 2 Bedroom
Free Golf
Heat & Hot Water Free
Carport Included
728-1105

400 Apts. For Rent
RIVERFRONT TOWERS APTS.
Country club setting on 20 waterfront acres.
Some w/f appliances, jacuzzi, balconies.
\$393-5030

400 Apts. For Rent
FARMINGTON MANOR
Full Special, 5 days free rent. Now available 1 bedroom & studios.
478-1222

400 Apts. For Rent
FREE BEDROOM
For a limited time lease a 2 bedroom for a 1 bedroom price, PLUS:
• Free Health Club
• Free Indoor Lap Pool
• Free Steaming Hot Tub
• 24 hr. Attended Gate
478-5533

400 Apts. For Rent
GREAT APTS. GREAT LOCATIONS
\$50 Security Deposit For 1 Bedroom Apts.
RENT INCLUDES Heat & Vertical Blinds
CALL FOR SUPER SPECIAL ON FIRST MONTH'S RENT

400 Apts. For Rent
PLYMOUTH DOWNTOWN
Furnished apartments & motor homes available. No lease. Call Marie at 428-0129.
455-3682

400 Apts. For Rent
PLYMOUTH HILLS
Apt. 1 & 2 bedroom apartments.
Call 453-2800

\$600 Moves you in.
Farmington Hills 1600 sq. ft. 2-bedroom apartments or townhouses. Master suite has two walk-in closets. Two baths. Washer-dryer, blinds, attended gatehouse, intrusion alarm, clubhouse, pool, tennis courts and carports. Call 626-4396. This special offer won't last long!
Rents from \$860

400 Apts. For Rent
CEDAR LAKE Apartments
Luxury one and two bedroom apartments available.
348-1830

400 Apts. For Rent
FARMINGTON LIVONIA
Beautiful 1 & 2 bedroom Apts. And 1 Bedroom Plus Den.
477-5775

400 Apts. For Rent
MERRIMAN PARK APTS.
Merriman Rd. (Orchard Lake Rd.)
477-5775

400 Apts. For Rent
BROUGHAM MANOR
1 & 2 BEDROOMS
STARTING FROM \$455
455-1215

400 Apts. For Rent
PRESIDENT MADISON APTS.
1 Bedroom Apts. \$480
585-0580

400 Apts. For Rent
Plymouth House & Plymouth Manor Apartments
TURN UP THE HEAT COOK FOR FREE & PAY NO RENT
455-4721

400 Apts. For Rent
PLYMOUTH HILLS Apartments
FALL SPECIAL \$\$\$\$
Open Daily 12-5pm
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Oak Village
2758 Ackley Westland
721-8111
"Family Living At Its Best"
Senior Citizen's Special

WESTLAND \$50.00 OFF
FIRST SIX MONTHS RENT*
2 BEDROOMS From \$460
Glenwood Orchards
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DIAMOND FOREST APARTMENTS
471-4848
1 & 2 Bedrooms
250 SECURITY DEPOSIT

Free Heat
Cherry Hill Manor Apartments
Call 277-1280
Open 7 days a week
\$99 Security
* 13 month lease on select units

Westland's Best Value... BLUE GARDEN APARTMENTS
Close to Work! Convenient to Shopping!
Our Value Package Includes:
RENTS FROM... \$385*

! HURRY !
Luna & Village Apts. of Garden City on Venoy at Warren
Carriage House Apts. of Plymouth on Haggerty at Joy
CALL NOW
! FOR LIMITED TIME ONLY !

ROYAL OAK/TROY
Doggy, Doggy, where will you live?
280-1700

NOB Hill APARTMENTS
1 Bedroom \$420
2 Bedroom \$485
Security Deposit from \$250
Free Heat and Cooking Gas
373-5800

\$99 security deposit*
1 & 2-bedroom from \$485
326-8270
6737 N Wayne Rd. Westland

Great Living - SUPER Value!
Scotsdale Apartments
1 BEDROOM from \$455
2 BEDROOM from \$525
455-4300

Surprisingly Affordable In Farmington Hills
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments
Available For Immediate Occupancy!
661-2200

WAYNEWOOD APARTMENTS
\$99 SECURITY DEPOSIT
1 MONTH FREE RENT ON SELECTED UNITS
427-6970

Now Open... PARKCREST APARTMENTS
Westland's Newest Complex
On Warren Ave., E. of Newburgh
522-3013

