

WAND protest slams war toys

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

To protest the sale of war toys, a coalition of activists, mostly women, took on Rambo, G.I. Joe and an arsenal of artillery Friday at a Troy toy store last Friday.

The rally was headed by the Detroit Chapter of Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament. About 50 protesters circled in front of the Children's Palace from 11 a.m. to noon.

The store was chosen as the metro area site for the group's annual protest against the sale of war toys, which some contend promote violence and war.

Lorraine Lerner, a Southfield resident and a WAND co-chairwoman, cites "the alarming and skyrocketing growth of war toy sales" as the reason for the rally, held on the busiest shopping day of the year.

"There has been an increase of 700 percent in war toy sales since 1983, in 1986 over \$1.1 billion was spent in the U.S. on those toys," Lerner said.

TO ENCOURAGE kids to have war toys "means we want children to assume war has value to us, that conflicts are best settled by force or the world is divided by good guys and bad guys," said Friedman of West Bloomfield, quoting a War Resisters League pamphlet.

Jodi Levin, communications director with the Toy Manufacturers of America, challenged WAND's

'There has been a 700 percent increase in war toy sales since 1983.'

— Lorraine Lerner
Southfield resident

position. "Most parents are law-abiding citizens who would like to be involved in a war about as much as they would like to jump in front of a truck," she said.

She maintains most kids go through a stage where they act out "some manifestation of the good vs. evil theme," by playing cops and robbers or army. Backing this, Levin said G.I. Joe has been the best selling toy in America the past two years.

"Growing up in a loving household is more crucial to a child's development," she added.

Susan Taylor, a member of the Northminister Presbyterian Church in Troy, said:

"I have been crying every year when I see my sister and brother-in-law buy war toys for my niece and nephew," she said.

"I hate to see them pointing toy guns at each other. If their solution to a problem is to shoot somebody they don't like, it's just awful."

TAYLOR, AND others who support the aims of the coalition, encourage adults to buy toys that pro-

mote cooperative play and creativity.

WAND endorses these guidelines for selecting toys:

- Look the toy over carefully — What will the child be learning or imitating during play with this toy?
- Read the packaging. What is the attitude toward life promoted by this toy?
- What is the toy's play value? Can it be used in a variety of ways? Is it appropriate for this child's age level? Will it isolate the child in play or assist the child in social development?
- Does it help the child to develop imagination without being lost in a world of overwhelming fantasy?
- Does it assist the child in learning to cope with and bring order to the real world?
- Will you feel comfortable with the child's play with this toy?
- Are the concepts presented by the toy appropriate for a child?
- What values does the toy promote? Does it promote concern for the earth? Is it in tune with what I want to teach my child?



CAMILLE MCGOY/staff photographer

Eileen and Matthew Kaplowitz, ages 7 and 11, join the protest by WAND and other activists to take a break from protesting war toy sales during the holiday season.

brevities

DEADLINES

Announcements for Brevities should be submitted by noon Monday for the Thursday issue and by noon Thursday for the Monday issue. Bring in or mail announcements to the Observer, 489 S. Main, Plymouth 48170.

READING, STUDY SKILLS

Tuesday, Jan. 4 — City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation in cooperation with Improved Reading Centers of Michigan will be sponsoring an Advanced Reading and Study Skills Program to help students achieve more in less study time, in-

crease self-confidence to attain higher academic goals, increase SAT and ACT scores, improve study skills, better prepare for continuing education, protect education investment, and to help maintain scholarship eligibility. The first class meeting is sched-

uled for 6:30-9:30 p.m. Jan. 4 in the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer at Theodore. The remaining classes will be 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays (Jan. 12, 19, 26) for the rest of the month. The charge of \$195 includes 12 hours of instruction in four three-hour classes.

STORYTIME SIGNUP

Tuesday-Wednesday, Jan. 5-6 — Registration for preschool storytime for ages 3½ to 5 will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Dunning-Hough Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth. The first of the four classes will begin Tuesday, Jan. 12, and last some 30

minutes. Parents must remain in the library.

Registration for the toddler storytime for ages 2 to 3½ will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday. The first of these four classes will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 13, and will last some 20 minutes.

Madonna course looks at Japanese way of life

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

An educated Japanese man or woman knows about 2,200 language characters.

Dr. Robert Rann concentrates on teaching 50 to his beginning Japanese language students at Madonna College.

Offered for the first time last September, with just as much emphasis on culture as language, the course is "meant to demystify Japan," according to Rann.

"People have the notion (the culture) is impenetrable. Japan is not a race set apart," said Rann, who also teaches at Oakland University and has a doctorate in Japanese language and literature.

RANN BECAME sold on Japan 15 years ago during a summer seminar on Asian music and theater in Seattle. Watching bunraku — a puppet theater featuring almost life-sized puppets, Rann decided "this is the life for me."

"In school, I had no idea where Japan was," he admitted.

From 1977 to 1980, he studied at the National Theatre of Japan in Tokyo.

His course at Madonna covers the basic structures of the Japanese language and cultural differences between Japanese and Western society that affect communication in business and service situations.

"I think the class would fade with just language," said Rann, who gives a historical perspective with weekly lectures on topics like Confucianism, Buddhism and samurai.

"It's not an oral Newswatch — we give a historical perspective."

RANN IS impressed by his Madonna students — mostly working

The course at Madonna covers the basic structures of the Japanese language and cultural differences between Japanese and Western society that affect communication in business and service situations.

'People have the notion (the culture) is impenetrable. Japan is not a race set apart.'

— Dr. Robert Rann
course instructor
at Madonna College



adults. Of the 25 people who registered, 17 have stayed with the course to the end. Because of the difficulty of the language, he is used to higher dropout rates.

"Many languages share a common background," Rann said. "This is not the case with Japanese. You can't parrot the language. It's so very different from ours."

The language portion of the course focuses on both spoken and written Japanese.

One of his students is a Westerner married to a Japanese man. A couple of other students work for Japanese companies. But most are taking the course just for the fun of it, Rann said.

"There are those who are curious as to why Japan does the things it does," Rann said.

BUT IF anti-Japanese sentiment surfaces in the classroom — Rann sticks to a presentation of the facts and lets students draw their own conclusions.

"Because of today's business climate, there is some backlash regarding business," he said. "It's more complicated than any of us can understand. I try not to influence my students one way or the other. I play devil's advocate, give them the other side of the story. I function in the role of a scholar, not a rabble-rouser."

Rann hopes his students will come away from his class with some appreciation of a totally different culture from their own.

"Before just the Western scholars studied Japan. Now that adults with no vested interest are beginning to study, it's an important step. It's time to begin understanding the emergence of East Asia as a whole. This part of the world will come to

play an ever increasing role in society."

Dr. Ernest Nolan, Madonna's dean of humanities, said the college decided to offer Japanese "because it seemed to be an appropriate time."

THE COLLEGE has a thriving international business curriculum and also a specialist in Oriental art on staff.

Because of the strong initial response, Nolan said the school hopes to offer two years of course work in Japanese language and culture.

Finding an instructor was no easy task.

"We searched for an instructor for quite a while. We found that only a few schools, like U-M, U-D, and Oakland University have an Asian studies component. Instructors are few and far between."

The school is pleased with Rann. "He's made it very congenial. Any language course demands a good deal of time and energy."

Madonna recently started a foreign semester abroad program. Currently a student is spending a semester at Landsdowne College in London, England.

"Down the road we'd like to offer (students) a semester in Japan. It's an exciting prospect."

Beginning Japanese will be offered again 4-7 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 6 to April 20. Registration will continue through Wednesday, Dec. 23.

A continuation of the beginning course will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 9 through April 23.

For more information on either course, call 591-5052. Madonna College is at I-96 and Leran Rd in Livonia.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*"Ah! when shall all men's good
Be each man's rule, and universal peace
Lie like a shaft of light across the land
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Through all the circle of the golden year?"*

The Golden Year 1842
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Jacobson's

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Scavenger hunt thefts investigated by police

A wide variety of more than 200 items from shrubs to manhole covers were confiscated Dec. 19 by Canton Police in connection with what is believed to be a scavenger hunt party attended by teenagers and young adults.

Christmas lights, cigars, a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, hub caps, a basketball net, ladies underwear, garden hoses, a plastic lamb, dead animals and a Santa Claus statue were among the goods confiscated.

Call the Canton Police Department, 397-3000, if you believe something of yours has been stolen.

"Someone had a party and decided to have a scavenger hunt," said Canton Police Lt. Larry Stewart. The party was believed to be given in the neighborhood of Cherry Hill and Lilley

and Canton. Stewart said. More than 30 cars had gathered at Griffin Park on Canton Center just north of Cherry Hill. Stewart said. Most of the cars left when police arrived.

Two juveniles — believed to be involved in the scavenger hunt — were arrested in another area of Canton for possession of stolen property. They were later released to their parents, Stewart said.

Four other people, ranging in age from 15 to 18, were arrested about 10:50 p.m. for violating the park open hours. The park closes at 10 p.m.

In a separate incident, about \$100 and cigarettes were stolen about 3 a.m. Dec. 20 from Total gas station at Canton Center and Ford roads in Canton.

A white male — described as between 18 and 25 years old, with shoulder-length brown hair and clean shaven — entered the gas station, Stewart said.

He showed a chrome plated gun and demanded the money and cigarettes, Stewart said.

He drove off northbound on Canton Center Road in a black, old mid-sized car.

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He drove off northbound on Canton Center Road in a black, old mid-sized car.



Books for Focus:HOPE

Pupils at Eriksson Elementary School who otherwise probably wouldn't be receiving new books new books to be passed on to Focus for gifts. Shown filling the box are Mandy Swartz (left) and at Christmas time to students, eight Marisa Kovach.

excursions

BEST OF THE SOUTHWEST

City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with Bianco Travel & Tours, is sponsoring a Best of the Southwest tour in February. To help promote the show, a slide show will be held beginning at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, in the Plymouth Cultural Center. Refreshments will be served. Everyone present will have a chance to win a prize, including a one-day trip courtesy of Bianco.

The Southwest trip is a 10-day/nine-night trip departing Wednesday, Feb. 17, with a charge of \$949 per person (based on double occupancy). The tour includes airfare, bus transportation in Arizona and Nevada, nine nights accommodations, sight-seeing tours to Sonora desert museum, Old Tucson, Nogales, Mexico, San Xavier Mission, Tombstone, Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, seven full breakfasts, one lunch, six dinners. For information, call the recreation office at 455-6620.

HAWAIIAN SHOW IN DAYTON

The Y Travelers of the Plymouth Community Family YMCA is offering an overnight trip to Dayton, Ohio, for an authentic Hawaiian Show in the country Feb. 20-21. The charge is \$99 per person. For information call 453-2904.

SPAIN

A trip to Spain is being offered by the Y Travelers March 4-12 for a charge of \$799 per person. For an itinerary call the Plymouth YMCA at 453-2904.

NEW MEXICO

The Y Travelers of the Plymouth Community Family YMCA are sponsoring an eight-day, seven-night trip to New Mexico March 16-23, 1988, at a charge of \$699 per person. To sign up or for information, call 453-2904.

