

Westland Observer

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Funds needed: The Westland Salvation Army reported that it missed its seasonal goal by \$15,500. The organization says donations can still be made. /2A

Yule spirit: Dozens of students from a neighboring school district shared the Christmas spirit last week with residents at two local senior apartment complexes. /3A

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OPINION

Don't mix: Readers are urged to act responsibly and avoid mixing driving and drinking during the upcoming New Year's Eve weekend. /10A

Recorder's Court on trial: An area state representative's proposal to eliminate Detroit Recorder's Court is not racist, says columnist Tim Richard. It just makes sense. /11A

COMMUNITY LIFE

On a roll: There's still plenty of things for family to do this holiday season, including ringing... make that rolling... in the New Year. /13A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater: The holidays are taking backstage to local students performing with the cast of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." /1B

SPORTS

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LOTTERY

The Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$2.1 million. The Michigan Lottery numbers for Wednesday, Dec. 27, 1995 are:

■ DAILY 3:
234

■ DAILY 4:
9251

■ CASH 5: 26, 27, 29, 38, 39

■ LOTTO: 5, 7, 13, 23, 24, 47

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Big bucks equal low vote count



Money is important in promoting a political candidate, but it doesn't always translate into victory. For example, City Councilman David Cox was top vote-getter Nov. 7, but finished sixth among a field of eight persons seeking four seats.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Money obviously can't buy a political office in Westland.

Two ousted Westland City Council incumbents ranked among the top three spenders in an eight-way race

for four seats in the Nov. 7 election, campaign expense reports show.

Top spender David Cox shelled out \$21,427 for a council seat that pays \$10,051 a year, but he lost his bid for re-election by placing sixth among the eight candidates, according to ex-

pense reports filed at the City-County Building in Detroit.

Cox has said that about \$5,000 was used to pay off a debt for his winning 1993 campaign. Even so, he still out-paced second-place spender Justine Barns by \$8,373 in this year's race, the reports indicate.

Barns spent \$13,054 to reclaim a council seat that she left prior to her 12-year stint as a state representative. She garnered the most votes of any council candidate.

Defeated incumbent Thomas Brown ranked third in spending by

POLITICS

plunking down \$10,833, expense reports showed. But he placed seventh among the eight candidates, ending a 34-year political career at age 78.

Barns and council newcomer Richard LeBlanc will replace Cox and Brown in January. Voters also returned incumbents Glenn Anderson and Charles Pickering to office.

Other than Cox and Brown, other candidates who had failing cam-

See SPENDING, 3A

Hospice group helps family



ART EMANUELE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Reminiscing: Phil and Lorrie Niemann enjoy talking about their daughter, Becky, a warm, generous person who died last February at age 39. Hospice helped the couple through her illness and continues to help with their grief.

Couple cherishes memory of Becky

BY MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER

When Phil and Lorrie Niemann start talking about their daughter, Becky, in a room surrounded by the music boxes she collected and the stray cats she loved, a vivid picture emerges.

Becky Niemann, animal lover, intellectual, hard worker and shopaholic, died of cancer last February. She was 39.

"She lived with us for 37 of her 39 years," said Phil, who, with Lorrie, raised four children. The couple has lived in Garden City almost 20 years.

Every desk drawer, every crammed book shelf holds a memory of the daughter they treasured.

A decorated Christmas tree stands before a picture window. Phil, with a lap full of snapshots, laughs over a picture of Becky with

her sister, Ruth, taken last Christmas. It shows the sisters holding a tacky air freshener, a traditional gag gift they exchanged each year with a different motif — once a cat, now an owl.

Over the next hour, Phil and Lorrie talk in detail about Becky's life before and during her short-term illness, about her death at home,

See MEMORY, 2A

Police: suspect has confessed

Westland police said a Belleville man, already charged in the armed robbery of a Livonia video store, has confessed to the same crime at a Westland 7-11 convenience store about 23 hours earlier.

Matthew Buckley, 23, has been arraigned in the Dec. 17 holdup of Mammoth Video, at Six Mile and Inkster roads. Also charged with armed robbery in that holdup were John Lademan, 36, of Westland, and William Merfert, 24, of Dearborn Heights.

At their arraignment in Livonia district court, a \$100,000 bond was set for Buckley and \$75,000 each for the other two.

■ . . . when the Livonia police distributed a description of the video suspects, one description matched the one given by the 7-11 clerk.

A preliminary examination on those charges is scheduled for today (Thursday).

Westland Detective-Sgt. Scott Fetner said that Buckley admitted

robbing a 7-11 Store on Hix and Cherry Hill, Westland, nearly 24 hours earlier than the video robbery.

Fetner said that when the Livonia police distributed a description of the video suspects, one description matched the one given by the 7-11 clerk.

Upon questioning, Buckley admitted the Westland holdup.

All three defendants are being held in Wayne County Jail, awaiting their court hearing on the video store robbery.

Fetner said police are planning this week to ask for a warrant charging Buckley in the Westland robbery.

City's finances are good

BY LEONARD POGER
EDITOR

The city of Westland's financial health is good, said the auditing firm which has reviewed its records annually for nearly 30 years.

While the city's uncommitted surplus is down slightly, it is still at \$1.7 million, or the recommended 5 percent of planned spending.

Plante & Moran, the city's auditing firm, reviewed the annual audit statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, and commented that nearly all city departments underspent their budget projections.

The fund surplus, the difference between spending and revenues, dropped to \$1.7 million as of last

■ Westland Finance Director Michael Gorman claimed that Detroit overbilled the city over the past several years.

June 30, a drop of \$400,000 from the previous year's figure, said the auditor.

Michael Swartz, a partner in the auditing firm, said it was "tremendous" to have revenues \$1 million over spending.

At a city council workshop with the city council and administration, Swartz and partner Kenneth Kunkel warned there is a lot of "uncertainty in municipal financing" because of unresolved issues being debated by the state legislature.

In a cover letter accompanying the 54-page audit, Swartz said:

"Due to changes impacting property taxes, state-shared revenues and other financial pressures, the city faces many financial challenges in the upcoming years.

"To respond to these challenges, we recommend that a financial forecast model be prepared beyond the current budget year," which will end next June 30.

"A five-year model is typically developed for municipalities. This model should be evaluated as an automated spreadsheet (computer) program that would allow the city to quickly and easily evaluate any number of 'what if' scenarios concerning future operational or financial options."

Swartz stressed "there are a lot of concerns on the horizon" due to actions and inactions by the legislature.

Kunkel, whose firm represents many other Detroit area governmental agencies, suggested a lobbying effort is needed in Lansing to fight off potential cuts in state-shared revenues.

See FINANCES, 3A

Cox honored

Departing Westland City Council member David Cox was honored last week during a council meeting for his role on the Nankin Transit Commission. Officials from the commission gave him a plaque during his last council meeting on Dec. 18. Cox was Westland's representative on the commission that provides bus service for the elderly and the disabled.

School thanks helpers

Many families were fed during the holiday season thanks to volunteers who helped Jefferson-Barns Elementary School, according to principal Susan Dorenkamp and secretary Robyn Brennan. The school has made a public thank-you to the

PLACES & FACES

Westland Civitans, the Westland Post Office, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Livonia, and the First Congregational Church of Wayne.

'Li'l Abner' coming

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor the Westland All-Stars theater group in a production of "Li'l Abner" starring Westland youngsters. The play will be 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, and Saturday, Jan. 20, at Wayne Memorial High School's Stockmeyer Auditorium. The price is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Tickets may be purchased at the Bailey Recre-

ation Center or by mail. Send a check or money order payable to the City of Westland to Margaret Martin, Westland Parks and Recreation, 36551 Ford, Westland 48185. For information, call 722-7620.

Student wins scholarship

Sherisse Rinna, a senior advertising communication major from Westland, has received two scholarships for the 1995-96 academic year at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill. She received the Burdenove-Cornelius-Eichler Scholarship, awarded to select students in good academic standing, and the Lucie Ann and Rollin Turney Endowed Scholarship, awarded to select full-time undergraduates in good academic standing. Rinna is the daughter of Nettie Naomi Rinna of Westland.

Donations still needed

The Westland Salvation Army, which reported a drop of \$15,500 in donations from last winter, is still seeking public donations to allow the organization to help low-income families.

with holiday baskets, new toys, a senior citizens' Christmas party and gifts to nursing home residents, Welsh said.

Newt Gingrich to speak

On Jan. 16, Time Magazine's Man of the Year — Newt Gingrich — will visit western Wayne County.

sa, executive vice-president of Burton Manor.

Choice schools temporarily get heave-ho

BY MARIE CHESTNEY STAFF WRITER The 154-page, newly passed school code bill is on its way to Gov. John Engler to be signed into law.

That came about because, in voting for the new school code bill, Rep. Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, made sure Watson and another western Wayne County superintendent get in on the ground floor of any future schools-of-choice discussion.

be on a "fast track" for passage. The district called in four local lawmakers — Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville; Bankes; Rep. Gerry Law, R-Plymouth; and Rep. Eileen DeHart, D-Westland — to quiz them on the proposed bill.

sues that are problems for us, but they took the time to listen. The bill passed is significantly changed in many aspects from the original.

Watson and the Livonia Board of Education won't know what the massive bill actually contains until they sit down with attorneys in January and go through it page by page.

The Michigan Association of School Boards found much in the new school code bill to support.

"This is not to say that the bill is entirely a rose garden," stated the MASB. "It contains some provisions which will create new problems, challenges and hassles.

Watson expects the meeting with House representatives, both Republican and Democratic, will take place in late January.

"It gives us prior input, rather than reacting to something that comes out," Watson said. "It's an opportunity for us to express our concerns to legislators prior to their considering how to rewrite schools of choice proposals.

"But's there's no guarantee any of our ideas or suggestions will be reflected in the proposal."

District school officials and the Livonia Parent Teacher Association have lobbied against schools of choice ever since it appeared to

Much to the delight of many educators throughout the state, schools of choice is not part of the legislation passed by both the House and Senate.

But that doesn't mean schools of choice is dead.

"For the Republican Party, it's very much on the front burner," said Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Ken Watson, whose district includes the northern section of Westland.

"It's no longer an issue for the near future, but we expect they will take this up again."

Next time, however, Watson will have the chance to mold the kind of schools of choice bill that is put together.

Memory from page 1A

and about the void that now exists. There are no tears. No self-pity.

Just a sincere debt of gratitude to Hospice of Southeastern Michigan, an organization the couple credits with giving them steady guidance and strength since Becky was diagnosed with colon cancer in October 1994.

"I had heard the word hospice before. All I knew was that it dealt with the terminally ill," remembered Lorrie.

All that changed practically overnight when Becky came home from Botsford Hospital in November 1994. Surgery was performed but the cancer had spread to her lymphatic system and liver.

"I asked her doctor, 'What do I do now for her?'" said Lorrie.

Friends suggested Lorrie call hospice.

"I thought, well, this looks like we've been led another step," she said.

'I fell in love with the (hospice) mission and began visiting families in need.'

Mary Jo Merollis hospice volunteer

Almost immediately, a nurse volunteer from hospice was on their doorstep, studying Becky's case and offering suggestions about medication.

"Becky came home on a Friday. We had two weddings scheduled on Saturday. It was comforting not to leave her at home alone," said Lorrie.

Volunteers came to the house whenever the Niemanns had someone to go.

"Our volunteer, Lynn, came in the middle of the night when

Becky needed medicine."

As the weeks wore on, Lorrie started to fret over not knowing what her role would be on the day Becky would die.

"Don't worry, they said. We have a team that comes out."

Added Phil: "That's the difference between hospital doctors and hospice staff. The hospital doctors strive to keep you alive to the bitter end, whatever it takes."

"Hospice staff strive to keep the patient pain-free and mentally alert."

Becky's experience, as heart-wrenching as it was for the Niemanns, was not their first brush with tragedy.

"He lives in New York," said Lorrie. "He has lost his colon and later a kidney through surgery. He is under the care of St. Mary's Hospice in Rochester."

The family has a genetic link with cancer. Lorrie's father died of colon cancer, as did other rela-

tives. Since Becky's death, the Niemanns' two other daughters, Ruth and Mary Beth, have been tested. Mary Beth had surgery for a pre-cancerous condition.

Becky was working at Feblo, a Livonia company that repackages auto parts, when she became ill. She had to give up her true passion — work with animals — after she was injured while working on a horse farm.

"She worked eight to 10 hours a day," said Phil. "Her strength was diminishing. She started to lose weight. Her chiropractor suggested she go to the hospital for tests."

From diagnosis to death was a period of about four months. With support from hospice, Becky had time to finish her goals.

"She sent 20 big boxes of clothes and toys to a Native Indian school," said Phil. "Shipping cost her \$200."

Her teddy bear collection — some 200-odd stuffed animals — was donated to the children's unit of hospice.

"She was an extremely generous person," said Phil. "But she selected her charities carefully. Solicitation she received from cancer groups that did animal research, she threw that out."

The Michigan Anti Cruelty Society was another favorite charity. Before she died, Becky made her parents promise that they would attend hospice grief support sessions. It's a promise they made good on.

"In every turn of the road, there was hospice to give us support," said Lorrie.

They attended a six-week grief support, group co-sponsored by hospice and the Howe Peterson Funeral Home in Taylor. That's where they met Mary Jo Merollis, a Canton woman who has volunteered with hospice since 1992.

Merollis visits the Niemanns at home and has become a friend. "I fell in love with the (hospice) mission and began visiting families in need," she said.

Merollis gave the Niemanns a video about grief called "Invincible Summer." The Niemanns played the tape while their daughter, Ruth, and her family were in town for Thanksgiving.

"We sat and watched the video. Ruth said it helped. She's handling (grief) well. I've sent her hospice literature and she knows where they're located in Columbus," said Lorrie.

At their first grief relief session, as Phil calls them, they were placed with other parents who had lost children. Their facilitator's son was missing on a lake for four months before someone found his body. One couple's daughter, seven months pregnant, and died. Months later, they still hadn't seen the coroner's report.

"We felt like the lucky ones," said Phil. "Becky could finalize her goals."

Adds Lorrie: "Hospice gave us confidence. Even in the middle of the night, it's so comforting to know someone is there. On the day of her death, someone from hospice was on the phone or at her bedside continually. It allowed Becky her last wish, to die with dignity."

There is no charge for the services hospice provides. For information, call the Hospice of Southeastern Michigan at (313) 291-9700.

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'Twas the day after



Traditional scenes: Husbands setting up "base camp" at Westland Center (below) are Joe Richert (center) of Wayne and house guests Gary Roebuck (left) of Cincinnati and Marlyn Schaner of Irydale, W. Va., as their wives cruise the mall for the typical day-after-Christmas-sales and return gifts received the day before.



Staff Photos by Jim Jacobs. The image shows a busy shopping scene with people browsing through various goods displayed on shelves and tables in a store.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JACOBS

Students share holiday spirit with the elderly

Three classes of Garden City sixth-graders shared part of their Christmas holiday season with Westland senior citizens last week.

The students of Henry Ruff School teachers Bonnie Wagner, Kathy Kiah and Margaret Lademan visited the Abington Manor seniors' apartment complex on Joy near Newburgh and the Liberty Park development on Hunter west of Wayne Road to sing Christmas carols and distribute holiday greeting cards to the elderly.

That was just one of the many pre-Christmas activities by local students.



Holiday music: Students at Garden City's Henry Ruff School entertained residents at the Abington Manor senior citizens' complex in Westland last week with Christmas carols.



Yule spirit: Garden City students Donald Lowe and Robert Dexter of Henry Ruff School present Christmas greeting cards to Abington Manor residents Julia Anderson and Millie Archbold.



Special visitor: Abington Manor resident Lillian Hartmann had a special visitor last week when an elementary school group dropped in to sing Christmas carols and pass out holiday greeting cards. Presenting her with a Christmas card is her grandson, Chris Hartmann, 11.

Finances from page 1A

Swartz wrote the council that Gov. John Engler has recommended an \$81 million cut in state-shared revenue for the current fiscal year, but that the figure actually distributed may be slightly higher than the projections because of potential increases in the collection of income and single business taxes by the state.

Another unknown issue coming up in early 1996 that would affect

the city's financial shape is an ongoing dispute with the city of Detroit's water and sewer department.

Westland Finance Director Michael Gorman claimed that Detroit overbilled the city over the past several years. Westland has had discussions with Detroit water department officials to have a more accurate figure on how much water Westland bought and agree

on a dollar settlement figure.

Detroit has had the same problem with other western Wayne County communities and has paid them back for the overbillings, Gorman told the council at a workshop meeting.

In the past fiscal year, the city had revenues of nearly \$30.8 million with spending coming in at \$30.342 million, a difference of nearly \$439,000.

Spending from page 1A

paigns were former Councilman Kenneth Mehl and seven-time candidate Dorothy Smith.

In spending terms, Cox, Barns and Brown were followed, in order, by LeBlanc, Anderson, Pickering, Mehl and Smith. In fact, Smith didn't have to file campaign expense reports because she didn't exceed the \$1,000 mark in spending.

LeBlanc placed fourth in votes

and fourth in spending, shelling out \$10,137 for his first council seat, the reports showed. LeBlanc is quitting his Wayne-Westland school board seat six months before his four-year term expires so that he can sit on the council.

Anderson, who finished behind Barns in votes, ranked fifth in spending. He spent \$9,328 on his second successful campaign, the expense reports showed.

Pickering ranked third in votes and sixth in spending. He shelled out \$7,993 for what will be his third four-year term.

Mehl placed seventh in expenses, plunking down \$4,741 in his unsuccessful council campaign, the reports indicated. He

■ In spending terms, Cox, Barns and Brown were followed, in order, by LeBlanc, Anderson, Pickering, Mehl and Smith.

was trying to reclaim a council seat that he left two years ago, when he unsuccessfully sought the mayoral post occupied by Robert Thomas.

Smith ranked last in spending and last in votes.

Here are how the candidates stacked up on votes and campaign expenses, according to county records:

- Barns received 4,408 votes and spent \$13,054.
- Anderson garnered 3,990 votes and spent \$9,328.
- Pickering received 3,924 votes and spent \$7,993.
- LeBlanc won 3,480 votes and spent \$10,137.
- Mehl garnered 3,429 votes and spent \$4,741.
- Cox received 3,380 votes and spent \$21,427, including \$5,000 to pay off old debts. He also finished his latest campaign \$4,499 in debt, reports indicated.
- Brown received 3,223 votes and spent \$10,833.
- Smith received 2,554 votes but spent less than \$1,000.

Students entertain shoppers



ART EMANUELE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Yule music: Students from Patchin Elementary School walked to the nearby Meijer's Store on Warren and Newburgh last week to sing Christmas carols for shoppers in the store's cafeteria. The caroling was one of many holiday activities involving local students.

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Courts, roads in reform package

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Michigan would have a unified trial court system under a plan pushed by Rep. Michael Nye, chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

Nye's plan asks voters to approve two state constitutional amendments: one to abolish probate court, the other to raise the sales tax another penny and abolish the fuel tax.

Full debate hasn't begun on court reorganization, either Nye's plan or any other. But 1996 seems certain to be the year when things will come to a head. Gov. John Engler is blocking the addition of any new judgeships — vigorously sought in the Oakland and western Wayne suburbs — until a better deployment of existing judges is achieved. County road commissions and drivers want more money for roads.

Nye, R-Litchfield, has his plan on the front burner. Here are questions and answers based on his article in the November Michigan Bar Journal:

Q. Michigan today has four trial courts — circuit, probate, district and Detroit Recorder's, plus a few leftover municipal courts. All are elected separately. How would your plan change that?

A. There would be one court of justice with three divisions:

■ Full debate hasn't begun on court reorganization, either Nye's plan or any other. But 1996 seems certain to be the year when things will come to a head. Gov. John Engler is blocking the addition of any new judgeships — vigorously sought in the Oakland and western Wayne suburbs — until a better deployment of existing judges is achieved.

1. Circuit court — major civil cases, divorce without children, estates and wills, criminal cases (both adults and children), mortgage and land contract foreclosures.

2. Family court — divorce with children, adoptions, juvenile matters, abuse, guardianship, paternity.

3. District — minor civil suits, landlord-tenant relations, preliminary exams, civil infractions.

All three could handle name changes, marriages and equity cases.

All judges would be elected to the same bench and be paid the same salary.

Q. What kinds of electoral units are you thinking about? Would that happen with the Detroit-Wayne County problem?

A. Each county would be called a unit. Exceptions: Detroit would be a single unit,

and the rest of Wayne County another unit.

Small, northern counties would be clustered in a regional unit.

No out-of-unit judge would handle a case unless all of the judges in the unit had some kind of conflict.

Q. Suppose a unit had a glut of one type of case in a division — say, landlord-tenant.

A. Judges from all divisions in the unit would formulate a procedure to handle case overload. The old jurisdictional barriers are gone.

Q. Who would pay the judges? And what would happen to court revenues?

A. All judges would be state employees.

Each unit retains all revenue it generates except the crime victims fee, community dispute fee and restitution. Total is expected to add up to \$50 million a year based on 1993-94 figures.

Q. You are recommending another penny increase in the sales tax that voters would be asked to approve. Why?

A. The state would pick up the additional cost of judges' salaries out of the general fund. The state would also have to replace funds for libraries that come from court fines.

At the same time, I would recommend the total elimination of the gas tax (supporting roads and public transportation). That revenue, the library revenues and other lost revenue could be replaced with a one-cent increase in the sales and use tax.

The sales tax increase would generate \$1.1 billion.

Q. What is your formula for distributing that \$1.1 billion from the sales and use tax?

A. Roads would get 93 percent or \$1.02 billion. That is the equivalent of 22.7 cents of the fuel tax — 15 cents we're levying currently plus an extra 7.7 cents.

Libraries would get 5 percent (\$55 million); secondary road patrols, 1 percent (\$11 million); highway safety and justice training, 1 percent (\$11 million).

Refer to House Joint Resolutions S and T and to House Bill 5158 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.

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Dean of college centers to leave Schoolcraft job

BY BETH SUNDRLA JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Schoolcraft College is losing its dean of college centers.

Noreen Thomas is leaving the job, which she has held for about a year, ending a long tenure with the college where she's served in various jobs for the past 18 years.

Thomas says she has a lot of mixed emotions about leaving Schoolcraft. She's following her husband, David, to Austin, Texas, where he is executive senior vice president of IXC Corp., a telecommunications and long distance company.

He moved there six months ago. "It's real important to get the family back together," Thomas said.

"I couldn't say enough positive things about Noreen Thomas. It's a real loss to see her go to Texas," Conway Jeffers, vice president for instruction, said.

Thomas was noticed on each of the jobs she held at Schoolcraft, Jeffers said. She did an excellent job in her work with Continuing Education Services, which increased from 1,700 or 1,800 students to 14,000 students during her tenure, Jeffers said.

When the Radcliff Center job opened up, "I didn't think there would be anyone more outstanding than Noreen Thomas," he said. Radcliff Center is a satellite campus in Garden City.

Saundra Florek, dean of marketing and development at the college, called Noreen Thomas'



Noreen Thomas

leaving a big loss for the college.

"She really cares about the people who work for her," Florek said, calling her a hard worker who makes wise administrative decisions.

Florek remembered that Thomas had been put in charge of the renovation of Radcliff Center when it was newly purchased by Schoolcraft. After coming back to the main campus for other jobs, ironically, she ended up going back to the center as dean.

Thomas, who plans to leave at the end of February, said she's loved her job as dean of college

centers. With a large percentage of the population taking classes at college centers and the variety of classes offered, the job was "never the same."

The dean of college centers is responsible for operation of the Radcliff Center and other college centers, including those at Garden City Junior High School, Plymouth Canton High School and the Summit on the Park in Canton Township.

The college has begun a national search for her replacement, but Thomas doesn't expect the replacement to be on board before she leaves.

The deadline for applicants is Feb. 5.

The dean is responsible for coordinating the master class schedule for the Radcliff Center and other satellite centers, submitting budget proposals, administering operational and capital outlay budgets for Radcliff, developing and maintaining public relations, and providing a marketing strategy.

The starting salary range is \$68,791-\$76,000.

As for Thomas' professional plans, she's working on a Ph.D. in educational leadership and administration at University of Michigan, and she's found the University of Texas at Austin offers the same program. "So I may be a full-time student for a while."

A native of New York, Thomas has two sons, ages 15 and 10.

College offers test prep classes

Overcome test anxiety, prepare for, college entrance exams, or bring math and reading skills up to speed in Schoolcraft College classes beginning in January.

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"Stop Test Anxiety" and methods for improving ACT scores in an ACT preparation workshop.

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prove their reading and language arts skills.

To register or for more information, call Schoolcraft College's Continuing Education Services at (313) 462-4448.

Software classes offered this winter

Schoolcraft College is offering classes on today's most popular software packages this winter.

"The Internet and Beyond" is a one-day class and will be offered four times: Jan. 20, Feb. 10, March 9 and April 13.

Classes on Windows 95 will be

offered during the winter semester. Join the mailing list for this class by calling (313) 462-4448.

Other introductory computer classes beginning in January include: "Keyboarding on the Computer," "MS-DOS v 6.22," "Excel 5.0," "Wordperfect," "Wordperfect for Windows," "UNIX,"

"Macintosh Basics," "PC Basics," "Windows on the PC," and "Effective Communication Using PowerPoint."


To register or for more information, call Schoolcraft College's Continuing Education Services at (313) 462-4448.



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Map showing location near Farmington and Livonia.

Pet store trip offers short lesson



NATURE TRAILS

TIMOTHY NOWICKI

If you like animals, it's hard not to stop in at your local pet store when visiting the mall.

They often have a nice variety and pet animals are often cute. Pet stores can also give us a short lesson in natural history. There are often several vertebrate groups represented at a single store. Many stores have reptiles, like turtles and snakes. Birds are frequently on display, along with fish. Amphibians, like frogs and salamanders, are becoming more popular it seems, and mammals of various kinds are often available.

Some of the animals will be active while you browse the store during the day. These are diurnal animals. Those that are hard to find because they are sleeping in protected areas are nocturnal.

Pet buyers should be cautious about nocturnal animals because they become active when you want to sleep. A good example is a hamster.

Golden-colored hamsters are short-tailed mammals that first came into contact with humans around 1930. A researcher first discovered this animal in Syria. Within a few years he had a breeding population for his research. Soon after that, other laboratories discovered them and the public.

The hamster, and another animal it's often confused with, the gerbil, are both mammals in the rodent family. Both have large front teeth designed for gnawing, while the flat rear teeth grind seeds they eat. But gerbils have a long tail and are active during the day. These potential pets came from Mongolia originally and did not come to the United States until 1954.

Both hamsters and gerbils are relatively new as pets. But not as new as the prairie dogs I've recently seen in pet stores. These rodents are very social animals and are known for their digging. Just look at their claws. Relatively new to Michigan's pet stores is the ferret. This carnivore probably originated from a polecat in southern Europe. Its relationship to man was first mentioned in 20 AD.

Dogs are probably the oldest domesticated animal at the pet



Nocturnal pet: Golden-colored hamsters are short-tailed mammals that first came into contact with humans around 1930. A researcher first discovered this animal in Syria.

store. Most people feel that dogs were domesticated about 12,000 years ago. More than 400 breeds of dog now known originated from the wolf. It's hard to believe that a Chihuahua has the

same basic genes as a mastiff and a wild wolf.

Even while you're shopping at the mall, you can still observe some natural history in your local pet store.

Ficano to revelers: Don't drink, drive

Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano urges people to use common sense when celebrating this New Year's Eve.

"If you're planning a holiday party, at the office or at home, or if you go out to celebrate this New Year's Eve, use common sense and designate a driver who will stay sober and get you home in one piece," Ficano said in a press release.

More than 50 percent of all fatal traffic crashes involve a driver who is under the influence of alcohol. New Year's Eve is one of the most lethal nights in that respect, he said.

Ficano also cites the state's drunken driving laws as another reason to designate a driver.

"With these laws, drunk drivers had better beware — we'll get you off the road and keep you off the road. Do yourself, your family and the other guy a favor . . . stay sober when you drive — during the holidays or anytime," he said.

Alcohol relaxes inhibitions, slows reaction time, decreases coordination and impairs judgment and vision.

"You can help reduce the statistics instead of becoming one," Ficano said. "Use a designated driver and promote the use of one with family and friends."

"Better yet," he said, "volunteer to be the designated driver and save a life — what better gift could you give your family and friends?"

St. Vincent de Paul accepts car donations

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is accepting donations of used cars to fund programs the society runs for the poor.

Donated cars will be sold, generating income for the society's camps, food depots, and employment agency, all services specifically designed to help the needy in six southeastern Michigan counties.

"The used car donation program is of great benefit. It will help put our services to the poor on a firmer financial footing and let us expand to meet the need," said James R. Carron, executive director.

To donate a used car call Dennis at 1-800-309-AUTO (2886) or (313) 972-3100. All 1995 donations to the society are tax deductible for the 1995 tax year.

Board says no way to gas, oil drilling

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

This time it was government's turn to say "NIMBY" to homeowners.

The board of the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority refused to allow gas and oil drilling on a group camp at the north end of Kensington Metropark.

Disappointed Milford Township residents had hoped to keep drilling out of a vacant 10-acre parcel in a nearby residential zone at Shagbark and and Garner roads and onto the Kensington group camp site, which is directly over the suspected 250 million-year-old fossil fuel deposits.

NIMBY means "not in my back yard." And in HCMA's case, the back yard has been used by scout and youth groups for nearly a half-century.

"The oil deposits are under the group camp," resident Peter Karr told the HCMA board Dec. 14. "Hundreds of homes would be affected by a well at Shagbark and Garner."

"Their (Wolverine Gas & Oil Co. of Grand Rapids) first choice is to locate it in the park where the oil is located."

Residents foresee damage to health, safety, air quality, groundwater supplies, traffic and property values if development is in their neighborhood.

Added resident Neil DeVries: "Wolverine's first choice is to drill above the deposit rather than on a slant. They say, 'The well is going in. We are starting to drill in mid-January.'"

HCMA Commissioner John Hertel persuaded the board to assign staff to work with homeowners and Wolverine officials "and look for a solution that wouldn't hurt our ability to serve the public."

"But Hertel, an experienced politico who has served on the Wayne and Macomb county boards as well as in the state Sen-

ate, added wryly: "That may be impossible."

Added James Clarkson, long-time Oakland County representative on the HCMA board: "We don't want those trucks going by any more than you do."

In a memo to HCMA board members, staff member Donald G. Beem said that last February the park authority entered a "non-development" oil and gas lease with Wolverine covering 85 acres under the group camp site. That means Wolverine can tap the resources under the land but can't develop on the land.

"Wolverine indicated that they had a drill site off of HCMA lands and that they had leased other private properties (approximately 12) as the possible oil and gas reserve was not totally under HCMA lands."

Beem said officials at the state Department of Environmental Quality "also feel a drill site on HCMA is a better location than the site proposed by Wolverine. It is interesting to note, however, that they do not presently allow oil and gas production facilities on their own state park or state recreation lands."

Wolverine officials told The Milford Times last week they intend to begin drilling after the first of the year and will drill around the clock for the first two weeks.

"We may find a dry hole," said Richard Moritz, manager of Wolverine's land and legal department.

In the late Paleozoic Era of 200-300 million years ago, Michigan was covered by shallow seas and warm-weather forests. The most famous results are salt deposits under Detroit and Manistee and oil in the Pigeon River Country.

Wolverine officials have found a coral reef that may have trapped salt water, oil, natural gas or combinations of all. But the only way the company will know for sure is to drill.

Holiday light show plays host to groups

Angela Hospice of Livonia, Detroit Recreation Centers, Children's Hospital of Michigan patients and their families and several other groups have driven through Wayne County LightFest, the holiday light show in Hines Park.

"This is what it is all about," said Hurley Coleman, Wayne County Parks director, in a press release. "It is great to bring some holiday spirit and create special memories. We hope Wayne County LightFest becomes a holiday tradition."

This is the third season for LightFest, which features 35 displays and 500,000 lights.

"We have had several bus groups go through Wayne County

LightFest. Senior groups, church groups, youth groups . . . from all over the metro Detroit area. We even had a group from Ohio come through," said Tessie Pitseas, Wayne County parks manager of recreation.

LightFest is open nightly from 7-10 p.m. through Jan. 1. Traffic enters Hines Drive at Merrimian road in Westland and proceeds east, exiting at Warren Ave., just east of Telegraph in Dearborn Heights. Food concessions and a gift shop area are available at the Warrendale picnic area at the exit. A \$5 donation per car raises funds for the parks.

For more information call Wayne County Parks at (313) 261-1990.

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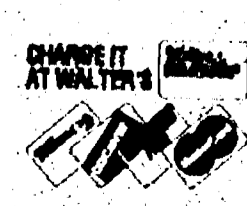
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WLT 1104-95

New roads completed; county to take jurisdiction

BY BETH SUNDRLA JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER

A plan for Wayne County to accept jurisdiction of some new roads and change the names of several roads sparked discussion among Wayne County commissioners.

At the board of commissioners' Dec. 21 meeting, commissioners voted to accept into the file a list of roads the county will take over as of the end of 1995, but only after commissioners questioned the plan and why it came before the commission at the last meeting of the year.

"Why is this at the last minute and why didn't this go through committee?" Commissioner Edna Bell asked.

And, Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland, asked if local mayors and township supervisors are aware of the changes, and wondered if local councils and boards of trustees would be required to take action.