The CROSSINGS
LAST CHANCE! \$40 OFF/MONTH ON REMAINING UNITS*
Sample 2 bedroom floor plan
455-2424

Splash! Splash!
All Year Long In Our Indoor Pool!
FREE HEAT! from \$470
721-2500

Franklin Square APARTMENTS
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WESTLAND WILDERNESS PARK APARTMENTS
Warren Ave., 1/2 mile E. of Newburgh
425-5731

400 Apts. For Rent
REDFO...
PARKS...
ROCHESTER...
OAKBRI...
FRANKI...
TOWN...
FF APAR LOC...
NOVI...
SOUTHFIELD...
CLINTON T...
ANN ARBOR...
APAR SEA...
1-800-7...
FAST F...
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FREE HEAT...
WALK-IN...
24 H...
MANAGED BY...
SOUTHFIELD...
RENT FF...
2 or 3 br...
great room...
bath...
basement...
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Kitchenette...
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353-6777
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Exercise roo...
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SECURITY C...
12 Mile &...
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SOUTHFIELD...
PARK L...
Large 2 bed...
dryer, carpo...
355-...
Civic Center bet...
SOUTH...
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ad for additional...
to qualified applic...
Wahfield Apts.
Southfield
WHITEHALL...
1 MONTH'S...
Spacious 2 Bed...
Starting at \$671...
Heat on selecte...
557-0311. Con...
ed on 8 Mile/Gr...
SOUTHFIELD...
\$399 MON...
FREE HEAT CI...
Quiet Location...
Lighted Parking...
Close. Extra L...
Rent From \$475...
WELLING3...
355...
Managed by Ka...
South Lyon...
PONTI...
APART...
2 MONTH...
1 Bedroom...
2 Bedroom...
FREE...
Ask about our i...
On Pontiac I...
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• Central Heat...
• Swimming Pool...
• Laundry Facilities...
• Balconies or Pat...
• Intercom...
• Dishwashers...
• Disposals...
• Air Conditioning...
• Window Insoper...
Close To Shopper...
VILLAGE AP...
362-...
TROY: Sunny, sp...
1 bath apartment...
carport, \$615 + u...
lease available.
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Three O...
We have a...
Save up...
Immediate!...
382-...
Waters (17 Mi

400 Apts. For Rent REDFORD AREA 1 & 2 bedroom... PARKSIDE APTS. 532-9234

ROCHESTER HILLS RIVERS EDGE TOWNHOUSES Starting At \$695 \$200 SECURITY DEPOSIT

OAKBROOK VILLA 2 and 3 bedroom townhouses Ranging from \$399 to \$500

1500 BRANDT 1 & 2 bedroom... \$475 plus security deposit

NOVI 348-0540 Across from 12 Oaks Mall SOUTHFIELD 354-8040

APARTMENT SEARCH 1-800-777-5616 FAST FREE EASY

WEATHERSTONE TOWNHOUSES 350-1296 Franklin Rd. S. of 13 Mile

TRAVEL LODGE QUALITY INN ECONOLIDGE Kitchennettes • Free Cable

HO HO HO Home Sweet Home AT Franklin River Apts.

SECURITY DEPOSIT \$150 12 Mile & Telegraph 356-0400

PARK LANE APTS Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath with private entry, washer, dryer, carport.

WESTLAND PARK LANE APTS 355-0770

South Lyon PONTRAIL APARTMENTS 2 MONTHS FREE

400 Apts. For Rent SOUTHFIELD 5000 MOVES YOU IN

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1500 BRANDT 1 & 2 bedroom... \$475 plus security deposit

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South Lyon PONTRAIL APARTMENTS 2 MONTHS FREE

400 Apts. For Rent WEST BLOOMFIELD FIT FOR A KING-(SIZED BED)

ROCHESTER HILLS RIVERS EDGE TOWNHOUSES Starting At \$695

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1500 BRANDT 1 & 2 bedroom... \$475 plus security deposit

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402 Furnished Apts. For Rent BIRMINGHAM New studio apartment

ROCHESTER HILLS RIVERS EDGE TOWNHOUSES Starting At \$695

OAKBROOK VILLA 2 and 3 bedroom townhouses Ranging from \$399 to \$500

1500 BRANDT 1 & 2 bedroom... \$475 plus security deposit

NOVI 348-0540 Across from 12 Oaks Mall SOUTHFIELD 354-8040

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PARK LANE APTS Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath with private entry, washer, dryer, carport.