SAN DIEGO TRIP

City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with Bianco Travel & Tours, is offering a trip to San Diego, featuring the Lawrence Welk Resort Village. The 10-day, nine-night trip will depart Sunday, March 20. The charge of \$959 per person (based on double occupancy) includes airfare and bus, seven days six nights and two shows at the Lawrence Welk Resort Village, two days two nights in Las Vegas, one day one night in Palm Springs, Seaworld, San Diego Zoo, city tours of Palm Springs and San Diego, Harbor Cruise, Universal Studios. For information, contact the recreation office at 455-6620.

IRELAND

The Y Travelers are planning a five-day, four-night trip in Ireland

April 20-24 at a charge of \$799 per person. For an itinerary call the Plymouth Community Family YMCA at 453-2904.

GATLINBERG

A trip to Gatlinberg, Tenn., and a visit to "Dollywood" is planned for four days and three-nights by the Y Travelers from June 17-20 for a

charge of \$329 per person. For information call 453-2904.

CANADIAN ROCKIES

A trip to the Canadian Rockies by train is being planned by the Y Travelers for 13 days and 12 nights from July 5-17, at a charge of \$1,779 per person. For information call 453-2904.

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Campaign aims to honor women vets

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

Women who served in the armed forces and as civilian volunteers during the Vietnam war fear their contributions have become a forgotten chapter of American history.

They — and many of the men they worked with or whose lives they helped save — are incensed that a Washington, D.C., commission has vetoed proposed plans for a statue of an Army nurse to be erected on the grounds of the national memorial to those who died in Vietnam.

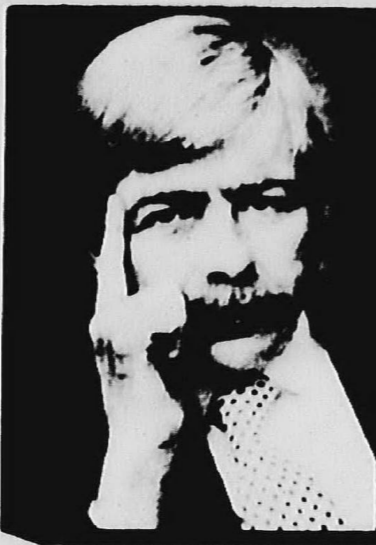
"What a slap in the face of women," said Christine Giulio of Farmington Hills, who served as a Red Cross volunteer in Vietnam in 1966-67. "No one is aware that all these women were there. It's a deep, dark secret. We just visited the memorial in the spring and my goodness, there's plenty of room. That (a statue of a woman) would be a real asset."

Giulio said she supported the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project Inc. The project's goal is to have a statue honoring the nation's female Vietnam veterans placed near the Vietnam Memorial.

"If it wouldn't have been for women, that wall in Washington would be significantly higher and longer," said project spokeswoman Jacqueline Hanson.

A statue near the wall depicts three men.

ABOUT 10,000 women served in Vietnam as nurses or doctors, and thousands of others were there run-



'The minute I heard about the campaign a year ago I said, 'Of course. It's necessary. It makes sense.' And I wanted to help.'

—Ron Wech
Vietnam veteran

ning post stores, serving as civilian clerical help or volunteering with such organizations as the Red Cross and the USO.

The black marble wall with the roster of the dead at the Vietnam Memorial site lists eight women, including Diane Hedwig of Detroit, a first lieutenant who died Nov. 30, 1967. At least three women working with the Red Cross also died during the war.

RON WECH of Farmington Hills was a medic in Vietnam in 1969-70, serving with the First Infantry at Danang and later near the Cambodian border just before the incursion that touched off college protests and the Kent State killings. He said the

toll suffered by many of the women wasn't in terms of their number of dead but in the stress of treating the wounded for 16-hour days for months on end.

Wech said that helicopter-evacuation techniques perfected in Vietnam brought wounded people to hospital bases who, in other wars, would have died at the front.

Many of those casualties were still living but their wounds were hopeless, he said. "Imagine working on someone with five units of blood going in and six units coming out at the same time (through wounds). They did that all day, every day. They were on an endless belt of human carnage. It's amazing any of them came out of it with any sanity."

As far as J. Carter Brown's statement that the statue isn't needed because the healing process is complete, that's patently untrue. It's false.

Brown is chairman of the Washington Fine Arts Commission, the organization that rejected the statue.

Wech has asked Farmington Hills schools to participate in a letter-writing campaign urging members of Congress to support proposed House and Senate bills that would overturn the Arts Commission ruling. And he passes out literature from his Videoasis store in Sterling Heights and has placed literature supporting the women's memorial at a handful of Farmington Hills businesses.

"The minute I heard about the campaign a year ago I said, 'Of course. It's necessary. It makes sense.' And I wanted to help," he said. "They were very much with us. The women were under fire. They lived in the mud like we did. It was every bit as bad for them as it was for any grunt. Their contribution and sacrifice and hardship have been ignored, pure and simple."

ROBERT HYSKO, a Westland police officer and commander of one of the two Westland VFW posts, has volunteered to help the women in their campaign for a memorial.

"There's most definitely a need," said Hysko, a medic with the 12th Evacuation Hospital in 1966-67.

"People tend to think of war as a male operation, but I served with

women and saw what they did, and I definitely feel they deserve some recognition. I feel very strongly about it."

Barb Lilly of Battle Creek is the Michigan co-ordinator of the project. She recruited Wech for the project a year ago when they met on a Channel 56 program about the Vietnam war. They recognized each other in the studio — they had known each other at Wayne State, and her sorority once serenaded his fraternity after a football game.

There were 20,000 miles and 20 years later," said Wech.

Lilly was a Red Cross volunteer with the 191st Airborne in Phan Rang and with the 1st Infantry in Lai Khe. "I wrote a book about Vietnam," she said. "I've only gotten reactions on it so far, but I did it mainly as a catharsis anyway."

Those interested in volunteering to help with the project or in getting information about it can write Barb Lilly at 125 Brentwood Drive, Battle Creek, Mich. 49015.

The project has raised about \$300,000 and has pledges for \$500,000, say officials of the Minneapolis-based fund drive. They say they will need about \$1.3 million to finance lobbying and promotional efforts for the statue, to compile a list of and contact all women who served in Vietnam, and to erect the statue.

Tax-deductible checks can be sent to Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Box 45, 511 Eleventh Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55415.



The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project Inc. goal is to have a statue honoring the nation's female Vietnam veterans placed near the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

S'craft trustee opening draws 17 candidates

A field of 17 candidates will vie for the open seat on the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees.

Ten additional candidates filed last week, including three recent candidates for Livonia city office. Former mayor candidate Jack Kirksey, former treasurer's candidate Carl Groth and former city council candidate John Colley all filed for a seat on the Schoolcraft board.

Other candidates who entered the field last week include Nancy Kitzman, a finalist in her bid to fill a vacant Schoolcraft board seat two years ago. Gordon Didier, Russell Dore, David Keith, Pamela Kosteva, Thomas Nedeau and Francis Papke.

Colley, a Livonia resident, is employed by Shaw Electric Co., Livonia. He holds a bachelor's degree from Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield and is working toward a master's in business administration from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is a former Schoolcraft student.

Didier, a Plymouth resident, holds a law degree and a bachelor's in economics from the University of Michigan and a master's in business from Inter-American University, Puerto Rico. He is a partner in a Detroit-based law firm.

Dore, a Northville resident, is manager of human resource devel-

opment for Fruehauf Corp., Detroit. He holds a doctorate in education from the University of Washington and a bachelor's and master's in psychology from Michigan State University.

Groth, a Livonia resident, is a retired Burroughs Corp. employee. He is currently treasurer of Business Ventures Corp., a subsidiary of the Association for Retarded Citizens. He holds a bachelor's in business administration from the University of Michigan.

Keith, a Garden City resident, is administrative aide to Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard, D-Inkster, and a former aide to U.S. Rep. William Ford, D-Taylor. He attends Wayne State University.

Kirksey, a Livonia resident, is director of community education services for Livonia Public Schools. He holds a bachelor's, master's and educational specialist degrees from Wayne State University. He is a board member and past president of the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

Kitzman, a Garden City resident, is director of organizational development for Fairlane Health Services Corp., Birmingham. She holds a bachelor's and master's in education from Eastern Michigan University.

Kosteva, a Northville resident, is president of New Departure, Inc.,

Schoolcraft College trustees will interview all candidates. Interviews are scheduled for Monday, Jan. 4, and Wednesday, Jan. 6.

Plymouth. She holds a master's in education from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's in English speech from Central Michigan University.

Nedeau, a Westland resident, is an associate metallurgist with Delco Products, Livonia. He holds a master's in business administration from Central Michigan University and a bachelor's from the University of Detroit. He is a former Schoolcraft student.

Papke, a Livonia resident, is retired. He holds a bachelor's in civil engineering and has taught engineering classes at the University of Detroit.

OTHER candidates include:
Charles Greig of Northville, Grieg, who ran unsuccessfully for the board in June, is a retired school administrator who is now a consultant for the Wayne County Intermediate Schools. He holds a master's degree from the University of Michi-

gan and a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University.

William Knudsen of Livonia, Knudsen is a cost and technological specialist with Chrysler Motors, Highland Park. He holds a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and is completing a master's program at Central Michigan University. He also holds an associate's degree in science from Schoolcraft.

Susan Kopinski of Canton, Kopinski, Canton Township deputy finance director, holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from

the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Kevin Proust, a Livonia resident, Proust is assistant controller, director of accounting for the Gale Research Co., Detroit. He holds a bachelor's degree in management from U-M-D and an associate's degree in pre-business administration from Schoolcraft.

Judith Quayle of Livonia, Quayle, a community education instructor with the Livonia Public Schools, has recently enrolled in the school of management at Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield. She holds an associate's degree in marketing and applied management from Schoolcraft.

Ralph Richardson of Canton Township, Richardson is a manager of wage and economic analysis with Ford Aerospace Communications Corp., Detroit. He holds a master's

degree in education from Temple University and a bachelor's in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Roy Sgroi of Livonia, Sgroi, an attorney with a Birmingham-based law firm, received his law degree from the Detroit College of Law and holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

Schoolcraft College trustees will interview all candidates. Interviews are scheduled for Monday, Jan. 4 and Wednesday, Jan. 6. Schoolcraft is at 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

Board members set policy and review the budget at the two-year community college.

The vacancy occurred last month when trustee Laura Toy resigned to accept a seat on the Livonia City Council.

The new trustee will serve until June 1989.

S'craft contract ratified

Schoolcraft College has reached agreement on a new, two-year contract with college secretaries and office workers.

Secretaries will receive a 5.5 percent raise in the first year of the contract and 5 percent raise in the second year. Raises will be adjusted according to the college's employment tenure scale, a college spokeswoman said.