Several administration employees tried to shed light on the pro-

cedure, saying the list of roads to be accepted always comes late in the year. Robert Biga, director of the Division of Administration of the Department of Public Services, said local officials had been notified. Robert Murphy, Airport general counsel, said the roads are an administrative function and once roads have been built, they have to be taken over by the county. The amount of mileage the county has jurisdiction over also determines the amount of money the county receives for roads, he said.

Many of the roads the county will accept are in Canton Township and Commissioner Bruce Patterson, R-Canton Township, said he should have been given the list in advance as a courtesy.

Several roads in Canton Township are also being renamed. "Have the residents acknowledged that the names of their roads are going to be changed?" he asked.

"This should have been handled in such a way that we could

be certain the local communities want this," he said.

Several commissioners continued to question why the matter was being brought to them so late and unexplained.

Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, said he faulted the administration for the manner in which the plan was presented.

"I don't know if I'm prepared to vote on this at all," Commissioner Edward Boike Jr. said.

It's standard procedure that the county accept the roads, according to Tom Casari, Canton Township engineer, who spoke to the Observer by phone later. All roads in new subdivisions are platted, built to county standards and then accepted, he said.

Casari said that to his knowledge the roads being renamed in Canton Township don't have residents on them, and they are being renamed to give through streets the same name. If people do live on them, they will be notified of a name change, he said.

The following sections of roads in Canton Township will become county roads:

- Valentine Court, Nowland Drive, and part of Verdun Court, Palmer and Sheldon roads in Nowland Estates Subdivision;
- Crestview Drive, Dunston Road and Woodale Way and part of Foothill, Millbrook and Palmer roads in Brookside Village Subdivision Number 5;
- Leigh, Northgate, Southgate, Westgate and Woodgreen courts, Northgate and Southgate drives and part of Beck Road in Huntington Place Subdivision;
- Gerald Court in Pine View Estates Subdivision;
- Glastonbury and Yarmouth drives and part of Beck Road in Pinewood Subdivision Number 1;
- Robert Court in Kingston Estates Subdivision;
- Lancelot Court, Lancelot Drive, and part of Amber Drive and Morton-Taylor Road in Birkparkview Estates Subdivision Number 2;
- Stratford and Rutherford

- courts, and part of Stratford Drive and Gyde Road in Stratford Park Subdivision Number 2;
- Labana, Lillian, North Pointe and Steven courts, Labana and North Pointe drives and part of Beck Road in North Point Subdivision;
- Amanda, Kristine, Michael and Samuel courts, Kimberly, Samantha and Sarah Ann drives and parts of Canton Center and Geddes roads in Kimberly Meadows Subdivision;
- Fenwick Drive and Seabrook Drive in Glengarry Village Subdivision Number 5;
- Bentley, Bridgewater and Lathan courts, Weymouth Drive, Tremont Road, and part of Glengarry Boulevard and Beck and Palmer roads in Glengarry Village Subdivision Number 6;
- Tyler Lane, and part of Worthington Road and Lotz Road in Camden Park;
- Baron Drive in Admiral Industrial Subdivision;
- Part of Beck Road in Pheasant View Subdivision;

- And Heatherlea and Yarmouth courts and part of Yarmouth Drive in Pinewood Subdivision Number 2.

The following roads in Plymouth Township will become county roads:

- Greystone Boulevard and Tremont Lane in Greystone Estates Subdivision.
- Hollymood Drive, Lochness, Whithorn and Willoway courts and parts of Edinburgh and Latherton drives in Heather Hills Subdivision Number 2.

Road names to be changed include: Stratford Court in Stratford Park Subdivision in Canton Township will now be known as Belford Court; Midway Street in Sunflower Village Subdivision Number 4 in Canton Township will now be known as North Pointe Drive; Orchid Avenue in Sunflower Village Subdivision Number 4 in Canton Township will now be known as Lyndon Avenue.

Perot's Reform Party plans petition drive

Supporters of Ross Perot's Reform Party say they intend to start a petition drive this winter to establish a party to rival the Democrats and Republicans.

The state board of election canvassers is expected to approve the petition language today, according to Susan Esser, state coordinator of Citizens to Establish a Michigan Reform Party.

The drive will be to secure 30,891 signatures of Michigan voters as part of a movement to establish a national political party.

Esser, who started with Perot's United We Stand America in 1992, has been state coordinator for two years.

Legally the group can go forward with the petition drive, but

members are waiting for formal approval because there have been problems in other states, Esser said.

"Even though winter is upon us we will be out there armed with petitions," she said. "There are lots of independent-minded voters who own businesses all over Michigan. Many have already contacted us about setting up petition tables on their premises. Our motto to them is 'You call, we'll haul,'" Esser said.

Reform Party issues include campaign finance reform, balancing the federal budget, lobbying, term limits and a return to the true nature of public service, Esser said in a press release.

For information, call 1 800 96-PARTY.

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Act responsibly

Speed, alcohol are deadly duo

New Year's Eve, it seems, is usually a good time to talk about the dangers of drinking and driving. It's an issue that unfortunately just won't go away, although we can report some progress on the legislative and educational fronts.

There are reasons that this year's plea is more compelling — about 70 of them. We're referring, of course, to the push in Michigan and other states to raise, or abolish, freeway speed limits in the wake of the repeal last month of the 55 mph federal speed limit.

In Michigan, a bill to raise the maximum speed on all freeways — including some urban stretches — to 70 mph has stalled temporarily in the state Senate. The proposal failed on Dec. 12 after numerous amendments were added and senators couldn't agree on where lower limits would still be enforced. The state House has yet to act on the bill.

Yes, these are separate issues. The 55 mph limit was adopted some 23 years ago primarily as an energy conservation tactic. The federal law was eased several years ago to 65 mph on "rural" interstates.

But statistics show the lower limit, along with improved auto safety, has helped push down the number of traffic fatalities nationwide to about half the 55,000 deaths reported annually during the 1970s.

Which is where alcohol becomes part of the equation.

The reality is Michigan will likely increase freeway speed limits. The public, which to a large extent ignores current posted limits, wants it; and traffic engineers tell us the freeways were designed for responsible drivers doing 65-70 mph.

That means efforts to curb drinking and driving will take on added importance, possi-

There are reasons that this year's plea is more compelling — about 70 of them. We're referring, of course, to the push in Michigan and other states to raise, or abolish, freeway speed limits in the wake of the repeal last month of the 55 mph federal speed limit.

bly by early next year.

Personal responsibility is a big factor here. The designated driver idea is good in theory. More people, older adults as well as 20-somethings, need to put it into practice.

The Observer supports legislation that cracks down on drunken driving without impinging on civil rights — last year's "Zero Tolerance" law, which targets drinking drivers under 21, for example. And we will continue to urge prosecutors and district judges to take their responsibilities in this area seriously. Even the toughest new laws will fail to make a difference if the judicial branch doesn't place equal emphasis on the issue.

Educational programs, from those sponsored by MADD and SADD to police department presentations at local high schools, must also continue.

Lastly, corporate America needs to jump on the bandwagon — and we're not talking about just throwing in a few catchy phrases at the end of a beer commercial. Companies that sell beer, wine and liquor need to take a hard look at the way they promote their products. The image they create should be one that encourages responsible use, not reckless consumption.

Good news for suburbs in '96

Cheerful holiday news comes to the suburbs of metro Detroit packaged by the job and population forecasters of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. After two decades of stagnant population changes and a loss of manufacturing jobs, things are looking up, literally, from now to 2020.

SEMCOG's regional development forecast, now circulating to cities and townships, shows "a positive economic future" — an 18-percent growth in jobs and a 13-percent growth in population in the quarter-century ahead.

Job growth will be particularly strong in suburban Wayne County (18.3 percent), Oakland County (29.7 percent) and Livingston County (83.2 percent).

Among the top 10 job growth communities will be Canton Township (119 percent), Rochester Hills (100.5 percent), Bloomfield Township (96 percent), Novi (67.1 percent), Troy (19.6 percent) and Livonia (18.4 percent).

Sad to say, Detroit is projected to continue losing jobs, and manufacturing will decline — no surprise there. But services, retail and finance are projected for healthy increases.

Significantly, the percentage of working-age adults holding jobs will increase from 81 percent in 1990 to 88 percent in 2020.

In the population charts, Livonia is likely to

SEMCOG's regional development forecast, now circulating to cities and townships, shows "a positive economic future" — an 18-percent growth in jobs and a 13-percent growth in population in the quarter-century ahead.

dip below the 100,000 mark, and Southfield below 75,000, though that's due mostly to shrinking family size. Westland, Canton, Farmington Hills and Troy will continue to see more faces, as will northern Oakland communities.

The nature of public services will change. Households with children will decline 5 percent by 2020. Better health care will mean more older folks, particularly in the 85-and-up category. Elementary schools will be converted into senior citizen centers.

Builders of houses and apartments should continue to prosper as population rises and average household size shrinks from 3.49 people in 1960 to 2.66 today to 2.47 in 2020.

Now if we can refrain from paving over too many farm fields and slicing up too many lakes with powerboats, we may have a nice environment in which to enjoy our prosperity.

Schools work hard on MEAP



Academic testing: Local teachers and students, like those above, worked hard during specially-planned reading and math workshops so they can boost their reading and math scores in the annual Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests.

LETTERS

Attack unwarranted

It never ceases to amaze me! When someone is intent on making a political attack, virtually anything is a suitable basis for doing so — even a decidedly non-partisan, "good government" piece like my column in the Nov. 25 Observer.

Even though Mark Tooze makes a variety of comments about me and my record, readers should not be misled by the authoritative air of his delivery. For example, while Tooze forcefully reports that I supported the 1993 budget act, he is obviously ignorant of the fact I wasn't a member of Congress until 1995.

Even though he claims to be among those who "are watching and listening carefully to what both sides are saying and doing," his vigilance did not extend to verification of his facts before making accusations about me in the newspaper.

Readers should also be suspicious of his wholesale condemnation of my voting record — again, the facts don't support his statements. He tries to argue that my actual votes are not consistent with the arguments put forward in my column.

Untrue! Not only have I repeatedly cast votes in support of ethics and campaign finance reform, I have personally set standards above what the law requires.

For example, as a state legislator, I voted against a pay raise and then, after it passed, returned it to the state treasury. Before I was elected to Congress, I pledged not to accept gifts, meals, or travel from special interests. I have voluntarily kept to this standard and sponsored legislation that would have placed the same requirements on all members.

In fact, Speaker Gingrich's amendment to the recently passed "gift ban" was identical to my proposal.

Similarly, I have co-sponsored most of the ethics and "perks and privileges" bills in the 104th Congress and am currently at work on campaign finance reform.

I recently sponsored a bill to make House members more accountable for after-hours use of C-SPAN — which costs taxpayers around \$7,000 an hour — and, because of my strong sense of outrage over the recent shutdown of the federal government, I pledged to return my salary for those six days.

Mr. Tooze's claim that I argued that "Democrats had been disadvantaged" and that my reform bills were "to right this wrong" is simply made up. A review of my comments will show that I was critical of both parties and urged bipartisan responses to campaign and ethics reforms.

It seems to me that what was actually written in the column was of little interest to Mr.

Tooze — my party affiliation, rather than my arguments, are what count to him.

While he is certainly free to dislike that I am a Democrat, Mr. Tooze is way out of line for faulting me on reform! I would hope that my Wayne County constituents would recognize this inaccurate and partisan attack for what it is.

U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers

Rivers, an Ann Arbor Democrat in her first term, represents Garden City and Westland.

Abortions knocked

As far as the debate on partial-birth, late-term abortions go, one can only wonder what goes on in the minds of those who defend them.

When I think of how far the feminist movement has declined from the precepts of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, I am truly made sad. Those pioneer foremothers in the movement called abortion "child murder."

Today's women's movement so-called leaders have recently said that these late-term abortions are necessary to "ensure a woman's right to choose."

I am saddened when I think of my sisters in the womb who are six and seven months along — fully developing females — whom some think must be sacrificed for women's rights.

Lastly, I am saddened that our U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers voted against the partial-birth late-term abortion ban. We must defend our sisters (and brothers) who are developing in the womb.

Gena Giannuzzi, Westland

Letter generates laugh

Looking at the letters to the editor in the Dec. 14 Observer, I saw Walter Warren's name on the first letter. I thought to myself: Not again. Why don't they let him write a column of his own and let other people have a little space?

Then I read the opening sentence of the second letter: "Just once I'd like to open one of your newspapers and not see a letter from Walter Warren."

I have to say I laughed out loud. (Letter writer) Mr. Anderson was very kind in his comments and it's nice to know I am not alone in wondering why he is published so often.

Anyway, thanks for the laugh. I needed it! Anna Pettibone, Garden City

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:
 Do you have any New Year's resolutions?



'I haven't even thought about it.'
 Joseph Towers
 Westland



'No, I haven't. I never do.'
 Liz Patterson
 Westland



'I'm just going to keep spoiling my grandkids some more.'
 Carol Morrison
 Westland



'To try to quit smoking.'
 Douglas Arthur Draper
 Westland

We asked this question at the Kroger store on Ford Road at Central City Parkway.

Westland Observer

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— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Accountability is important for all our schools

Now comes Randy Bos, superintendent of Montabella Community Schools, who wants to convert all five schools in his tiny (1,500 students) mid-Michigan district into charter schools.

"This would force the school district to take the responsibility that it should have and add some accountability to what we're doing here," said Bos, who plans to submit his proposal to the school board in January.

Pardon me, but up to now I had thought that local school boards and superintendents were supposed to take responsibility and accountability for what kids learn without having to convert their public school districts into charter schools. Or am I missing something?

Charter schools are an experiment in school reform that authorizes independent schools to receive the same amount of per-pupil funding that is

provided regular public schools in the region. There are now about 40 such schools operation in Michigan, with another 20 or so authorized to open next year.

The theory is that chartering some independent schools would break the monopoly on K-12 education now held by public schools, provoke experimentation and provide parents with greater school choice. I'm afraid the fact is that lots of folks who are hot for charter schools want little more than to get your and my tax dollars to pay for private schooling for their kids.

That's why the year-end educational squabble in Lansing between the Senate (very conservative, very ideological) and the House (more moderate, more narrowly divided) was so important.

The folks in the Senate were hell-bent to take off all restrictions on the number of schools to be chartered. The House eventually watered down most



PHILIP POWER

of the radical Senate notions.

I think allowing uncontrolled numbers of charter schools poses two enormous problems:

■ Financial oversight. Remember, the per-pupil grant paid to charter schools comes from public tax dollars. But boards of charter schools are privately appointed rather than publicly elected. How do you get public oversight of the expenditure of public funds?

■ Educational standards. With a lot of kids attending a bunch of independent charter schools, how do you know that each kid is getting an education that's up to standard? The Senate was adamant in wanting to do away with the mandated statewide curriculum, and so Michigan is now one of only three states in the nation with no — none! — minimum standards for what our kids are supposed to learn in school.

It's ironic that the scores for this year's round of MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) tests were released recently. In general, they showed that most school districts have improved in reading and math over the past few years as teachers began to adjust their classes to meet the demands of public testing.

We regularly publish the local MEAP test results, school building by school building, in this newspaper. Nothing we do gets a bigger response

from our readers, and this kind of intense interest translates — surprise! — into pressure for school improvement.

Next year, the MEAP will be augmented with a battery of tough new tests, including an entirely new proficiency test for 11th-graders. This test, designed to assess what kids really learn before they leave school, will in turn drive the system of state-endorsed diplomas.

So the process — testing what kids learn, publishing those results in the Observer Newspapers and letting the pressure improve the work of teachers and school officials — gradually is improving our schools.

Isn't that the kind of responsibility and accountability that we've been expecting from the public schools all along?

Phil Power is chairman of the company that owns this newspaper. His Touch-Tone voice mail number is (313) 953-2047, Ext. 1880.

Accusations of racism don't fill bill for state legislator

If being called nasty names could hurt, state Rep. Deborah Whyman would be covered by a dung heap. The second-term Republican from Canton Township is taking verbal abuse such as one rarely sees in the polite corridors of the State Capitol.

"She's a racist," Rep. Ed Vaughn, D-Detroit, told the Michigan Chronicle. "If she's not a racist, she certainly appears to be one."

She's trying to position herself as a force for "the racist far right. She's a participant in the dumbing down of America. She plays to dumb folks and blames the victims," Vaughn went on.

"The only plausible explanation for this rather astonishing proposal is race," said Robert Sedlar, a Wayne State University law professor.

"The minute we get any inkling that they're trying to take our court away, we'll use every legal resource to fight it," said Recorder's Judge Kym Worthy.

"I'm sick of these people coming into Detroit and telling us that we can't think for ourselves," said Geraldine Block, a retired Detroit teacher who uses the mail and talk radio to bash Whyman.

Now, Whyman votes with evangelicals like Alan Cropsey, Harold Voorhees and Jack Horton on school and abortion questions. But racist? Her desk is next to my press box station, we chat a good bit, and I've yet to hear her whisper a racist comment.

In fact, those who make snide references to "These People" and "They" are the ones we should suspect of prejudging people on the basis of race.

A lady who's never shrill and who does her homework, Whyman is sponsor of House Bill 4952, to consolidate Detroit Recorder's Court (with its criminal jurisdiction) into Wayne Circuit Court. If enacted, HB 4952 would correct one flaw in a pattern of flawed state laws — the tendency for Lansing



TIM RICHARD

to write one bill for Detroit and one for the rest of the state.

In the other 82 counties, circuit court handles all criminal cases, as well as divorces and civil suits worth more than \$10,000. Only Detroit has a separate criminal court.

Ann Arbor doesn't have a separate court from Washtenaw County; Flint isn't separate from Genesee County; ditto with the city of Saginaw and Sa-

ginaw County; ditto with Bay City and Bay County; ditto with Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County; ditto with Grand Rapids and Kent County; ditto with Muskegon and Muskegon County; ditto with Midland and Midland County.

The Legislature made a big, fat mistake when it created a separate court for Detroit, just as it erred when it created a separate class of school district for Detroit, and separate income tax provisions for Detroit, and separate dozens of other things for Detroit.

Detroit isn't unique. It's a city with about half the county's population. It has a large minority population. It's an old city. But it absolutely isn't unique, no way.

In the last decade, the Supreme Court has shifted jurisdiction of suburban criminal cases out of Wayne Circuit Court and into Detroit Recorder's Court. A handful of circuit judges have been rotated onto the Recorder's bench to help out. But essentially we have an

unfair situation.

If I were a black Detroit, I would raise an eyebrow if my neighbors were judged solely by white suburbanites. And Whyman's constituents raise an eyebrow at having their criminal cases judged in Detroit Recorder's Court.

Since Whyman's bill hit the Judiciary Committee — with a ton of co-sponsors — the Supreme Court has changed the rules and ordered suburban Wayne County criminal cases back into circuit court. So is HB 4952 even necessary? Absolutely, because the Supreme Court could change the rules again.

Black Detroiters don't want to see their voting strength diluted by a countywide election. We all appreciate that view. Whyman's research shows that fair numbers of blacks have been elected to Wayne Probate Court and to countywide posts.

It's too bad she has had to take all that abuse.

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OBITUARIES

PEARL NEIL
Services for Pearl Neil, 76, were Friday, Dec. 22, from the Price Funeral Home with the Rev. Richard Cryderman officiating. Burial was in White Chapel Memorial Cemetery, Troy.
Mrs. Neil, formerly of Garden City, died Dec. 20 at the Autumn Woods Health Care Facility in Warren.
Mrs. Neil was born in Cleator Moor, Cumberland, England in 1919 and was married in Windsor, Ontario, in 1946.
She is survived by a daughter, Nancy Olson (David) of Rochester Hills; sister, Florence Keat of Redford; and grandchildren Sarah Mullins, Meagan Olson and Matthew Olson.
Memorials can be sent to the Michigan Cancer Foundation, 831 W. Huron St., Pontiac 48341.

THOMAS RICHARDSON
Services for Thomas Richardson,

59, of Garden City were Thursday, Dec. 21, from the John Santelu & Son Chapel with the Rev. Steven Schafer of Mt. Hope Congregational Church officiating. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Gaylord.
Mr. Richardson died Dec. 18 in the Macomb Hospital Center in Warren.
He had worked in the rental truck/trailer and moving equipment business. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Garden City, No. 587.
Survivors include his wife, Anni; daughters, Lori (Tom) Kariott and Lynn Nel (Kevin) Pike; sons, Kevin (Kathy) and Kris (Sandy); and six grandchildren.
He is also survived by a brother, Jim Beranek of Mt. Pleasant, and eight sisters: Catherine Hafner of Chelsea; Margaret Stephens of Dexter; Irene Rodriguez of Ann Arbor; Barb Renfrow of Flint; Doris Shinabarger of Prescott; Florence

Slayton of Hillsboro, Texas; Ruth Hoffer of Hollywood, Fla.; and Winnie Aguilar of Durand.
Memorials are suggested to the Shriner's Crippled Children's Fund.

MARY ROBERTS
Services for Mrs. Roberts, 75, were Friday, Dec. 22, from the John Santelu & Son Chapel with the Rev. William Dankowski of Evergreen Lutheran Church officiating. Cremation was arranged by Southern Michigan Services in Livonia.
Mrs. Roberts was a lifelong resident of Wayne County. She lived in Westland for three years after living in Garden City.
Survivors include daughters, Donna (Paul) Henson of White Lake and Carol (Eugene) Sekutowski; and four grandchildren: Jennifer, Michelle, David and Lisa.

Memorials are suggested to the Community Hospice Services, Westland.

ELAYNE PATRICIA HEINDLMEYER
Services for Mrs. Heindlmeyer, 63, of Garden City were Dec. 28 from the Sajewski Funeral Home, Detroit, followed by cremation.
Mrs. Heindlmeyer died Dec. 25 in her home of natural causes.
Survivors include: sons, Joseph (Karen), Mark and Thomas; daughters, Deborah, Barbara (Tom), Elayne and Jill (George); grandchildren, Joseph, James, Kristin, Paul, Danielle, Janielle, John, Alexander and Elayna Jo and great-grandchildren, Marlee and Brett. Preceding her in death was her husband, Joseph.

JOSEPH VANDERVENNET
Services for Joseph Vandervennet

of Westland were Friday, Dec. 22, from the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home and St. Theodore Church. Burial was in St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights.
Mr. Vandervennet, 68, died Dec. 20 at Garden City Osteopathic Hospital.
He had worked as a bricklayer.
Survivors include his wife, Patricia; brothers, William, Robert, Edward, Frederick, Joseph and Charles; and sisters Elizabeth Vader, Patricia Walters, Theresa Laird and Mary Lowry.

JOAN WEYHE
Services for Joan Weyhe of Westland were Friday, Dec. 22, from the Uht Funeral Home with burial in Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland.
Mrs. Weyhe, 72, died Dec. 19 in University Hospital.
She had worked as a salesperson.
Survivors include daughters,

Carol Green of Westland, Cheryl Neubecker, Ann Ables, Renee Boyko, and Colleen Clark; son, Richard Weyhe; brother, Robert Meyer; and six grandchildren.

ALICE SOCIA
Services for Mrs. Socia of Milford Township were Friday, Dec. 22, from Acacia Park Funeral Home, Birmingham.
Ms. Socia, 82, of Milford, was born in Detroit and was a stenographer.
Survivors include: Alvin Socia of Wayne County; Craig Socia of Canton; William Socia, Jr., of Livonia; and Jan Leighton of Garden City; and Jan Jayson of Redford Township, and a great-nephew, Scott Socia of Redford Township.
Arrangements were by the Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home, Plymouth Township.

How to beat holiday blues

Has the holiday season arrived without you? Since we can't control the season's arrival, it's not unusual for adults to feel out-of-synch with the holiday crowd, said an Oakwood Healthcare System spokeswoman.

These tips from Oakwood behavioral medicine professionals might help you pick up your spirits and see you through.

Since "tradition" is one of the hallmarks of the holidays, you might feel acutely sad if it's not possible to carry out some of your usual traditions, said Oakwood's Suzanne Truskowski.

"If you have recently lost a loved one, if the holiday season is the anniversary of such a loss, or if your living situation has changed in the past year and you are away from loved ones, remember that you can start new holiday traditions.

If you are feeling blue, it's difficult to have much enthusiasm for . . . gift-giving or party going.

They may not seem like much at first, but if you are able to repeat them over the next few years, they'll begin to feel comfortable."

If you are feeling blue, it's difficult to have much enthusiasm for social expectations such as gift-giving or party going, she said.

"Participate at a level that feels comfortable to you, but try not to isolate yourself entirely. A little participation might lift your spirits.

"The holiday season is a good time to spend evenings with a good book or quiet music. Write letters to friends and loved ones instead of sending cards. By staying involved in some activity, you may find your mood lifting.

"There are many social service programs for people in need over the holidays. Taking time to participate, if only for a few hours, can be a good way out of the holiday doldrums and help bring season's greetings to others. Talk things out.

"Many adults experience holiday blues. If you are not able to compensate for it in some other way, or feel that the "blues" might be drifting into depression, seek help.

"Remember, we can't control the season's arrival, however, there are some things we can do to pick up our spirits and see us through the season."

Oakwood owns and operates the former Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

MILITARY NEWS

Delayed enlistment
Crystal Nelson has enlisted in the Air Force's "delayed enlistment" program. She is scheduled for enlistment in the Regular Air Force September, 1996. Upon graduation from the Air Force's six-week basic training course in San Antonio, she is scheduled to receive technical training in the general career field. She will earn credits toward an associate degree in applied sciences through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools. Nelson, a 1996 graduate of John Glenn High School, is the daughter of Robert and Paula Nelson of Westland.

Henry Honeycutt has enlisted in the Air Force's "delayed enlistment" program and is scheduled for enlistment in the Regular Air Force January 1996. Upon graduation from the Air Force's six-week basic training course in San Antonio, he is scheduled to receive technical training in the electronics career field. He will earn credits toward an associate degree in applied sciences through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools. Honeycutt, a 1995 graduate of John Glenn High School, is the son of Henry and Michele Priestley of Westland.

THEY ENLIST
Rochelle Farmer has enlisted in the Air Force. Upon completing the Air Force's six-week basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, he is scheduled to receive technical training as a diet therapy apprentice. She will earn credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools. Farmer, is a 1995 graduate of John Glenn High School and the daughter of James and Pamela Farmer.

Rebecca Cannon has enlisted in the Air Force. Upon completing the Air Force's six-week basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, she is scheduled to receive technical training in the electronics career field. She will earn credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools. Cannon, the daughter of Gail Stewart of Garden City, is a 1995 graduate of Westland Lutheran High School.

David Holmes has enlisted in the Air Force. Upon completing the Air Force's six-week basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, he is scheduled to receive technical training in the mechanical career field. He will earn credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools. Holmes, the son of William and Carol Holmes of Westland, is a 1995 graduate of John Glenn High School.

Daniel Babcock has enlisted in the Air Force. Upon completing the Air Force's six-week basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, he is scheduled to receive technical training as a ground radio communications apprentice. He will earn credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools. Babcock, the son of Harold Babcock of Taylor and Joan Burns of Westland, is a 1991 graduate of John Glenn High School.

Writing workshops are scheduled

The Western Wayne Michigan Alliance for Gifted Education will hold two Young Authors Workshops Jan. 13.

The workshops will be taught by Jan Jones, author of "Secrets of a Summer Spy" and "Creating the Page Turner: A Helpbook for Young Writers."

Jones will cover a variety of literary topics, including flash-forwards and flashbacks, the arts of description, dialogue and action. She'll also show techniques of editing and rewriting.

The workshops are for students in grades 4-8. They will be held from 10 a.m.-noon and from 1-3 p.m. at St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard, between Five and Six Mile, Livonia. Workshops are free to alliance members.

Each session is limited to 15 students, who need to bring only a pencil, notebook and a snack. Registrations should be sent to

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FREE ESTIMATES

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the City Clerk, in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, MI 48135 (Telephone: 313-525-8814), on or before January 12, 1996 at 2:00 p.m., for the purchase of the following:

(1) NEW ELECTRONIC MAIL MACHINES
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Proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by the City Clerk, in a sealed envelope, endorsed with the name of item(s) bid.

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities when deemed in the best interest of the City.

R. D. BHOWALTER
City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: December 28, 1995

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Photographer: Dana Fineman

FAMILY ROOM



KAREN MEIER

Weighing in for New Year

With New Year's Eve only three days away, familiar holiday symbols are jumping out all over the place. We see pointed cylindrical hats with chokey rubber band things for keeping them on in newspaper ads. We see champagne glasses with bubbles flying up in TV ads. We see confetti floating down, horn blower noise makers unfurled, and new babies wearing nothing save a banner announcing the brand new year. And to me, that last one, the bare baby symbol is the best. The baby is innocence personified — wide-eyed, optimistic, fresh, unmarked, with endless possibilities ahead.

What a neat way to look at the new year. That's how I'm going to look at 1996. Oh, it's not that the retiring year was terrible or anything, as a matter of fact there were great things about 1995, but with 1996 everything can be new, just like gifts about to be unwrapped, so much potential there. So, I say, hurrah for 1996! Oh, speaking of babies as the New Year's symbols, earlier today I had my baby visit at the obstetrician's office. Today, Dec. 28, happens to mark my 28th week. This appointment today to check in on my baby, just three days before the New Year, got me thinking. It got me thinking about how it must be like New Year's Day year-round in an obstetrician's office. New life and fresh hope constantly walk into this office, it's just that kind of business.

See FAMILY ROOM, 14A



TAMMIE GRAVES/STAFF ARTIST

BY MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER

It's New Year's Eve and the kids are still in the holiday mode. Besides home parties, what are the options for the under 18 crowd?

If you're 11 years or older, and have the stamina, consider the all-night party at Skateland West, 37550 Cherry Hill, Westland.

The hours are 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Cost is \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. A balloon drop is planned for midnight, followed by a pizza and pop dinner at 2 a.m.

"We've been doing this for 20 years now, we've got it down pat," said a spokeswoman. "We have tight security and no one under 18 is allowed to leave the building without a parent."

Call (313) 326-2800 for more information.

Riverside Arena in Livonia also has big plans for an all-night skate 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. New Year's Eve. Cost is \$20 and includes party hats, balloons and a continental breakfast. The skate rental is an additional \$1.50. Those who can't stay until 7

a.m. can pay \$10 and stay for the New Year's Eve Party — 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

There will be full adult supervision and minors will not be allowed to leave after 12:30 a.m. unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The arena, at 36635 Plymouth Road, Livonia, also has public skating 8 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday for \$5 per person and matinee sessions 2-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for \$3.50. Three types of skate rentals are available: standard precision for \$1.50, premium

Red Baron for \$3 and in-line for \$5. Call (313) 421-3540 for more information.

The Skatin' Station II at 8611 Ronda Dr., Canton, also is planning a New Year's Eve celebration 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. for young skaters and their families. Admission will be \$8 for individuals and \$20 for families. Skate rentals will be \$1.75 per pair.

Skaters will be treated to food and pop, a balloon drop at midnight with many of the balloons contain-

See ACTIVITIES, 14A

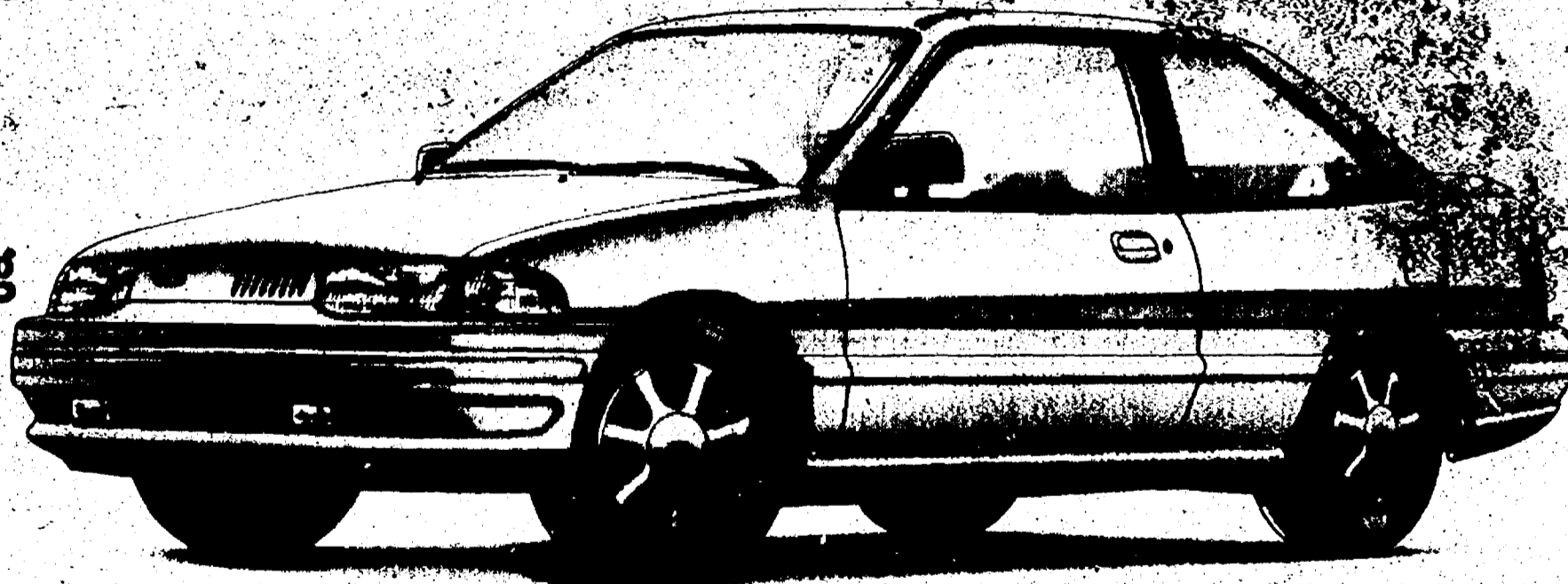


31 METRO DETROIT FORD DEALERS

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\$12,110 with 10% down for 48 months at 3.9 APR, compared to average APR of 11.4% for Escort contracts purchased by FMCC in the United States in October 1995. (2) Residency restrictions apply for cash back or financing. Cash back as follows: \$750 from Ford Motor Co., \$250 from FDAO. See dealer for details.