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404 Houses To Rent CLASS LAKEFRONT 2 bed executive 4 bedroom

ROCHESTER HILLS RIVERS EDGE TOWNHOUSES Starting At \$695

OAKBROOK VILLA 2 and 3 bedroom townhouses Ranging from \$399 to \$500

1500 BRANDT 1 & 2 bedroom... \$475 plus security deposit

NOVI 348-0540 Across from 12 Oaks Mall SOUTHFIELD 354-8040

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HO HO HO Home Sweet Home AT Franklin River Apts.

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412 Townhouses Coonced For Rent ALBANY HILLS SOUTHFIELD

ROCHESTER HILLS RIVERS EDGE TOWNHOUSES Starting At \$695

OAKBROOK VILLA 2 and 3 bedroom townhouses Ranging from \$399 to \$500

1500 BRANDT 1 & 2 bedroom... \$475 plus security deposit

NOVI 348-0540 Across from 12 Oaks Mall SOUTHFIELD 354-8040

APARTMENT SEARCH 1-800-777-5616 FAST FREE EASY

WEATHERSTONE TOWNHOUSES 350-1296 Franklin Rd. S. of 13 Mile

TRAVEL LODGE QUALITY INN ECONOLIDGE Kitchennettes • Free Cable

HO HO HO Home Sweet Home AT Franklin River Apts.

SECURITY DEPOSIT \$150 12 Mile & Telegraph 356-0400

PARK LANE APTS Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath with private entry, washer, dryer, carport.

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South Lyon PONTRAIL APARTMENTS 2 MONTHS FREE

414 Southern Rentals LEBYWOOD EPICONT - Lumbered Studio

ROCHESTER HILLS RIVERS EDGE TOWNHOUSES Starting At \$695

OAKBROOK VILLA 2 and 3 bedroom townhouses Ranging from \$399 to \$500

1500 BRANDT 1 & 2 bedroom... \$475 plus security deposit

NOVI 348-0540 Across from 12 Oaks Mall SOUTHFIELD 354-8040

APARTMENT SEARCH 1-800-777-5616 FAST FREE EASY

WEATHERSTONE TOWNHOUSES 350-1296 Franklin Rd. S. of 13 Mile

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SECURITY DEPOSIT \$150 12 Mile & Telegraph 356-0400

PARK LANE APTS Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath with private entry, washer, dryer, carport.















