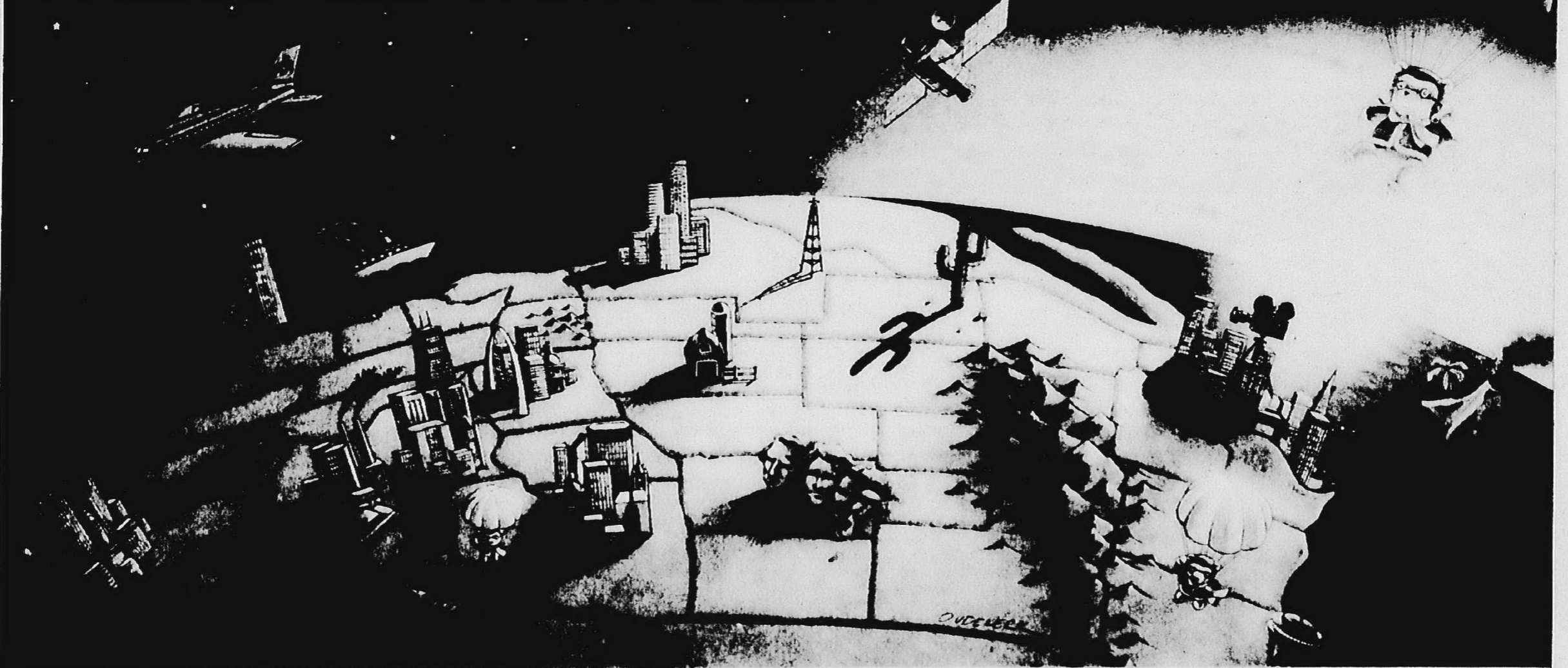
Schoolcraft College Association of Office Personnel, the Michigan Education Association-affiliated union that represents the workers.

It was the last of three union contracts settled for the 1987-88 school year.

Schoolcraft College Association of Office Personnel, the Michigan Education Association-affiliated union that represents the workers.

It was the last of three union contracts settled for the 1987-88 school year.

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December: A time for witches, pagans, too

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

"Bah, humbug" was the law of the land in Puritan England, which banned celebrations at Christmas and made it a crime to take the day off work. The birth of Christ was serious business.

Long before Christians decided on late December as their holy days, cultures around the world feasted, exchanged presents and drank in honor of the winter solstice.

Though the coldest days of winter were still ahead, in many ways the worst was over. The sun would begin its gradual return on Dec. 22. Night made its retreat.

THESE DAYS, CHRISTIAN ministers moan that the spirit of Christmas has been lost in the commercialized frenzy of the selling season and the profit motive.

"For most people, they miss the whole point. We get caught up in commercialization and making a buck, but a lot of that has very little to do (with) what Christmas is all about," said the Rev. Arthur Hunt of Ward Presbyterian in Livonia.

"Jesus came for the purpose of saving people from sin. God provided a way to restore fellowship between himself and the human race and that was through Jesus Christ. . . . If gifts and glitter is all Christmas is about, what do you have the day after Christmas? Old ribbons, torn paper, toys that are already broken and a Visa bill you can't afford to pay," said Hunt.

Yet, such clashes between the spirituality of the season and the exuberance of wine, song and presents are not products of a Yuppie-ized late-20th Century, but go back to Christmas' earliest roots.

SINCE THE SHADY days of pre-history, people have celebrated the winter solstice as a time of feasting.

By the middle of the fourth century, Christ's birthday had been set as Dec. 25 by most Christian churches in the west, winning out over such dates as April 20, May 20, March 29 and Sept. 29. (Those in the east followed suit a century later.) It is generally agreed that the season was chosen to correspond to pagan solstice festivals. For centuries, for example, followers of Mithras had celebrated his birthday on the 25th, calling it the Festival of Sol Invictus and honoring the return of the sun.

"Christianity through the ages has taken pagan holidays and worked them into the calendar. It was the best way to make converts," said Gundella, Garden City's resident witch. Though a witch, she said she celebrates Christmas.

"I celebrate every holiday," she said. "I'm an Omnist. I believe in all religions. They all teach of a universal power from which we all come and where we're all going. And they all teach you to love thy neighbor."

THE CHRISTIANS may have tried to supplant the pagan rituals, but the pagan ways often adapted themselves resiliently.

In 742 A.D., for example, Pope Zacharius prohibited Christians from participating in the customs of the season.

'Christianity through the ages has taken pagan holidays and worked them into the calendar. It was the best way to make converts.'

— Gundella

When the Puritans came to power in England in 1642, Christmas celebrations were banned as anti-religious, and a full day of work was required on Dec. 25.

And the Puritan tradition was so strong in New England that Christmas did not become a legal holiday there until 1856.

SOME THINGS about the holidays you may not have known.

MISTLETOE: Thank the Druids who were apparently quite fond of kissing, for this ritual of Christmas. The Druids ascribed magical powers to mistletoe, and their temples at Stonehenge were built in part, so they'd have a suitable place for the strange ceremonies that accompanied the cutting of this evergreen.

CHRISTMAS TREES: The Celts and Teutons honored evergreens as symbolic of eternal life. Martin Luther is generally credited with popularizing the custom of decorating a tree by putting candles on one in his home, and Germans brought the custom to the U.S. in the early 1800s.

SANTA CLAUS: Santa as a jolly gent goes back to the fourth-century days of St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop in Asia Minor of all places. The idea of gift giving associated with St. Nick spread to Europe and from there, via the early Dutch settlers, to the U.S. but the guy in the red suit we immediately conjure up is based on a cartoon drawn in 1863 by Thomas Nast.

The person perhaps most responsible for St. Nick's fame was Clement Clarke Moore, a professor of divinity in New York. On the night of Dec. 23, 1822, Moore read one his own poems to his children. It began, "Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house."

A year later, a friend sent a copy of the poem to *The Troy Sentinel*, which immediately published it. Though everyone loved it, Moore felt it was beneath the dignity of a doctor of divinity, and it wasn't until 1844 that he fessed up to authorship.

THE YULE LOG: The Scandinavians also believed in the magic of evergreens and burned them in bonfires at the time of the winter solstice. The English thought it was a nifty idea and borrowed it.

Early English Christmases were times of good cheer and much hilarity. A common practice was to let a servant or common person serve as ruler during the Christmas season, and such temporary rule was notoriously frivolous. This custom likely grew out of the Saturnalia, a Roman holiday when slaves briefly became the equals of their masters.

GIVING GIFTS: Two holidays of ancient Rome, Brumalia and Juvenalia, were merged into one in honor of Saturnus, an Italian deity of agriculture. Saturnalia lasted for

Dec. 17-24, when people were expected to give themselves up to wild joy and present New Year gifts to the emperor.

The period was characterized by processions, singing, lighting candles, adorning the home with laurel and evergreens and giving presents. Sound familiar? Men also dressed as women or paraded around in the skins of animals, and orgies were rampant.

In England, Henry VII exacted Christmas gifts according to a graduated scale based on rank. The first silk stockings in the English Court were given to Queen Elizabeth as a gift and instantly became famous when she declared she would wear no others.

In Holland and Belgium, gifts were brought by St. Nick on Dec. 6. In Czechoslovakia, he was accompanied by an angel. In Germany, the Christ Child was called Kriss Kringle and he carried gifts and a small tree. In Bulgaria, Grandfather Kole-da brought gifts while children slept. In Denmark, it was an elf, Jule-nissen. In Greece, St. Basil. In Syria, the youngest camel with the Wise Men is said to bring presents. In Switzerland, St. Lucy gives Father Christmas a hand with gifts. Gifts come from the stars in Poland, from the angels in Hungary.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: The first Christmas cards may have been sent in 1845 by W.C. Dobson, one of Queen Victoria's favorite painters who sent holiday lithographs to his friends.

The next year, not to be outdone,



STEVE RECHT (staff photographer)

Sir Henry Cole hired John Calcott Horsley, the Royal Academician, to design his card. In Horsley's card, three generations of a family were seen leaning back with glasses of holiday cheer in reach of everyone, even "little Nell."

Immediately, temperance forces criticized the card as promoting drunkenness. The next year, 1847, other families sent out cards of their own. Instead of booze accompanying the family portraits, there were such

slogans as "feeding the hungry" and "clothing the naked."

CRECHES AND CAROLS: Creches are in the news these days, with cities saying it wouldn't be Christmas without them. In fact, Christmas was without creches for most of its history — it wasn't until the 13th century that St. Francis of Assisi is credited with introducing the manger scene into Christmas lore. St. Francis also was fond of leading songs in honor of Christ and

The Celts and Teutons honored evergreens as symbolic of eternal life. Martin Luther is generally credited with popularizing the custom of decorating a tree. But long before Christians decided on late December as their holy days, cultures around the world feasted, exchanged presents and drank in honor of the winter solstice.

is thought of as the father of the Christmas carol.

THE CHRISTMAS SONG: You know the one — Chestnuts roasting on an open fire. . . . St. Francis didn't write it. Mel Tormé did, in 1946. It wasn't the product of the season at all. Trying to think cool, Tormé wrote it during a heat wave in the middle of a New York summer.



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Two jail-expansion plans proposed

By Wayne Peal
staff writer

Detroit Mayor Coleman Young proposes converting the former Detroit Receiving Hospital into a Wayne County Jail annex. But the man in charge of the jail says more prisoners could be housed at the existing jail site.

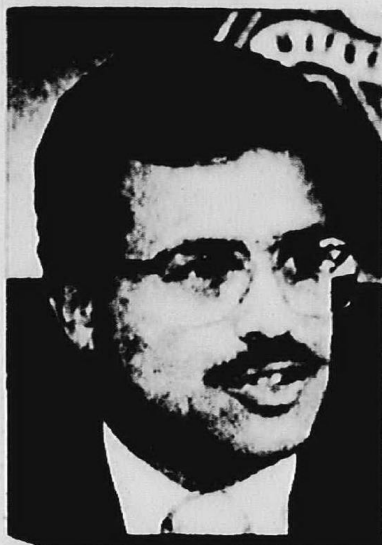
Still, Sheriff Robert Ficano isn't dismissing Young's proposal.

There's no question we need more jail space. Any proposal that would add jail space is worth listening to," Ficano said. "But triple bunking is probably the cheapest way to go."

Under Young's plan, jail cells would be built in the now closed hospital building. Its chief advantage is that it's just across the street from the county jail.

Triple bunking would add another prisoner to each jail cell. There are currently a maximum 1,700 county prisoners, most housed two to a cell.

State Rep. Justine Barns, D-Westland, has introduced legislation that would allow up to four prisoners to be housed per cell.