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Family Room from page 13A

So anyway, I was in the Office of New Life today, this morning to be exact. And since it's the week between Christmas and New Year's and school is on recess, Tony, Carmen, Joe and Jack wanted to come along. The best part, according to them, is hearing the heartbeat of their new baby brother or sister.

The next best part is the weigh-in of Mom. And this weigh-in happens to occur smack dab in the middle of the most eatingest holidays of the year. So that makes it very funny. To them. They watch as I gingerly step up to and on the scale while someone with a lab coat stands by holding a chart and making pencil marks on the page. And my children, very observant and notoriously bad secret-keeping creatures they are, take it all in. It's all rather humiliating. The children snicker. The nurse won't let me take my shoes off. I wear my thinnest socks and I get my hair cut the week before. Nothing works.

Today's visit was with the

■ But still, I ask the most stupid questions and you'd think after as much experience as I've had, I wouldn't have any questions and that I might even be able to answer a few.

nurse practitioner, not the doctor, which is fine. She's really nice and patient with me. But still, I ask the most stupid questions and you'd think after as much experience as I've had, I wouldn't have any questions and that I might even be able to answer a few. But somehow the miracle of birth still remains a miracle to me, even mysterious at times. I am awestruck by the entire process.

So I ask stupid questions and I get compassionate answers.

Another highlight is when my blood pressure is checked. Or maybe, I should say, lowlight - I fear terrible results all the time. That's because parking places hide from me, Joe and Jack hide from me, Joe and Jack operate the

elevator with all those interesting red buttons down low on the control panel, and then there are the automatic doors. They close wily-nilly on toddlers who aren't very tall or weigh very much. And I worry. A lot. And so the blood pressure cuff nearly flies off my arm in pieces. It nearly spontaneously combusts. Or at least it feels as if it that could happen.

And this time, even before showing up for my appointment in the office, I had to report to the lab for the glucose test. Yucky. That's when you have to drink this horrible grape or orange solution liquid stuff loaded with sugar. It sort of slides down the throat. It's nasty. It's very icky. It makes me giddy. I apologize to the children for the giddy part;

they say they don't even notice anything different. Oh, boy.

Anyway, the bottom line here is that this appointment falling just days before the New Year which is often symbolically depicted by banner-draped babies, is a good time to think of fresh beginnings and new possibilities and new hope.

The birth of the new year is, indeed, just days away. The birth of this new baby that just got examined today is just weeks away. And the feeling of great hope and wide-eyed optimism is running very high, this 28th day of December. I hope that's the way it is for you, too.

I wish you all a very happy, hopeful, and healthy 1996!

If you have a question or comment for Karen Meier, a Plymouth resident, call her at 963-2047, mailbox number 1883, on a Touch-Tone phone, or write her at The Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Activities from page 13A

ing cash prizes and skating passes, video game, skating and basketball contests, party hats and favors.

Skatin' Station also has special skating sessions for kids 1-4 p.m. daily, except New Year's Day when it's closed. Call (313) 459-6400 for more information.

In the city of Wayne, it's First Night, a non-alcoholic New Year's Eve celebration for the entire family. First Night originated in Boston and there are now more than 100 such celebrations in the U.S., Canada and Australia.

More than 50 entertainers will perform at 10 locations from 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Downtown Wayne is along Michigan Avenue east of I-275. Cost is \$5 for everyone - seniors, adults and children. Buttons will be on sale at the Wayne Community Center at Howe and Annapolis roads, and Wayne City Hall, Wayne Road south of Michigan Avenue.

■ First Night originated in Boston and there are now more than 100 such celebrations in the U.S., Canada and Australia.

Those sporting a button are free to visit any of the entertainment sites. Food will be sold and served at a couple of locations. Call the community center at (313) 721-7400 for more information.

Or the kids could stay home and rest up for the annual New Year's Day adult and youth bowling tournament at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Cost is \$10 a couple and trophies will be awarded. Call (313) 722-7570 for more information.

If you haven't checked out the third annual Wayne County LightFest in Hines Park yet, this is your final chance. The display

features 35 light displays beaming with 500,000 lights.

Three new displays this season include a Nativity scene, a Hanukkah theme, featuring a menorah and a dreidel, and a Kwanzaa theme. Returning favorites include a gingerbread village as well as a downhill skier, a bicyclist, and a rocking horse - all with real motion.

Enter the park at Merriman Road. The exhibit proceeds about four miles east to the Warendale shelter at Telegraph Road. Cost is \$5 per car load.

Or catch the tail end of the Traditions of the Holiday Season at Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum on Dec. 31 and

New Year's Day. Both Dearborn attractions are open until 5 p.m. and feature special festive touches for the holidays.

"We're not open in the evening, but we'd like everyone to come by from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. either day," said Diane Thomas, a spokeswoman. "We have our holiday program. We're all decked out."

The Detroit Institute of Arts wraps up its special family programming on 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31. On the agenda are a drop-in family workshop (participants can learn about line, color and texture then create paintings after viewing a special collection), family videos (including "Midas and the Golden Touch" and "The Tiger and the Brahmin") and music from the Renaissance performed in the Italian galleries. All programs are free with museum admission - \$4 for adults, \$1 for children.

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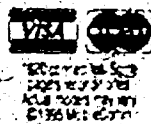
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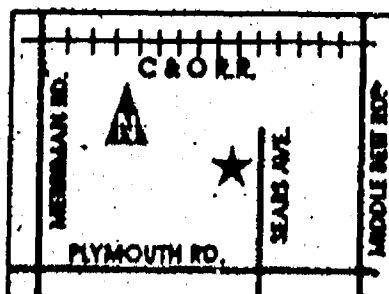
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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Pomeroy-Ballou

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Pomeroy of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Beth Ann, to Nathan Andrew Ballou, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ballou, also of Canton.

The bride-to-be is currently employed in Chicago as a flight attendant for American Trans Air airlines.

Her fiancé will graduate from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Ill., in May 1996 with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. After graduation, he will be commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy and plans to become a naval flight officer.

An early summer 1996 wedding



at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton is being planned.

Metz-Evans

Alexia Anne Evans and John C. Metz were married in May in a ceremony at Weller's Carriage House in Saline.

The bride is the daughter of Howard and Roxanne Evans of New Carlisle, Ohio. The groom is the son of Geo and Elaine Metz of Walled Lake, formerly of Livonia.

The bride is a 1991 graduate of Northwestern High School and a 1995 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is employed in occupational therapy at Flower Hospital in Toledo, Ohio.

The groom is a 1990 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 1994 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. He is employed by Alpha Contracting Co.



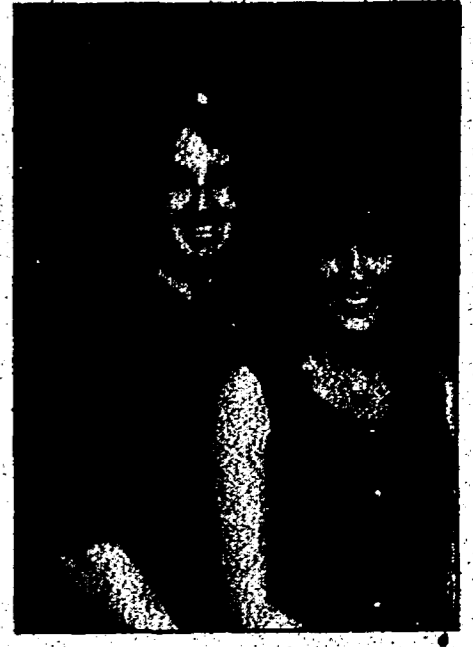
in Ann Arbor. The couple is living in Belleville.

DeLeon-Moloney

William Leon Jr. of Miami, Fla., announces the engagement of his daughter Lisa M. DeLeon, to Edward M. Moloney, the son of Peter and Elaine Moloney of Livonia.

The bride-to-be, the daughter of the late Shirley M. Leon, graduated from high school in Miami. She is employed as a fitness instructor by U.S. Total Fitness Center.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. He received his degree in accounting from Michigan State University. He is employed by North American Ltd. in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.



A March wedding in St. Anselm's Church in Dearborn is planned.

Volk-ShIPLEY

Tracey Lynn Shipley and Carl James Volk were married on Nov. 24 in Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia. Pastor William C. Lihdholm officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Rick Shipley of Flushing, Mich., and Janice Anquetil of Plymouth. The groom is the son of Carl and Judy Volk of Livonia.

The bride is a 1988 graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School. She attended Michigan State University. She currently is employed in management for Susan Powter.

The groom is a 1987 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and a 1992 graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is employed as a senior manager by the Steak & Ale Corp.

The bride asked Kara Haarala and Leah Miles to serve as her maids of honors with bridesmaids Amy Nelson, Staci Orthner, Kelley Beatty, Laura Abdulbaki and Kristin Volk-Moore.

The groom asked Rick Czarno-



ta and Bret Thibodeau to serve as the best men with groomsmen Derek Volk, Paul Volk, Bret Thibodeau, Steve Thibodeau, Jeff Weegman and Steve Litwin.

The couple received guests at the International Center ballroom in Greektown in Detroit before leaving on a Caribbean cruise. They are now making their home in Farmington.

Well-Eastridge

Nancy G. Well announces the engagement of her daughter, Jennifer Lynn, to Gary Keith Eastridge of Canton, the son of Paris and Joann Eastridge of Dickson, Tenn.

The bride-to-be, the daughter of the late Jacob J. Well of Canton, is a graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School. She is currently working in the area.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Woodhaven High School and currently working for Ford Motor Company's Wayne Assembly Plant in Wayne.

A May wedding is planned at Newburgh Church in Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.



Neuman-Moloney

Barbara Neuman of Bad Axe, Mich., announces the engagement of her daughter, Angela K., to Michael G. Moloney, the son of Peter and Elaine Moloney of Livonia.

The bride-to-be, also the daughter of the late Robert Neuman, is a graduate of Michigan State University. She is employed by Priority Health of Grand Rapids.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and Michigan State University. He is employed by the Michigan Bulb Co. in Grand Rapids.

An April wedding in Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids is planned.



Here's how to submit announcements

Local engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements run in the Thursday editions of The Observer.

Residents of Livonia, Redford, Garden City and Westland, should send their engagement,

wedding or anniversary information, with or without photograph, to The Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Residents of the Plymouth-Canton area should send information to The Observer, 744 Wing St., Plymouth 48170.

Preprinted forms that outline the information needed for your engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement are available at either office.

If you have questions regarding your announcement, call

Sue Mason in Livonia at (313) 953-2131 or Bridget Lucas in Plymouth at (313) 459-2700. For a recorded message with complete information on submitting announcements, call (313) 953-2065.

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GRAPHOLOGY PROFILES



LORENE GREEN

Lorene C. Green, I would appreciate it very much if you would analyze my handwriting. I am a 73-year-old female. I had five children and worked in a factory job all my life. I retired on disability 15 years ago.

I am right-handed and since retiring have not been too active because of four back surgeries which have curtailed much activity.

I had my handwriting analyzed several years ago and wondered if any of the same qualities of my writing are here now.

G.R.,
Plymouth

My first appraisal of this handwriting with its embellished capital letters and unusual loops tells us we are looking at a woman who is extremely restless. She needs activity, involvement, people and variety. She disdains a dull routine.

However, the handwriting and what she tells us suggest the trauma she has experienced. Her forced retirement and subsequent surgeries have curtailed her activities but not her interests. And to her credit, she is intensely determined to overcome these obstacles.

Entangled lines of handwriting suggest confusion of interests. At the present time, she is so involved emotionally, if not physically, that the orderly organization of her affairs may be difficult. She has too many irons in the fire that she may not be able to pursue them effectively. This may be causing her to feel stressed.

This is an emotional woman who harbors intense feelings of happiness as well as sadness. Neither forgiving nor forgetting comes easily for her. She appears to be rejecting someone who has caused her emotional pain in the past.

So it is not surprising we find some lack of fulfillment in her life at this time. But the important thing is she does not allow it to get her down.

An active interest in the instructional pleasure of life is seen

here. Included might be any of the following: eating, drinking, smoking, materialism, beauty of nature, etc.

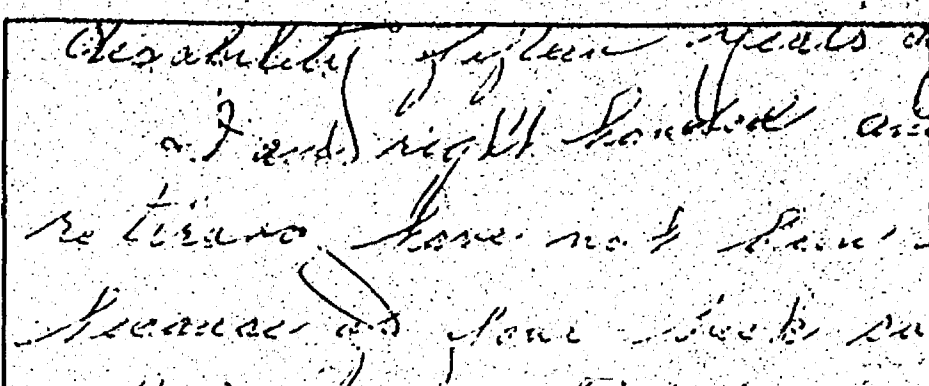
She so enjoys being around other people and is friendly and outgoing. Center stage has more appeal for her than back stage. An audience and compliments are important to her. She may get carried away with boasting at times. Her vivid imagination sweeps

over the page. She can be prone to dramatize reality. She wants to squeeze every ounce of drama out of each situation and may exaggerate or embellish it. Perhaps she is not even aware of doing it.

I think she would enjoy attractive clothing, more on the fancy side than tailored.

If you would like your handwriting analyzed in this

newspaper, write to Lorene C. Green, a certified graphologist, at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48160. Please write a few paragraphs about yourself, using a full sheet of white, unlined paper and writing in the first person singular. Age, handedness and signature are all helpful. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies are not possible. However, objective feedback is welcome.



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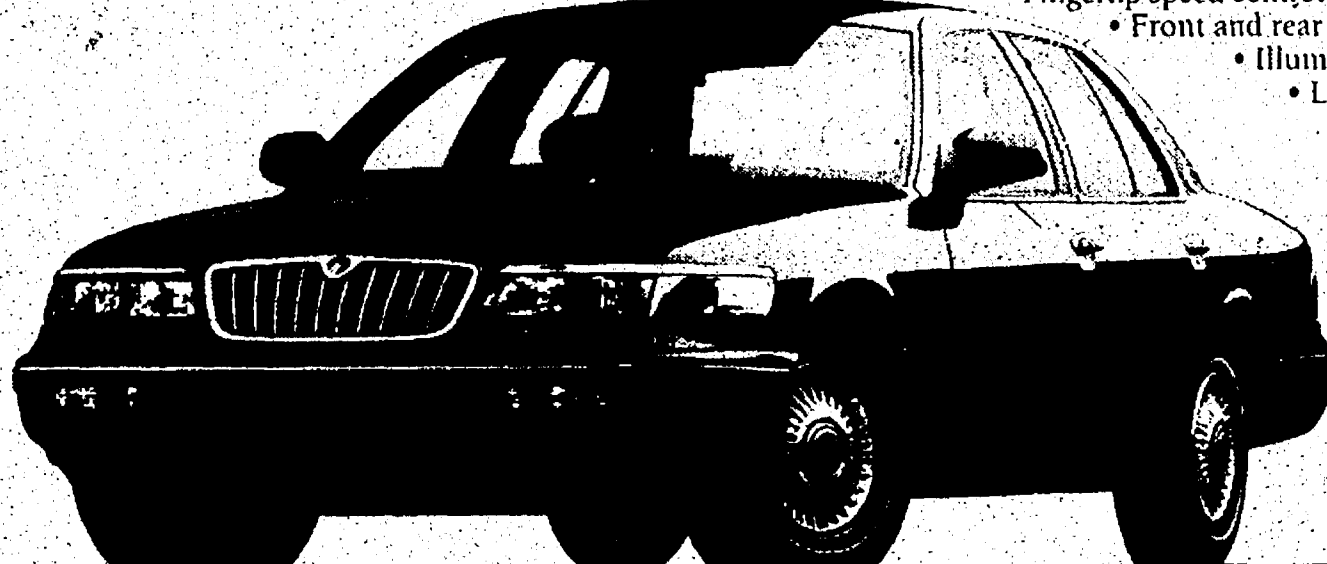
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NEW VOICES

DAVE and PAULA ROYZER of Southgate announce the birth of **ANNA JULIA** Oct. 19 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She has two sisters, Becky, 6, and Chelsea, 3. Grandparents are Richard and Virginia Hymes of Livonia, Joe and Sue Royzer of Monroe and Marion Royzer of Southgate.

JOHN and LINDA TINHAM of Livonia announce the birth of **AMANDA GAIL** Nov. 19 at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. Grandparents are Richard and Patricia Tinham, Jim DeCarlo and the late Gail DeCarlo. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Beonx Rietdorf.

MARK and LORIANN COLLINS of Plymouth Township announce the birth of **JENNA MARIE** Sept. 17 at St. Joseph Hospital, Ann Arbor. She has three siblings, Elyse, 7, Eric, 4, and Jonathan, 2. Grandparents are Gregory and Joan Moore of Plymouth, James Joynt of Dearborn Heights, and Nancy Collins of Plymouth. Godparents are David Collins of Plymouth and Michelle Pierzchala of Dearborn Heights.

THOMAS and AMY DWYER of Westland announce the birth of **TYLER JOSEPH** Oct. 19 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Gregory and Dorothy Dwyer of Livonia and George and Betty Lona of Garden City.

JIM and TANYA FREDERICK of Redford announce the birth of **CHRISTINA LEE** Nov. 25. Grandparents are Lillian Gregoroff of Livonia and the late Kroum Gregoroff, Dan and Diane Butka of Novi and Charles Frederick of Canton. Great-grandmother is Roxann Porterfield of Florida.

DAN and LISA BIRD announce the birth of **BRENDAN MICHAEL** Oct. 26 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Engo of Downers Grove, Ill., and Mary Jo Dunn of Greensboro, N.C.

Holiday
BONUS

¹Mercury Villager GS with PEP 692A MSRP \$23,995 and 1996 Mercury Sable GS with PEP 451A MSRP \$20,335 excludes title, taxes, license fee. Lease payment based on average capitalized cost of \$2,281 of MSRP for Villager and \$1,946 of MSRP for Sable for 24-month closed-end Ford Credit Red Carpet Lease purchased in the Great Lakes Region through 9/30/95. 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 50,000 at \$15/mile. Cash Rebate on Villager, take price total delivery from dealer stock by 1/31/96. ²Mercury Grand Marquis GS with PEP 157A. This is an average of prices based on an independent survey of Metro Detroit Livonia Mercury dealers on 11/29/95. Some prices higher, some lower. Title, tax and license fee extra. See your dealer for their price. Customers eligible for \$500 Sable RL renewal incentive must terminate their lease of a Mercury Sable between 9/22/95 and 1/31/96. A customer's lease terminated early will qualify if it is terminated within the program dates. Customers who have previously terminated their Sable lease from 6/1/95 through 9/22/95 are also eligible if they Red Carpet Lease a 1996 model Sable within the program period. *Excludes tax and other fees. Always wear your safety belt.



The Holy Cows at the Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Doors open at 9 p.m. for the 18 and older show. For more information, call (313) 833-POOL.



The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra swings down memory lane 8 p.m. at Orchestra Hall, 3700 Woodward, Detroit. On-stage dance party follows concert. Call (313) 833-3700 or (810) 645-6666.



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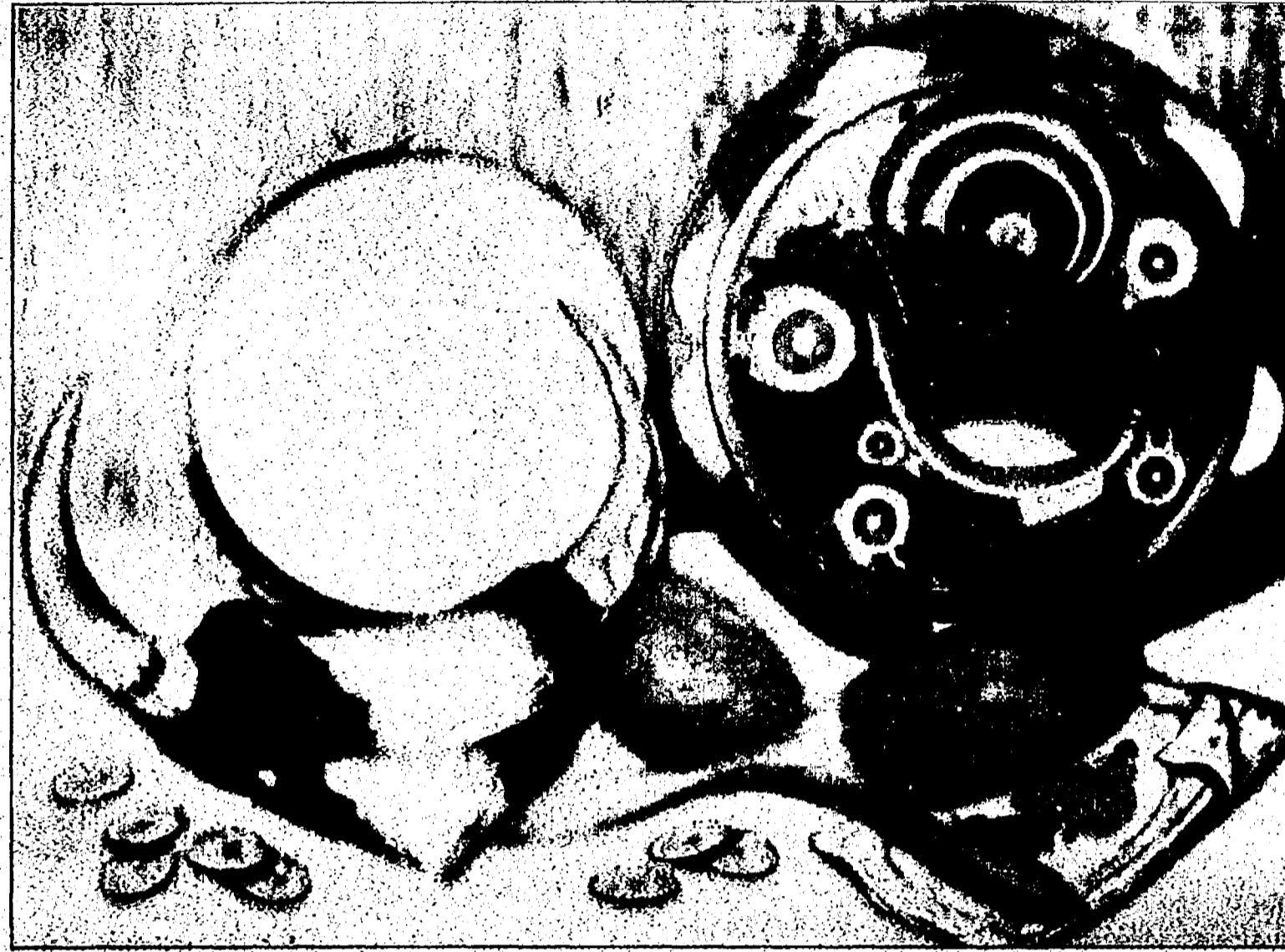
Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Travel

KEELY WYGONIK, EDITOR • 313-953-2105

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1995 • PAGE 1 SECTION B



Longevity Secrets: Ninety-seven year old Olive Harrington credits her long life to not drinking, not smoking, eating oatmeal every morning, and loving art.

Loving art is her secret to

LONGEVITY

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN • SPECIAL WRITER

At 97,

Olive Harrington's eyes aren't what they used to be so she rarely paints anymore. That's OK by Harrington, who at this point in life, is satisfied to simply rest on her laurels. Harrington founded the Livonia Artists Club in 1960. As a result, hundreds of traditional oil paintings fill the walls of her Livonia home.

"I took lessons just to be with the girls," said Harrington, "so I guess you could say I'm a self-made artist."

A Montreal native, Harrington moved to Livonia in 1942. She'd eloped with husband Earl, an American, some 25 years earlier. She remembers fondly their two acres of heaven where they raised

their son Carl along with the grapes she painted in still lifes.

However, being a realist not only in painting style but life, she also remembers the dirt roads which made travel lengthy and less than pleasant. Frustrated with motoring all the way to Redford in the late 1950s to attend Palette Guild meetings, the only organized art group in the area, Harrington gathered together a few ladies after the death of her husband at the urging of a friend.

"We started out with half a dozen women meeting in different homes. We needed some sort of club so we decided to meet every week," Harrington said.

"Our club was a friendly club. There wasn't any competition between us because we were not actually painting to sell. It was like a party every time we met."

Wonderland Mall hosted the club's first art show in 1960. Three photo albums capture the exhibit of paintings as well as the artists clad in skirts and looking very much like Donna Reed or Beaver's mom. Exposure from the outdoor

exhibit sent membership soaring. It wasn't long before the club began looking for a larger place to meet.

"For beginners we didn't have any funds so we asked the Carl Sandberg library if we could meet there. The rest is history," said the great-grandmother of one.

Until 1990, exhibits and club meetings continued at the library on Seven Mile east of Middlebelt. Today, club activities and events are held at the Livonia Civic Center Library. Each spring club members display artwork in the library's atrium. A fall exhibit of their paintings has been hosted by Laurel Park Place in Livonia for the last five years.

Although no longer an active member, Harrington still stays in contact with "the new gals" in the 45-member club. The only other affiliation that remains a constant in her life is Harrington's membership in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Livonia.

"People know if you don't want to talk art, don't come to see Olive," said Harrington who credits her

longevity to not drinking or smoking, eating oatmeal every morning and always loving art.

Over the years Harrington's oils, primarily still life, genre scenes and landscapes, changed with the techniques used. Children and grandchildren hounded her for portraits of their dogs. She never let them down. Since she was so prolific, many of works were done on masonite instead of costly canvas. Sepia toned paintings of models, done with an oil wash using water instead of turpentine, seem dreamlike, from another time and place.

One thing about Harrington, she always speaks her mind without beating around the bush.

"At 97 you don't make any far reaching plans. If you're smart you've already made them," said Harrington.

"My advice to anyone wanting to paint is you've got to learn to draw first. You can't paint until you have a foundation, basic skills. I make a small sketch first. I wouldn't think of starting a painting without knowing what it's going to be."



Hot tick: A holiday train display, planetarium shows and one last chance to experience "It's All In Your Head: An Exhibit about the Brain" await at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, (810) 645-3200.

THEATER

Students make sacrifices for 'Amazing' show

BY SANDRA DALKA-PRYBY
SPECIAL WRITER

What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time, some area students were enjoying a holiday break from school. This year, their holidays are being upstaged by "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

The students are members of the four area choirs — three from Oakland County — selected to perform in this Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, playing now through Jan. 28 at Detroit's Masonic Temple Theatre.

The journey from school to professional stage began for these students (and hundreds of others from choral groups throughout Michigan who competed for the prized chorus roles) as early as August, when choir directors formed groups to rehearse and audition singers.

Final auditions were in October, and the

hard work paid off for singers from Abbott Middle School, West Bloomfield; the Greenfield Honors Choir, Beverly Hills; and The Roper School, Birmingham. The fourth choral group is the Bethesda Christian Church/Junior Choir, Sterling Heights.

The four winners were selected from among 10 finalists including the Redford Youth Theatre, Redford.

Each choir of approximately 23 students is teamed with another choir. They then rotate performances with the other two-choir team.

"Many hours went into preparing the kids for the audition," said Rebecca Klier, Greenfield's vocal music teacher. "Beginning in August, the students and parents gave up the rest of their summer for rehearsals three days a week," she said. "However, all agreed that it was too good of an experience to pass up."

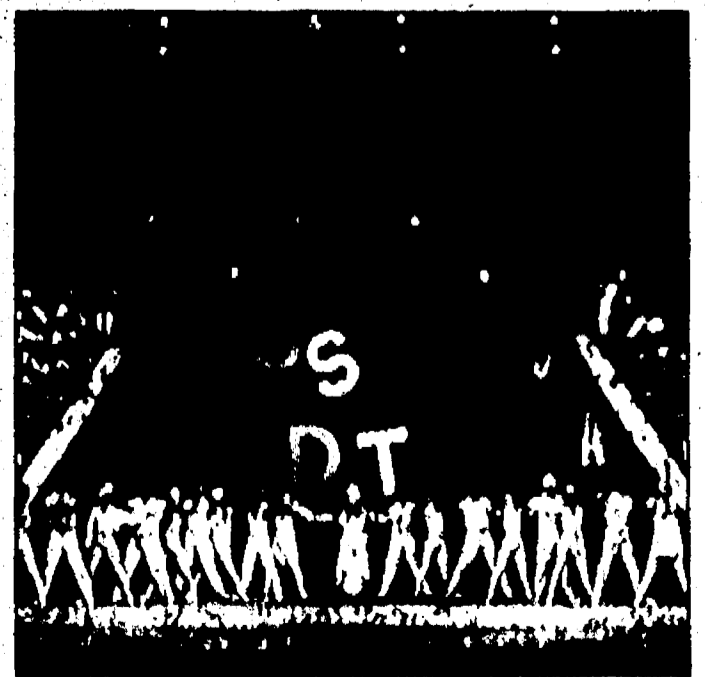
Now that her group has been turned over to the "Joseph" professionals, Klier said that it has been like "sending the kids off to college." And what an institution of higher learning they've gone to!

The students are getting the opportunity to work with such professionals as Donny Osmond, a figure in the entertainment industry for 25 years, who stars in the title role.

"I didn't even know who Donny Osmond was before this," said Mike MacCallum, 11, a member of the Greenfield Honors Choir. "But my parents told me he is a great star and that when he was about my age, he even had his own television show," he said.

Now that he has seen "Joseph" on the stage, Mike agrees with his parents that Osmond is a star. "He is really good!"

See THEATER, inside



On stage: Donny Osmond (center) with company in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

Where: Masonic Temple Theatre, Temple at Cass Ave., Detroit
When: Through Jan. 28, call for show times
Ticket Range: from \$20-\$60. For more information, call (313) 632-2232. To charge tickets, call (810) 645-3200.



happy holidays

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OAE
VOTED No. 1 PIZZA

FINE ARTS

Arts commission dedicates sculpture



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

An old man resting on a park bench reads a book to a child. Next to them, a dog sits rapt in awe, seemingly at the words. This idyllic scene, cast in bronze by sculptor Frank Varga, is the newest addition to the City of Livonia's art collection. Located on the south side of the Livonia Civic Center Library at Five Mile east of Farmington, the sculpture, titled "Wisdom of the Ages," captures what the library is all about: passing knowledge to future generations through books.

Thanks to the generosity and dedication of the Livonia Arts Commission and especially arts commissioner Dorothy Wilshaw, who came up with the idea, those following through time in our

footsteps will be able to learn about our values. The sculpture records for all time that knowledge and compassion played important roles in our society.

"It's not until after it comes to be, you realize how important this is not only to the community but to history," said Wilshaw at a dedication ceremony in late October.

City Librarian Michael Deller agreed with Wilshaw about the sculpture's importance.

"The theme fits in so nicely with the library. The fact that the man's holding a book shows the sharing between generations and that with books you can go back centuries," Deller said.

The sculpture, which took one year from conception to installation, cost \$26,000. The City of Livonia did not provide any money from its general funds. Instead, the bronze was made possible by funding, donations and untold hours of work volunteered by members of the Livonia Arts Commission, Friends of the Livonia Library who made the dog possible, Sheridan Construction, and Livonia's department of community resources. A \$13,000 Michigan Equity Grant approved last April laid the groundwork, paying for half the sculpture.

Livonia Mayor Robert Bennett is especially proud of the fact that no property tax money was used.

"It brings still another enhancement to the city. There's a sense of focus. It's a nice addition to our artworks in the city," Mayor Bennett said.

Added Janet Bennett, his wife, "I think children in particular will love it."

From the initial sketches Varga made of the sculpture to a maquette and full-size clay model, the work was subject to the approval of the Livonia Arts Commission. Along the way, members made minor changes until the final stage when the Grosse Pointe



ART EMANUELE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wisdom of the Ages: Frank Varga created this City of Livonia sculpture under the direction of the Livonia Arts Commission, with funding from government grants as well as from nonprofit organizations and commercial ventures.

artist cast the work. Hours and hours of refining and polishing went into the sculpture after the actual casting.