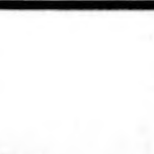



WESTLAND PARK LANE APTS 355-0770

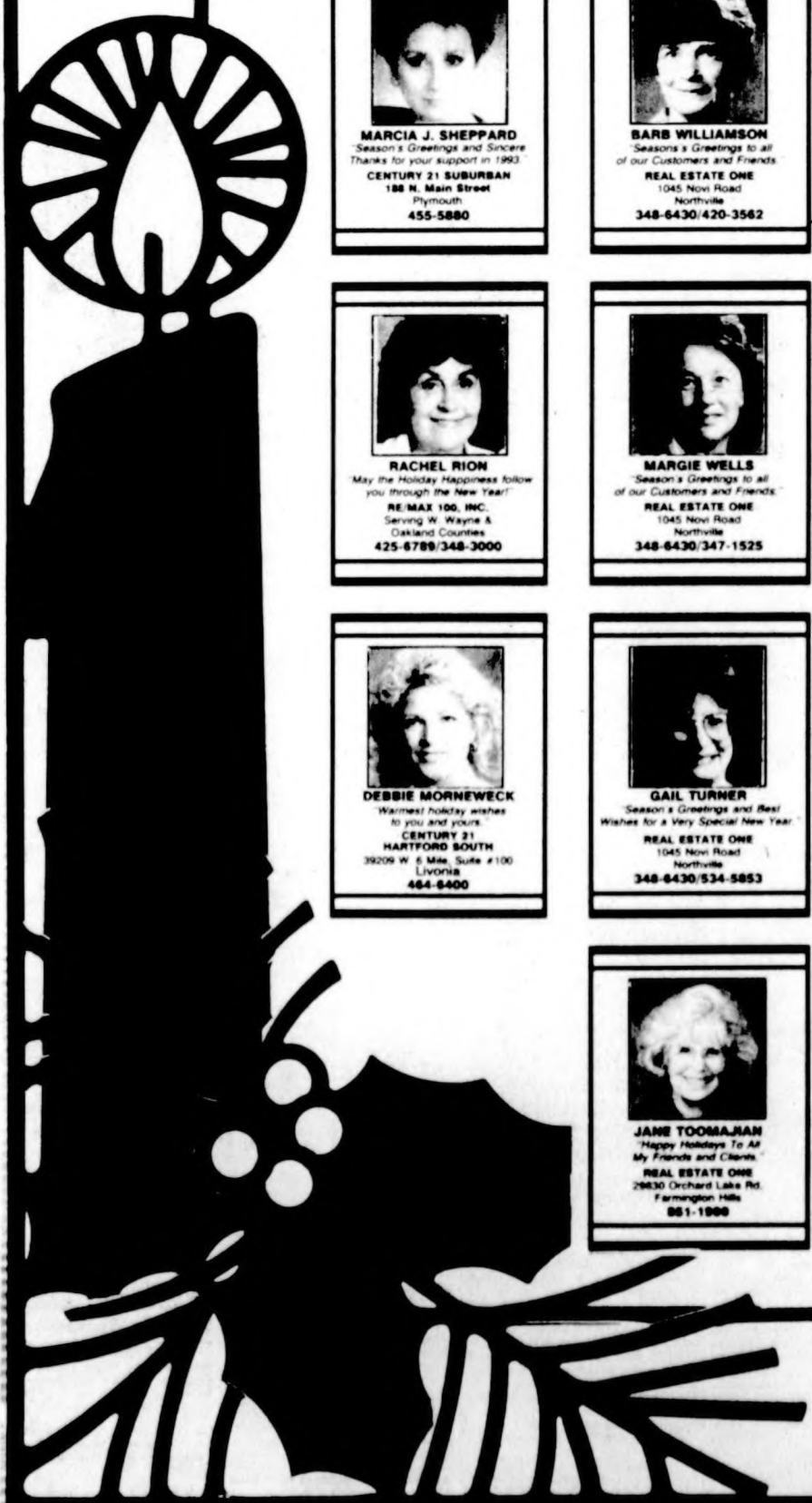
South Lyon PONTRAIL APARTMENTS 2 MONTHS FREE

Season's Greetings

In appreciation of our association during the past year, we extend our best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to Everyone.