'There's no question we need more jail space. Any proposal that would add jail space is worth listening to. But triple bunking is probably the cheapest way to go.'

— Robert Ficano
sheriff



'There's the feeling that four in a cell is better than three.'

— Justine Barns
state rep.
D-Westland

"THERE'S THE feeling that four in a cell is better than three," Barns said.

The bill would allow additional prisoners per cell in facilities that allow adequate recreational space and supervised non-jail activities. The county jail and Jackson State Prison would qualify, Barns said.

There would also be provisions for separating hardened criminals from first-time offenders, she added.

The legislation should be considered in January, Barns said.

The county is under court order to increase its jail space.

Ficano previously sought, and

received, legislation allowing two prisoners to be housed per cell at the county jail.

Since then, Detroit has stepped up its efforts to arrest drug dealers, including those who sell crack cocaine.

Detroit's recent police crackdown on crack dealers has had "an im-

portant impact on jail space, Ficano said. The sheriff added, however, that not all the suspects are from Detroit.

About 30 percent of the people arrested during the crackdown have been from other areas, including Detroit suburbs and Oakland County, Ficano said.

Vans get rolling

Despite budget cuts, disabled veterans will be able to receive transportation to Veterans Administration medical centers in Allen Park, Ann Arbor and in other Michigan cities. Michigan's five VA hospitals are among 20 nationwide that will receive vans from the Disabled American Veterans. National and local chapters organization raised money for the vans. There will be 24 vans operating by the end of the year, a DAV spokesman said. The non-profit organization's goal is to provide transportation services at 172 VA hospitals nationwide. The DAV began providing vans this spring, when budget cut-backs forced the VA to eliminate travel benefits for many needy veterans, the spokesman said.

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Christmas Day—Jack Jones

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God Bless the Children—B.J. Thomas

Oh Come All You Faithful—Mormon Tabernacle Choir

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Noel: Christmas Eve 1913—John Denver

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen—Engelbert

Mary's Boy Child—Tony Butala

Hallelujah Chorus—Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Ave Maria—James Last

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Joy to the World—Eric Rogers Chorale

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I Saw Three Ships—Percy Faith

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day—Harry Belafonte

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Happy Christmas Everywhere—James Last

Little St. Nick—Beach Boys

I'm Spending Christmas Without You—Mickey Gilley

When the Snow Falls—Hagwood Hardy

There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays—Glen Campbell

Holly Leaves and Christmas Trees—Elvis

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Here We Come a Caroling—Ray Conniff

Let It Snow—Ferrante & Teicher

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Glory to God in the Highest—Ralph Carmichael

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Christmas to Christmas—Lee Greenwood

Emmanuel—Amy Grant

Steppin' into Christmas—Elton John

One Bright Star—Nicolette Larson

Christmas All Over the World—New Edition

Almost Christmas Time—David Meece

This Christmas—Gladys Knight

Last Christmas—Wham

We Wish You a Merry Christmas—John Gregory

I'll Be Home for Christmas—Barbara Mandrell

The Christmas Song—Nat King Cole

Christmas Wishes—Anne Murray

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer—John Schneider

Jingle Bells—Chet Atkins

Little Saint Nick—Beach Boys

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The Best Gift—Barbra Streisand

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Christmas Is—Percy Faith

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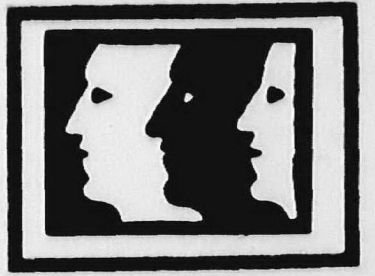
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Suburban Life

Julie Brown editor/459-2700



(P.C.)1B

Thursday, December 24, 1987 O&E



photos by BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Jack and Dorothy Strouss enjoy their time at the Christmas open house.

Center's the site for yuletide celebration

THE ADULT day center in Plymouth Township was the site of a fun-filled holiday celebration the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 16.

"It was a good time to invite all the people from the surrounding community," Mary Mauro, site manager, said of the Christmas open house.

The adult day center is among the services offered locally by Plymouth Family Service, a Plymouth Community Fund agency. The center, housed at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth Township, opened in October.

The center operates from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Clients participate in a variety of activities each day; a hot meal at noon is included.

The center provides a place where family members can drop off an older relative during the day. There are now 10 clients using the service, Mauro said. Clients are asked to make donations on a sliding-scale basis.

"Our most important thing is just getting our name out." The many contacts Mauro has made with individuals and organizations indicate there's a need for such a service.

MAURO HAS been on the job at the adult day center for just a few weeks. She's also worked with seniors in New Jersey and closer to home in Kalamazoo.

"So I've always been connected with the elderly," she said, adding "All of us are enthused with the feedback we've been getting."

Last week's open house included clients, family members, staffers, volunteers, guests and others. Those attending the event enjoyed tasty food; they also enjoyed the pleasure of each other's company.

Displays set up that afternoon at St. John's Episcopal Church told the story of the adult day center and of other services offered by Plymouth Family Service and Child and Family Service of Washtenaw.

Photos and printed items were used to tell about services the agency offers in family counseling, in-home respite care, substance abuse counseling and other areas. Some of the displays included newspaper clippings from a number of years ago, reflecting changes in family life and agency services over the years.

Please turn to Page 2

Even revelers get the blues

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Real-life family Christmas celebrations generally don't bear much resemblance to holiday get-togethers on "The Waltons."

Real-life family members can get on each other's nerves. Their Christmas celebrations don't necessarily end up looking like World War III, but those celebrations aren't picture-perfect either.

Healthy, well-adjusted people encounter heavy-duty stress during the holiday season, said Sandy Prochazka, outpatient therapist with Catherine McAuley Health Center, Mental Health Services.

"Holidays bring back memories. We all know that."

Even good memories can create sadness, Prochazka said. Those kinds of memories can serve us best when we simply cherish and remember them.

There are also bad memories, such as those associated with the death of a family member. The holiday season is family-oriented, Prochazka said. That emphasis can make the permanent loss — or temporary absence — of a loved one difficult to cope with.

SAD, ANGRY feelings aren't uncommon during the holidays, the outpatient therapist said.

"The airlines won't cooperate, the family won't cooperate, whatever it might be."

Please turn to Page 3



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Outpatient therapist Sandy Prochazka talks about ways to cope with the holiday blues. Prochazka is with the Catherine McAuley Health Center, Mental Health Services.



R.C. Horner, Bill Vollano (center) and Mary Mauro look at some of the displays set up for Episcopal Church.

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BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Celebrating the holidays

Continued from Page 1

As people live longer, there's more of a need for services for older people, Mauro said. The adult day center provides clients with opportunities to socialize and to get

out of the home. It's also helpful for family members who need a break from the demands of caring for a loved one.

"For everybody's mental health, it's just a really good concept," she said.

Among those attending the open house at the center are (from left): R.C. Horner, David Breeden, Bill Vollano, Cindy Lockman and Mary Mauro.

clubs in action

NOEL DANCE

Westside Singles will hold a Christmas dance from 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, at Roma's of Livonia, on Schoolcraft west of Inkster. The dance is for those age 21 and older. Dressy attire should be worn (no jeans). Admission price is \$1. Snacks will be available. There will be a disc jockey. For more information, call the hot line, 562-3160.

TRI-COUNTY

Tri-County Singles will hold a Christmas dance/party from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, at the Plymouth Hilton Inn, 14707 Northville Road. The dance is for singles over age 21. Proper attire should be worn. Price is \$4. For more information, call the hot line, 843-8917.

PHOENIX I

Phoenix I will hold a New Year's dance Sunday, Dec. 27, at Roma's of Garden City, 32550 Cherry Hill at Venoy. Dressy attire should be worn. Price is \$6. Party favors and hats are included. Phoenix I holds dances for singles from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. every Sunday. Dances are for those age 25 and older. For more information, call 471-1248.

VFW DANCE

A New Year's Eve "Gala" will be held Thursday, Dec. 31, at the Mayflower-Lt. Gamble Post No. 6695, Veterans of Foreign Wars. The party will be held at the post home, 1426 S. Mill St., Plymouth, starting at 8 p.m. Appetizers, dinner, noisemakers and dancing are included. Price is \$15 per person in advance, \$18 at the door. There will be a cash bar. Early reservations are recommended. Tickets may be obtained at the post home or by calling 459-6700.

PWP DANCE

Plymouth-Canton Parents Without Partners will hold a general meeting and "Comfort Dance" from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at the Airport Hilton Inn, 31500 Wick Road. Price is \$6 for non-members, \$5 for members. For more information, call 981-1041.

NATURE WALK

Nature walks are held each month at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N.

Dixboro Road, south of the Plymouth Road-Dixboro Road intersection in Ann Arbor. The 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, tour will be "Folklore and Tree Identification." The tour is free of charge. Participants will learn the identification and history of trees in the area by folk tales, bark, buds and shapes. Trained guides lead the tours. Tours last approximately 1 to 1½ hours. Guides will meet visitors on the front steps of the conservatory at the gardens. Boots are recommended. For more information, call 763-7060.

60-PLUS

Area senior citizens may attend the monthly potluck luncheon at noon Monday, Jan. 4, in fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 N. Territorial Road. Those attending should bring a food dish to pass and their own table service. The speaker will be the Rev. John Grenfell Jr.

PWP ORIENTATION

Plymouth-Canton Parents Without Partners will hold an orientation at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6. For directions or more information, call 981-1041. Those who are eligible for PWP membership are parents of one or more living children, members are single by reason of separation, divorce, death of a spouse or never having married. Age and custody of children are not factors.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON PWP

Plymouth-Canton Parents Without Partners will hold a general meeting and dance starting at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, at the Holiday Inn, 30375 Plymouth Road, between Merriman and Middlebelt in Livonia. There will be a speaker followed by a dance. Price is \$2, \$3 after 9 p.m. For more information, call 981-1041.

WOMEN'S ACTION

The Ann Arbor chapter, Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, will meet Sunday, Jan. 10, at the First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. There will be a small group discussion on "What makes women active?" New members may attend. For more information, call 761-1718.

SWIM PROGRAM

Walk-in registration for a swim

program will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at Central Middle School in Plymouth. The Senior Girl Scout swim program is for girls and boys ages 4 to 14. Price is \$15 for registered Girl Scouts, \$18 for others. There is a group rate. For three or more children from the same family, the price is \$45 for all participants. Classes meet Saturday mornings, Jan. 23 to March 26, 1988. There will be no classes Feb. 13 or Feb. 20. A registered water safety instructor will be on deck at all times. Lesson times are 9-9:45 a.m., 9:45-10:30 a.m. and 10:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Heather Greifenberg, 459-3485, after 3 p.m. (Those attending walk-in registration should enter through the school's rear door, near the parking lot.)

MURDER MYSTERY

The Farmington Community Center will present "Murder Mystery at Longacre" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16. Price is \$25 per person, including food and wine. Those attending will participate in the staged event, produced by Donald Olmsted and the Homicide Host Group. The event will be held in the Longacre House, a Georgian-style mansion. Guests are encouraged to dress in the styles of the 1920s. Reservations can be made

by calling the Farmington Community Center, 477-8404. The Farmington Community Center is at 24705 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills.