"I wanted to portray wisdom and innocence. All art should find something pleasant, to take in the human aspect of youth, life, and all of God's creation," said Varga. "I hope people take away with them the fact I wanted to portray a joy of love within the family structure."

Born in Budapest, Hungary in 1953, Varga studied on scholarship at the Accademia de Bella Artes in Florence, Italy before serving an apprenticeship under his father Ferenc Varga, an internationally acclaimed sculptor. Frank Varga has created hundreds of sculptures ranging from a few inches to 50 feet including a 30-foot full figure bronze of Pope John Paul II in Hamtramck. But it was Varga's sculpture of a man

sitting on a park bench feeding pigeons at Providence Hospital in Southfield that caught Wilshaw's eye and started the ball rolling.

Linda Ann Chomin of Canton Township is a free-lance writer specializing in the visual arts. Her Artistic Expressions column appears weekly in the Arts & Entertainment section of The Observer Newspapers.

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New gallery features wood sculptures

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Arts editor, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

NEW GALLERY IN TOWN

The response to Greg Every's hand-carved decorative wood figures has been so overwhelming, he's opened the Western Wood Gallery at 27420 Joy Road west of Inkster in Livonia. The 600-square-foot showroom features reasonably priced wood sculptures hand-carved by artists from Thailand.

Previously, Every housed the art in a Livonia warehouse stacking golfing figures, carousel horses, cigar store Indians and cowboys, bears, dogs, totem poles,

ARTBEAT

and rockers carved with a swan on each end all the way up to the two-story ceiling. While the 2,400-square-foot cement space proved efficient for storage, customers could not see the carvings through the wooden crates.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information call (313) 513-5855.

AWARD WINNERS

Westland artist Laurel Raisanen took Best of Show at the Garden City Fine Arts Association Holiday Exhibit & Sale Dec. 9-13 in Sheridan Square. Her oil painting of a horse titled "Working Hunter" also was voted the

People's Choice Award by show visitors.

Claudia Shepherd jurored the show awarding prizes in wet and dry categories.

Nancy Pitel placed first in dry for her colored pencil and watercolor "Mike's Baby." Coming in second was Henrietta Orzechowski of Dearborn Heights for a pastel. Placing third was Elizabeth Simon, colored pencil, Westland.

First Place, wet went to June Porta, Dearborn Heights, for an oil painting of a lighthouse. Ken Barbb took second for the acrylic, "Lagoon 4240," and in third was Greg Locke of Westland also for an acrylic. Taking Honorable Mentions were Phyllis Bridenbald of Canton Township, acrylic; Ray Davison, Garden City, pastel; Fran Fletcher, Inkster, mixed me-

dia; Norma McQueen, Garden City, acrylic, and Remo Rossetti, oil.

IN A NEW LIGHT

Jim Pujdowski is excited about the show coming to University Liggett School in Grosse Pointe Woods next year. Egg tempera paintings by Vic Vicini of Livonia render a fresh slant on portraiture from Jan. 12 to Feb. 12 in the upper school lobby exhibition area.

"There's a lot of figurative work in outdoor settings, a park and waterscape. In one painting you can see part of a portrait in a mirror, leaving the viewer to wonder," said Pujdowski, exhibit curator.

Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information call (313) 884-4444.

Theater from page 1B

Another member of the Greenfield group, Lindsay Dates, 11, also wasn't familiar with the show's star, but she did know the musical. She's been singing the "Joseph" songs ever since she was five and watched her older sister perform the role of the narrator in a school production of the show.

"I can't believe I now have a chance of being in my favorite play, especially since I love singing and I love being on stage," Lindsay said.

The Greenfield group is teamed with Abbott Middle School, and the many hours the choirs have spent together in rehearsals and on stage have resulted in new friendships. "This is one of the best things about being in 'Joseph,'" Mike MacCallum said.

This combined group, which is called the "Isis Choir," had the opportunity to sing on television at the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit.

"We really are getting the opportunity for many new experiences," said Mike Haber, 13, a member of the Abbott Middle School choir.

According to Mike, who is an experienced singer and was a member of the Oakland Singers for four years, the music and songs are the best thing about being in "Joseph."

"The music is lively, electrifying and challenging. And it's fun to do, even though some of the notes are hard to sing," he said.

Another member of the Abbott choir, Michelle Wilde, 13, finds

the hardest part of being in the production is that there is "lots of stuff to remember."

"We have many different movements, and sometimes I get nervous and I worry that I'm going to goof up everything," she added.

Rita Jury, Abbott's choral director, knows that Mike and Michelle, as well as the other choir members, need not worry about making mistakes.

"Each of these talented kids shines. They have the energy and ability to do a fabulous job," she said. "And they are all strongly involved in the performing arts curriculum at school."

Adam Wilmers, 10, The Roper School, is thrilled to be in "Joseph" because he plans a career as a stage professional. Although,

according to him, he finds being a cast member of this production is harder than he ever expected, that has not dampened the fun, he is having.

"I've become addicted to the music, and I listen to my 'Joseph' CD by Osmond on my Walkman every chance I get. It's been really good to meet the singer behind the voice on my CD," Adam said.

Another member of the Roper group, whose director is Janice Haines, is Jessica Franz, 14. She is finding this whole experience, including the multitude of hours spent in rehearsal, both very exciting and very tiring.

"I'm am either giving a performance, or trying to keep up with my studies, especially biology, or sleeping," Jessica said.

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DIA programs focus on family fun

The Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, is offering a variety of holiday programming.

A family guide to works in the permanent collection relating to ceremony and celebration is available at the Information Desk.

For more information, call (313) 833-7900.

A family workshop noon and 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, in the Ford Great hall is a drop-in drama workshop. Discover your personality as knights extraordinaire

through a series of short exercises and improvisations as participants recreate the life of the knight during medieval and Renaissance times.

Another drop-in workshop, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, in the Education Studio, is on contemporary masters and is in connection with the special exhibit "Art Works: The PaineWebber Collection of Contemporary Masters."

Docent tours of "Art Works" will be given 11:30 a.m. (with a sign language interpreter) and 2 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, Dec. 28 and 30. A docent tour of the show takes place 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, with a sign language interpreter.

A workshop on Kahlil Gibran takes place noon to 3 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 28, 29 and 30, in the Education Studio.

Anne and Rob Barns perform music from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I of England 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, in Gallery S380. A variety of instruments and the music of the period are demonstrated and discussed.

Mark Rowland conducts a gallery discussion and demonstration on sculpture in the permanent exhibition galleries 1-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 29 and 30.

STREET SCENE

Music '95: Critics pick year's best

Best records of 1995

1. Various artists, "American Folk Blues Festival — '62-'65" five-CD box set, (Evidence)
2. Keb' Mo', "Keb' Mo'", (Okeh/Epic)
3. Mimi Harris and the Snakes, "Paradise," (Snake Den)
4. Jim Lauderdale, "Pretty Close To The Truth," (Atlantic)
5. Brooks Williams, "Knife's Edge," (Green Linnet)
6. Otis Rush, "So Many Roads," (Delmark)
7. The Hillmen, "The Hillmen," (Sugar Hill)
8. Peter, Paul and Mary, "Lifelines," (Warner Bros.)
9. Molly and The Heymakers, "Big Things," (Mouthpiece)
10. Forbidden Pigs, "The Other White Meat," (Triple X)

—Mark E. Gallo



Ginger: They make the grade with their album "Far Out."

Top 10 albums of 1995 in no particular order.

1. Lisa Loeb and Nine Stories, "Tails" (Geffen)
2. Del Amitri, "Twisted" (A&M)
3. Clutch, "Clutch" (EastWest)
4. Charm Farm, "Pervert" (PRA)
5. Blur, "The Great Escape" (Virgin)
6. Catherine Wheel, "Happy Days," (Mercury)
7. Wilco, "A.M." (Warner Bros.)
8. Ginger, "Far Out" (Nettwerk)
9. Speedball, "Do Unto Others... Then Split" (Energy)
10. Jonatha Brooke and The Story, "Plumb" (Blue Thumb)

—Christina Fuoco

Top 10 records

1. Daddy Stitch, "The Douglas Chapter," (Skillet)
2. Rolling Stones, "Stripped," (Virgin)
3. Pretenders, "Isle of View," (Sire)
4. Morrissey, "Southpaw Grammar," (Reprise)
5. AC/DC, the single "Hard As A Rock" from the album "Ballbreaker," (Eastwest)
6. Edwyn Collins, the single "A Girl Like You" from the album "Gorgeous George," (Bar None)
7. Grant Lee Buffalo, the single "In My Room" from the "Friends" soundtrack, (Reprise)
8. Specula, "Erupt," (Scat Records)
9. Matthew Sweet, "100 Percent Fun," (Zoo)
10. Various artists, "Rock Baby Rock It: Sun Rockabilly, Vol. 2," (Sun)

—Todd Wicks



Boy George

Best shows:

1. Blur, St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit, Monday, Oct. 2.
2. Soul Coughing, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, Friday, June 9.
3. Orange 9mm, St. Andrew's Hall, Friday, March 24.
4. Wilco, 7th House in Pontiac, Thursday, June 15.
5. Afghan Whigs, St. Andrew's Hall, Sunday, June 25.
6. Mike Watt/Foo Fighters/Hovercraft, Friday, May 5, St. Andrew's Hall.
7. Henry Rollins, spoken word performance, Majestic in Detroit, Saturday, Sept. 23.
8. Boy George, State Theatre in Detroit, Saturday, Nov. 25.
9. Tom Petty, Pine Knob Music Theatre in Clarkston, Friday, Sept. 1.
10. Clutch, Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre in Pontiac, Thursday, June 22.

—Christina Fuoco

Band of the Year

Speedball puts the pedal to the metal

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Local rock act Speedball has a lot in common with guitarist/vocalist Chuck Burns's love of drag racing and motorcycles.

On its debut album "Do Unto Others, Then Split," Speedball puts the pedal to the metal, speeding through its 10 songs with its relentlessly addictive guitar riffs and hook-laden lyrics until it crashes head first into the end of the CD.

The first single, "Hog," is a hard-rocking testament to motorcycle riding: "Live fast, die young. Get on your hog and ride," Burns sings rolling his r's. "God of Slumber" is another highlight of the album with its Clutch-like monotone vocals that build tension until they explode into the chorus "refuse to feel the pain. Some things just never change. Refuse to play the game."

That's exactly what Speedball is doing — refusing to play the music industry game of tossing out a few gimmicks and seeing if the audience catches on. Speedball lets the music and its on-stage rush of attitude do the talking.

The band is one of the future voices of the Detroit rock scene and as a result is The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' 1995 Band of the Year.

Beginning Jan. 5, the nation will have a prime opportunity to catch on to Speedball's style of Motor City Rock 'n' Roll when it goes out on tour opening for Motorhead. Canadians got a sneak peek of the tour when that leg began Tuesday, Dec. 26, in Toronto.

"Do Unto Others, Then Split" (arguably the best album title of the year) was released nationally on New York's Energy Records in late June and a tour followed but this run through the country places them in the rock race.

It's been three long years of hard work for Speedball which besides former Westland and Garden City resident Burns includes drummer Mike Alonso, guitarist Bill Kozy, and bassist/backing vocalist Jeff King.

The band is based in Los Angeles, though its quarters of the band are in a suburban Detroit suburb. A military brat who lived throughout the United States.)



Speeding along: Detroit rockers Speedball — from left, drummer Mike Alonso, bassist/backing vocalist Jeff King, guitarist Bill Kozy, and vocalist/guitarist Chuck Burns — are The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 1995 Band of the Year.

Alonso moved out west first in 1988 with his band Katmandu, which recorded an album for Epic Records. Burns and Kozy, who are long-time friends of Alonso, moved the following year.

The three remained friends in L.A. and when Katmandu fell apart the three, along with Alonso's roommate King, got together and jammed. At the time, Burns was playing in a side project of Tracy Guns of L.A. Guns called Killing Machine, and another band called Mother.

As the band practiced, Alonso said, it was apparent that Speedball was their calling.

"Every song we wrote just got cooler and cooler. (We thought) 'Let's do it,'" Alonso explained last summer.

Eventually, Burns put the pedal to the metal, spun his tires and left Killing Machine, which released an al-

bum on Polygram Records. The fledgling band gigged around the L.A. club circuit until the pressures of being under the record industry microscope got to them.

"This was the first band I ever played guitar and sang in," said Burns, a former drummer. "And here we are and I'm playing in Hollywood. We immediately started getting interest (from record labels). I didn't feel that I was up to par with the rest of the band. I needed time to grow as a singer/guitar player. It was easier to come back here and do it because there's less pressure here."

Returning to Detroit has allowed the band to "discover our niche (and discover) exactly which direction we wanted to go in. We were fighting with it a little bit. Now we're focused on exactly what we want to sound like."

"Do Unto Others, Then Split" was recorded at Sabella Studios in Roslyn, N.Y., with producer/mixer Steve Thompson at the helm. His credits include Guns N' Roses, Metallica, Soundgarden, Madonna, Yoko Ono, Blues Traveler, and Public Enemy.

King said he's not sure when the band will start working on its new album.

"It depends on when the record company wants to do it. We have the material though."

By then, Motor City rock 'n' roll should be on the map once again.

Speedball, Hoarse, Big Block and Plain play St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, on Sunday, Dec. 31. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the 18 and older show. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT or (810) 645-6666.

Sponge gives Big Block a helping hand

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

A common complaint amongst Detroit bands is that there's no camaraderie between acts in the city.

Big Block, the 1994 Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' Band of the Year, got a phone call this summer that showed that the opposite was actually true.

"Out of the blue Vinnie called us from Europe and said he was going to be the States in a couple weeks. He said get your (stuff) together and come on the road with us," singer/guitarist Nick Lucassian said of the one-named lead singer for the Detroit band Sponge.

"We dropped everything. It was weird. It was a God-send, you know. It was great to tour and everything but not that much came about from it. (But) We got a chance to experience touring as far as like connections with people that could possibly put us on the road to getting a record deal."

The band did 13 shows in 16 days with Sponge and Warner Bros. recording act Poster Children travelling from Ohio to California. Inexperienced with playing venues the size of college basketball arenas, Lucassian said Sponge took care of them.

"They totally hooked us up with everything that we needed. They made sure that everything was straight so we didn't have to worry about too much," he said.

Playing those sized venues was a far cry from the gigs they do here.

"It was a big change from just playing around here. You know, going out on the weekends and doing shows. We just kept our heads together and really focused on the music."

New music will be Big Block's focus for 1996. As soon as the White Room Studio in Detroit frees up from its commitment to Detroit blues artist Robert Bradley, the band will step in to record its follow-up to "Guardrail" (Rustbelt).

The new album will carry on Big Block's trademark hook-laden, super-charged, melodic rock.



Big sound: Big Block — from left, singer/guitarist Nick Lucassian, guitarist/singer Kenny Tudrick, drummer Scott MacDonald, and bassist Joe Proper — spent two weeks of the summer touring with Sponge and the Poster Children.

"There's really no gimmick with us, and not that a lot of bands do. They all sort of have that same rough sort of rock grungy edge to it," Lucassian said.

"We concentrate on our melodies. Most bands' intensity comes from super loud amps and screaming, but you can be calm about it and still have a lot of intensity."

Just as "Guardrail" reflected the foursome's lives at the time, the new

material documents the last two years.

"A lot of it has to do with the experiences on that (Sponge) tour," Lucassian said. "It's about moving out and going forward. The engine (referred to in the name) represents motivation — getting in your car and pulling it out of park and just splitting of getting stuff done."

That explains the motivation behind Big Block.

'Most bands' Intensity comes from super loud amps and screaming, but you can be calm about it and still have a lot of intensity.'

Nick Lucassian
Big Block

TRAVEL

Kids win weekend at Sugar Loaf Resort

Megan Newhouse, 11 of Plymouth, and Spencer Franchi, six of Troy, were the grand prize winners of our "Learn to Ski Contest." To win, they drew a picture of their family skiing, and explained why their family should learn how to ski.

They won a Winter Weekend Getaway at Sugar Loaf Resort consisting of two nights resort lodging and lift tickets for a family of four.

In addition to lodging and lift tickets, their grand prize packages included Leelanau Sands Casino Super Gaming Player Passbooks worth \$50 each for mom and dad. Leelanau Sands Casino is in nearby Suttons Bay. Ten runners-up won prizes consisting of one night midweek resort lodging and lift tickets for a family of four.

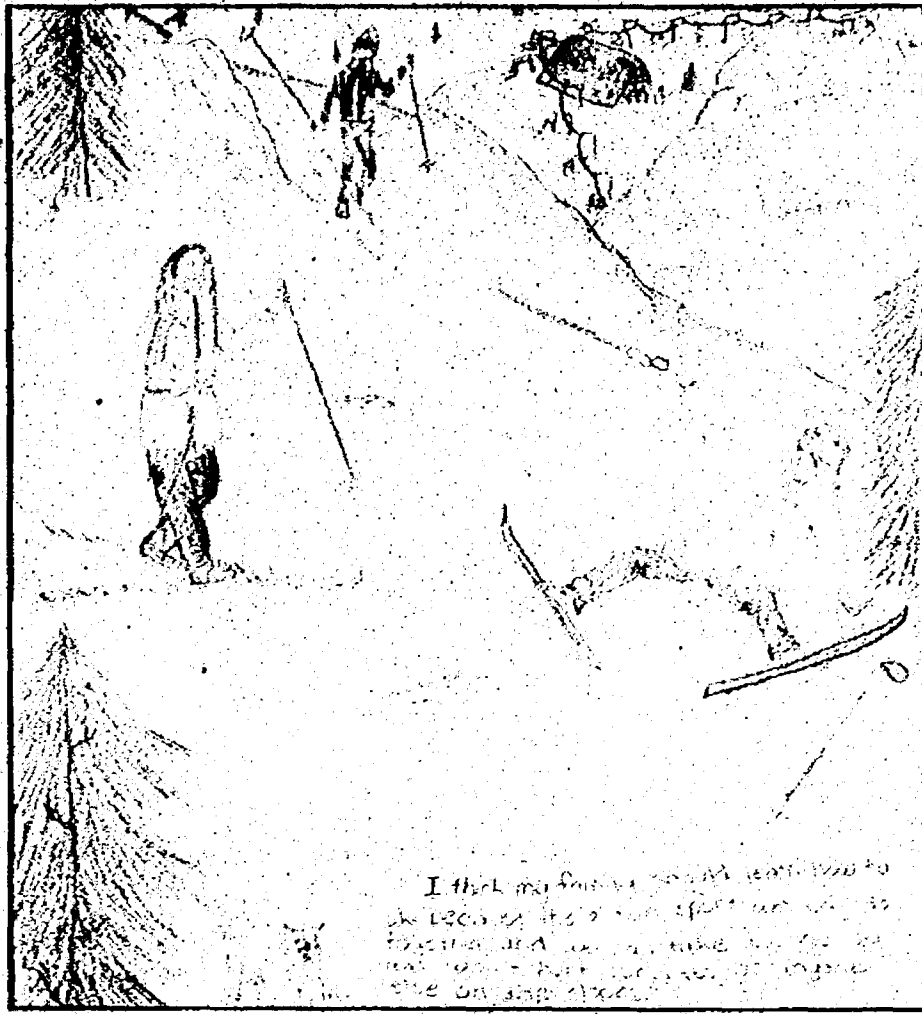
The runners-up were Jacob Agranove, 7 (West Bloomfield); Derrick Pass, 5 (Farmington Hills); Morgan Harding, 3 (Bloomfield); Nikki Bieber, 6 (Redford); Miles Levin, 7 (Bloomfield Hills); Jim Albertus, 11 (Rochester Hills); April Loney, 9 (Livonia); Sarah Broder, 12 (Farmington Hills); Robert Lu-

kofsky, 11 (Livonia) and Erin King, 8 (Redford). Here are the winning stories. ■ Megan Newhouse wrote — "I think my family should learn how to ski because it's a fun sport we can do together and we can take lessons so we won't hurt ourselves or anyone else on the slopes."

■ "I think my family should learn how to ski because I love my family and I want to have time off to have fun with my family," wrote Spencer Franchi.

Sugar Loaf Resort in Cedar, Mich. 1-(800)-968-0576, offers a variety of ski packages for the whole family. From the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain you can see Lake Michigan, Little Traverse Bay, and the Manitou Islands.

Upcoming events include: Nordic Week — free cross country trail pass all week Jan. 15-21; "Just Kidding Weekends" Jan. 19-21 and Feb. 2-4 — weekend getaway with two nights resort lodging, lift tickets, two breakfasts, one dinner and one group lesson. Up to two children 18 and under sleep free (from \$209 per person, double occupancy), plus up to two kids ski free all week-



Winner: Megan Newhouse, a grand prize winner in our "Learn to Ski" contest, submitted this picture of her family on skis.

end, free "just for kids" pizza parties, and activities. March "Spring Carnival" package \$129 per person (double occu-

pancy) March 8-10; Call for more information about midweek and weekend getaway packages.

GREAT ESCAPES

Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48160, or by fax (313)591-7279.

Day & weekend trips

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MACKINAC ISLAND

Cross country ski trails, many island businesses hotels and bed and breakfasts are open. The Mackinac Island State Park Visitor's Center will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 28 to Jan. 2. Colonial Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City will be open Jan. 19-20; Jan. 26-27; Feb. 2-4; and Feb. 16-18. (800) 542-8528 (ferry) (800)-4-LI-LACS (lodging)

SNOW TRAIN

Bluewater Michigan Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will offer a three day Snow Train Tour from the metro Detroit area Feb. 10-12. Motorcoaches will pick up passengers in Dearborn and Birmingham for the trip to Agawa Canyon. Lunch stop at the Sugar Bowl in Gaylord. Saturday and Sunday night buffet at the Ramada Inn in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. You'll ride the Algoma Central Snow Train on Sunday morning, and enjoy lunch in the dining car. Mid-afternoon Monday stop at the Bavarian Inn in Franken-

muth. Cost \$299 per person (double occupancy), \$345 (single). First class luxury option available for an added \$250 per person. (810) 399-7963

Warm destinations

CURACAO

Hamilton, Miller, Hudson & Fayne Travel Corporation is expanding their travel programs to include Curacao in the Caribbean beginning . . . Flights via Sun County Airlines leave metro Saturdays beginning Dec. 23 to Dec. 14, 1996. Air only prices start at \$459.90 per person, round trip. Customized packages including air and hotel start at \$919.90 round trip per person. Curacao is 35 miles off the northern coast of Venezuela. In the southern Caribbean in the Netherlands Antilles. The island is 38 miles long and offers white-sand beaches, windsurfing, sailing, waterskiing, golf, tennis and horseback riding. Call your travel agent for details.

Travel guides

UPPER PENINSULA

Upper Peninsula Travel Planner for all Seasons, available at no cost by calling number listed. Published by the Upper Peninsula Travel & Recreation Association. Includes information on winter sports. 1-(800)-562-7134

Trips

PARIS IN SPRINGTIME

Music lovers' tour May 2-10 hosted by area French travel specialist David Groen and music specialist Shirley Harden. The eight day "Une Petite Fete Musicale" includes performances of operas and ballets, walking tours, and other musical events. Call for information. (800) 874-6470

SPECIAL EVENTS

New Year's Eve festival showcases over 30 performers

Birmingham's sixth annual First Night, an alcohol-free New Year's Eve festival of the arts, is set for Sunday from 5 p.m. until midnight in a number of locations in downtown Birmingham.

First Night Birmingham '96 will showcase over 30 performers for people of all ages.

The headline act for children this year is Loretta Long, better known as Susan on television's "Sesame Street." Teens, adults and senior citizens will have a variety of music to choose from, including classical, jazz and inter-

national. Highlights include jazz trumpeter Marcus Belgrave, David Syme, and classical guitarist Paul Vondiziano.

At midnight, the evening will culminate with thousands of people gathering in Shain Park for a countdown to 1996.

Many coffeehouses and restaurants will stay open for the celebration, offering entertainment such as Middle Eastern dance and jazz music. Some will offer discounts to those wearing admission buttons.

Admission for First Night 1996

'Button up' for First Night

Admission buttons for First Night/Birmingham '96 (\$7, \$1 for children 5 and under) are on sale at AAA of Michigan/Birmingham branch, the Birmingham/Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, City of Birmingham/City Hall, The Community House in Birmingham, Crowley's in Birmingham, Jacobson's in Birmingham and Livonia, and the YMCA in Bir-

mingham. For more information, call (810) 540-6688.

After 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, buttons will only be sold at the First Night Celebration Center, 350 Pierce, one door west of Merrill; at the Village Players Theatre; at the First Presbyterian Church; and at Jacobson's parking lot. Pick up a complete program guide where buttons are sold.

is a \$7 button, available at many Kroger stores, Michigan National Bank branches and other retailers. Program guides, which include a complete schedule of event times and locations, are available where buttons are sold. Buttons for children 5 and under are \$1.

Last year, almost 10,000 people enjoyed the celebration.

Loretta Long will appear at The Community House; her visit is sponsored by Detroit Edison and the Detroit Edison Foundation. Also at the Community House

will be: Marcus Belgrave, world-renowned jazz trumpeter; Pippin Puppets, with shows for children; Modesty Forbids, an Irish folk music group; the children's entertainer Chautauqua Express; "Elvis & Tina," Elvis Presley and Tina Turner impersonators; and the Magic School Bus, which provides interactive arts and science projects for children.

Two interactive sculptures will be showcased in Shain Park's Art on the Move exhibit: "Pinwheels," by Rita Savegh; and "Amass to Craft," by Maria Prainito.

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MOVIES

'Four Rooms' hardly worth visiting

TICKETS PLEASE



JOHN MONAGHAN

It probably sounded great on paper: take four hot young writer/directors, give them each 20 minutes of screen time to fill, check them into a Hollywood hotel on New Year's Eve, then let them run wild. The resulting "Four Rooms" is hardly worth a visit. Though full of strange moments and a few chuckles, the individual segments range from mildly amusing to downright embarrassing. Tim Roth links these sequences as Ted, a British bellboy stuck on desk duty alone. The hotel, a favorite of movie stars during Hollywood's golden age, hasn't changed its ambience much: the bellboy still wears a broad uniform and pillbox hat while the rooms range from Deco baroque to retro modern. In the first bit, directed by "Gas, Food, Lodging's" Allison Anders, a coven of witches (including Madonna and Ione Skye) enlists Ted's help to provide a missing ingredient, sperm, for their smoky cauldron. The bellboy, after some initial hesitation, is more than happy to comply. Weird to be sure, the segment lets us know off the bat that "Four Rooms" is as far from Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" as you can possibly get. And while it comes off fairly

REVIEW

pointless, it's a far sight better than the second sequence, where Ted becomes an unwitting player in a psychodrama between a gangster and his bound-and-gagged wife. Ted's accused of all sorts of things as he tries to inch his way toward the door. The director this time is Alexandre Rockwell, who shows the same self-conscious goofiness that made his art house entry "In the Soup" such a disappointment. Only "Desperado's" Robert Rodriguez leaves these rooms with his reputation intact. His contribution, "The Misbehavers," opens with Antonia Banderas as a tuxedo-clad Latin lover out for a night on the town. He leaves his two young children, a boy and a girl, in the hands of a reluctant Ted. The bellboy tries bribing, cajoling, threatening, and finally ignoring the kids, who get into every conceivable type of mischief. Clever editing and playful snatches of music by Esquivel and Nino Rota make this one almost worth the effort.

The end of the film belongs to "Pulp Fiction's" Quentin Tarantino, fitting since he orchestrated the project. He also stars, playing a film director who indulges in the kind of things you'd probably expect Tarantino to do on New Year's Eve: rhapsodize about vintage television and Jerry Lewis

movies. Tonight's fixation is an old "All-fred Hitchcock Presents" episode where Steve McQueen beta his pinky finger that he can light his trusty Zippo 10 times in a row. They want Ted to play the Peter Lorre part, suspending a meat cleaver over the hand of a pal who thinks he can reproduce the trick. Tarantino orchestrates the first 10 minutes in one continuous shot but doesn't use the gimmick to much effect. The end of his little vaudeville has a wonderful twist, though it's hardly worth the 20 minutes it takes to reach it.

If nothing else, the movie will hopefully put an end to Tarantino's acting ambitions. It's difficult to think of any actor who couldn't have played the part better, including Bruce Willis, who has little to do in the film besides talk on the phone and stumble around drunk. It's movies like "Four Rooms" that will undoubtedly send Tarantino down the same road as late '80s wunderkind David Lynch (coincidentally he also tried an old hotel anthology). Tarantino needs a new gag as moviegoers wise up and discover that his initial originality has quickly degenerated into self-parody.

To leave a message for John Monaghan, dial 953-2047, mailbox number 1866, on a touch-tone phone, fax him a note at 691-7279, or write him in care of Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



CLAUDETTE BARIUS/MIRAMAX FILMS

New Year's Eve: Tim Roth and Ione Skye in "Four Rooms" from directors Allison Anders, Alexandre Rockwell, Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino.

HAVE A BEASTLY GOOD NEW YEAR!

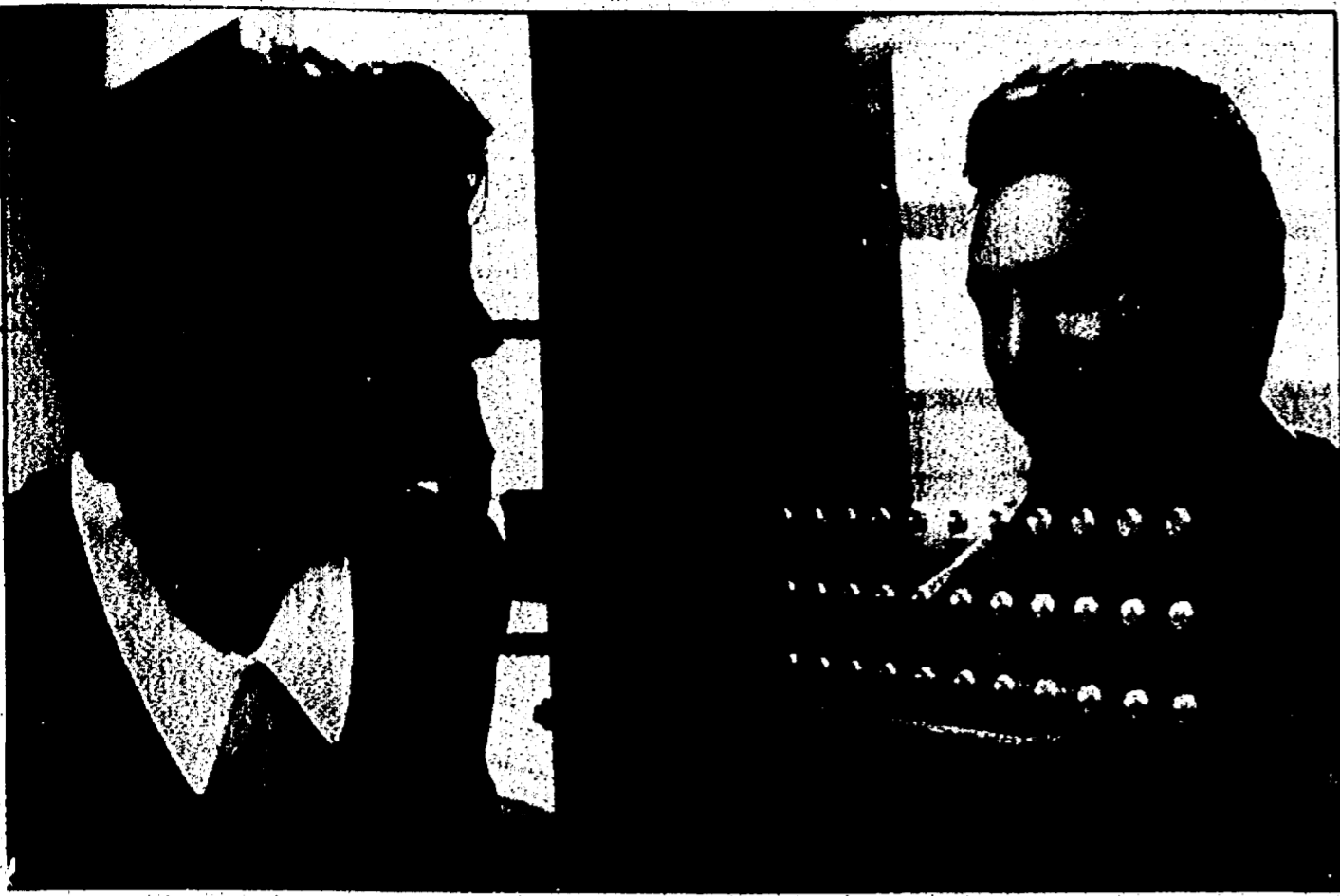


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GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Table with multiple columns listing movie titles, theaters, and showtimes. Includes titles like 'AMC Theaters', 'AMC Maple 1', 'AMC Hampton 4', 'DANGEROUS MINDS (R)', 'BARE (G)', 'AMC Abbey 8', 'AMC Americana West 6', 'AMC Landmark Park 10', 'AMC West 6', 'AMC West 7', 'AMC West 8', 'AMC West 9', 'AMC West 10', 'AMC West 11', 'AMC West 12', 'AMC West 13', 'AMC West 14', 'AMC West 15', 'AMC West 16', 'AMC West 17', 'AMC West 18', 'AMC West 19', 'AMC West 20', 'AMC West 21', 'AMC West 22', 'AMC West 23', 'AMC West 24', 'AMC West 25', 'AMC West 26', 'AMC West 27', 'AMC West 28', 'AMC West 29', 'AMC West 30', 'AMC West 31', 'AMC West 32', 'AMC West 33', 'AMC West 34', 'AMC West 35', 'AMC West 36', 'AMC West 37', 'AMC West 38', 'AMC West 39', 'AMC West 40', 'AMC West 41', 'AMC West 42', 'AMC West 43', 'AMC West 44', 'AMC West 45', 'AMC West 46', 'AMC West 47', 'AMC West 48', 'AMC West 49', 'AMC West 50', 'AMC West 51', 'AMC West 52', 'AMC West 53', 'AMC West 54', 'AMC West 55', 'AMC West 56', 'AMC West 57', 'AMC West 58', 'AMC West 59', 'AMC West 60', 'AMC West 61', 'AMC West 62', 'AMC West 63', 'AMC West 64', 'AMC West 65', 'AMC West 66', 'AMC West 67', 'AMC West 68', 'AMC West 69', 'AMC West 70', 'AMC West 71', 'AMC West 72', 'AMC West 73', 'AMC West 74', 'AMC West 75', 'AMC West 76', 'AMC West 77', 'AMC West 78', 'AMC West 79', 'AMC West 80', 'AMC West 81', 'AMC West 82', 'AMC West 83', 'AMC West 84', 'AMC West 85', 'AMC West 86', 'AMC West 87', 'AMC West 88', 'AMC West 89', 'AMC West 90', 'AMC West 91', 'AMC West 92', 'AMC West 93', 'AMC West 94', 'AMC West 95', 'AMC West 96', 'AMC West 97', 'AMC West 98', 'AMC West 99', 'AMC West 100'.