From Your Local Realtors

 <p>JOHN MARKER Season's Greetings and Sincere Thanks for your support in 1993 CENTURY 21 ELITE 11555 Farmington Livonia 522-7826/488-5864</p>	 <p>HELEN RIDGWAY I wish you Joy, Peace, Love and Prosperity in 1994 CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Merriman, Garden City 522-3290</p>	 <p>MONICA TALO Season's Greetings to All of our Customers and Friends CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Merriman, Garden City 522-3290</p>	 <p>DEBI MILLER I wish you all Peace and Prosperity for the New Year CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Merriman, Garden City 522-3290</p>	 <p>DAVID & SANDY BOEGEHOLD Best Wishes for a Happy, Safe Holiday Season CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Merriman, Garden City 522-3290</p>	 <p>LAUREL ASH Happy Holidays To You and Your Family CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Merriman, Garden City 522-3290</p>	 <p>DORA SWINEA Best Wishes for a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Merriman, Garden City 522-3290</p>	 <p>PETE CREMONA Best Wishes for a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Merriman, Garden City 522-3290</p>
 <p>JOANNE SCOTT May the Blessing of the Holiday Season be with you throughout the year CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Merriman, Garden City 522-3290</p>	 <p>PAM KING Warm wishes for the Holidays & thanks for a wonderful year CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 45500 Ford Road, Canton 483-4300</p>	 <p>DEB DENOMME Happy Holidays to all my friends and clients CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 45500 Ford Road, Canton 483-4300</p>	 <p>MARGIE MOORE Happy Holidays to all of our customers and friends & may "God Bless" CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 45500 Ford Road, Canton 483-4300</p>	 <p>MIKE SCOTT Best wishes for a Happy, Safe and prosperous New Year CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 45500 Ford Road, Canton 483-4300</p>	 <p>TIM CLARK Happy Holidays to you and your family CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 45500 Ford Road, Canton 483-4300</p>	 <p>CINDY LAWSON I wish you love & happiness in '94. God Bless CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 45500 Ford Road, Canton 483-4300</p>	 <p>FRED WACHT Season's Greetings and sincere thanks for your support in 1993 CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 45500 Ford Road, Canton 483-4300</p>
 <p>CAROL O'RILLY GARGARO Season's Greetings and Sincere Thanks for your support in 1993 O'RILLY REALTY INVESTMENTS 688-8844/403-1953 Office / Beeper</p>	 <p>MARGE TACK Season's Greetings and Sincere Thanks for your support in 1993 CENTURY 21 SUBURBAN 180 N. Main Street Plymouth 455-5880</p>	 <p>GAIL WOODOWSKI Best Wishes for a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year REAL ESTATE ONE 1045 Novi Road Northville 348-6430/348-0904</p>	 <p>VIRGINIA MARTIN Happy Holidays To All My Friends and Clients REAL ESTATE ONE 1045 Novi Road Northville 348-6430/348-3064</p>	 <p>JAMES & CRYSTAL HALLEY Happy Holidays to your family from our family CENTURY 21 RE MAX 100, INC. 39500 Orchard Hill Place, Suite 130 Novi 348-3000 or 1-800-29 REMAX</p>	 <p>NADA ILICH The Best to you in the New Year Thank you for many successful years! CENTURY 21 MADA, INC. 33443 Nine Mile Rd Farmington Hills 477-9800</p>	 <p>MYRTLE ZACK Season's Greetings To All My Customers, Clients and Friends CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 38208 W. 8 Mile, Suite # 100 Livonia 484-6400</p>	 <p>KATHY ROCKEFELLER Warmest Holiday Wishes to all my loyal customers RE MAX 100, INC. Serving W. Wayne & Oakland Counties 348-3000/425-8789</p>
 <p>MARCIA J. SHEPPARD Season's Greetings and Sincere Thanks for your support in 1993 CENTURY 21 SUBURBAN 180 N. Main Street Plymouth 455-5880</p>	 <p>BARB WILLIAMSON Season's Greetings to all of our Customers and Friends REAL ESTATE ONE 1045 Novi Road Northville 348-6430/420-3562</p>	 <p>CYNTHIA DROBOT Health and Happiness to All My Friends and Clients in 1994 REAL ESTATE ONE 29630 Orchard Lake Rd Farmington Hills 851-1900/309-0903</p>	 <p>ALLEN KING, CRS, GRI, RAM Holiday Greetings to all best wishes for a great New Year THE PRUDENTIAL GREAT LAKES REALTY 626-6853</p>	 <p>MARLENE C. KLIMECKI Special thanks to my clients wishing you the best in '94 RE MAX WEST, INC. 261-1400</p>	 <p>SANDY SERBEN WITH OVER \$1 BILLION SALES IN '93 I can get the job done! Thanks to all the loyal people who have made me so far! MAYFAIR REALTORS 16325 Middlebelt Livonia 522-8000</p>	 <p>JOHN W. COLE Season's Greetings to all of our Customers and Friends CENTURY 21 JOHN COLE REALTY, INC. 23443 Plymouth Rd Livonia 937-2300/455-8430</p>	
 <p>RACHEL RION May the Holiday Happiness follow you through the New Year! RE MAX 100, INC. Serving W. Wayne & Oakland Counties 425-8789/348-3000</p>	 <p>MARGIE WELLS Season's Greetings to all of our Customers and Friends REAL ESTATE ONE 1045 Novi Road Northville 348-6430/347-1525</p>	 <p>DIANE HOWARD May the Spirit of the Holidays Fill Your Heart with the New Year REAL ESTATE ONE 217 W. Ann Arbor Rd Plymouth 455-7000/406-6189</p>	 <p>FRANK D'ANGELO Best wishes for a happy, safe & prosperous New Year CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 38208 W. 8 Mile, Suite # 100 Livonia 484-6400</p>	 <p>LISA JONES Best wishes for a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Merriman, # 103, Garden City 522-3290</p>	 <p>JUNE KOHLER, GRI, CRS Happy Holidays To All My Friends and Clients CENTURY 21 BOW 37172 Six Mile Livonia 484-7111</p>	 <p>JOHN W. COLE Wishing you God's Peace for the Season & New Year Mayfair 16325 Middlebelt Livonia 522-8000</p>	
 <p>DEBBIE MORNEWECK Warmest holiday wishes to you and yours CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 38208 W. 8 Mile, Suite # 100 Livonia 484-6400</p>	 <p>GAIL TURNER Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a Very Special New Year REAL ESTATE ONE 1045 Novi Road Northville 348-6430/534-5853</p>	 <p>INDIRA BHAGAT Season's Greetings and Sincere Thanks for your support in 1993 REAL ESTATE ONE 23365 Farmington Rd Farmington 477-1111/478-3473</p>	 <p>ROSE DAY Happy Holidays to all my friends and clients CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 38208 W. 8 Mile, Suite # 100 Livonia 484-6400</p>	 <p>JOE COMBIGLIO Happy Holidays To All My Friends and Clients CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 38208 W. 8 Mile, Suite # 100 Livonia 484-6400</p>	 <p>CHARLOTTE JACUNSKI May the Miracle of Christmas fill your heart with joy CENTURY 21 BOW 37172 Six Mile Livonia 484-7111</p>	 <p>JOANNE SALVADORE Season's Greetings and Sincere Thanks for your support in 1993 CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 38208 W. 8 Mile, Suite # 100 Livonia 484-6400</p>	
 <p>JANE TOOMANJAN Happy Holidays To All My Friends and Clients REAL ESTATE ONE 29630 Orchard Lake Rd Farmington Hills 851-1900</p>	 <p>ROZANNE WALSH May the Holiday Happiness follow you through the New Year RE MAX in the HILLS 1400 Woodward, at Quaker Farmington Hills 648-9000</p>	 <p>RITA ATHARABON Happy Holidays To All My Friends and Clients CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 38208 W. 8 Mile, Suite # 100 Livonia 484-6400</p>	 <p>BARRY HIRSCH Happy Holidays To All My Friends and Clients CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 38208 W. 8 Mile, Suite # 100 Livonia 484-6400</p>	 <p>MARY BLEDSO Season's Greetings and Sincere Thanks for your support in 1993 CENTURY 21 BOW 37172 Six Mile Livonia 484-7111</p>			