OPEN HOUSE

Gibson School for the Gifted, 12925 Fenton in Redford, will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26. The school is near Telegraph and Schoolcraft. All classes from prekindergarten (age 4) through middle school (age 13) will be in session. Refreshments will be served. There will be tours and an art exhibit. For more information, call 537-8688.

50-UP CLUB

The St. John Neumann Seniors, 50-Up Club, will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, at the church, on Warren west of Sheldon in Canton. New members may attend. For more information, call Betty Gruchala, president, 459-4091.

AAUW PLAY

The Plymouth branch, American Association of University Women, will present its annual play for children in February. "Jack and the Beanstalk" performances are sched-

engagements

Kent-Burgy

Helen Nemeth of Allen Park announces the engagement of her daughter, Patricia Kent of Allen Park, to Jeff Burgy of Canton, son of Dale Burgy of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Henry Ford Community College, where she received an associate's degree in nursing. She is employed as a registered nurse at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn.

Her fiance is a graduate of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y., where he received a bachelor's degree in industrial design. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University, where he received a master's degree in business management. He is employed as a business planner in the Electrical & Electronics Division, Ford Motor Co.

A late January 1988 wedding is planned at Martha-Mary Chapel, Greenfield Village, Dearborn.



Please turn to Page 3

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Nation's debt clouds any rosy 1988 prognosis

Now that the dust has settled over the stock market, my crystal ball is clear. The prognosis for 1988 is good, but only if the stubborn people in Washington get scared into doing things they should have done years ago.

Contrary to the commonly held belief, the causes for the recent catastrophe in the financial markets are to be found in the events over at least half dozen years.

The proof for this point of view was articulated by Gerald Corrigan, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

In the late 1970s, general government budget deficits in the United States consumed some 10 percent of our net private domestic savings. By 1986, these deficits were consuming almost two-thirds of net private domestic savings, with the federal deficit eating up an astonishing 90 percent of net private savings.

As recently as 1981, the United States was the world's largest net creditor nation. We are now its largest net debtor, and sometime in 1988 our net external indebtedness will cross the \$500 billion mark. Looked at another way, by the end of 1988 our net external debt will exceed the accumulated public debt of the United States from its inception through 1974.

Since 1983, corporate America has retired \$270 billion in equity while over the same interval corporate debt has increased by more than \$600 billion.

Now that the long-range problems are identified, what can we hope for? Quite a lot, if our government adopts the following prescriptions:

The government should eliminate — or sharply reduce — the domestic savings gap (around \$100 billion), which is the difference between our net domestic savings and the claims on these savings stemming from the financing of private investment and government deficits. This gap can be reduced in three ways:



finances and you
Sid Mittra

which is almost impossible to achieve.

2. By increasing net domestic savings, which is almost impossible to achieve.
3. By cutting the federal budget deficit.

Fortunately, a bipartisan willingness has already emerged, and President Reagan must make it work.

- Americans must be motivated to say hello to the lean years in which sacrifice, hard work and frugality will be the new ethic as living standards decline.
- The Reagan administration must succeed in establishing a more open international trading policy under which other countries would open their markets to imports from the United States.

This is a tall order. However, if the government shows the resolve to meet the challenge — and I believe that it will — then we can look forward to a prosperous year.

Next week, Investment Strategies for 1988.

Seminar: "The Market Crash — Five Ways to Protect your Money" and "How to Invest Home Equity — Safely" The seminar, sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Coordinated Financial Planning, will be held 7-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, at the Baldwin Library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham.

Admission: \$10 (tax-deductible) check payable to Oakland University should be mailed to Sid Mittra, Oakland University, Rochester, Mich. 48309. For information, call 643-8888.

Sid Mittra is a professor of management at Oakland University and president of Coordinated Financial Planning.

Here are caveats for catalog users

Just as there are advantages to shopping by mail, there are also a series of disadvantages that plague this "boom" industry.



focus: small business
Mary DiPaolo

In recent years, approximately 20 percent of all complaints received by the Better Business Bureau have involved mail-order firms.

According to the BBB, consumers complain most regarding orders processed but not received, second to this are complaints made concerning poor product quality.

Anyone who is considering shopping by mail should first look before they leap into buying. With 10 billion catalogs currently in circulation, no one can know everything about a firm before ordering goods or services from it.

Consumers Digest has compiled a Dealers Directory which lists mail and phone-order retailers; it en-

dorses. From carpeting to exercise equipment, goose-down products to pantyhose, the directory provides complete product and service information. The Dealers Directory is available for \$1.95 plus 50 cents for postage and handling by writing Dealers Directory, Consumers Digest, 5795 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60659.

Other recommended precautions include contacting the Better Business Bureau in the area where the firm is located.

Getting in touch with the Regional Postal Inspector nearest to the firm is another option. There are five regional offices. They include San Bruno, Calif. (western region); Chicago, Ill. (central region); Memphis, Tenn. (southern region); Bala Cynwyd, Penn. (eastern region); and Newark, New Jersey (northeast region).

Consumers may also contact the local chamber of commerce in the city where the firm is based.

Consumers with complaints should

first contact the company in case innocent errors have occurred. A letter should be written stating the nature of the problem as well as what the buyer suggests be done to remedy the situation. If the company does not respond to a complaint, there are a number of third parties that can intercede on your behalf.

These include the Direct Marketing Association, which has a Mail Order Action Line available by calling 212-869-4977. Although the DMA does not have enforcement powers, it may suggest alternative courses of action. Other third parties include the state department of consumer affairs, credit card companies, and the Federal Trade Commission office nearest you.

Remember that if you are a first-time buyer, save that expensive purchase until after you have had experience dealing with the company.

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- **SECRETARIES REVIEW**
Saturdays, Jan. 9 to Feb. 27 — Accounting Review class offers 2.4 continuing education units 8:30-11:30 a.m. in Room AS124. Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Fee \$51. Information: 591-6400 Ext. 410.
- **FINANCIAL BASICS**
Wednesday, Jan. 7 — Free "Back to the Basics" financial seminar offered 7-9 p.m. at the Sandberg Library, Seven Mile west of Middlebelt, Livonia. Information: Chuck Pawlus, 532-6960. Sponsor: A.L. Williams Co.
- **INTERNAL BUSINESS FUNCTIONS**
Saturdays, Jan. 9, 30, Feb. 13, 27, March 19, April 16 — Telecourse, "The Business File," offered from 9 a.m. to noon through Madonna College in Livonia. Information: Andrea R. Nodge, 591-5060.
- **JUST IN TIME**
Thursday-Friday, Jan. 14-15 — "Set-up Reduction for Just-In-Time" course offered in Dearborn. Non-member fee: \$895. Information: 271-1500 Ext. 596. Sponsor: Society of Manufacturing Engineers.
- **MANAGING GROWTH**
Wednesdays, Jan. 20, Feb. 3 — "Managing Growth for Profit" offered at the Novi Hilton in Novi. Information: Lorraine Hendrickson, 1-487-0225. Sponsor: Eastern Michigan University.

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upcoming things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming calendar is one week ahead of publication. Items must be received by Thursday, to be considered for publication the following Thursday. Send to Ethel Simmons, Entertainment Editor, The Observer & Eccentric, P.O. Box 3503, Birmingham 48012.

● 9 PERFORMANCES
Detroit Youththeatre presents nine performances of "Aladdin" during the Christmas vacation. All the 90-minute performances take place in the Detroit Institute of Arts 1,200-seat auditorium. Showtime is 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Wednesday, Dec. 28-30. Admission is \$5. Call 832-2730 for more information.

● AUDITIONS OPEN
Trinity House Theatre presents "Speak No Evil," drama by Susan Brown, during February. Auditions will be at the Fine Arts Theatre in Livonia on Wednesday, Thursday, Jan. 6-7, at 7 p.m. Show dates are late February and March. For more information, call 593-1528.

● EDUCATING RITA
Meadow Brook Theatre artistic director Terence Kilburn will direct "Educating Rita," which opens a four-week run on New Year's Eve at 8 p.m. at the theater on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Cynthia Darlow plays Rita and David Regal is the professor. Tickets are available by calling the Meadow Brook box office at 377-3300.

● POP TRIO
The pop trio Loving Cup performs at Tango's at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Town Center in Southfield Tuesdays-Saturdays from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Loving Cup has played Brownie's on the Lake and the Bloomfield Hills Open Hunt Club. For more information, call 827-4000.

● JAZZ CONFERENCE
The National Association of Jazz Educators hosts its 15th annual National Conference on Thursday-Sunday, Jan. 7-10, at the Westin Hotel in Detroit. More than 2,000 jazz educators, artists and enthusiasts from around the world will attend. Concerts open to the public include "Michigan Night" featuring performances by Michigan natives at 8 p.m. Jan. 9. Tickets at \$10 are on sale at Ticketmaster outlets. Free concerts by professional jazz groups from throughout Michigan are slated at noon, 2, 4 and 6 p.m. daily Jan. 7-9.



Cynthia Darlow plays the culture-starved hairdresser and David Regal is the English professor in the Meadow Brook Theatre production of "Educating Rita," opening a four-week run New Year's Eve at Oakland University.



"Educating Rita," opening a four-week run New Year's Eve at Oakland University.

- DIXIELAND JAZZ**
Three collegiate Dixieland jazz bands will square off in the 8th annual Southern Comfort National "Battle of the Dixieland Jazz Bands" at the Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center, Saturday, Jan. 9, at 3 p.m. Admission is \$3. \$2 for senior citizens and students. All proceeds go to co-sponsor the National Association of Jazz Educators.
- COMEDY TIME**
Mark Sweetman on Wednesday, Dec. 23 and Ruben-Ruben on Wednesday, Dec. 30, bring their comedy to Joey's Comedy Showcase at Mr. Megee's Irish Pub in Livonia. Tickets cost \$5. All shows have two warmup acts. Every Monday is "open mike" night. Showtime is 9 p.m. Call 471-9181.
- JAZZ STYLE**
Jazz trio Ursula Walker, Buddy Budson and Dan Kolton continues to perform from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays-Saturdays in the lobby of the Omni International Hotel in Detroit's Millender Center.
- DICKENS' FILMS**
Adaptations of stories by Charles Dickens are featured in the Detroit Institute of Arts Afternoon Film Theatre. The films are shown at 1 p.m. in the museum's recital hall. General admission is \$1 at the door. "A Christmas Carol" continues Wednesday, Dec. 23, and "David Copperfield" will be shown Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 29-30.
- GOTTA DANCE**
"Gotta Dance! Gotta Sing!" celebrates favorite production numbers from Gershwin, Kern, Rodgers & Hammerstein, "A Chorus Line" and Carole King. The show, created by Goodtime Players, will be presented Thursday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Farmington Community Center. Cost is \$4 per person and \$12 per family. Call 477-8404 for details.
- MATTRESS AUDITIONS**
Troy Players will hold auditions at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, at the Troy Community Center for "Once Upon a Mattress." Singers, dancers, actors and chorus members are needed.

● SHOWBOAT FLOATS
The musical "Showboat" is being performed Wednesdays-Saturdays through Jan. 30 at the Great Lakes Dinner Playhouse in Mount Clemens. Tickets range from \$16.95 for matinees to \$25.95 for Saturday nights and include a buffet dinner. Call 463-0340.

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● HISTORICAL FACT
"The New Historians" will air at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28, on WTVS. The 25-minute documentary explores the public and private fascination with re-creating history and documenting the past. Sound Moves Music Film Productions of Royal Oak is premiering the show, produced by Marylynn Kacir Huntington and directed by Will Lawson.