COMING ATTRACTIONS



True story: Sister Helen (Susan Sarandon) and Matthew (Sean Penn) share a light moment in the Tim Robbins film "Dead Man Walking," opening Friday, Jan. 12 exclusively at the Main Art Theatre in Royal Oak.

GRAMERCY PICTURES

OPENING FRIDAY, DEC. 29

"OTHELLO"
Exclusively at the Main Art Theatre. The classic Shakespeare tragedy starring Laurence Fishburne, Kenneth Branagh, Irene Jacob, Nathaniel Parker and Michael Maloney.

OPENING FRIDAY, JAN. 5

"12 MONKEYS"
Sci-fi thriller about a convict who could be pardoned if he successfully defeats a deadly virus that would make the planet uninhabitable.

OPENING, FRIDAY, JAN. 12

"CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY"
Based on the novel by Alan Paton. The story of the reconciliation of two men, who have each lost a son to the violence of South Africa — one black, the other white. Stars James Earl Jones, Richard Harris.

"TWO IF BY THE SEA"
A dark comedy about a hapless thief and his smarter, more ambitious girlfriend, who find themselves stuck on an elegant Cape Cod island as they attempt to fence a stolen painting. Stars Denis Lary and Sandra Bullock.

"DUNSTON CHECKS IN"
Comedy about a young boy and a

bay orangutan who causes a little excitement in a New York hotel. Stars Jason Alexander, Faye Dunaway.

"BIODOME"
Comedy about a pair of misfits who get locked inside a massive, self-contained biosphere that is supposed to remain sealed for a year. Stars Pauly Shore, Stephen Baldwin, William Atherton, Patricia Hearst.

"DEAD MAN WALKING"
Exclusively at the Main Art Theatre. True story based on the experiences of a New Orleans nun and her relationship with a death row inmate. Stars Susan Sarandon, Sean Penn.

"EYE FOR AN EYE"
A revenge thriller about a woman who takes justice into her own hands after her daughter's rapist/killer is set free. Stars Sally Field, Ed Harris, Kiefer Sutherland, Joe Mantegna, Beverly D'Angelo.

"LAWNMOWER MAN 2: BEYOND CYBERSPACE"

Five years after the original, using computers and virtual reality to doctor rebuild's Jobe's mind and restores him to his former power. Stars Patrick Bergin, Austin O'Brien, Matt Frewer, Ely Pouget.

OPENING FRIDAY, JAN. 19

"TWO BITS"
Warm-hearted coming-of-age story that revolves around a loveable but feisty grandfather and his grandson. Stars Al Pacino.

OPENING FRIDAY, JAN. 26

"RESTORATION"
The moving story of the irrepressible Robert Merivel, who eagerly embraces the high living and low moral standards of the court of Charles II. When Merivel falls from grace, he must create his own spiritual and social restoration. Stars Robert Downey, Jr., Meg Ryan.

THE CRITICS AGREE-
"NIXON'S" THE ONE!

- Gene Shalit, NBC-TV - Joel Siegel, ABC-TV

"BRILLIANT, COMPELLING, POWERFUL!"

- David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

"MASTERFULLY DIRECTED BY OLIVER STONE!"

- David Sheehan, CBS-TV, LOS ANGELES

"NIXON" IS PURE MOVIE MAKING!"

- Gene Shalit, NBC-TV

"TWO THUMBS UP! ABSOLUTELY RIVETING!"

- SISKEL & EBERT

"A MUST SEE - DON'T MISS IT!"

- Pat Collins, WOR-TV, NEW YORK

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- Michael Mallory, NEW YORK POST

Harrison FORD Julia ORMOND

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SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8
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- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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- Gene Siskel, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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- Michael Medved, PBS/SEAK POST

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SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS
SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
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Nancy Jay, KTVT-TV/CBS

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SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR TAYLOR
STAR WINCHESTER 8	UNITED ARTISTS LAKESIDE	UNITED ARTISTS OAKLAND
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MOVIES

'Sense and Sensibility' glorious ode to anticipation

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan

MAGIC BAG THEATRE 22918 Woodward (north of 9 Mile), Ferndale. Call (810) 544-3030 for information. (\$6)

"Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation." 8, 11 p.m. Dec. 30; 8 p.m. Jan. 1-2. An odd way to spend the holidays, this annual compilation of contemporary animation is a perverse companion piece to the recent festival at the DIA. Compiled by the same California-based madmen who first foisted "Beavis and Butt-head" on an unsuspecting public, the current lineup includes old favorites like "No Neck Joe," along with the alien nightmare "Abducted" and worm-obsessed "Smush."

MAIN ART THEATRE 118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 542-0180 for information and showtimes. (\$6.50; \$4 students and matinee; \$3 twilight)

"Sense and Sensibility" (Britain - 1995). In yet another film adaptation of a Jane Austen novel (and one of the best films of the year), tragedy changes a family's circumstances and alters the romantic aspirations of its daughters. Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, and Hugh Grant star in a script written by Thompson and directed by Ang Lee ("The Wedding Banquet").

"Leaving Las Vegas" (USA - 1995). Just in time for the holidays, Nicolas Cage plays a suicidal alcoholic who finds his soulmate in a Las Vegas call girl (Elizabeth Shue). Well-acted, relentlessly downbeat, and definitely not for all tastes.

"Othello" (USA - 1995). Laurence Fishburn stars as the murdering Moor in a new adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy. Starts Friday.

MAPLE THEATRE 4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. All titles play through at least next Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 855-9090 for information. (\$6; \$2.95 twilight) "Grumpier Old Men" (USA -

1995). Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon team once again as old coots whose libidos are jump started once again, this time by Ann-Margret and Sophia Loren.

"Nixon" (USA - 1995). Anthony Hopkins stars as the fallen president in Oliver Stone's challenging new film. As usual, the director employs quick editing techniques and varied film stocks, resulting in a movie both tedious (at almost three-and-a-half hours long) and fascinating. Ed Harris and James Wood co-star.

"The American President" (USA - 1995). Michael Douglas plays the widowed Commander in Chief who tries to balance his job and a blossoming romance with an environmental lobbyist (Annette Bening). Another crowd-pleaser from director Rob Reiner.

MICHIGAN THEATRE 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call (313) 668-8397. (\$6; \$5 students/seniors)

"Restoration" (Britain - 1995). Through Dec. 31 (call for showtimes). In the court of King Charles II, a notorious womanizer and drunkard (Robert Downey,

Jr.) is surprised to find himself falling in love with his latest conquest. Hugh Grant, Sam Neill, and Meg Ryan co-star.

ADAT SHALOM SYNAGOGUE 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills (810) 851-5100. Films are open to the community at no charge, and followed by coffee and discussion.

"When the Laughter Starts, The Crying Stops," 1996 film series will feature "Yidl Min Fidl" 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14 and "Annie Hall" 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21.

Both films will be introduced and discussed by Ira Konigsberg, Professor of Film and English at the University of Michigan. Konigsberg is author of "The Complete Film Dictionary," which has gone into its 10th printing.

"Yidl Mitn Fidl," starring Molly Picon, a Yiddish performer, is one of the classic works of Yiddish cinema. About a young woman who disguises herself as a man so that she can join a group of Klezmer musicians, this film bursts with energy, gaiety and music.

"Annie Hall," considered by many the best of Woody Allen's



CLIVE COOTE/COLUMBIA PICTURES

Mixing sense with sensibility: Elinor (left to right, Emma Thompson), Marianne (Kate Winslet) and Mrs. Dashwood (Gemma Jones) get used to and Sensibility.

films, is about the relationship between a Jewish comedian and a non-Jewish woman. "Annie Hall" presents a hilarious and expansive view of American culture and society in the 1960s and 1970s.

MOTOR CITY THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY The Historic Redford Theatre,

17360 Lahser Road, Detroit (313) 537-2560. (Movie tickets \$2.50, Friday nights 7:30 p.m. organ overture, film 8 p.m. Saturdays organ overture 1:30 p.m., film 2 p.m.)

"Top Hat," Jan. 12-13, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Guest organist Brian Carnody.

SCREEN SCENE

"Sense and Sensibility" is now playing exclusively at the Main Art Theatre in Royal Oak.

By PATRICIA BIBBY AP NEWSFEATURES

Jane Austen knows a thing or two about patience and all its agonizing manifestations: gratification deferred, unquenched desire and lost love that waits to be reclaimed.

"Sense and Sensibility" director Ang Lee knows a thing or two about capturing Austen in all her delicate nuances. With this work, Lee has crafted a loving and glorious ode to anticipation and the delicious fruit that waiting can bring.

REVIEW

This is one of those rare films that seems to be magnificent and grand in scale, even though it concerns itself with the smallest flutters of the heart and the magic and mystery of its beating.

Emma Thompson, giving one of her most spectacular performances to date, wrote the screenplay and informs it with a wry, light touch that makes Austen's 200-year-old essay of manners and social customs vibrantly alive today.

The film begins with a crisis of inheritance. The dying family pa-

triarch, Henry Dashwood (Tom Wilkinson), is forced by law to leave his palatial estate to his son, John (James Fleet), and his wife, Fanny (Harriet Walter), from his first marriage. This is despite the fact that his current wife (Gemma Jones) and three daughters — Elinor (Thompson), Marianne (Kate Winslet) and Margaret (Emilie Francios) — currently live in the house and therefore must be evicted by the step-brother.

Fanny quickly emerges as a ruthless shrew, eagerly helping her husband rationalize giving his step-sisters a stingy pittance. "People always live forever when

there is an annuity to be paid to them," she says through pursed lips.

Fanny settles in to the family home — more like a sprawling Georgian castle with manicured, velvety green grounds — and begins to envision all sorts of garish renovations.

When Fanny's brother, Edward (Hugh Grant), comes to visit, it's apparent that there is a tender thread the binds him to Elinor, much to Fanny's consternation. In Fanny's opinion, the disenfranchised Elinor, with no dowry, is not suitable for marrying.

The Dashwood women retreat to a cousin's cottage (though it's

hardly a small thatched-roof affair), where the tempestuous Marianne falls (literally) for the ex-

travagantly handsome and devastatingly romantic Willoughby (Greg Wise).

Advertisement for the movie 'Heat' featuring Al Pacino and Al Pacino. Text includes: 'HEAT' HAS GOT IT ALL! THE STARS. THE EXCITEMENT...AND THE ACCLAIM. TIME: 'AWESOME. TRULY EPIC. A MASTERPIECE. WHOLLY ORIGINAL.' NEWSWEEK: 'A STUNNING CRIME DRAMA. MANN'S SPRAWLING SAGA HAS THE MOST IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION OF ACTORS IN ONE MOVIE THIS YEAR. PACINO AND DE NIRO ARE GREAT. THIS ONE STICKS TO YOUR GUT.'

Advertisement for the movie 'Jumanji' featuring Robin Williams. Text includes: 'THE GREATEST MOVIE ADVENTURE YOU WILL EVER TAKE!' 'A TIMELESS MASTERPIECE! SENSATIONAL! YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.'

Advertisement for the movie 'Dracula' featuring Mel Brooks and Leslie Nielsen. Text includes: 'CLASSIC MEL BROOKS!' 'LESIE NIELSEN' 'DRACULA DEAD and LOVING IT'

Advertisement for the movie 'Grumpier Old Men' featuring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. Text includes: 'THE FUNNIEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR!' 'Hilarious! Loads of low down fun. A feel good movie.'

Advertisement for the movie 'Waiting to Exhale' featuring Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett. Text includes: 'RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH THE "LITTLE" DREAM TEAM'

Advertisement for the movie 'Van Damme Sudden Death' featuring Sylvester Stallone. Text includes: 'THE ONLY ACTION IN TOWN!' 'TWO THUMBS UP!' 'ACTION-PACKED SUSPENSE LIKE YOU WON'T BELIEVE!'



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10⁹⁵	10⁹⁵	10⁹⁵	10⁹⁵	10⁹⁵	10⁹⁵	10⁹⁵			
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10⁹⁵	10⁹⁵	10⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵
BLACKHAWK Strong Enough	JOE DIFFIE Life's So Funny	COLIN RAYE I Think About You	R. KELLY R. Kelly	VINCE GILL Souvenirs	UB40 The Best Of Volume, V2	LENNY KRAVITZ Circus	COLLECTIVE SOUL Collective Soul	ALAN JACKSON The Greatest Hits Collection	ACE OF BASE The Bridge
11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵	11⁹⁵
WAITING TO EXHALE Soundtrack	TLC CrazySexyCool	CLUELESS Soundtrack	OZZY OSBOURNE Ozmosis	The Gold Experience	ALL-4-ONE And The Musk Speaks	JEFF FOXWORTHY Games Rednecks Play	HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH Cracked Rear View	LISA LOEB AND NINE STORIES Tails	FRANK SINATRA Sinatra 80th Live

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Top stories from page 1C

Reese earned respect despite not having staggering statistics: 14.6 points, six assists and 4.5 rebounds per game as a senior.

"People would tell me: 'You have to do this; you have to score so many points,'" Reese said. "A lot of other winners were averaging 20, 30 points a game. If that's what people voted on, I wasn't going to win it. I just thought about being runner-up for the award. I wanted to be at least second. I know my stats weren't awesome. I wasn't going to cry if I didn't get it, but I would cry if I did get it."

9. Garden City resident Greg Ryan makes the 1995 United States Junior Olympic baseball team: The Dearborn Divine Child standout won a medal as a member of the U.S. Junior Olympic baseball team. Ryan earned a spot on the team with a strong showing on the North team at the Olympic Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, Colo.

10. Schoolcraft College men's basketball coach Glen Donahue sets state record for wins: First-year Schoolcraft College coach Glen Donahue became the winningest college basketball coach in state history when he notched career win 518 on Nov. 25 with a 104-101 victory against Siena Heights.

Donahue won most of his college games while at Highland

Park Community College from the late '60s to the mid-'80s. He also spent several years as coach of St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake before the school voted to drop the basketball program following the 1992 season.

"It was elusive, because you wait 3 1/2 years to get it," said Donahue, who coached the last three seasons at Redford Bishop Borgess.

Some more to remember

Jack Reardon retires as Livonia Stevenson football coach: The only varsity head football coach in the history of Livonia Stevenson announced his retirement in early February. Reardon had a 168-97-1 overall record, guiding the Spartans to 13 division or league titles, two state playoff berths and two undefeated seasons.

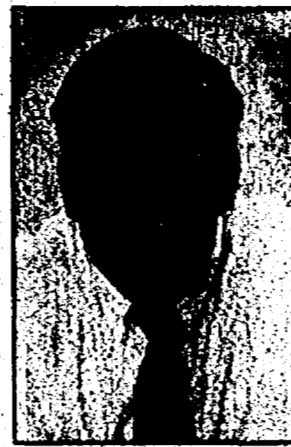
His last team was one of his best as the Spartans finished the 1994 season with a 9-2 record, losing in the Class AA regional final to Westland John Glenn.

"His trademark was discipline, his honesty and straightforwardness," Stevenson Athletic Director Roger Frayer said. "They don't make guys like that anymore."

Observerland lost another long-time coach, Westland John Glenn's Norm Hoenes, to retirement later in the spring. Hoenes



Craig Martin



John Spolsky



Anne Aristeo

took his team to three Final Four appearances, including consecutive trips in 1993 and '94.

Lloyd Carr named University of Michigan's head football coach: The former Westland John Glenn football coach from the '70s was named interim coach at U-M in the spring after the removal of head coach Gary Moeller due to an incident in a Southfield restaurant.

Carr, the father of former CC quarterback and current U-M reserve signal caller Jason Carr, led the Wolverines to a 9-3 overall record and a berth in the Alamo Bowl. He was rewarded late in the season with the job on a full-time basis.

Western Golf & Country Club (Redford Township) professional Ray Bolo wins his second-straight Michigan Seniors PGA title: Bolo made a Jack Nicklaus-like charge in the last two holes to win his second-straight Michigan PGA Seniors Tournament Championship in July at Silver Lake Country Club in Rockford.

Bolo saved par after a poor tee shot on the 17th hole and eagled the 18th hole to finish the 36-hole tournament at 2-under par 142 (70-72).

The Plymouth Canton and Salem athletic departments undergo major changes: Two long-serving members in the Plymouth Canton and Salem athletic departments, Paul Cummings and Gary Balconi, retired. Brian Wolcott — a former All Big Ten pitcher while at Michigan State University, who most recently worked in the Birmingham School District — succeeds Cummings as director of athletics of both schools.

Balconi's replacement as Salem's athletic coordinator, meanwhile, is John Robinson, whose latest position was as coordinator of district athletic trainers for the Farmington school system.

Another change occurred in the fall of '95 as Sue Heinzman took over as Canton's athletic coordinator when Jim Finn left.

Garden City senior swimmer/soccer player April Rowland makes great progress after going into a coma following an automobile accident: On the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 26, Rowland was involved in a two-car accident on her way to school with a classmate. She suffered fluid on the brain, a broken pelvis, gashes on her leg and was in a coma six days.

"It was touch and go at first," her mother, Fran Rowland, said. "Now, I really think it's a miracle."

Within several weeks Rowland was in physical therapy at the University of Michigan's Mott Children's Hospital. She plans to finish her high school degree, then attend the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Garden City's boys basketball team upsets Westland John Glenn in the first round of the Class A district at Belleville: Westland John Glenn reached the Class A state quarterfinal game in 1994 and was poised for a return trip before a team of overachievers from Garden City defused the Rockets, 68-59, in a 1995 district semifinal at Belleville.

The Cougars' defense held Glenn's 6-11 center Guy Rucker, bound for the University of Iowa, to 12 points. Junior guard Ryan Males led the Cougars with 24 points.

Glenn bowed out at 16-4 overall, while Garden City finally got above .500 with the win for an 11-10 record.

Sophomore guard Lorenzo Guess leads a team of underclassmen at Wayne Memorial to the Class A state quarterfinal game: A group of underclassmen left Wayne Memorial fans wondering what's in store for the future as the Zebras won district and regional boys basketball titles before losing in overtime to Kalamazoo Central, 87-79, in a Class A quarterfinal at Lansing Eastern.

Sophomore guard Lorenzo Guess finished with 26 points before fouling out with 5:04 left in the fourth quarter and Wayne up 65-63. Junior guard Jameel Wooden also had 26 points, including six three-point baskets.

"I told them, 'It's state time; you can do it; you have to step up,'" Guess said. "I thought they would pull it off and win in regulation. The ball just bounced the wrong way."

CC baseball team: The Shamrocks were another team led by underclassmen, but still advanced to the semifinal round of the Class A state playoffs. The Shamrocks' ending wasn't as suspenseful, as they lost 19-9 to Rochester Adams, another team loaded with underclassmen.

Madonna University and Schoolcraft College win regional championships in women's volleyball: Madonna's second trip to the NAIA national tournament in the last three years was led by first-team All-America Kelly McCausland, a junior from Redford Union. The Crusaders, who finished 47-11 overall under coach Jerry Abraham, managed to win one match in San Diego, the



JIM JAGFELD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On pace: Livonia Stevenson sophomore Kelly Travis placed fifth in the individual race to lead the Spartans to a second-place finish in the team race at the Class A state meet.

site of the nationals.

Schoolcraft College coach Tom Teeters also guided his team to a regional championship and a berth in the National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament in Miami, Fla.

Livonia Franklin's best boys soccer season: The Patriots, behind All-Observer first-team players Eric Bowman and Roberto Vega, upset Redford Catholic Central and Livonia Churchill en route to their first-ever Class A district championship.

It finally took Livonia Stevenson to knock off the Cinderella Patriots, masterfully coached to a 15-7 overall record by Dave Hebestreit.

The death of Dan Krueger, former CC wrestling star: The CC and Plymouth/Canton communities mourned the loss of Krueger (son of Plymouth Salem wrestling coach Ron Krueger), who died in an auto accident in September. Krueger was a freshman wrestler at Eastern Michigan and a runner-up at the 1994 state meet.

Lutheran Westland, Livonia Stevenson cross country teams: The Lutheran Westland boys cross country team and the Livonia Stevenson girls cross country team finished second in Class C and Class A, respectively, at the state meet.

Brad Polkinghorne was 13th individually to lead the Lutheran Westland boys and sophomore

Kelly Travis was fifth individually to lead the Spartans.

Bernie Holowickl returns to coaching: The former CC coach took over as Madonna men's coach, replacing Bob Sharpe, who was fired.

Farmington Hills Harrison shut out of playoffs: The Hawks won another Western Lakes title but uncharacteristically were shut out 40-0 by eventual Class A state runner-up South Lyon in the first round of the playoffs. It was the Hawks' worst loss in nearly three decades. They were trying to win their third straight state title.

Livonia Ladywood volleyball team: The Blazers beat the area's second-best team, Plymouth Salem, soundly in the Class A district and advanced to the semifinals before losing to Port Huron Northern.

Redford Union's new hockey program: RU, aided by its Extracurricular Task Force, announced the first season will be 1996-97 with Pete Mazzoni as the head coach. With Farmington opening a new arena with two rinks, talk was the Farmington schools will start a hockey program.

Plymouth Canton boys basketball team: The Chiefs opened the 95-96 season with an upset win over Wayne and are undefeated heading into the Christmas Break. Will they be the headline makers in '96? Only time will tell.

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OUTDOORS CALENDAR

CLASSES

FLY TYING The Challenge Chapter of Trout Unlimited is offering two courses in fly tying. The classes begin Jan. 22 and will be held at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Registration begins Jan. 2. Call (810) 647-1400 or (313) 359-4149 for more information.

SHOWS

CAMPER SHOW The Pontiac Silverdome Camper, Travel and RV show will be held Jan. 24-28 at the Pontiac Silverdome.

OUTDOORAMA MUCC's Outdoorama Sport and Travel Show will be held Feb. 23 through March 3 at the Novi Expo center.

SEASONS

- BASS Statewide through Dec. 31. BOBCAT Through March 1 in Zone I, Jan. 1 to March 15 in special areas of Zone II. COYOTE Through April 15 in Zone I. Through April 15 in Zones II and III. DEER Archery season runs through Jan. 1. FOX Statewide through March 1. RUFFED GROUSE Through Jan. 1 in Zones II and III.

- RABBIT Statewide through March 31. RACCOON Statewide through Jan. 31. SQUIRREL Statewide through Jan. 1.

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN The rifle and pistol range at the Bald Mountain Recreation Area is open 10 a.m. to sunset on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Call (810) 814-9193 for more information. PONTIAC LAKE The range at the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is open 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesdays through Sundays. Call (810) 666-1020 for more information.

FISHING CLUBS

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information. FOUR SEASONS The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Maplewood Center in Garden City. Bob Mitchel, recognized field tester and outdoor writer, will be the guest speaker at the Jan. 3 meeting. Mitchel will give a presentation on the new hot spot for walleye and steelhead in Erieau, Ontario. Call (810) 477-3816 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Garden City High School. Call (313) 420-2965 for more information. FISHING BUDDY Fishing Buddy Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. Call (810) 656-0556 for more information.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS Most Metropark programs are free, while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks, toll-free: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178. SLEIGH RIDES Dash through the snow in a horse-drawn sleigh weekends at Kensington Metropark. FULL MOON WALK A naturalist-led hike under the light of the full moon begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at Stony Creek. WOLF MOON Learn about wolves, owls and animal tracks during an evening hike under the light of a full moon, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at Indian Springs. WINTER WEEDS A naturalist-led hike through the meadow to learn some of the uses of wildflowers by humans and animals, begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at Stony Creek. ANIMAL TRACKS AND T-SHIRTS

Learn to identify animal tracks and make track designs on T-shirts during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at Indian Springs.

STORIES IN THE SNOW Look for animal tracks and animal signs during this naturalist-led hike, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at Kensington.

1996 PERMITS The 1996 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle permits and annual boat launching permit are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle permits are \$15, \$8 for senior citizens. Boat launch permits are \$18, \$9 for seniors. Call 1-800-47-PARKS for more information.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area and Highland Recreation Area are offering nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury, call (810) 349-8390, for Proud Lake and Highland, call (810) 685-2433.

VEHICLE PERMITS The 1996 state park motor vehicle permits area available for \$20 each at state park and state recreation area offices, (313) 953-0241.

CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS Campsite reservations for the 1996 season are now being accepted. Call 1-800-5432-YES, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends to make your reservation.

Warriors rally to win; PCA remains perfect

Lutheran High Westland set its alarm clock a little late, but woke up in time to earn a 46-42 boys basketball victory Friday over visiting New Boston Huron.

The Warriors erased a 35-27 third-quarter deficit with a 19-7 run in the final quarter. Senior guard Sam Patterson's three-pointer with 1:22 left tied it at 41-all and senior guard Bruce Williams gave Lutheran Westland the victory when he connected on a pair of free throws with 22 seconds remaining.

"We turned up the defense and started pressuring the ball... we were complacent up to that point," said Lutheran Westland coach Scott Wiemer, whose team is 3-2 overall at the holiday break.

Sophomore forward Brad Woehlke led Lutheran Westland in scoring with 11 points. Junior forward Joe Pruchnik added 10 points.

Lutheran Westland won despite making only 11 of 26 free throws (42.3 percent), while New Boston was nine of 19 (47.3 percent).

BASKETBALL

Senior guard Brian Wehrs scored a game-high 14 points to lead the Chiefs, who fall to 1-4.

PLY. CHRISTIAN '47, HURON VALLEY 45: Jamie Neil scored a game-high 20 points, including the game-winning basket with only 45 seconds remaining Thursday to give unbeaten Plymouth Christian (5-0) the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference win over Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-3).

Jeremy Hsia added 16 points for the Eagles, who finished the night making 22 of 34 free throws (64.7 percent).

Scott Ohlsson led Huron Valley with 15 points, while Jeremy Zahn contributed nine.

Huron Valley, which was only 20 of 42 from the line (47.6) percent, made just four of 13 in the decisive final quarter.

The Hawks couldn't hold a 28-19 halftime lead as Plymouth Christian rallied with a 18-11 run in the third quarter.

"We struggled with their press in the third quarter and just couldn't convert from the line in the fourth," Huron Valley coach Tod Bartholomew said. "Our condition has to get better and I think the team's legs got tired at the end."

HOCKEY STANDINGS

Table with columns for SUBURBAN HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS, SOUTH DIVISION, NORTH DIVISION, SOUTH SCORING LEADERS, NORTH SCORING LEADERS, SOUTH LEADING GOALIES, NORTH LEADING GOALIES. Includes team names like W.L. Central, B.H. Andover, and player statistics.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Table listing sports events for the week ahead, including Prep Boys Basketball, Prep Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Men's College Basketball, and Women's College Basketball.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Items for the Sports Roundup must be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday (for Thursday edition) and 5 p.m. Friday (for Monday edition). Items run once only. STARS ON ICE Tickets are on sale for the Discover Card Stars On Ice 1995-96 Tenth Anniversary Tour, which comes to the Palace at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO RELOCATE A BANK OFFICE. Notice is hereby given that Midwest Guaranty Bank, 201 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite 125, Troy, MI has made application with the commissioner of the Michigan Financial Institutions Bureau for permission to relocate its Livonia branch banking office from 33897 W. Five Mile Rd. to 37601 W. Five Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48154.

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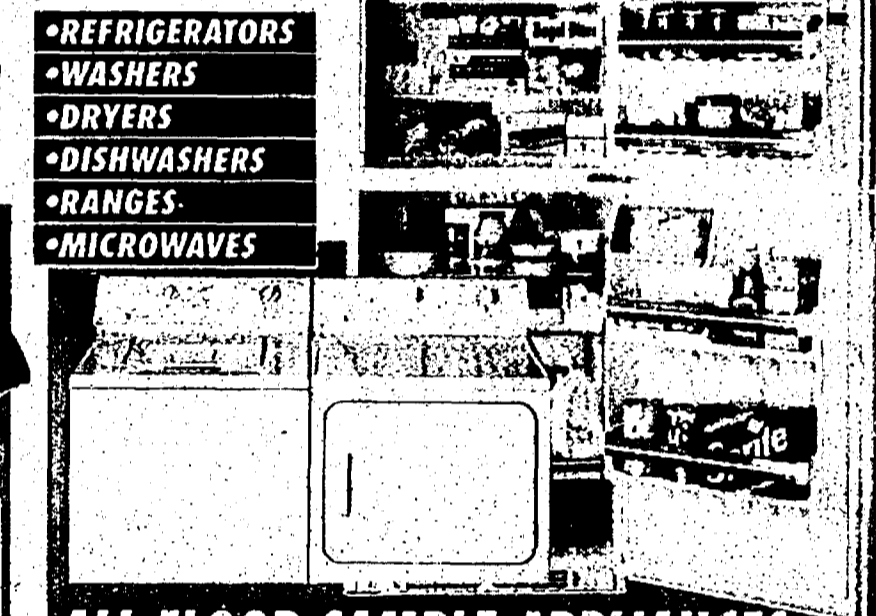
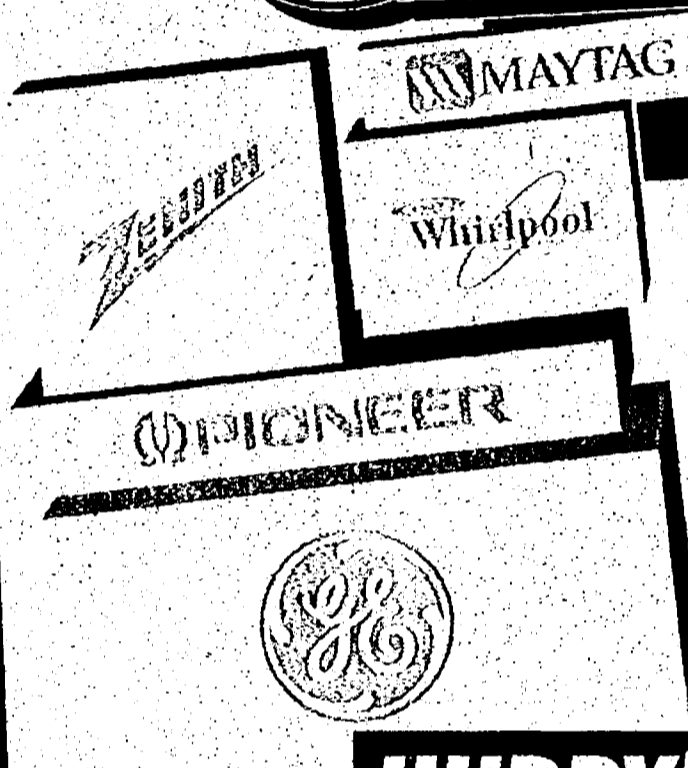
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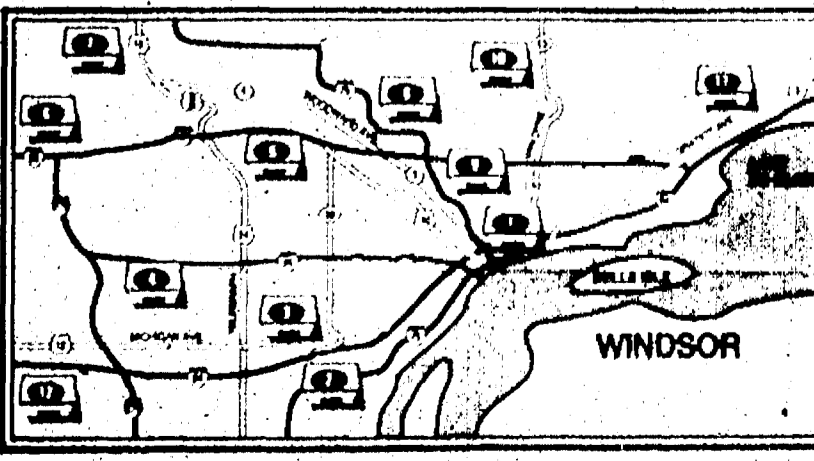
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Observer & Eccentric

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1995

AT HOME



Cover story, page 9

Reel style

And...