BOB SKLAR, EDITOR
963-2113
DOUG FUNKE,
BUILDING & BUSINESS WRITER
963-2137

The Observer

INSIDE:
Classifieds
Datebook, Page 3E

BUILDING & BUSINESS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1993

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BUILDING & BUSINESS' SUBURBAN STARS

Suburban Stars highlights promotions, transfers, hirings and other key personnel moves within the suburban business community. Send a brief biographical summary - including the towns of residency and employment and a black-and-white photo, if desired - to: Suburban Stars, Building & Business, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is 313-591-7279.

Catherine A. Peters of West Bloomfield was named information service department director for the Ann Arbor-based Michigan Peer Review Organization, an independent group that ensures medically necessary health care services are delivered effectively and efficiently.



Peters

William G. Watters of Troy has joined First of America-Southeast Michigan as vice president-floor plan group manager of commercial banking. He comes to the bank with 25 years experience in commercial banking.



Watters

David F. Murphy of Plymouth was named senior partner of the Southfield office of Source Finance, a national executive recruiting firm specializing in accounting and financial searches.



Murphy

Lisa Pilzner of Livonia was named a supervisor of the Chrysler-Plymouth Dealer Planning Team in the media department at the Southfield office of Bozell Worldwide Advertising. The former senior media planner has been with Bozell 12 years.



Pilzner

Gregory Stein of Bloomfield Hills has joined Southfield-based BBDO advertising as senior vice president-management supervisor for the Dodge Car account. He had been national advertising manager for Volkswagen of America.



Stein

Marc A. Borovoy of Farmington Hills was named president of the Michigan Podiatric Medical Association president. He's chief of podiatric surgery at Providence Hospital, Southfield.



Borovoy

Lisa Morris of Livonia was promoted from assistant account executive to account executive at Hermanoff & Associates, a Farmington Hills public relations firm. She'll continue to work on the agency's health care, real estate, service and nonprofit accounts.

See STARS, 2E



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JAGDFELD

Breaking ground: Farmington-based Hughes Management Group will convert to steel framing by 1994. The cost of lumber is causing builders to look at this building alternative.

Builder lays framework for steel houses



The high cost of lumber, partly caused by government restrictions limiting the harvest of our forests and dwindling supplies of old-growth trees, has spurred builders nationwide to consider alternatives to wood framing.

BY JANICE TIGAR-KRAMER
SPECIAL WRITER

As Hughes Management Group winds up construction at McGee's Grove, a 35-home site condominium in Westland, it is initiating some groundbreaking work that's causing area builders and home buyers alike to take notice.

The last three homes in the subdivision, off Palmer between Newburgh and John Hix, will be framed in steel.