● ZOO HOURS
The Detroit Zoo is closed for the holidays through Friday, Jan. 1. After this date, the zoo is open for winter hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3.50 for senior citizens, \$2.50 for children 5-12. Children under 5 are free.

● TRAVEL NEWS
A free 56-page booklet highlighting more than 100 attractions in Southeast Michigan is available from the Travel & Tourist Association of Southeast Michigan. The booklet also contains information on lodging and dining. For the booklet, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope with 39 cents postage to Travel Directory, P.O. Box 1590, Troy 48069.

● KISS CONCERT
Kiss performs live at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17, at Cobo Arena in Detroit. The "Crazy Nights" world tour features Gene Simmons, Paul Stanley, Eric Carr and Bruce Kulick. A special guest will be announced. Tickets at \$16.50 are available at the Joe Louis Arena Box Office. Hudson's, AAA and all Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone call 423-6666.

● MYSTERY CALLS
Avon Players has announced its cast for the mystery drama "Night Must Fall," which will be presented Fridays-Sundays, Jan. 15-17, 22-24, and Friday-Saturday, Jan. 29-30, at the playhouse in Rochester Hills. Shows start at 8 p.m. except for 7:30 p.m. Sunday shows. The cast includes Bill Doerhing, John Hollingsworth, Jill Rotan and Jackie Sitek of Rochester Hills, Nancy Humphreys of Rochester and Kathy Maisner of Birmingham.

● DREIDLE HOUSE
The Dreidle House fun-booth for children is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, Dec. 25, at Tally Hall in Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$1. The brightly colored booth features a costumed Judah the Macabee who will explain the history of Hanukkah to his young guests.

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Comic dancers to perform

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo returns to the Music Hall Center in Detroit for four performances. The satiric troupe of male dancers will appear at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, on New Year's Eve, and Friday-Sunday, Jan. 1-3. Tickets at \$22-\$18

are available at the Music Hall Box Office and all Ticketmaster. AAA and Hudson's outlets or by phone at 423-6666 using a charge card.

The Music Hall box office is open from noon to 5 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on performance days. Group rates may be arranged by calling the box office at 963-7622.

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Call the **AIRPORT HILTON INN**
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Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, December 24, 1987 (3&E)

New Year's Eve '88 is on the way

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

WHAT ARE YOU DOING New Year's Eve? Staying home? Going out? If you're going out, you've come to the right place — reading this rundown on what's going on around metropolitan Detroit on New Year's Eve.

The hotels, as usual, are in the forefront of the places with big plans on how to spend New Year's Eve. This year, with more hotels than ever recently opened, there is an even greater variety of parties to take in.

Restaurants also make Dec. 31 an opportunity not only for dining but also for dancing, too, and the popping of champagne corks at midnight. Special menus and party packages are available.

Cocktail lounges and clubs that feature entertainment aren't going to let New Year's Eve slip by them. If you want to enjoy a show, sip a few drinks, this may be the place for you.

You don't have to party if you don't want to. But you can still go out and see a performance at the theater, or attend a concert.

Here are just a few of the things to do. Be sure to call ahead to confirm reservations, if required, and double-check on costs and any other details.

Hotel parties

Guest Quarters, Troy — Deluxe two-room suite, four cocktail tickets, hors d'oeuvres, six-course dinner, live entertainment and dancing, buffet brunch on New Year's Day, late checkout at 3 p.m., \$199 per couple. Phone 879-7500.

Radisson Plaza Hotel, Southfield — New Year's Eve party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. in hotel's ballrooms,

five-course dinner, dancing to big band sounds of Tommy Baldwin Orchestra, deluxe guest rooms, \$169 per couple. Phone 827-4000. Ext. 8802.

Embassy Suites Hotel, Southfield — Ballroom New Year's Eve Package includes two-room suite, reception, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, five-course dinner, dancing to nine-piece big band the Detroit Music Company, late check-out time, made-to-order breakfast, black-tie optional, \$199 per couple. Wellington's Dinner Dance Package features same dinner and entertainment, without the overnight suite, \$119 per couple. Phone 350-2000.

Michigan Inn, Southfield — Four choices: Number one, Ballroom \$15 per person, live entertainment, cash bar, champagne toast, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Number two, Card Lounge, \$30 per person or \$55 per couple, Ron Coden Show, midnight toast, Number three, Bistro M, \$24.95 per person, set menu, champagne toast, Number four, Benchmark dining, \$65 per person, live entertainment and dancing. Phone 559-6500.

Radisson Suite Hotel, Farmington Hills — Suite New Year's Eve Package I, overnight suite, dinner for two in Periwinkles, dancing to Earl Van Riper Trio, New Year's Day buffet breakfast, late checkout, \$189 plus tax. Package II, overnight suite, buffet breakfast, late checkout, \$99 plus tax. Phone 477-7800.

Novi Hilton — Gala party in Grand Ballroom, elaborate dinner, open bar, dancing, brunch, overnight accommodations. Package is \$120 per person, including taxes and gratuities, based on double occupancy. Also available is dinner with drinks, served a la carte in Crystal Swan, jazz trio for dancing, prepaid cover charge of \$20. Another choice



is a candlelight dinner in the Orchard Cafe with an a la carte selection. A fourth selection is dancing to the sounds of Intrigue in Whispers Lounge, hors d'oeuvres, continental breakfast, \$15. Phone 349-4000.

Holiday Inn of Livonia — New Year's Eve Party at Plums Lounge, with prime rib dinner, hors d'oeuvres, dancing in Plums till 2 a.m. Drink tickets included, spacious room, early check-in, late checkout, continental breakfast in Pipers restaurant. Package is \$159.95 per couple. Phone 261-6800.

Hyatt Regency Dearborn — Featuring virtuoso trumpeter and three-time Grammy nominee Maynard Ferguson, with Laurel Massey, formerly of Manhattan Transfer. Five bands, five parties in one. Other bands are Teen Angels, AKA, Mel Ball and Colours and the Motor City Quintet. \$35 per person. Guest rooms \$95 plus tax, single or double occupancy. Call 593-3020 for tickets, dinner and room reservations.

Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center, Detroit — Westin Hotel WCSX 10th annual New Year's Eve Party till 3 a.m. includes live broadcast in Renaissance Ballroom, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, \$21 per person. Summit Restaurant, four-course dinner, \$49 for first seating, \$69 for second seating, also including bottle of champagne and tax and gratuity. Summit Lounge party from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. with hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, champagne toast, breakfast buffet, \$39 per person. Dancing to the Top 40 sound of the Rage, for partygoers at either Summit Restaurant or Summit Lounge.

Party at Deejays Lounge on the Promenade Level from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m., disc jockey, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, champagne toast, breakfast buffet, \$49 per person including tax and gratuity.

Special room packages at \$110 plus tax for single or double occupancy. Call Westin Holiday Hotline at 567-XMAS.

Omni International Hotel, Detroit — Dancing in Landmark Ballroom. Five-course dinner with selected wines at 333 East restaurant, dancing, deluxe accommodations, \$198.80 per couple. Black-tie dinner dance in Landmark Ballroom featuring Ursula Walker and the Buddy Budson Band, four-course dinner with selected wines, deluxe accommodations, \$218.68 per couple, taxes additional. Call 222-7700, Ext. 3600.

Hotel Pontchartrain, Detroit — Top of the Pontch features dinner and dancing to orchestra leader and jazz great J.C. Heard, and his quartet, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., five-course prix fix dinner with wine, bottle of champagne for two at midnight, \$99 per person including tax and gratuities. Elaines Restaurant offer five-course prix fix early dinner with wine, two seatings, 5 and 8 p.m., \$45 per person including tax and gratuities, champagne toast at midnight. Guest room package \$89

single or double occupancy, late checkout. Phone 965-0200.

Airport Hilton Inn, Romulus — Hugh Borde and the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band in the International Ballroom, \$19.95 per person includes two drink tickets, guaranteed seating, hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast, continental breakfast. Also, dinner service in restaurant begins at 5:30 p.m., with Jimmy Dixon Trio, champagne toast. Call 292-3400.

Ann Arbor Marriott — Starts at 7:30 p.m., surf and turf dinner at 9, champagne toast, light breakfast, buffet overnight accommodations, champagne brunch in Churchill's, late checkout, \$198.80 per couple. Phone 769-9800.

Concerts

Cobo Arena, Detroit — Ted Nugent with special guest G. Force, at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$16.50. Phone 567-6000.

Please turn to Page 16.

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Sports

Brad Emons, Dan O'Meara editors / 591-2312



Thursday, December 24, 1987 O&E

(P.C)1C

Elite basketball team has familiar look

Head, Estey repeat as first-unit choices

By Brad Emons
staff writer

SOME FAMILIAR FACES grace the 1987 All-Area Girls Basketball Team. Plymouth Salem's Dena Head is making her third straight appearance on the squad. Teammate Jill Estey, a junior, is another two-time pick along with Livonia Ladywood's Katie McNulty.

The four newcomers to the first team area all seniors — Jan Herberholz of Farmington Hills Mercy, Karen Boluch of Plymouth Canton, Beth Wilson of Westland John Glenn and Rose O'Bey of Livonia Franklin. Named Coach of the Year is Redford Bishop Borgess's Mike Resmer, who has turned a once dismal program into respectability. The Spartans have progressed under Resmer since 1983 when his team did not win a game. Resmer's team finished 10-11, winning its first Class A district title since 1982. And the future looks bright for the Spartans, who return four of five starters next season.

Presenting the All-Observer team as selected by area coaches.

FIRST TEAM

DENA HEAD, Plymouth Salem: The 5-foot-10 senior guard, a leading candidate for Miss Basketball, scored 770 points this season (a 28.6 average), becoming only the fourth girl in state history to pass the 2,600-point plateau. She also led the team in rebounds and steals this season. The four-year starter led Salem to a combined record of 89-12, including two straight appearances in the state semifinals. "She has to go down in the record books as one of the best girls players that ever played in the state, as well

as the area," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "I believe in the word team, but she is such a unique athlete that she made the other players better with her passing, defense and rebounding."

Head, who played in last summer's Olympic Sports Festival, has narrowed her choice of schools down to five — Illinois, Iowa, Ohio State, Rutgers and Tennessee.

JILL ESTEY, Plymouth Salem: The speedy point-guard averaged 12 points per game, but was noted for her deft ball-handling skills.

The All-Western Lakes Conference pick led the Rocks in assists, including a game-high 21 this season.

"She is a premier point-guard who can take the ball from end to end as well as anybody in the state," Thomann said. "She's versatile with either hand. She can dribble behind her back and between her legs without losing speed."