Garden Spot, page 4 • Inviting Ideas, page 8 • Focus on Photography, page 12 • Book Break, page 14

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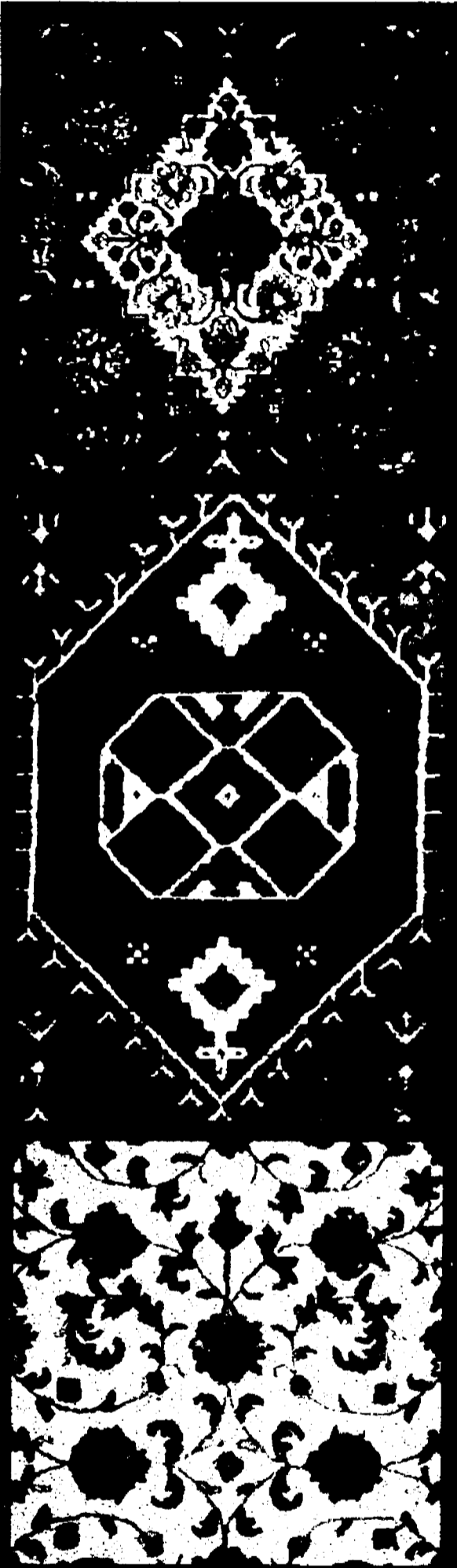
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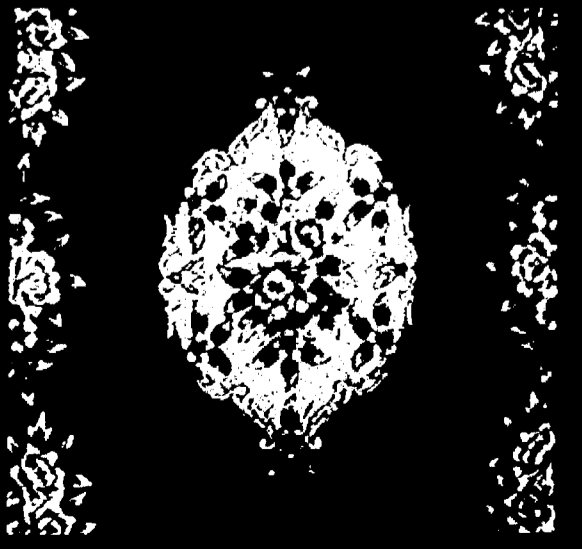
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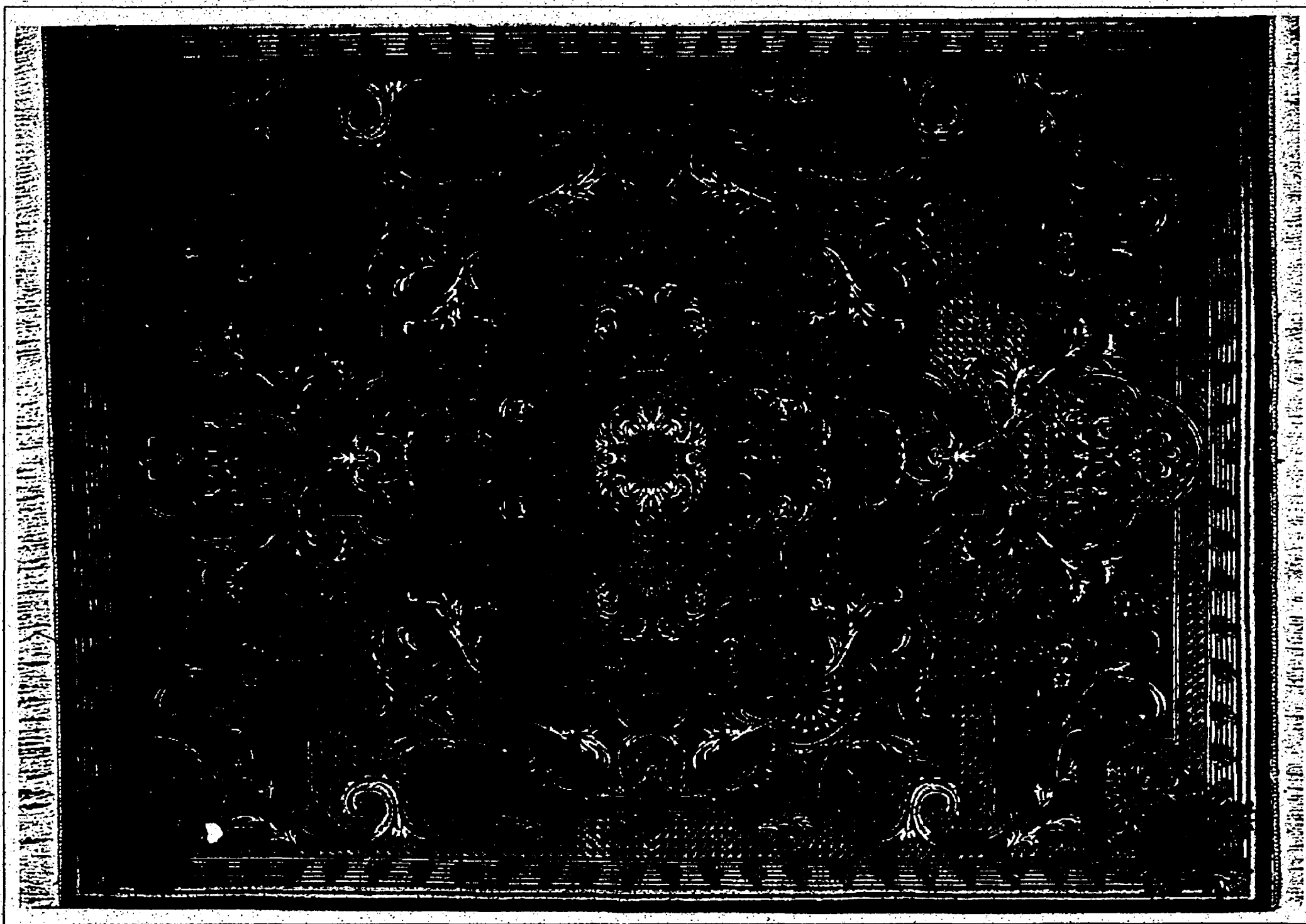


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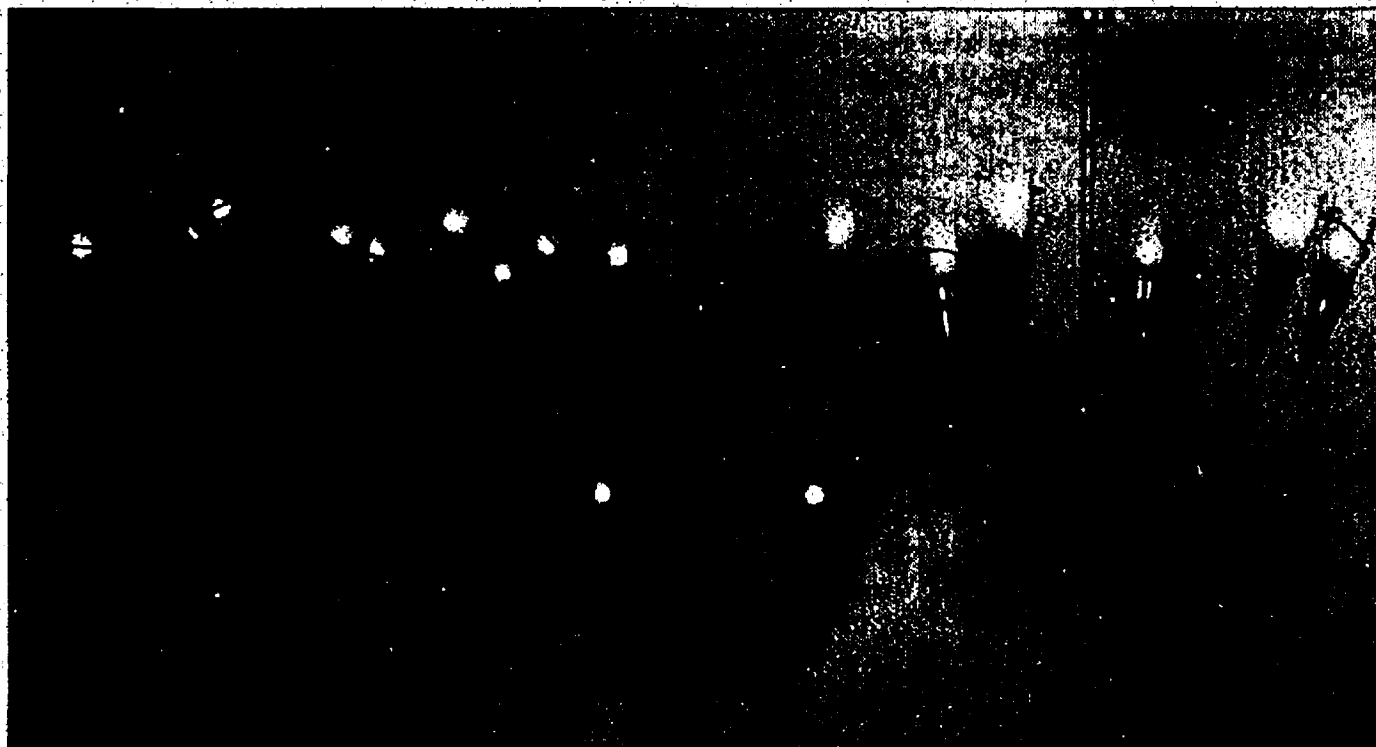
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AT HOME

Mary Klemic, editor
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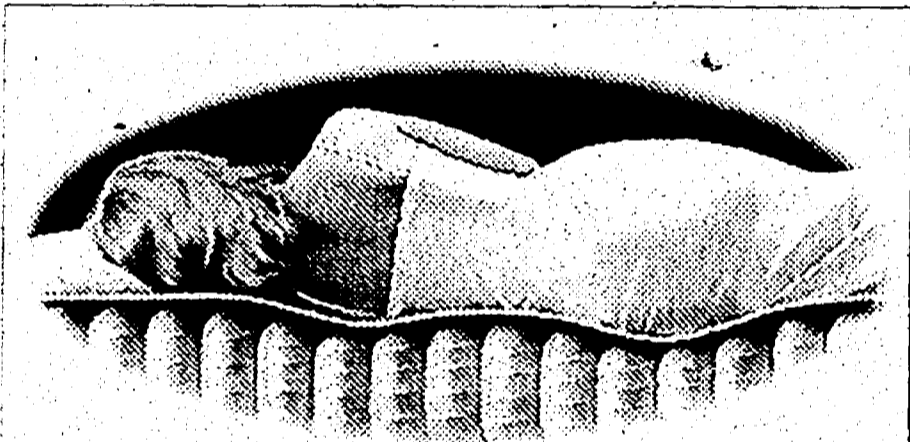
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GARDEN SPOT

New gardening books give us fresh insights



MARTY FIGLEY

Books can take us many places even as we relax in our own homes. After the first read they can be enjoyed again and again as we gain insight into other people's lives and places to visit and learn new things.

Author Tovah Martin takes us on a sojourn through "Tasha Tudor's Garden" (Houghton Mifflin, \$35) as she relates personal anecdotes about this well-loved artist and garden-er.

Along the way we learn much about her secluded lifestyle and the old-fashioned flowers that she takes into her home to paint, and about the vegetables she grows and shares. We are introduced to her many animals — her corgi dogs, a pet parrot, a one-eyed cat, the Nubian goats she raises and others. This charming month-by-month visit is enhanced by the fabulous photographs

by Richard Brown. This is a book to treasure and revisit often.

More than just a how-to book, the coffee table-sized "The Book of Rhododendrons," Marianna Kneller (Timber Press, \$45), is resplendent with colorful botanical portraits of the many genera of these plants. Kneller has captured all the intricacies of each individual flower to enable one to study them in detail.

Divided into three sections, the book follows methods used by the taxonomists of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, for classifying the species. Rhododendron specialists from around the world have written the text that accompanies each drawing. A must-have for growers of these plants, it can be studied and enjoyed for many years.

"The Art of French Vegetable Gardening," Louisa Jones (Artisan-Workman, \$35), illustrates that vegetable gardening can be beautiful as well as practical. It zeroes in on the potage, or kitchen garden, as Jones carefully ex-

See FIGLEY, 6D

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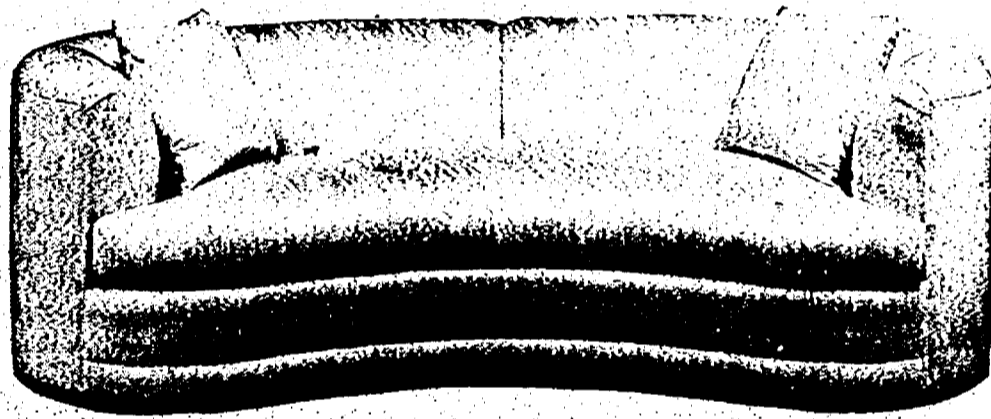
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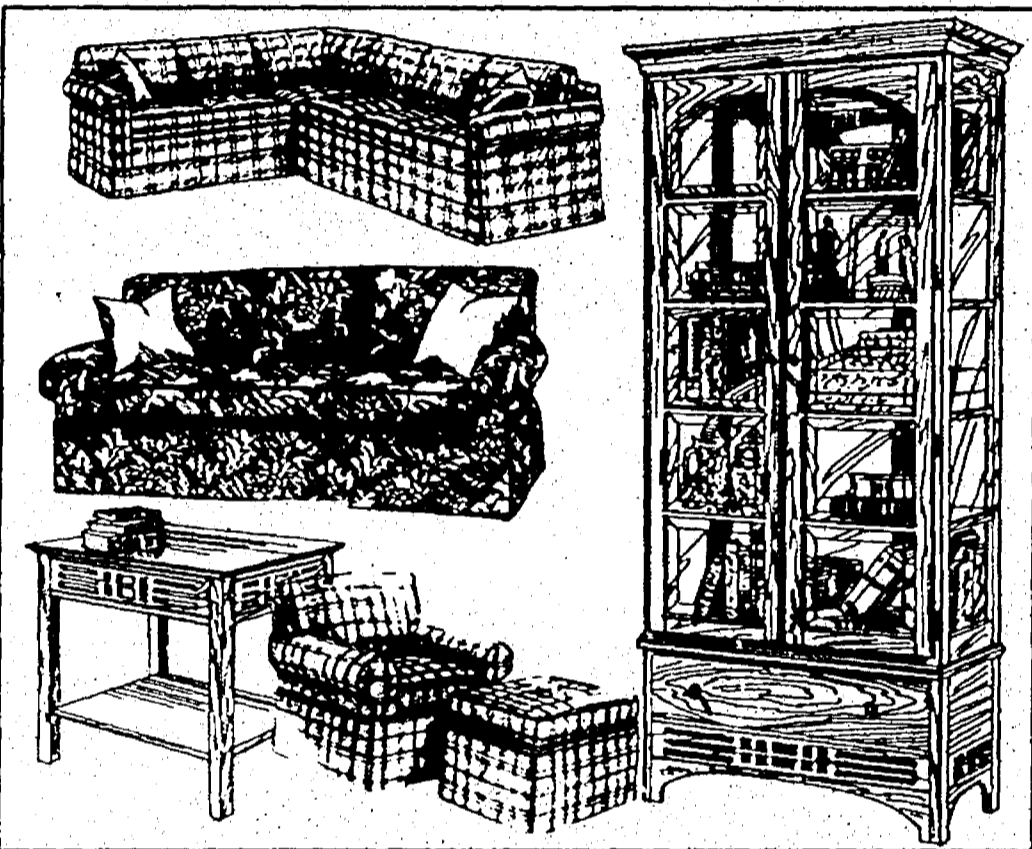
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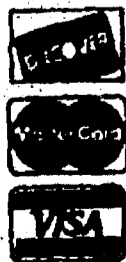
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Figley from page 4D

plains how to achieve a garden that enriches the eye as well as the palate. This book will inspire new thinking when vegetable gardens are planned.

Formal (in neat arrangements) and Romantic (often small with less structure) vegetable gardens were visited and photographed throughout France where the gardeners shared their growing expertise. The thorough appendix includes quick, classic French recipe suggestions as well as a list of gardens that are open to the public. Great reference.

Guides

"The Garden Tourist '96: A Guide to Garden Tours, Garden Days, Shows and Special Events," Lois Rosenfeld (The Garden Tourist Press, \$14.95), gives the latest information about these events in our country and around the world. Listings are arranged by state; also other countries. This will be the first "ticket" you'll need to discover exciting garden happenings.

Order from: The Garden Tourist, 330 W. 72nd St., Suite 12B, New York, N.Y. 10023 (phone (212) 874-6211). Include \$2.55 for a single copy; wholesale inquiries are invited.

Speaking of tours, three new "Eyewitness Travel Guides," Amsterdam, Ireland and Great Britain (Dorling Kindersley, \$22.95, \$24.95 and \$29.95, respectively), are filled with what to do and see, where to stay and eat, and more.

Each book is lavishly illustrated with details that enable the traveler to pinpoint specific interests. Cutaway drawings of buildings, castles and historic sites eliminate the need for additional guides. Information about using local currency, telephones and public transportation ensure a smooth transition from one country to the next. Well done.

"The Gardener's Guide to Britain," Patrick Taylor (Timber Press, \$19.95), has also been a great resource for me as I have prepared my trip to Great Britain next May. Each region of the country details the many places to visit and explore. Maps are included.

Interest is growing about our trip to Great Britain May 20-29, 1996. We will travel to London, Cardiff and Edinburgh. This 10-day, custom-designed tour includes two nights in each of these capital cities so that we will have to explore and enjoy their hospitality. As we travel through these beautiful countries we will stop at designated sites to enjoy additional gardens, manor houses and castles.

Visit the Chelsea Flower Show or choose another option — we want you to enjoy this first-class trip.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.



New showroom has it all - including the sink

After selling plumbing supplies wholesale for more than 70 years, Advance Plumbing and Heating Supply Co. has opened a retail showroom in Walled Lake.

The 3,000 square-foot store at 1977 Maple Road, between Decker and Haggerty, features hundreds of faucets and displays of working showers, whirlpools, toilets and sinks. "You can actually see how everything works," says Jeff Moss, vice president. High end brands include Kohler, Grohe, Delta and Moen.

A licensed master plumber can

assist do-it-yourselfers and answer installation and maintenance questions.

Moss' Grandfather, Harry Chernick, founded the business in Detroit in 1920. Chernick's son-in-law and the current president, Ron Moss, joined in 1957. Advance expanded to Walled Lake in 1990 when it purchased Franklin Plumbing Supply.

Store hours are 8:30-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 8-3 p.m. Sat., or other times by appointment. Phone 1-800-560-7474.

Plant to show special bloom

After 20 years of growth, the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens' *Agave pedunculifera* is finally preparing itself to bloom in the Desert House of the gardens' conservatory.

This succulent is an unusual plant. Instead of blooming yearly, it grows for 20 years or more before it sends up a flowering stalk.

First noticed in early October by the Botanical Gardens' horticulturist, the quick-growing stalk, now nine feet tall, can grow several inches in a day. Depending on the species, these flower stalks may be from six to 30 feet tall.

There is one sad note to this exciting occurrence. Once the plant has blossomed, the mother plant dies. All of its available energy is spent producing the towering flower stalk. Future plants grow from seeds, bulbils and vegetative offshoots called pups.

The agave may be viewed 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Admission to the conservatory is \$2 for adults, \$1 for school-age children, free for preschool children. Complimentary admission is offered 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Saturday.

To get to the gardens, take US-23

north and exit on Plymouth Road. Turn right, take Plymouth Road east one mile to Dixboro Road and turn right. The gardens are 1/4-mile on the left side of Dixboro Road.

Mature agaves don't automatically bloom when they reach a certain age. The prevailing weather plays a role in stimulating flowering. When the conditions are likely to allow successful reproduction and set seed, the plant will bloom.

Agaves grow in habitats that lack abundant rainfall, or in which water drains away quickly.

Seminars slated

English Gardens will conduct free educational seminars this January and February on topics ranging from winter survival for house plants to do-it-yourself landscaping.

The weekly seminars, open to the public, will take place 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the West Bloomfield store, 6370 Orchard Lake Road, north of Maple. For more information, call (810) 851-7506.

Topics, speakers and dates are: "Winter Survival for House Plants," Diane Tuccini, Jan. 10; "Attracting Birds to Your Yard," Bill Stafford, Jan. 17; "Arranging Silk Flowers and Plants," Donna Matte, Jan. 24; "Herbs/Seed Starting," Katie Krisko, Jan. 31; "Using Ornamental Grasses in Your Garden," Kevin Collins, Feb. 7.

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INVITING IDEAS

Shake the shivers with savory soups, stews



RUTH MOSSOK JOHNSTON

Watch your footing, it's winter in Michigan! We relish the thought of returning home to the warmth of our surroundings, and a meal that restores our confidence in the knowledge that winter is just one of the four seasons.

Perhaps it is our environmental desire to formulate body temperature through palate. One-dish winter warmers, soups and stews then become the perfect fix for cold winter nights. These meals can be easy and almost complete within themselves — add some piping hot bread and you're ready to eat.

My favorites are meaty stews and thick soups — the kind you can almost walk through. At any given time you will find in my freezer at least 30 French jars with plastic lids filled with scrumptious soups and stew — winter and summer.

Having these one-dish meals handy eliminates any excuse my husband may find for eating something naughty — something that's not within the framework of his diet — or saying, "there's nothing to eat!" In the winter my stash of soups are great to pop into the microwave and heat up. Eating on the run, or entertaining last minute guests is no problem. These are meals on their own.

Sometimes for a special treat I'll use shrimp, scallops or combine them with fish. You can make the base for this soup (the tomato portion) ahead and freeze. Then add fish or seafood when you are ready to use.

FISH SOUP

- 1 ½ tablespoons light olive oil, butter or margarine
- 2 large Spanish onions, chopped to 1-inch dice
- 1 cup celery (also the leaves) chopped to 1-inch dice
- 3-4 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 64 ounces (2 plus cans, 28 ounces each) seasoned diced tomatoes, preferably Del Fratelli
- 1 cup dry white wine (table wine will do)
- 1 cup fresh parsley, minced
- Sea Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- ½ teaspoon thyme
- ¼ teaspoon crushed fennel seed
- 2 pounds fish of your choice (cod and sole are nicely mild, partially frozen so you can cut the fish into 1-inch dice)

In a large heavy casserole French oven, Dutch oven or stock pot over medium heat, melt or heat oil, butter or margarine and saute the onion, celery and garlic until the onion is transparent and celery is tender.

Add to the pot; the diced seasoned tomatoes (liquid included), wine, parsley, sea salt (to taste), pepper, thyme, and fennel. Cover the pot with a lid and simmer for 30 minutes. This soup base can be cooled and frozen at this point to be used at a later date.

If serving immediately, add fish and continue to simmer for 10 minutes or until fish is opaque and flaky.

If adding cooked shrimp do not cook for any length of time. Just let it warm through. If adding frozen shrimp or seafood make sure tomato mixture comes

to a boil, add shrimp and let it boil again. Remove from heat and let stand for a minute or two. Serve hot with piping hot crusty bread smothered with garlic butter. Serves 8-10.

Look for Dei Fratelli tomatoes at Shopping Center Markets and Strawberry Hills.

This interesting stew has a subtle hotness and gets its thick chewy texture from the posole (a type of hominy). Serve topped with chopped green onions and homemade cornbread croutons. You can substitute beef or venison for the bison.

BLUE CORN POSOLE BISON STEW

- 12 ounces blue corn posole (available at gourmet food stores)
 - ½ teaspoon salt (for water)
 - 1 ½ tablespoons light olive oil
 - 1 medium Spanish onion, peeled and cut into ¼-inch dice
 - 3 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
 - 2 ½ pounds bison/buffalo meat cut into small cubes
 - 4 fresh Jalapeno chilies, stems removed, seeded and thinly sliced (wear rubber gloves)
 - 1 28-ounce can seasoned diced tomatoes (Del Fratelli if possible)
 - 3 tablespoons sun-dried tomato paste
 - 1 bottle (12 ounces) light beer
 - 3 tablespoons dried cilantro
 - 1 teaspoon dried oregano
 - 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
 - Sea salt to taste
 - Juice of one fresh lime (1 ½ to 2 tablespoons)
 - Tabasco or other hot sauce (optional)
 - Chopped green onion for top (optional)
- Rinse the blue corn posole and soak it

for 24 hours (in enough water to cover the blue corn). After soaking, rinse again and place in a large casserole (French oven, Dutch oven or stock pot) with enough water to completely cover the posole. Add ½ teaspoon of salt and cook over medium heat for two hours. Turn off heat and let posole remain in the water until ready for use.

Heat the olive oil over high heat in a large casserole. When the oil is hot, add the onion and minced garlic. Cook until transparent.

Add the meat and lightly brown. Remove any liquid and discard. Add the sliced jalapenos and mix well. Add the tomatoes (liquid included).

Drain the blue corn posole thoroughly and add it to the meat. Add the tomato paste, 6 ounces (½ bottle) of light beer and the cilantro, oregano, cayenne and salt. Cover the casserole with a lid and cook over medium heat until the meat is tender (depending on what cut of meat you use, this could take from 1-3 hours).

During the cooking process, add the other 6 ounces of light beer and the lime juice. When the meat seems fork-tender, readjust spices and add any additional salt or Tabasco to taste. Serves 6-8.

Recipe from: "The Buffalo Cookbook," (Hancock House Publishers, 1995).

Blue corn posole — natural blue corn kernels, can be purchased from gourmet food and specialty shops or directly from: Los Chileros de Nuevo Mexico, P.O. Box 6215, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502, (505) 471-6967.

Ruth Mossok Johnston is an author and food columnist who lives in Franklin. To leave a Voice Mail message for Ruth, dial (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1902.

Redecorating a home doesn't have to be expensive

Home Depot offers some quick remodeling tips for your home.

"The biggest misconception is that decorating is expensive," said Troy Cipriani, Home Depot store manager. "A \$2 brass switch plate and a \$10 window valance can make a room look totally different."

■ Add romance to curtains. Scarf valances, the yards of fabric you see draped around curtain rods, can turn your formal "Don't sit in that chair" living room into a comfortable and romantic living space. They range from \$39 to \$270.

Homeowners with bigger windows and budgets can try the fancier swags

and jabots, which range from \$160 to \$200 per window.

■ Rail against boring walls. For less than \$100 you can add chair railing to an average size dining room. Not only will it give the room a traditional feel, but it will protect your walls from dings and dents caused by chairs and other objects.

■ Reinvent your walls. What can you do with walls? Add a fresh coat of paint or a couple of new pictures? Wallpaper borders are easy and transform drab walls into something from a designer showhouse. A 15-foot spool sells for about \$4.

For a bold, rich feeling, install crown molding along the seam between the wall and ceiling. It sells for about \$1.50 a foot.

■ Add class with brass. Improve the look of your dining room by installing brass fixtures. Start by replacing your plastic or wood switch plates with brass models, ranging from \$2 to \$20 each. Check your dining room light fixture.

Chances are it isn't in the same time or design period as the rest of the room. For a more timely and elegant look, replace your existing fixture with a brass chandelier.

You don't need to spend a lot of money. Polished brass chandeliers with five lights cost about \$60. Bigger rooms can handle a nine-light, crystal chandelier with gold plating for about \$800.

■ Dress up windows. Apartments usually come with the standard mini-blinds. Most of us don't even consider

adding to this. Twenty minutes is all it takes to hang balloon valances alone or over existing blinds. Depending on the size of the window and the brand of the valance, the price range could be as little as \$10 to \$20.

Don't stop inside your home. Even if you plan to be in your home for another century, try one simple exterior project. Replace the front door. Changing the design or just the color will make a big difference. Insulated steel doors can be bought for less than \$200 each.

CLARIFICATION

The woman in the photo in the Dec. 7 At Home cover story should have been identified as interior designer Kasey Werner-Pierson.

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COVER STORY

Designs have reel style

Movies inspire furnishings by area artist

BY MARY KLEMIC
AT HOME EDITOR

Naomi Siegel has assembled a roster of movie stars and other entertainers that would make studio heads drool and fans converge in an instant.

Such greats as Shirley Temple and Laurel and Hardy aren't on the silver screen this time. Their images adorn a variety of furniture and accessories designed by Siegel, who has put her artistic talent and her love of movies to creative combinations.

"I think film all the time," Siegel said from her Bloomfield Hills home, which is filled with samples of her movie-inspired items.

Siegel's pieces include bookshelves, tables and chairs and are works of art in their own right. One table bearing a large Shirley Temple paper doll figure is a comment from Siegel.

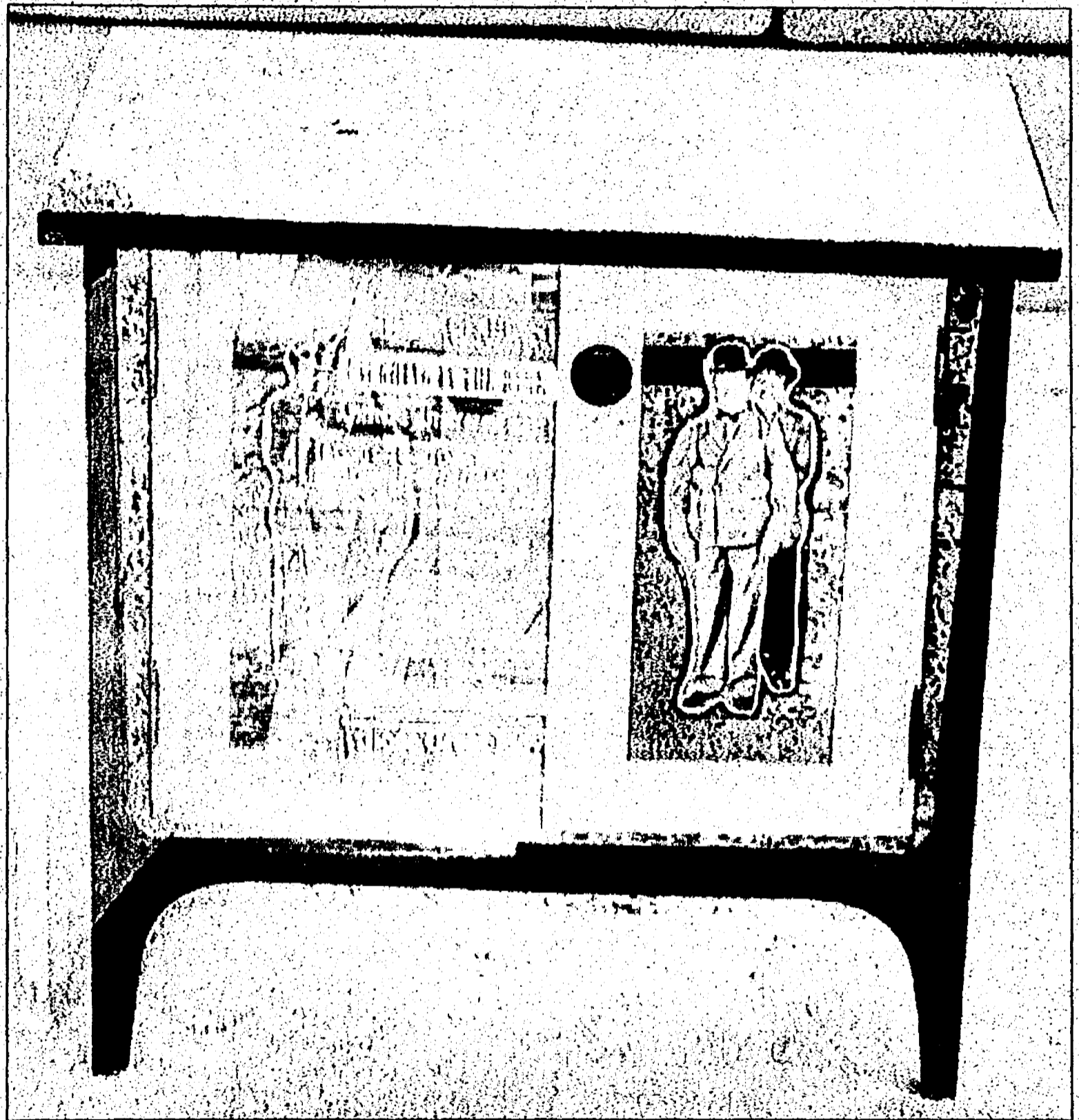
"Shirley lived for most of her years as a paper doll. I thought of writing a book about her but this was more fun."