Buyer acceptance of this new con-

cept has been excellent, according to Bill Bliss, Hughes marketing manager. All but one of the homes is sold (an 1,850-square-foot split level priced at \$115,000), and the company has received numerous inquiries from potential buyers.

Like builders nationwide, John Hughes, owner of Farmington-based Hughes Management, has tracked lumber prices for a couple of years and is alarmed by the upward trend. By 1994, all of Hughes residential developments will be steel framed, a

building alternative that is widely catching on across the country.

"We didn't decide to convert to steel overnight. We've done a tremendous amount of homework to re-engineer our existing plans," said Hughes, who's also built high-end wood framed homes in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

For starters, the builder worked out construction details with The American Iron & Steel Institute and consulted with residential steel frame builders worldwide. For several months, he worked with Southfield-based LBA Engineering to convert his plans to steel.

Smede & Son Steel Co., a Redford Township supplier of steel members used for wood framing, put Hughes in touch with Dale Industries, a Dearborn-based supplier of the

light-gauge steel used for steel framing. For the consumer, the cost for steel framing is the same as wood framing, according to Hughes.

"We've had a lot of cooperation from suppliers. Of course, there's a learning curve to this conversion, but all of the same building principles apply to steel. Our carpenters put down their hammers and pick up a screw shooter," Hughes said.

All structural and non-load bearing walls, headers, beams and floor joists are framed with channel-shaped, galvanized steel sections (called C-sections), ranging from 14 to 22 gauge. For now, roof trusses are fabricated on the job, but Dale Industries is working on a more efficient component, Hughes said.

See BUILDER, 2E

Trade group gives auto dealers a clearinghouse

BY DOUG FUNKE
STAFF WRITER

Some 260 members - "practically 100 percent of dealers in the metro area," according to Rod Alberts - belong to the Detroit Auto Dealers Association.

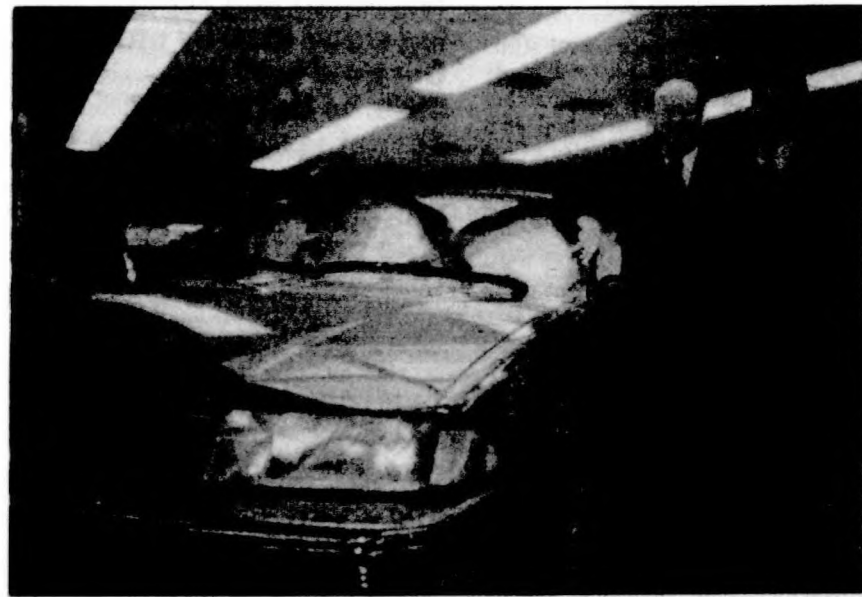
Alberts is executive director of the association, which is headquartered in Troy.

"It's probably one of the oldest in the country, founded in 1907 or 1908," said James P. Tellier, owner of Chevrolet dealerships in Detroit and Grosse