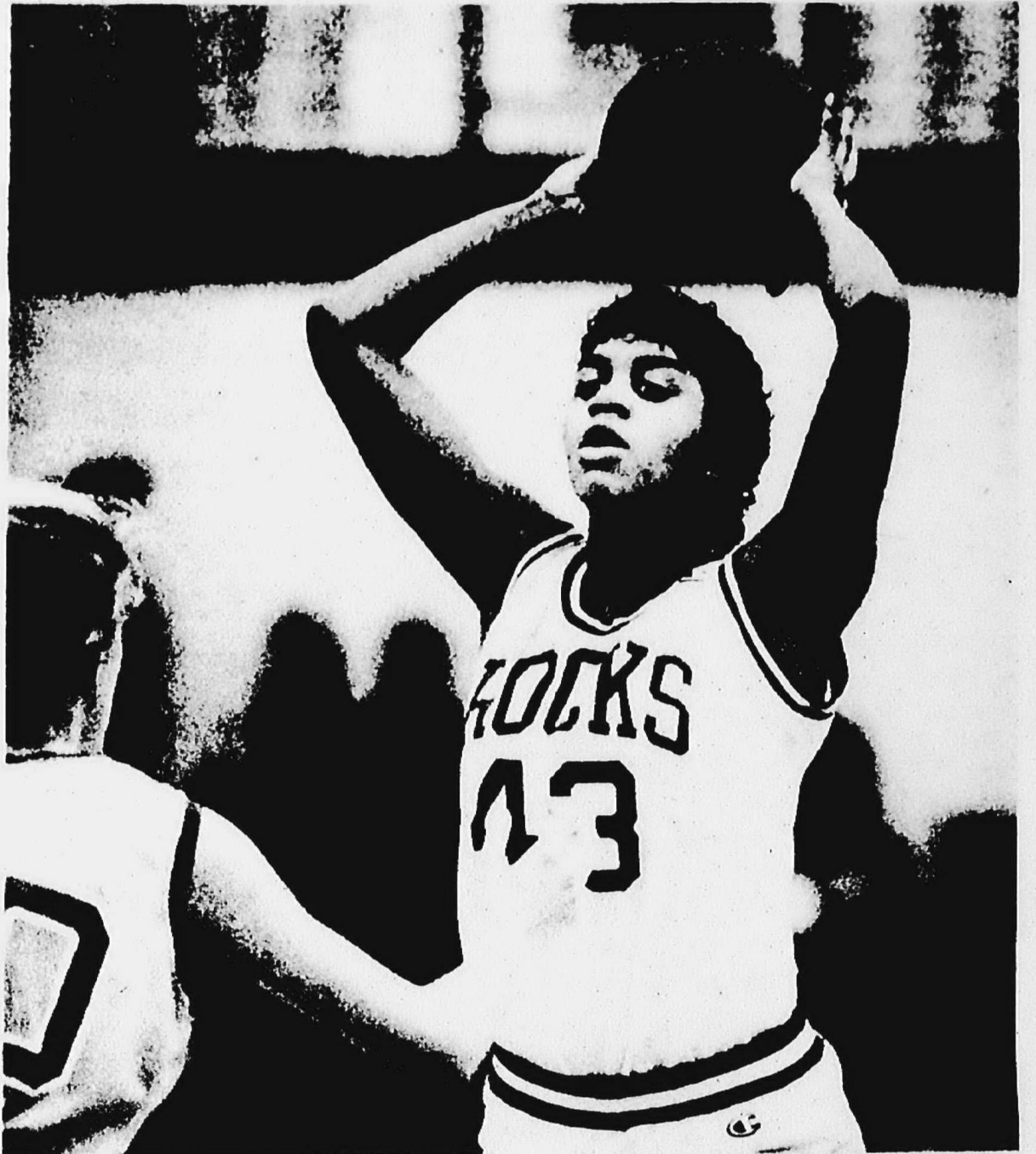
"She's come a long ways in developing a perimeter shot. If you get open, and are in range to score, she'll get you the basketball on time."

Estey was voted the state's top soccer player last year as a sophomore, leading the Rocks to the Class A crown.

KATIE McNULTY, Livonia Ladywood: The 6-2 senior center averaged 15.3 points per game, shooting 53 percent from the floor and 71 percent from the free throw line this season. She also averaged 10.7 rebounds per game and 4.1 blocks.

The All-Central Division and All-Catholic League pick was a two-year starter for the Blazers.

"Katie is a very coachable young lady," said coach Ed Kavanaugh. "Her assets are her versatility, ability



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Dena Head has been named to the Observer's All-Area girls basketball team for the third consecutive year. She recently concluded her high school career by leading Plymouth Salem into the Class A semifinals for the second year in a row.

Please turn to Page 3

- 1987 ALL-AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL FIRST TEAM**
- Dena Head . . . Plymouth Salem
Jill Estey . . . Plymouth Salem
Katie McNulty . . . Livonia Ladywood
Jan Herberholz . . . Farmington Hills Mercy
Karen Boluch . . . Plymouth Canton
Beth Wilson . . . Westland John Glenn
Rose O'Bey . . . Livonia Franklin
Mike Resmer (Coach) . . . Bishop Borgess
- SECOND TEAM**
- Adrienne Clark . . . Farmington Hills Mercy
Yvonne Barnett . . . Livonia Ladywood
Caryn Shannon . . . Redford Union
Tanisha Stokes . . . Bishop Borgess
Heather Miller . . . Plymouth Canton
Jennifer Slosar . . . Farmington Hills Mercy
Keri McBride . . . Plymouth Salem
- THIRD TEAM**
- Suzi Butcher . . . North Farmington
Denise Gumke . . . Westland John Glenn
Sue Zatorski . . . Livonia Stevenson
Nancy Wagner . . . Livonia Ladywood
Barb Krug . . . Plymouth Salem
Stacy Swanderski . . . Farmington Hills
Shontel Spiers . . . Wayne Memorial
- HONORABLE MENTION**

Redford Thurston; Janet Smith; Garden City; Jennifer Williams; Kim Reith; Kim Faskowski; Farmington; Kelli Koss; Westland John Glenn; Christina Hoffman; Cheryl Hawley; Redford Bishop Borgess; Katy Foley; Pal Hines; Plymouth Canton; Susan Ferko; Michelle Fortier; Candi Jones; Farmington Mercy; Jenny Clinton; Patty Chapp; Plymouth Salem; Stacy Sovine; Wayne Memorial; Antoinette Hixon; Carlotta Dancy; Maya Lewis; North Farmington; Kim Gurecki; Donna O'Brien; Redford St. Agatha; Laura Oipari; Jennifer Belleville; Livonia Stevenson; Kristen Cisis; Plymouth Christian; Elaine Priebe; Diane Benson; Livonia Franklin; Leslie Szafarski; Cathy Cruz; Livonia Ladywood; Ann Marie Thomas; Karen Finnegan; Farmington Hills; Darcy Pinzl; Livonia Churchill; Dawn Gabriel; Clarenceville; Diane Lindsey; Karen Young.

Deep and talented Salem claims Lakes relays title

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Maybe they ought to start calling it the Plymouth Salem Relays instead of the Western Lakes Conference Relays.

For the third straight year the host team ruled again in this important early-season boys meet.

The Rocks, rated No. 8 in Class A by a statewide coaches poll, proved to be solid again in a meet contested by 10 different schools. (See statistical summary).

Coches Chuck Olson's team, scoring 246 points, outdistanced rivals Livonia Stevenson (198) and Plymouth Canton (197) to claim the title.

The all-relay format was also to Salem's liking.

The Rocks won two events, the 400-yard freestyle relay (3:25.27) and the crescendo relay (4:27.99) with the same quartet combining for both victories — John Irvine, Jeff Musson, Mike Hill and Ron Orris.

Salem also added a second in the 400 medley and collected thirds in the 200 breaststroke, 200 backstroke, diving, 400 individual medley and 200 medley.

"WE'RE ALWAYS going to do well at this meet," Olson said. "If you have good numbers and kids that swim at a certain level. But I also think we have quality individuals to do well at the league meet."

Last year Salem won the Relays, but finished second behind Stevenson in the league meet.

Stevenson, rated No. 10 in Class A, held off Canton for second place by a point.

swimming

The Spartans' foursome of Mark Gergley, Brian Cantoni, Joe Saunders and Dwayne Flippo shattered Westland John Glenn's 1985 mark of 3:57.44 in the 400 medley relay by winning the event in 3:50.82. Stevenson also took the 200 butterfly in 1:46.75 as Greg Jubenville, Tiki Caranicolas, Joe Petrillo and Saunders were clocked in 1:46.75.

Canton, meanwhile, missed a chance for second when 22 fourth place points were taken away in the crescendo relays because of a disqualification when a swimmer jumped the start.

"THIS MEET IS made up for depth teams and that's why Salem ran away with it," said Canton coach Hooker Wellman. "Stevenson may be a better league meet team than us right now."

"I'm real pleased with our kids and even though we lost by one in an event where we were disqualified and lost 22 points, that's the way it goes. The same thing happened to Stevenson last year and it cost them the meet."

Canton's lone first was recorded in the 200 backstroke relay as Jim Riemenschneider, Steve Geddes, Jim Hartnett and Scott Swartzwelder were clocked in 1:51.35.

Please turn to Page 2

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- INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK**
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625-0877
- MAYBURY STATE PARK**
c/o Northville Community Recreation
303 West Main Street
Northville, MI 48167
348-0203
- WARREN VALLEY GOLF COURSE**
c/o Wayne County Parks & Recreation
33175 Ann Arbor Trail
Westland, MI 48185
281-1980

WESTERN LAKES BOYS SWIM RELAYS Saturday at Plymouth Salem	200 breaststroke	400 individual medley
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth Salem, 246 points; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 198; 3. Plymouth Canton, 197; 4. North Farmington, 171; 5. Northville, 169; 6. Westland John Glenn, 168; 7. Livonia Churchill, 147; 8. Farmington Harrison, 138; 9. Livonia Franklin, 125; 10. Farmington, 118.	1. N. Farmington (Dan Krivos, Adam Taylor, Eric Maxon and James G...), 2:04.34; 2. Franklin, 2:08.90; 3. Salem, 2:09.98; 4. Farmington, 2:10.47; 5. Northville, 2:11.50; 6. Northville, 2:13.00	1. Northville (Tim Caranicolas, Greg Jubenville, Tiki Caranicolas and Joe Petrillo), 1:51.35; 2. Farmington (Mark Gergley, Brian Cantoni, Joe Saunders and Dwayne Flippo), 1:48.75; 3. Farmington, 1:51.35; 4. Northville, 1:52.00
FINAL RELAY RESULTS	200 backstroke	400 freestyle
400-yard medley: 1. Stevenson (Mark Gergley, Brian Cantoni, Joe Saunders and Dwayne Flippo), 3:50.82 (meet record); 2. Salem, 4:00.42; 3. Canton, 4:00.71; 4. Northville, 4:04.04; 5. N. Farmington, 4:27.04; 6. John Glenn, 4:28.66	1. Farmington (Jim Riemenschneider, Steve Geddes, Jim Hartnett and Scott Swartzwelder), 1:51.35; 2. Northville, 1:52.00; 3. Farmington, 1:53.00	1. Salem (John Irvine, Jeff Musson, Ron Orris and Mike Hill), 3:25.27; 2. Farmington, 3:27.11; 3. Stevenson, 3:29.58; 4. Canton, 3:35.59; 5. John Glenn, 3:36.13; 6. Northville, 3:48.95