Finding an obituary about Bill "Bojangles" Robinson inspired another table; this one featuring a collage of photos of and articles about the dancer.

"I research probably everything that I work on."

Siegel has many talents. She is a painter, cinematographer and co-owner of Telespot Productions, a public relations agency. Formerly she was the public information director with the Oakland County Health Department, and held similar posts with the Michigan Cancer Foundation and WWWW radio. Siegel was president of the Detroit chapter of American Women in Radio and Television in 1971-72.

The artist sees the world through multicolored glasses. She can turn the ordinary into the special. An example of her imaginative touch is how she painted the blades of a small electric fan so it resembled a flower. Her "Pandora's Box" is a painted box with slender drawers filled with meaningful items.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN DEAN

That's entertainment: And that's stylish, when Naomi Siegel puts movie motifs to decorative use. This cabinet features photos of Laurel and Hardy on the doors and a collage of other stars on the top.

"To make art sing and make you feel alive" is her aim.

"Tribute to George Gershwin" is a little chair with elegant tails as if dressed in a formal suit. A low cabinet features photos of Laurel and Hardy on the doors and a collage of other entertainment stars on the top. A beveled mirror called "Hooray for Hollywood" features fireworks like beams of light.

Among the hues are magenta, blue, gray and black.

"Art deco colors are right for the era."

Siegel has used more recent

movies as motifs as well. A table was inspired by "Fiddler on the Roof." "The Gods Must Be Crazy" sparked an accessory bearing fabric with a leopard spot pattern, a tribal statue, a 35mm film canister and a Coke bottle.

"Some of it is just plain fun. I keep reading about the 1930s."

For her furnishings, Siegel starts with quality furniture pieces. After her creative treatment they are dazzling but durable.

"One of my friends said put glass on (the top) ... He's not a home-maker."

On the Cover:



Movies and movie stars have inspired Naomi Siegel of Bloomfield Hills in designing furniture and accessories that bear images of Shirley Temple and other Hollywood legends. Staff photo by Dan Dean.

Keep pets safe in winter

The Pet Practice encourages pet owners to follow these safety tips to protect pets from the harmful elements of winter.

■ **Keep pets warm.** The best way to do this is to keep them indoors; for outdoor pets, a protective shelter is necessary. The outdoor shelter should be supported three inches above the ground for ultimate warmth and should measure only a foot longer and three inches higher than the pet's body. This may appear too small for the pet, but making it snug allows the animal to warm itself from its own body heat.

■ **Avoid freezing temperatures.** Don't leave young animals outside during freezing temperatures. Carefully observe pets when they are outside and watch for behaviors like shivering to make sure they don't exhibit signs of distress. Older pets in particular are more susceptible to cold weather dangers because their temperature-regulating mechanisms worsen as they get older. All pets are at risk during the winter, but younger pets, older pets and pets with thinner hair have the greatest risk during cold weather due to decreased insulation.

■ **Increase pet's caloric intake.** During winter months, consult a veterinarian about the possibility of increasing the pet's caloric intake. On average, pets need 50 percent more energy in the

winter, which comes from the food they eat.

■ **Feed cats a diet low in magnesium.** A diet low in magnesium prevents the buildup of crystals in the urine of cats, which is one of the causes of feline urinary syndrome, especially during winter months.

■ **Prevent pet's water from freezing.** Keep the pet's water supply replenished to keep it from freezing. During the winter, never let pets drink or eat out of a metal container. Instead, use a plastic container that will prevent an animal's tongue from sticking to the metal.

■ **Keep antifreeze out of pet's reach.** Hose down areas where an antifreeze leak may have occurred. A pet's contact with antifreeze can be deadly. If an animal drinks (or even licks) antifreeze, its kidneys could shut down. If a pet has ingested antifreeze, call a veterinarian immediately.

■ **Beware of burning salt and ice-melting chemicals.** Avoid the pet's contact with these products, as they burn feet or paws. Be sure to wipe or wash the pet's feet immediately if they are exposed to salt or chemicals.

■ **Clean the snow out from between the pet's toes.** Prolonged periods of snow in between a pet's toes while playing outdoors can lead to frostbite.

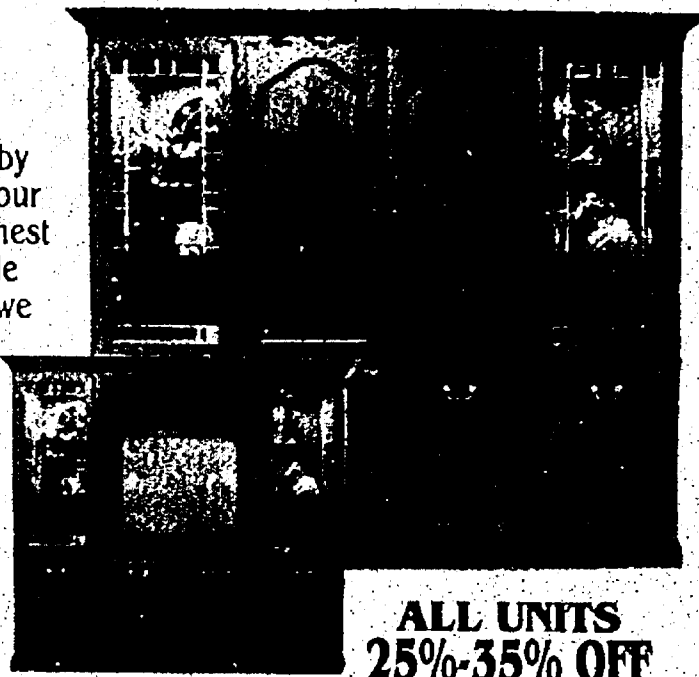
Adopt-a-pet



Max: Max is a 9-month-old male-neutered Shepherd mix. He is a very sweet dog who is already housebroken. He still likes to jump up sometimes so he would be best suited for a home with children over age 10. He loves everybody he meets and will show you much affection. Max (No. 62689) and other pets are available at the Michigan Humane Society Rochester Hills shelter, 3600 Auburn Road. Call (810) 852-7420 between noon and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

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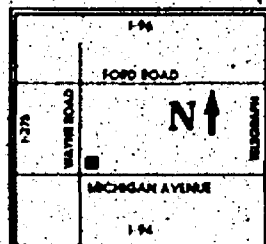
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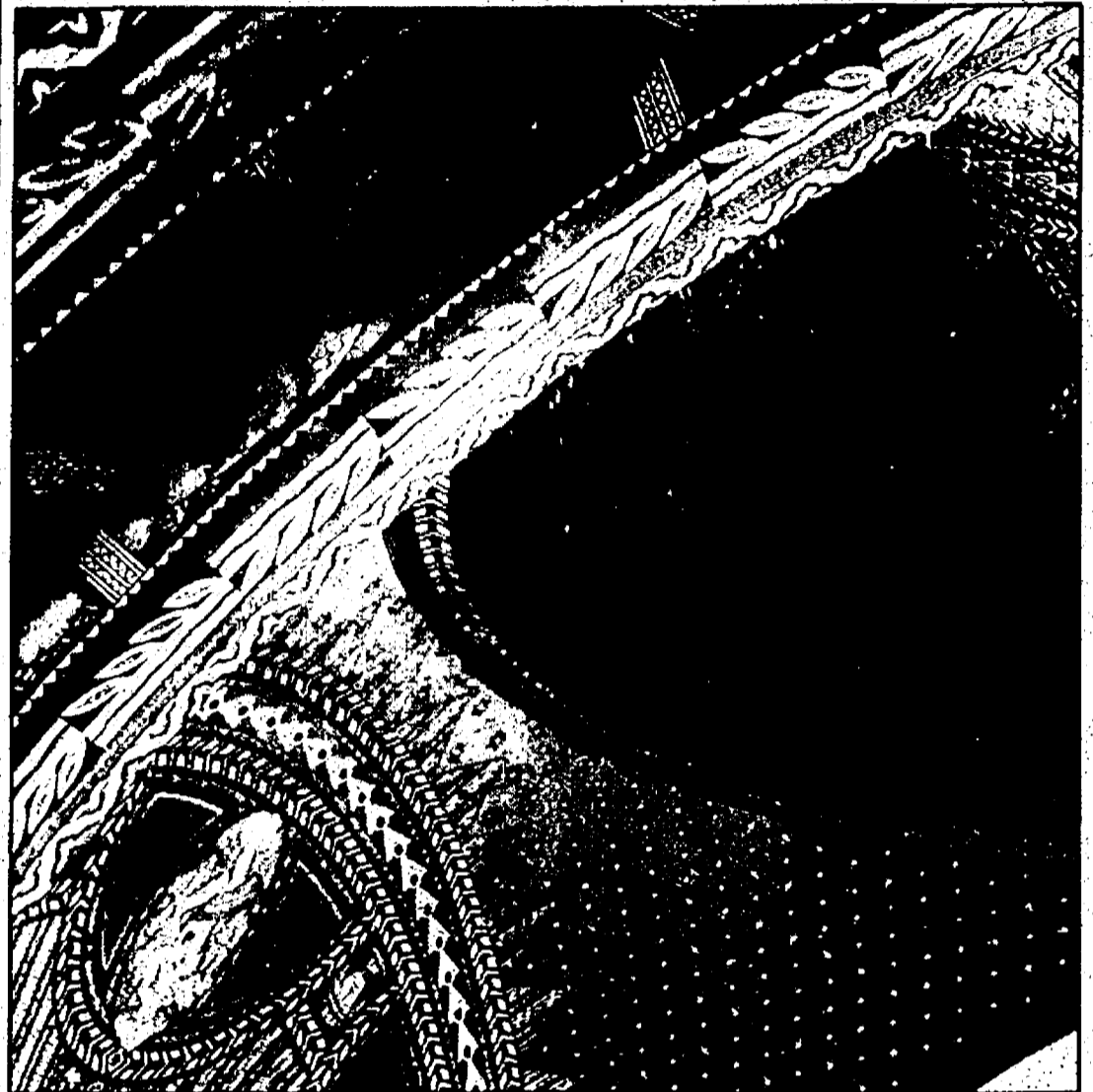
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FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



Great Indoors: Detroit's Fisher Building has perhaps the most striking and dramatic interiors of any building in the city. Shown here is one of the many painted panels in this grand building.

The great indoors offers fine photo opportunities



MONTE NAGLER

Photography is so often regarded as an outdoor activity that many amateurs overlook the photographic possibilities to be found indoors. The world contains many rooms, new and old, humble and grand, that may reveal a little of the way people live or provide a scene as attractive as a landscape.

Begin by analyzing the character of the room and selecting its most important features. In a house, it may be a curved staircase or a vaulted ceiling with dramatic beams. In a public building, look for a row of columns, a marble statue or perhaps a painted fresco.

Select a vantage point that best shows the interior. Maybe it's from the bottom of the stairs looking up at an unusual angle or looking down from an upper balcony.

Most often, a wide angle lens between 17mm and 28mm is in order. They not only enable you to get more of the interior in the viewfinder, but they give you the all-important advantage of tremendous depth-of-field. This way, you can place foreground subjects such as a vase of flowers or figurine in the foreground to add extra interest to your shot and fill the empty space at the bottom of the

viewfinder. You'll need a small aperture that will require a longer shutter speed, but so what? Nothing's moving — just get out the trusty tripod.

Make sure if shooting across a room that the camera angle is perpendicular to the walls. This way, vertical lines won't converge, they'll be straight up and down.

The best lighting for dramatic interiors is natural light coming in from windows and skylights. Be sure to use daylight balanced color film in your choice of slides or prints.

If there is no window light to illuminate your interior, artificial light is required. Use either flash or tungsten lights and make sure you're using the right film for proper color balance — daylight with flash and tungsten film with tungsten lighting.

The keys to effective interior photography are composition and selecting the best camera position. As in all good photography, you want to produce a meaningful photograph with impact. Try to capture the essence and personality of the interior you are photographing.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.

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1	8' GOTHAM SLATE	TRADE-IN	\$299	1	8' SLATE	USED	\$450
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BOOK BREAK

Author asked the wise about life's meaning



ESTHER LITTMANN

When William Elliott was 12 years old, both his mother and father died within six months of each other. The priest said, "It was God's will," but those words gave cold comfort to a young man whose trust in the goodness of life had been severely shaken.

"I began to search for the meaning behind the workings of the world," writes the author of "Tying Rocks to Clouds" (Quest Books, 1995, \$22). "I didn't understand why there should be such pain and suffering."

But questions posed to friends and relatives about the meaning of life and death usually drew blank stares or embarrassed stammers. A traffic cop who once pulled an errant Elliott over for speeding told him bluntly, "The purpose of life is to survive it."

Maturity only intensified the author's quest for meaning. As yet devoid of academic and professional credentials, without even a decent typewriter to record his request, the psychology major decided to address his questions to people who had a reputation for wisdom and spirituality. He composed a list that included the likes of Mother Teresa, the Dali Lama, B.F. Skinner, Rabbi Harold Kushner, Norman Vincent Peale and a host of others.

Whether nervy or just plain naive, Elliott dared to ask each person on his list for a personal interview. Some greeted his request with silence; others with refusals, pleading illness, time constraints or lack of interest. Yet as positive replies began to trickle in, Elliott organized his life accordingly.

To raise money for travel, the would-be author worked the night shift in a psychiatric hospital, moved into a trailer park to cut expenses and sold his blood for needed cash.

"Tying Rocks to Clouds," subtitled "Conversations with Wise and Spiritual People," is a compilation of Elliott's interviews, representing a wide spectrum of religious and philosophical thought, from Eastern mysticism to Western rationalism. In addition to the luminaries already mentioned, Elliott spoke with Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, famous for her work with death and dying; Robert Schuller, minister of California's Crystal Cathedral and Sunday telecast "The Hour of Power"; Swami Satchidananda, founder of the Integral Yoga Institute; and Albert Ellis, author and creator of the Institute for Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy.

Besides the fundamental questions about the purpose of life and the origin of evil, Elliott approached his interviewees armed with a battery of 24 insightful questions: "If you were on your deathbed, what advice would you give to your son or daughter? Do you think

there is a basic difference between maleness and femaleness, besides the body? What are the three greatest problems in life? What do you feel life still has to teach you?"

The responses from world-famous thinkers and doers are thought-provoking and uplifting. Yet there is much more to Elliott's book. Interspersed among the interviews is the story of the author's gradual emotional and spiritual transformation. It begins with the image of a self-effacing hero worshipper, content to dissect life rather than live it, and ends with a man confident of his worth, able to acknowledge that the alienation he feels from life can be overcome only when he no longer needs to question its meaning.

Paraphrasing Zen philosopher Toni Packer, Elliott writes, "When there is no feeling of separation, then there is just living, just life, no one standing outside of it and worrying about the 'meaning of this.'"

"Tying Rocks to Clouds" is a bedside book, not to be read in one sitting, but to be sampled and savored a bit at a time. The metaphor of its title reveals the author's intention: to connect the real with our vision of the ideal. The "wise and spiritual people" of this book give no pat answers; they stress the need for each of us to embark on a personal spiritual journey. And perhaps, as Elliott and others have reminded us, the best answers are in the questions themselves.

From the book:

"The only thing that counts in life is love — not just how much love we can give, but we must learn how to receive it, because we can only give as much as we allow ourselves to receive." *Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*

"Religion is not so much a matter of having the right answers, but of being part of a community through which we grow to be human." *Rabbi Harold Kushner*

"Do everything for God . . . God has given you many gifts — use them for the greater glory of God and the good of the people." *Mother Teresa*

"We don't do anything because of what is going to happen; we do things because of what has happened." *B.F. Skinner*

"Humans take their preferences, desires, wishes, wants and likes (almost all of which are fairly legitimate), and they foolishly change them into Jehovistic commands, demands, shoulds and oughts, which really don't exist in the universe." *Albert Ellis*

Esther Littmann, a resident of Bloomfield Township, is a lecturer of English and German at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. As an only child, Littmann grew up regarding books as substitutes for siblings. You can leave her a message from a touch-tone phone at (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1893. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Auction, preview set

An auction will take place 6 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Jan. 10-11, at the Frank H. Boos Gallery, 420 Enterprise Court in Bloomfield Hills.

A three-day preview will be noon to 8 p.m. Friday and Monday, Jan. 5 and 8, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9. For more details, call (810) 332-1500.

The auction will feature property belonging to the estates of Professor Fer-

dinand Mauser of Detroit, Fern Gearhart of Charlotte, Mich., and Dr. Ellen Haines of Detroit, as well as numerous other estates and private collections.

Included will be a very large collection of more than 500 items of 19th and 20th century American and European glass, furniture, paintings, sterling silver, walking sticks, rugs, decorative arts, Steuben glass and collectibles.

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Bearleen: This 3-year-old female/spay Shepherd mix is so sweet. She was very frightened when she was first brought in as a stray to the shelter, but will show you her very gentle temperament when you meet her. She is excellent on the leash and needs someone who can show her a lot of love. She has been patiently waiting in the shelter for more than six weeks. Bearleen (No. 472672) and other pets are available at the Michigan Humane Society Westland shelter. Call (313) 721-7300.

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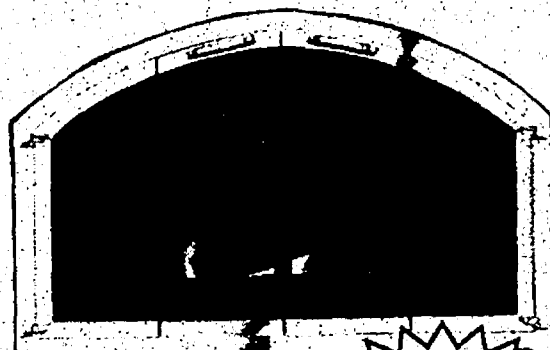
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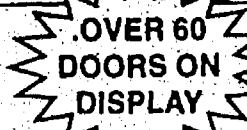
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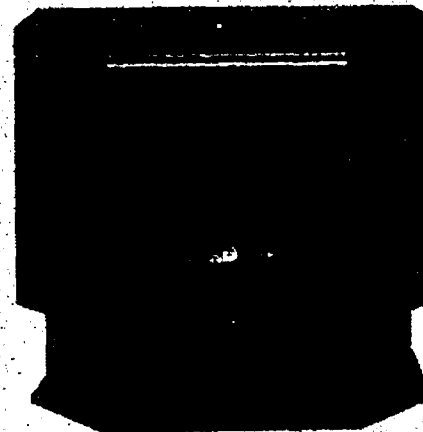
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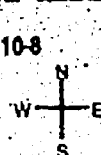
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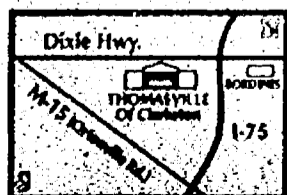
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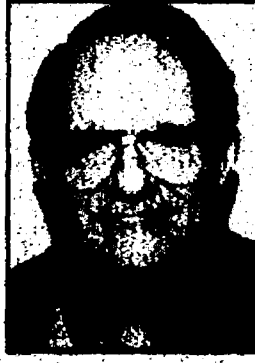
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MOVERS & SHAKERS

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings, awards won and other key personnel moves within the suburban real estate community. Send a brief biographical summary — including the towns of residence and employment and a black-and-white photo, if desired — to: Movers & Shakers, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is (313) 591-7279.

Dembs at NAHB meet



Manny Dembs

Manny Dembs of MJ Group I Ltd. in West Bloomfield recently attended the seventh annual Custom Builders Symposium in New Orleans sponsored by the National Association of Home

Builders. More than 500 builders gathered to share ideas, learn new marketing and management concepts and attend seminars on creative designs and innovative, cost-effective production techniques.

Schostak adds staff

Schostak Brothers & Co., a diversified, full-service real estate company in Southfield, has added three sales associates to its brokerage department.

Giancarlo D. Pinterpe, a Troy resident, will specialize in the industrial area.

Prior to joining Schostak, Pinterpe was project manager for GCI Construction. He's a Ferris State graduate.

Harry L. Cohn, a Farmington Hills resident, will specialize in the retail area.

Cohn formerly owned a property management/apartment rental company in Chicago. He graduated from the University of Arizona.

Randall S. Thomas, who lives on Commerce Lake, also will specialize in the retail area.

Thomas previously served as director of secondary marketing at Sterling Bank & Trust. He graduated from Michigan State.

CBR awarded

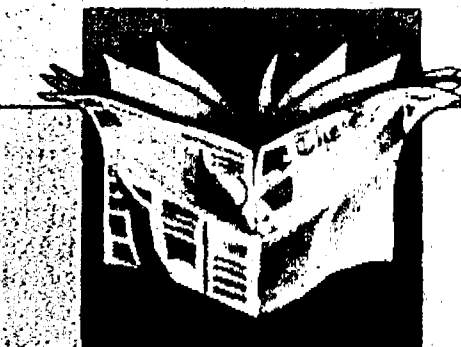
Marilyn Snyder and Carol Copping, agents with the Real Estate One office in Northville, have received the professional designation of Certified Buyer Representative.

Copping has exceeded \$5 million in sales during the past two years combined. Snyder \$3 million during this her first year in the business. Both are on the Real Estate One Relocation Specialist Team.

Peterson named

Kenneth W. Peterson of KW Peterson & Associates, Bloomfield Hills, has been named among the top "Megabrokers of the Midwest" by Unique Homes, a national magazine of luxury real estate.

Peterson, with 26 years of professional experience, specializes in the listing and sales of medium to high-end residential properties with an emphasis on new construction.



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REAL ESTATE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1995 • PAGE 1 SECTION E



SHARON LEHMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New president: Gilbert "Buzz" Silverman takes over as president of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan.

BIA president plans to be liaison

By DOUG FUNK
STAFF WRITER

Gilbert "Buzz" Silverman, a third-generation builder, has big plans for the Building Industry Association, one of the largest professional associations of builders in the nation, when he becomes its president next week.

"I think customer satisfaction is the most important thing our association ultimately does," Silverman said. "The bottom line is customer satisfaction through industry advancement, builder education and customer service programs."

BIA, founded in 1928 and currently headquartered in Farmington Hills, has nearly 2,000 members including developers, builders, remodelers, contractors, suppliers and financial institutions.

Silverman, 40, is president and CEO of the Silverman Companies, which builds houses starting at about \$150,000 and luxury apartments.

"I think there are four areas of industry involvement I have specific experience in through our corporate divisions — land development, multi-family apartment development, single-family and remodeling or renovation," Silverman said.

"My job is to focus on key issues facing our constituency or members in all four of those areas."

"I would see my role as government liaison for the building industry with the state in the area of environmental issues and low-to-moderate income-affordable housing," he said.

The effectiveness of any organization hinges on its leadership. The annual changing of the guard is about to occur with the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan

"I think the association's role is to facilitate growth of real estate development in the city of Detroit as an industry objective and an independent business objective," he said.

"Nineteen ninety six should represent the biggest year for housing development in Detroit in something like 25 years between the Empowerment Zone and Mayor Archer's outreach program."

The incoming president also wants to establish a home page on the computer Internet for BIA members to have another communication forum.

Silverman said he's especially honored to serve as BIA president because his father, Gilbert, was president in 1968, and his grandfather, Nathan, was a builder.

Silverman is married to Jan and dad to Jessica, Lesley and Michael. They live in Bloomfield Hills.

"What makes me tick? Balance between business, family, recreation and friends," Silverman said.

"We have an exciting business. I consider myself fortunate to be a housing specialist firm in 1995 and '96 with the lowest unemployment rate in the state of Michigan since I can remember coupled with the lowest mortgage rate."

"Recreation, I play a lot of tennis,

and I'm an assistant coach on several teams for my kids," Silverman said. "I have a number of friends around the country, having gone to school out West."

"Family is top priority. Although my schedule is extremely busy, we take a number of family vacations throughout the year as well as weekend family outings in order to spend quality time."

"My wife organizes everything with our family and really provides me the opportunity — a better way to put it is keeps me involved on a daily basis and is a big supporter of my business activities."

He readily acknowledges that he can't and won't be a one-man operation.

"The staff at BIA are some of the most professional, organized and dedicated people I've come in contact with," he said. "Because of the quality of organization in my company, it made it possible for me to have time available to pursue important outside objectives."

Silverman's colleagues have confidence in his capabilities.

"He's a very hard-working young man, very conscientious," said Janet L. Compo, outgoing BIA president. "His intelligence is outstanding. I

commend him for his abilities, charisma and willingness to serve."

"He's been a very active builder, and that gives a certain insight from a business perspective," said Rex Rosenhaus, a Southfield builder. "When you combine that with his being a volunteer member of our association for so long, you have a nice example of personal essence."

Although busy with several projects including the Preserve in Commerce Township, Lake Waldon Village in Independence Township and Indian Lake Village in Lake Orion, Silverman says he's ready to take on BIA leadership responsibilities.

"A key ingredient for me is maintaining and improving the public perception of the building industry," he said. "I think our reputation is good and can always improve."

Other BIA officers for 1996 are:

■ Scott Jacobson, president, S.R. Jacobson Development, Birmingham, first vice president.

■ Mark F. Guidobono, chief executive officer, Cambridge Homes, Northville, treasurer.

■ Peter Burton, president, Burton/Katzman Development, Bingham Farms, secretary.

Vice presidents are David Kellett Sr., president, Kellett Construction, Bloomfield Hills; Rex Rosenhaus, vice president, Uniland, Southfield; Stephen Slavik Sr., president, the Slavik Company, Farmington Hills; and Stephen Taglione, president, Heritage Residential Group, Farmington Hills.

Seller is liable for withholding negative information

REAL ESTATE QUERIES



ROBERT M. MEISNER

Q. I have heard about a recent case in New Jersey which extended the obligation of disclosure on a seller well beyond what would normally be the case. Do you have any information regarding a case involving an abandoned landfill?

A. Yes. In a recent decision by the New Jersey Supreme Court, the court held that buyers of houses in a new development stated a cause of action against the developer and real estate broker for failing to disclose an abandoned landfill, containing hazardous waste, was located less than 1/2 mile from some of the houses.

In that case, the plaintiffs alleged that the developers were aware of the existence and hazards of the landfill and that they suffered from odors and physical symptoms from exposure to gases caused by decomposition of waste at the landfill.

The court indicated that there is a duty to disclose latent on-site conditions that are known to the seller

and unknown and not readily observable to the buyer. The court extended this to off-site conditions, limiting the duty to disclose to "professional sellers of residential housing."

Thus, the court held that a "builder, developer of residential real estate or a broker representing it" is liable for non-disclosure of off-site physical conditions known to it and unknown and not readily observable by the buyer if the existence of those conditions is of sufficient materiality to effect the habitability, use or enjoyment of the property and, therefore, render the property substantially less desirable or valuable to the objectively reasonable buyer.

The court also held that builders and brokers could face liability on the consumer fraud act, which prohibits both affirmative acts and acts of omission. As to the broker liability, the court seemed to equate the broker liability to that of the seller, since it held that the broker is under an equal duty to disclose.

Q. I am considering a move to the Washington, D.C., area, in particular, Georgetown. Are the famous townhouses of Georgetown normally condominiumized and, if so, what advantages would that give me?

A. Based upon my analysis on a recent visit to the Washington, D.C. area, most of the townhouses that one finds in Georgetown are not formal condominium projects but are rather either individual units and/or are traditional townhouses with a party wall.

While there are certain condominiums or cooperatives in the area, most of the units are not established under any formal statutory regime. Whether or not that is beneficial for you depends upon your desire to have a structured association determining what rights and obligations you have.

Generally speaking, in the context of a townhouse of the type of Georgetown, it may not be necessary to be condominiumized to afford the parties the adequate protections one would normally require.

Robert M. Meisner is a Birmingham area attorney concentrating his practice in the areas of condominiums, real estate, corporate law and litigation. You are invited to submit topics which you would like to see discussed in this column, including questions about condominiums, by writing Robert M. Meisner, 30200 Telegraph Road, Suite 467, Bingham Farms, Michigan 48026. This column provides general information and should not be construed as legal opinion.