See TRADE 2E,

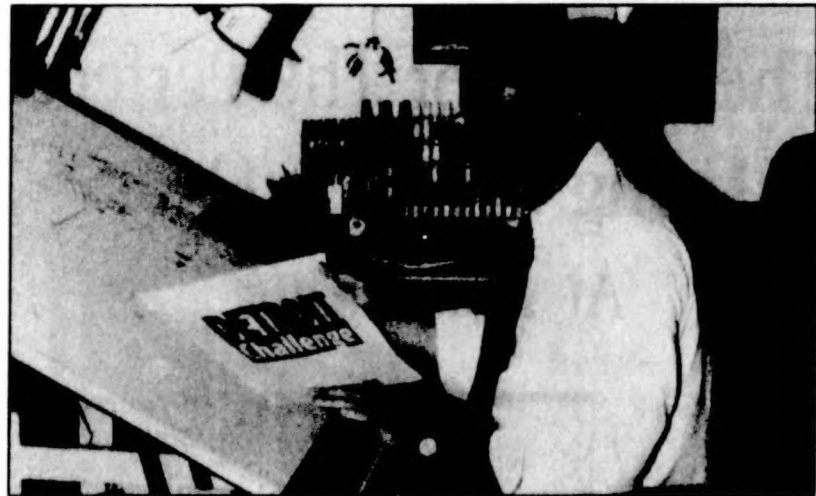


Car guys: DADA president James P. Tellier (left) and executive director Rod Alberts work to promote the business interests of people who own car retail operations.



ART EMANUELE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Visual Identity:
Jim Graham
of RK&A
Design
Group
worked
closely
with
his staff
to develop
the
Detroit
Challenge
logo.



Suburban firms help boost Detroit

Southfield-based RK&A Design Group has designed and produced a logo for the Detroit Challenge, completing the initial phase of the metro campaign's visual identity.

Jim Graham, RK&A account executive, worked closely with his design staff to develop the logo.

"Our priority was to create a strong, instantly recognizable element that would unite and identify the many factors and participants in the Detroit Challenge," Graham said. "The primary objective in developing this logo was to portray Detroit as the solid, viable, approachable business community we believe it to be."

Other suburban firms that have joined RK&A Design Group in accepting the Detroit Challenge include Lee Somerville, attorney,

Bingham Farms; Edwards, Koshw, Melton & Co., accountants, Troy; Brose Media Services, Southfield; Dalach & Zielinski, accountants, Troy; Dun & Bradstreet Information Services, Troy; Signature Associates, Southfield; Laser Recharge, Southfield; IBEC Computer Repair, Novi.

The Detroit Challenge is a business development effort launched by metro Detroit businesses with the goal of attracting 100 new businesses to the city in a six-month period ending May 6. To learn more about the Detroit Challenge, call 1-800-852-4520.

"One of the things we want to convey with the logo is that participating firms are actively involved in business growth in the Detroit area, and are seriously committed to achieving it," Graham said.

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<p>New 1993 TEMPO GL 4 DOOR</p> <p>Stock #14698 Was \$13,690 IS \$9969*</p>	<p>New 1993 MUSTANG LX</p> <p>Stock #14936 Was \$15,113 IS \$11,401*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 PROBE</p> <p>Stock #15157 Was \$15,833 IS \$12,950*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 PROBE GT</p> <p>Stock #11931 Was \$19,141 IS \$16,209*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 THUNDERBIRD LX</p> <p>Stock #11583 Was \$17,230 IS \$14,303*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 TAURUS GL 4 DOOR SEDAN</p> <p>Stock #14992 Was \$17,436 IS \$12,979*</p>
<p>NEW 1993 TAURUS LX 4 DOOR</p> <p>Stock #12156 Was \$20,136 IS \$14,979*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 CROWN VICTORIA LX</p> <p>Stock #14734 Was \$22,259 IS \$17,080*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 RANGER XLT 4X2</p> <p>Stock #14507 Was \$12,313 IS \$8713*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 RANGER 4X2 SUPER CAB PICKUP</p> <p>Stock #13862 Was \$14,696 IS \$11,080*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 RANGER 4X4 XLT PICKUP</p> <p>Stock #14158 Was \$17,690 IS \$14,108*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 RANGER 4X4 SUPER CAB XLT PICKUP</p> <p>Stock #13723 Was \$17,990 IS \$14,402*</p>
<p>NEW 1993 F-150 STYLESIDE PICKUP</p> <p>Stock #11529 Was \$11,818 IS \$9580*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 F-150 4X2 SUPER CAB PICKUP</p> <p>Stock #14482 Was \$20,164 IS \$14,806*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 AEROSTAR XL PLUS</p> <p>Stock #15332 Was \$19,492 IS \$14,101*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 AEROSTAR EXTENDED LENGTH</p> <p>Stock #15240 Was \$21,312 IS \$16,462*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 EXPLORER SPORT 4X4</p> <p>Stock #14739 Was \$23,993 IS \$19,252*</p>	<p>NEW 1993 FESTIVA L</p> <p>Stock #12108 Was \$7436 IS \$5980*</p>

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