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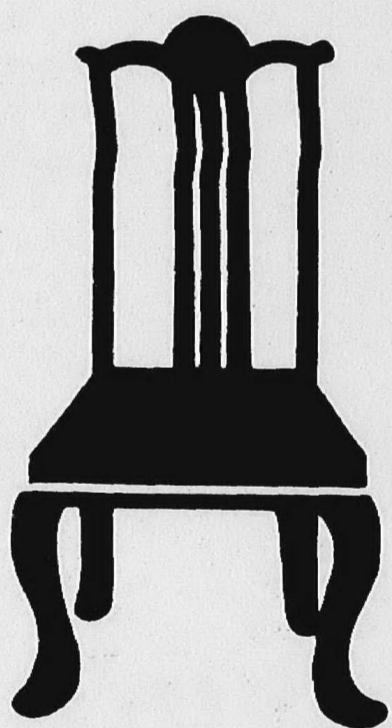
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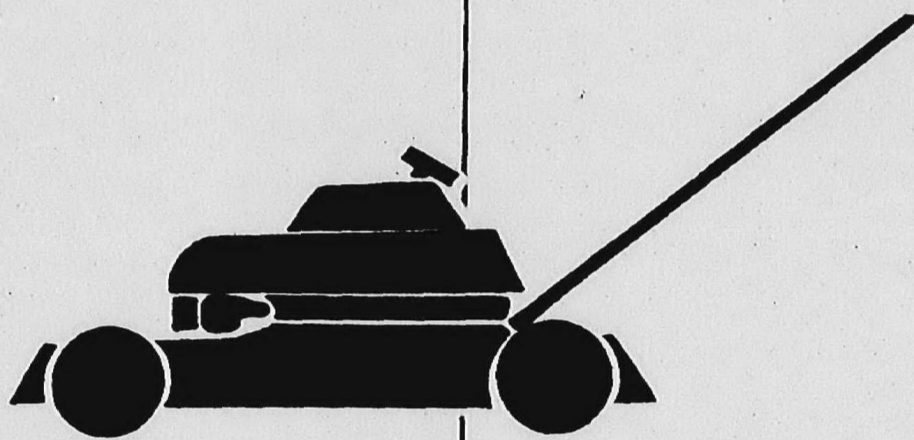
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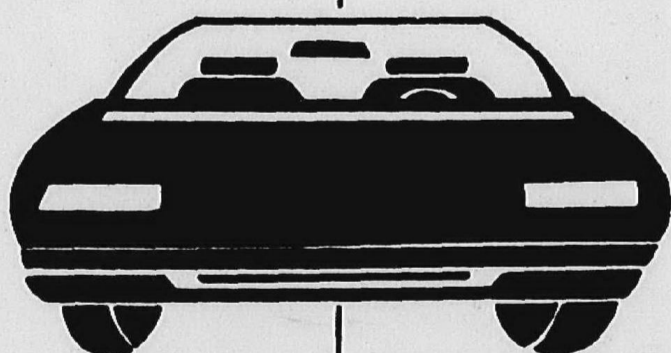
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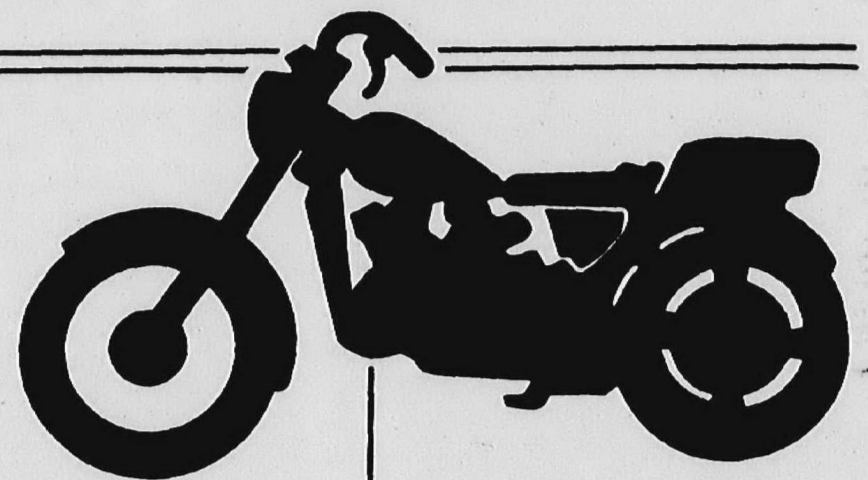


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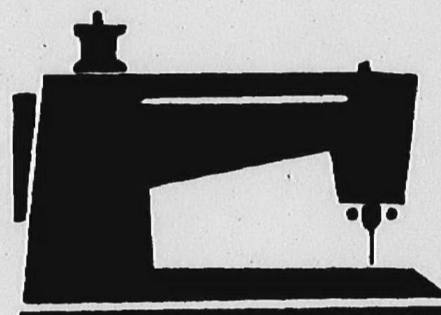


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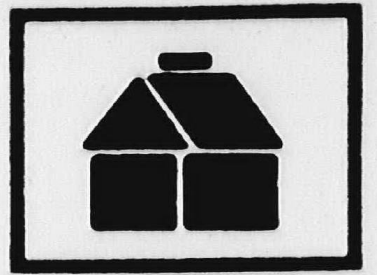
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Thursday, December 24, 1987 O&E

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STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Theo Faberge talked about the Faberge egg collection recently at Jacobson stores in Birmingham and Livonia.

Faberge's story of 'The Egg and I'

By C.L. Rugenstein
special writer

THEO FABERGE had no intention of going into the egg business.

"It never even entered my head," said the grandson of Carl Faberge, who created those opulent jeweled masterpieces for Czar Nicholas of Russia.

Theo had always held his grandfather in awe. "I felt if I couldn't approach the level of his craftsmanship, I didn't want to make any eggs," explained the 66-year-old Faberge at Jacobson stores in Birmingham and Livonia recently to preview his St. Petersburg Collection. "I didn't want to emulate my grandfather."

Fortunately Faberge discovered — in a roundabout way — his own particular talent for making those ornamental eggs.

"I was trapped into it, actually," he admitted by the nephew of a woman for whom he'd done antique jewelry repairs in his London shop. "He asked me to make a little wooden egg" — preferably of yew wood. Theo did — using a piece of wood he had authenticated to be 500 years old, or about the period of William the Conqueror. The aunt was impressed and asked Theo to make an egg for her — but not of wood, which looked too much "like a doorknob!"

SO FABERGE ADDED more gold decorations, made it larger, and put in a birthstone to create the predecessor of the Scribe's Egg, one of the eight limited edition decorative eggs in the St. Petersburg Collection.

The St. Petersburg Collection represents the first time any Faberge has gone public with his creations. Since before the Czar's patronage brought them worldwide renown, the Faberges were custom jewelers who worked only on private commissions. Theo himself only did commissions until he created the Scribe's Egg. "And if I hadn't done that one, I wouldn't have done any of them," he added.

All turned by hand on his own lathe (a thread-driven Holtzapffel, circa 1861, to which he clamps a power source) with a handcrafted gold "surprise" set into it, the Scribe's Egg gave Faberge the confidence to create other designs.

"I exhibited a very similar piece in the Goldsmith's Hall in London, and it was accepted quite favorably," he modestly noted. "So I thought then, perhaps I could do something worthy of the name of my grandfather."

IT ALSO SET him to thinking he'd

like to reach a wider public with "affordable eggs of quality."

The result is the St. Petersburg Collection, ranging in price from \$650 for the Scribe's Egg, to \$2,400 for the lavish ruby crystal and scrolled silver commemorative St. Vladimir's Egg.

Though Faberge designs all the eggs and handcrafts the wooden ones himself, he worked closely with a modelmaker on the commemorative egg. The inside "surprise," a Faberge egg tradition, is a sterling silver scale model of St. Vladimir's Cathedral in Kiev, signed and dated in Church Slavonic.

The St. Vladimir Egg is special on several other counts as well. It celebrates next year's one thousandth anniversary of Russian Orthodox Christianity. It was specially commissioned by the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia and blessed by head of the church, His Eminence Metropolitan Vitaly. And finally, it's the first piece a member of the Faberge family has made for the church since the Russian Revolution.

The St. Vladimir Egg is the crowning piece of the collection but others, like the Spring Egg, the Devil's Egg, and the Dragon's Egg are equally fabulous.

EASTER WAS THE time for gift-giving in Russia, and since the egg symbolized resurrection, the return of life to the land, eggs were the gift of choice. (Hence the reason for Czar Nicholas' choice of the egg as a vehicle for his extravagant fancies.)

Faberge's Spring Egg features hand-painted spring flowers raised in crystal. Inside is a golden yolk topped by a ruby mounted imperial crown. While the yolk symbolizes Christ's resurrection, the crown represents the Czar, who was head of the Russian church.

The Devil's Egg is another reference to a Biblical theme. Of "Paradise green" crystal with a 23 carat gold, ruby-eyed serpent circling its top, it "tells the story of temptation and original sin" according to Faberge spokesmen. The inside surprise is a gold-on-crystal apple, with a secret compartment beneath its silver tray to store one's special temptations.

FABERGE CREATED the Dragon's Egg as a tribute to his grandfather Carl, who was one of the first Europeans to incorporate Japanese ideas into jewelry design. A 23 carat-gold, ruby-eyed oriental dragon surrounds the top of the jet black crystal and gold-flowered egg. This egg however is meant for use as a paperweight and has no inside surprise.



Patti Baker (left) and Bea Wright of Village Green Florists in Livonia decorated the Ford mansion gathering room.



Another Livonia florist who helped with decorations was Kathy Harrigan of Merri-Craft Florists. Not shown, but equally involved, were Vicki de Santo, Shirley Fradette and Estelle Howitt. They did Mrs. Ford's study.



Simplicity adds to the quiet elegance of the estate's library.

Floral fantasy at Fair Lane

GUIDED floral tours are among the special holiday season events being offered by the Henry Ford Estate-Fair Lane, on the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

In full force during the pre-Christmas holidays, they will continue through Jan. 2 (except for New Year's Day) 1-4 p.m.

More than a dozen local florists volunteered their time and resources to decorate the estate with all manner of holiday foliage.

Regular tour prices (\$5 regular admission, \$4 for seniors, students and children) apply.

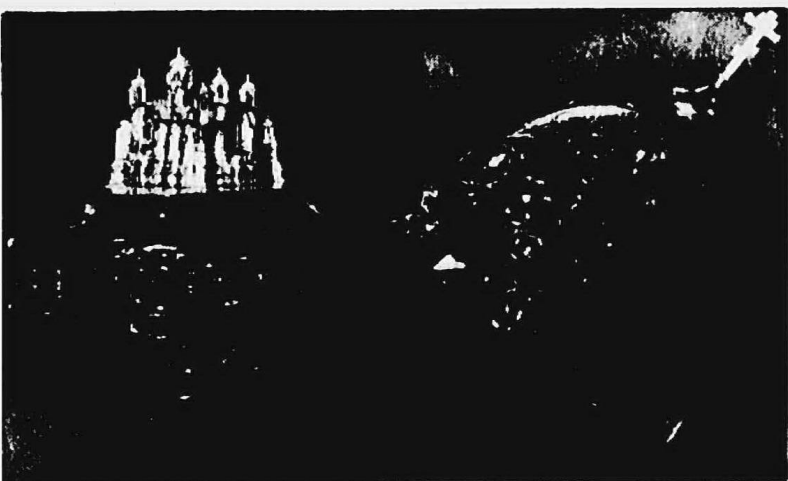
The Henry Ford Estate-Fair Lane is on the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, on Evergreen, across from the Fairlane Town Center. For further information regarding any of these programs, call 593-5590.



Above, the entrance to the sun porch festooned in greenery while at the left is gaily bedecked cherub in the mansion's music room.



Staff photos by Steve Fecht



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Interior of Faberge egg has surprise element.



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