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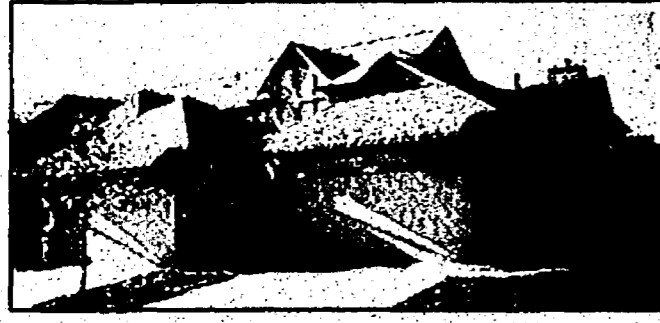
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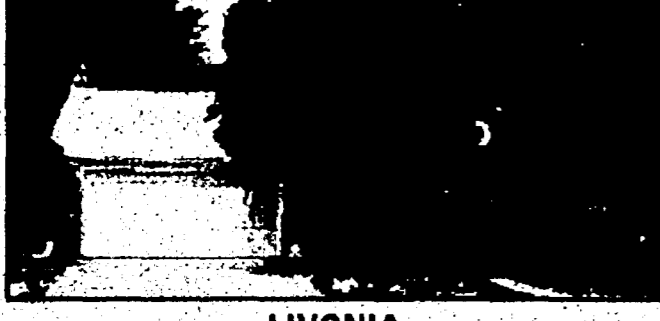
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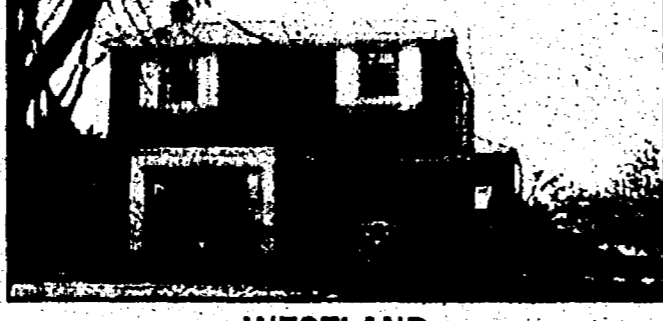
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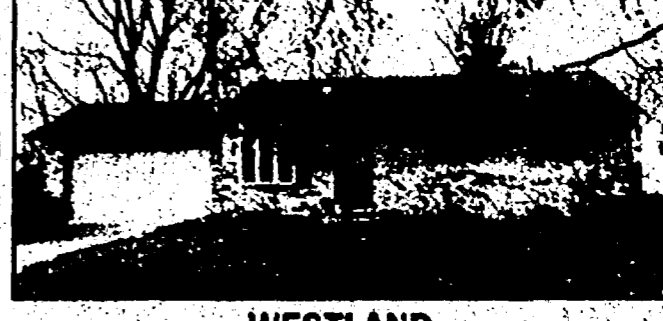
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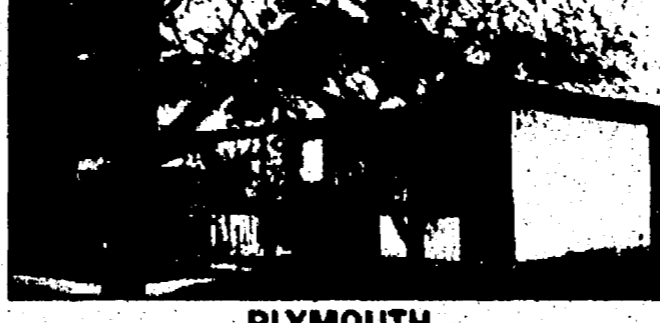
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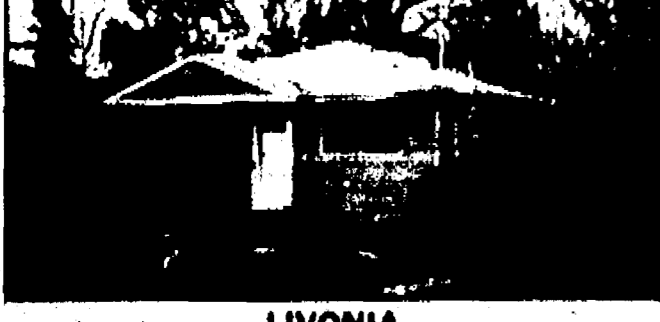
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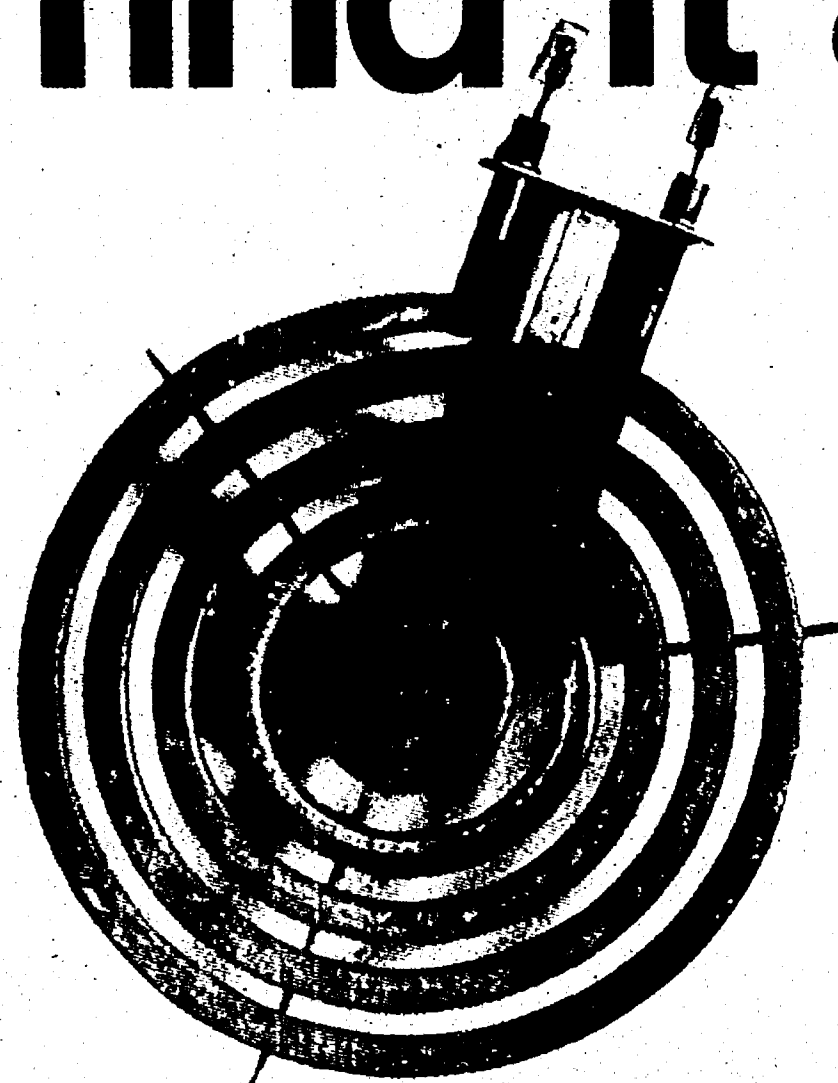
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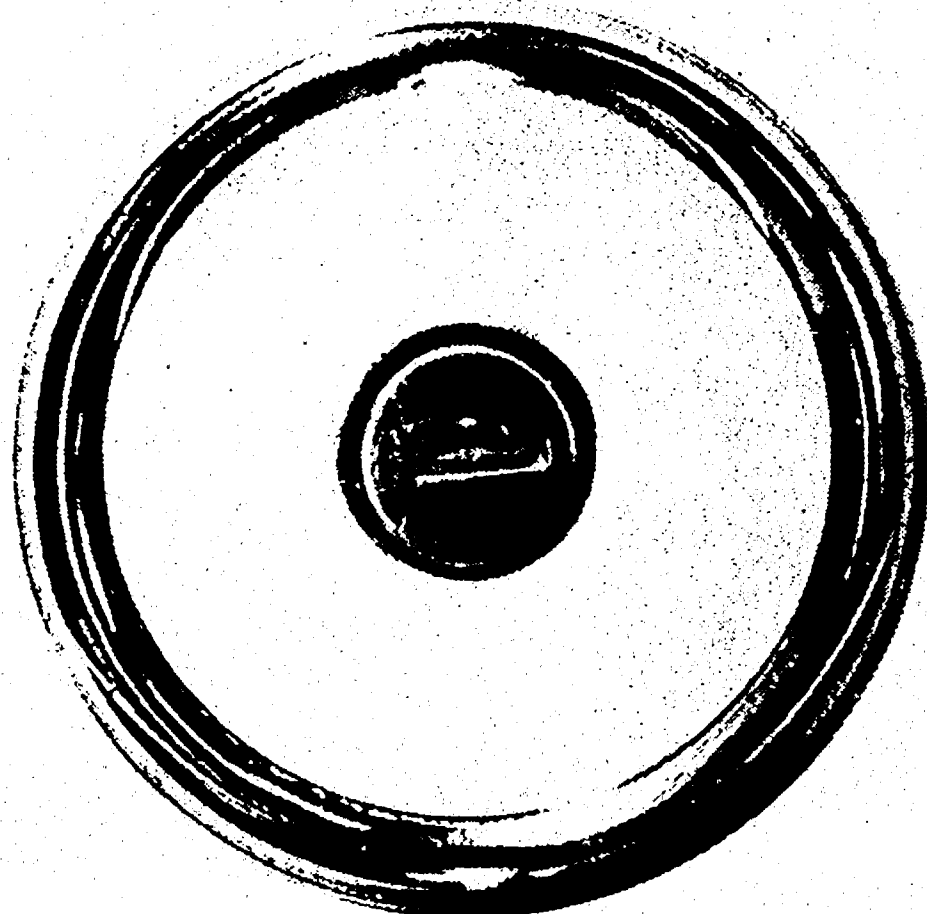
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<p>JANE TOOMAJIAN "Happy Holidays and Sincere Thanks for 26 Years of Support!" REAL ESTATE ONE 7091 Orchard Lake Road West Bloomfield 810-551-1900</p>	<p>JOANIE SALVADORE "Happy Holidays To All My Friends and Clients!" CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 39209 W. 6 Mile Rd. Ste. 100A Livonia, MI 48152 313-464-6400</p>	<p>SANDY LEONE "Happy Holidays To All My Friends and Clients!" CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 39209 W. 6 Mile Rd. Ste. 100A Livonia, MI 48152 313-464-6400</p>	<p>BARRY HIRSCH "Happy Holidays To You and Your Family!" CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 39209 W. 6 Mile Rd. Ste. 100A Livonia, MI 48152 313-464-6400</p>	<p>JOE CONSIGLIO "Happy Holidays To All My Friends and Clients!" CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 39209 W. 6 Mile Rd. Ste. 100A Livonia, MI 48152 313-464-6400</p>	<p>EDWARD PRINGLEMEIER "Best Wishes and Thanks for 34 Years of Successful Fun Sales! ("You are the Best")" CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 39209 W. 6 Mile Rd. Ste. 100A Livonia, MI 48152 313-464-6400</p>	<p>JOE DURSO "Seasons Greetings and Sincere Thanks for your support in 1995!" REMAX WEST 15530 Farmington Rd. Livonia 313-261-1400</p>
<p>ALLEN KING, CRR, CRI, RAM "Happy Greetings to all... best wishes for a great New Year!" THE PRUDENTIAL GREAT LAKES REALTY 810-409-9089</p>	<p>JANIE RAY "HAPPY HOLIDAYS to You and Your Family!" CENTURY 21 WEST Pine Ridge Center 24277 Pine Rd. Novi, MI 48155 810-348-8800</p>	<p>MARLENE C. KLIMECKI "Special Thanks to my clients wishing you the best in 96." REMAX WEST INC. 15530 Farmington Rd. Livonia, MI 48154 313-261-1400</p>	<p>RACHEL & SUSAN MOON "Happy Holidays to all our Friends & Clients!" REMAX WEST INC. Serving Western Wayne and Oakland Counties 313-261-1400</p>	<p>JOHN COLE "Happy Holidays to All My Friends and Clients!" CENTURY 21 JOHN COLE REALTY 25845 Plymouth Rd. Royal Oak, MI 48063 313-937-2300</p>	<p>ROSE DAY "Happy Holidays to All My Friends and Clients!" CENTURY 21 TODAY, INC. 15500 Victor Parkway, Ste. 190 Livonia, MI 48152 313-462-9800</p>	<p>MARTHA BOWEN "Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes to All My Friends and Clients!" CENTURY 21 TODAY, INC. 15500 Victor Parkway, Ste. 190 Livonia, MI 48152 313-462-9800</p>
<p>TOM LEWARONE "Wishing Happy Holidays to All Our Friends in 1996!" CENTURY 21 TODAY, INC. 19500 Victory Parkway, Ste. 190 Livonia, MI 48152 313-462-9800</p>	<p>MERLIN & MARY TRAUGH "Happy Holidays to All Our Friends in 1996!" CENTURY 21 TODAY, INC. 19500 Victory Parkway, Ste. 190 Livonia, MI 48152 313-462-9800</p>	<p>NADA RICH "Best Wishes for a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year!" CENTURY 21 NADA, INC. 33443 Nine Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48335 810-477-9800</p>	<p>RITA ATHANASIOU "Happy Holidays To All My Friends & Clients!" CENTURY 21 HARTFORD SOUTH 39209 W. 6 Mile Rd. Ste. 100A Livonia, MI 48152 313-464-6400</p>	<p>DAVID REARDON "To all my friends and clients, Thank you for the business and for putting me in the Top 10% Club!" STATE WIDE REAL ESTATE 2350 Five Mile Livonia, MI 48152 313-427-3200</p>	<p>JOANNE SCOTT "May the Blessing of the Holiday Season be with you throughout the year!" CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Meridian, Ste. 103 Garden City, MI 48135 313-522-3200</p>	<p>SANDY SERSEN "May health and happiness make 1996 a great year for you and yours!" BARTON REALTORS 16325 W. Astor Livonia, MI 48152 313-522-8000</p>
<p>DONALD HODDER "Seasons Greetings and Sincere Thanks for your support in 1995!" REMAX WEST 15530 Farmington Rd. Livonia, MI 48152 313-261-1400</p>	<p>JACKIE PENNINGTON "Best Wishes for a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year!" CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Meridian, Ste. 103 Garden City, MI 48135 313-522-3200</p>	<p>JERRY SCOTT "Best Wishes for a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year!" CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Meridian, Ste. 103 Garden City, MI 48135 313-522-3200</p>	<p>HELEN RIDWAY "Happy Holidays To All My Friends and Clients!" CENTURY 21 A. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Meridian, Ste. 103 Garden City, MI 48135 313-522-3200</p>	<p>DORA WITINA "Best Wishes for a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year!" CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Meridian, Ste. 103 Garden City, MI 48135 313-522-3200</p>	<p>DEBRA SCOTT-DENHAM "Seasons Greetings to all of our Customers and Friends!" CENTURY 21 J. SCOTT, INC. 6755 Meridian, Ste. 103 Garden City, MI 48135 313-522-3200</p>	

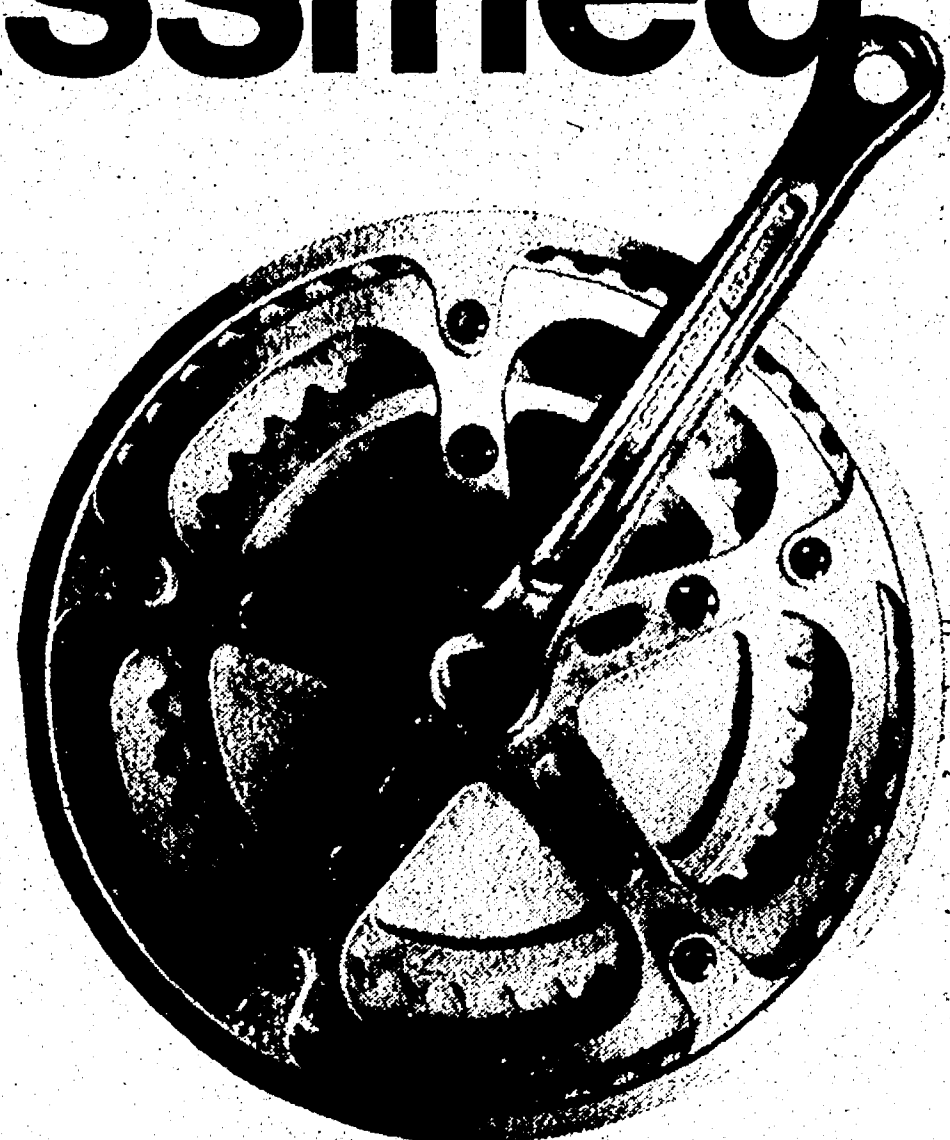
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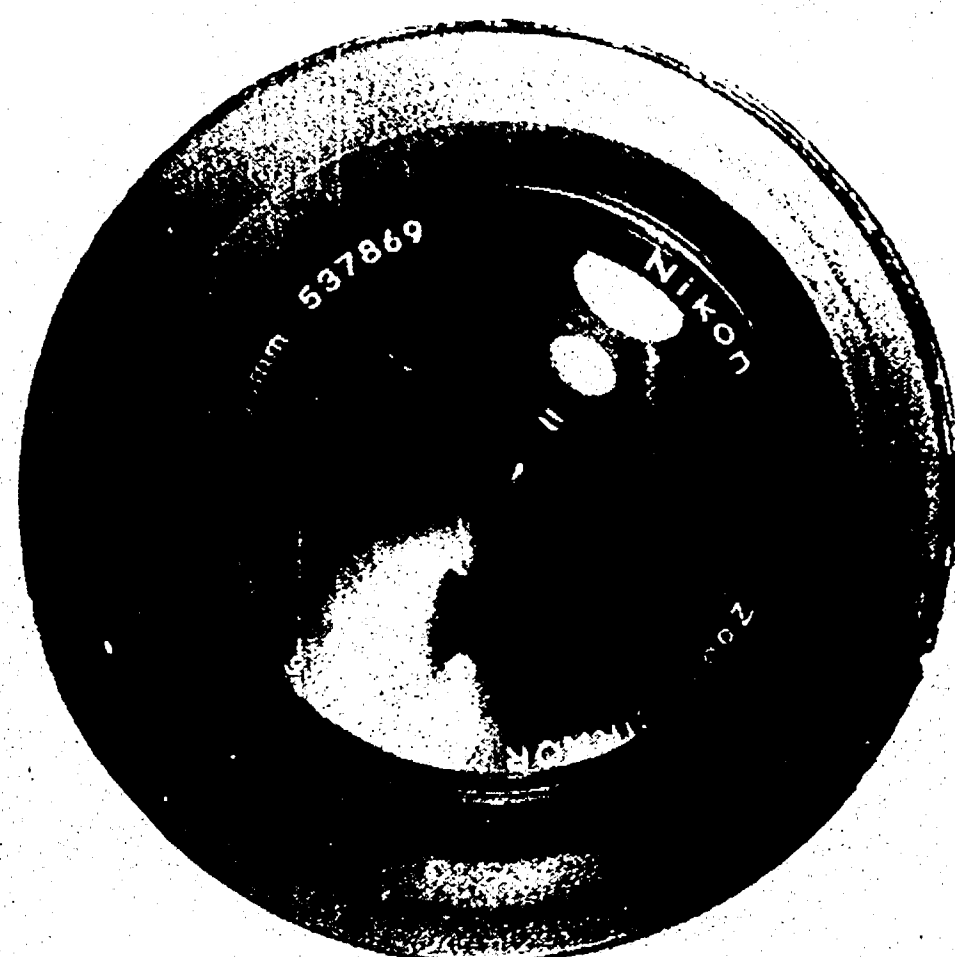
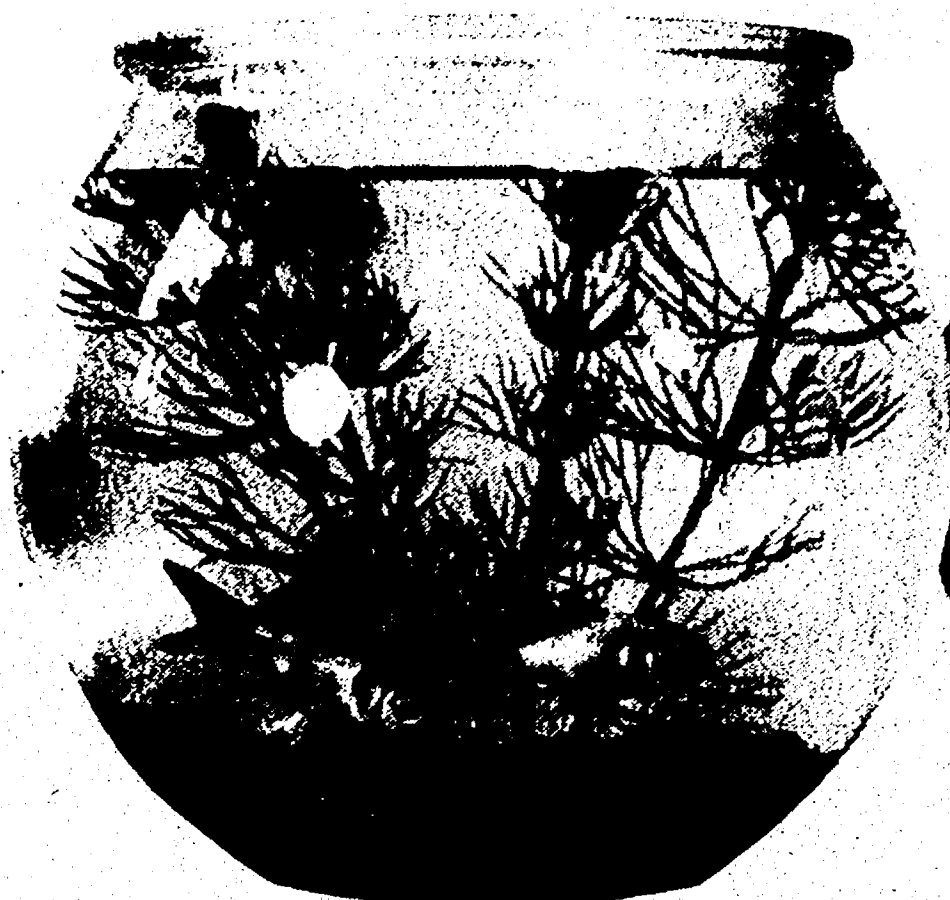


photo equipment



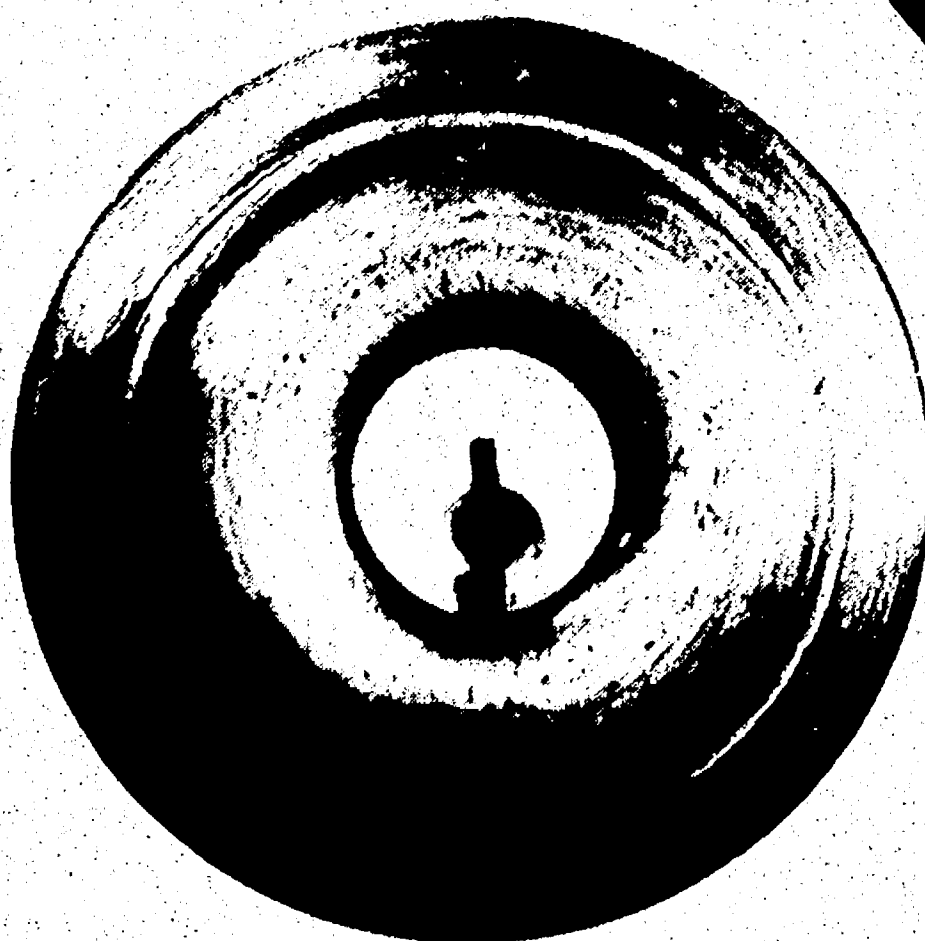
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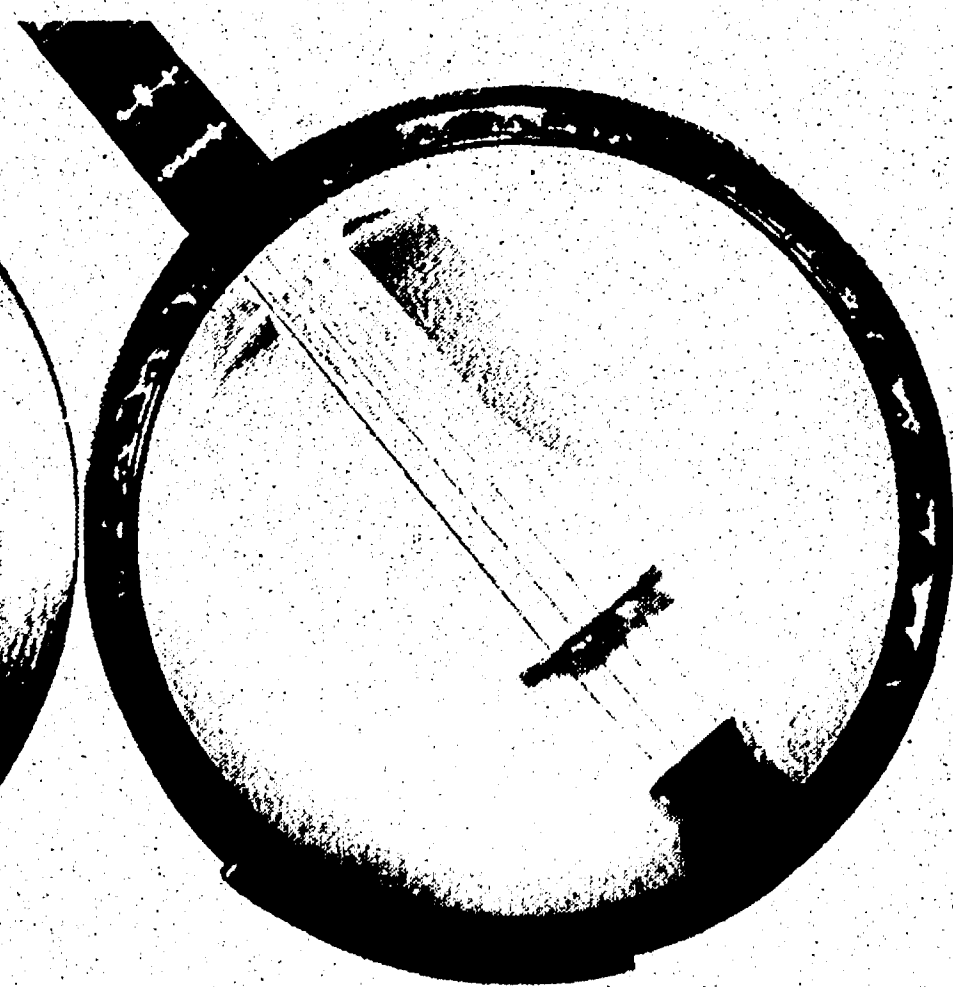
sporting equipment



antiques



homes



musical instruments

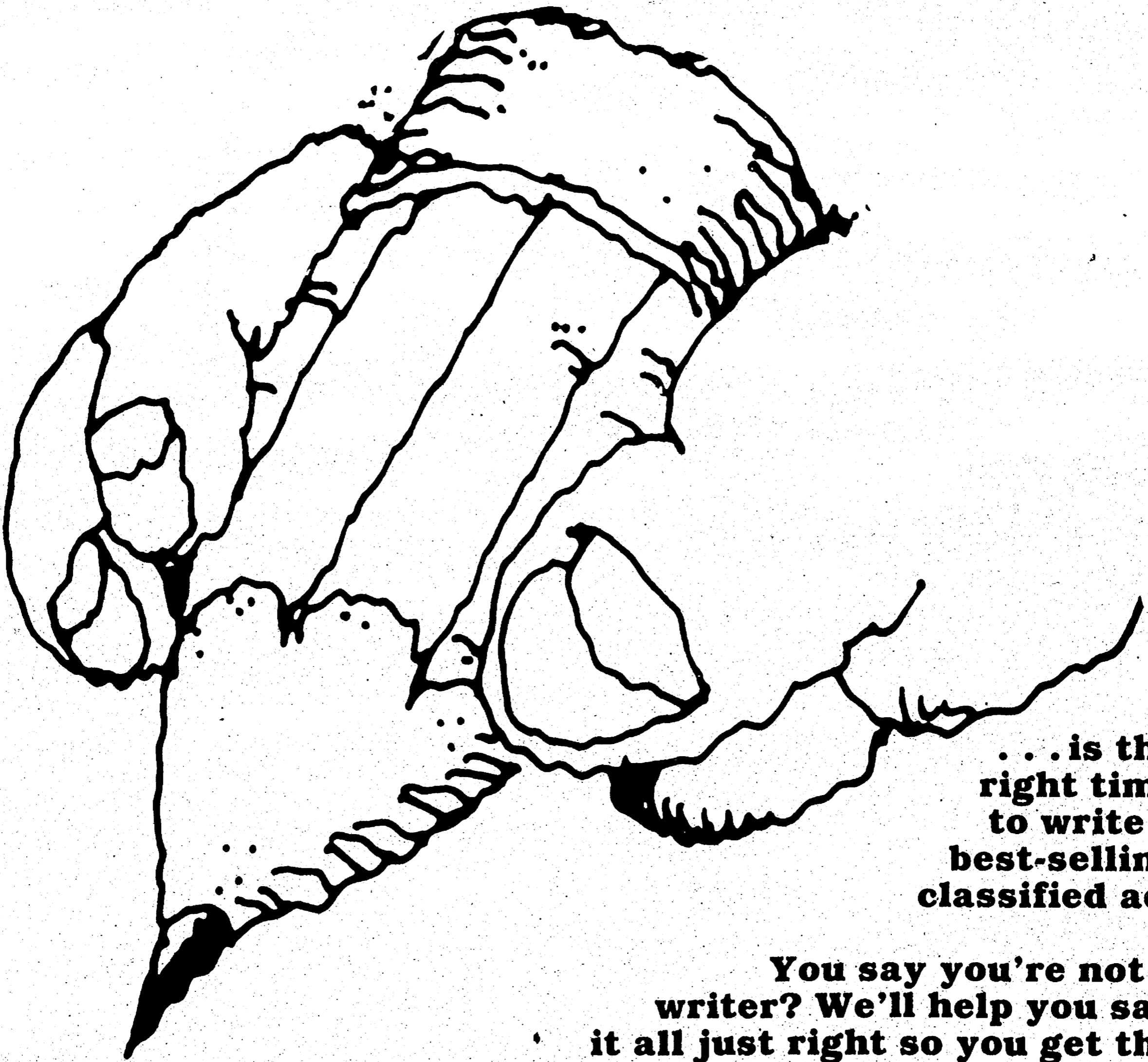
Observer & Eccentric

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MARKET PLACE

702 Antiques/Collectibles

ANN ARBOR'S
Antique Marketplace is now open. A unique 60 dealer group shop downtown Ann Arbor. Quality antiques in a charming brick 3-story building. The Former Ann Arbor City Brewery, Tea & Pastries in the English Tea Room. Open 7 days 10-6. Fri-Sat 9-6. 210 E. 1st St. 1/4 to downtown exit 9 on Main to Washington, right to 1st then left.
313-913-8890

ANTIQUES ON MAIN

For Auld Lang Syne
For old friends & new.
All the best in '95
and we thank YOU
for your support.
115 S. Main ROYAL OAK
Mon-Sat 10-6 (810) 645-4663

TOY SHOW

Saturday, Jan. 6, 9am-2pm. Admission \$4 each. Over 250 tables of toys from the 1800's to 1970's at 15801 Dearborn Civic Center, corner of Michigan Ave. & Greenfield Rd. Early Buyer Rights: \$15 each, Friday, Jan. 5 from 9pm-11pm. As dealers set up, information. Kevin (810) 399-3491

CLASSIC ANTIQUES

IMPORTER & WHOLESALES OF EUROPEAN ANTIQUES
Everything in the warehouse will be discounted 15%-20% through the month of December. Layaway available. Open Sat-Sun, 12-5pm; during the week by appointment. 22839 Heist St. Nov. 1
1 1/2 E. of Novi Rd., off I-94
810-347-8600

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Estate & private sales, insurance and estate appraisals done.
MEMBER OF ISA
Call or visit our gallery as many fine estate pieces have recently arrived.

We are also looking to purchase: KPM, Meissen, Lalique, Sevres, Royal Vienna, and other fine china and crystal.
WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS
515 S Lafayette Royal Oak
Mon-Sat 11-6
810-399-2608

HUMMEL FIGURINES - Nativity set #214, wicamal & stable, Rover Madonna #1011, angel musicians, #1172, #1173, #1188. (810) 647-3762

JIM BEAM DECANTERS: confection, birds, telephones & much more. \$5 & up. (313) 535-4639

LIMITED EDITION - Sold out Wolf Prints, Robert Copple, Carl Brender, Seery Lester. Some framed. Reasonably Priced. (810) 674-2783

NOSTALGIA MANIA SHOW
Mon. Jan. 1, 10am-4pm. Eagles Hall East. 8 Mile just west of Grand. \$1 off admission with ad. 810-775-3289

RED Skelton lithograph, limited edition "The Philosopher". Great price REDUCED! 810-625-4327

702 Antiques/Collectibles

J. Hubert & Co.
Antiques, The Old Way
Art Glass - Pottery - Jewelry - Books - Maps - Photographs - Linens - Toys - Dolls - Porcelain - The Unique
Plymouth's Old Village
141 W. Liberty St. Plymouth
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SANDERS ANTIQUES & AUCTION GALLERY
35118 MICHIGAN AVE.
WAYNE, MI. 23,000 sq. ft.
Buy, Sell & Trade. Open 10-6 daily. 313-721-3029

SELLING YOUR ANTIQUES?
Hickory Hill Antiques can sell your valuable pieces for you. Let our reputation for quality and high traffic show rooms do the work for you. We'll get the most for you. Call for a free app. Daily 10-6. 810-477-6630

TRAIN & TOY SHOW
Featuring The World's Largest Model Train Display "The Magical World of Lionel Trains". Dec. 29, 30, 31. Auction Sun. Noon-2pm. Novi Expo Center. Info. (313) 455-2110

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS gift for the man who thought he had everything.
Detroit Lions World Champions. 1957 Game Ball, team autographed. 6 NFL Hall of Famer's, including Bobby Layne. His last champ period team. Serious inquiries only. (810) 669-7125

704 Arts & Crafts

STUDIO EQUIPMENT: bin, display shelves, tables, racks and more. Call (810) 620-2959

TUPPERWARE WAREHOUSE open to public. 3170 Walnut Lake Rd., Walled Lake. (810) 669-2400.

706 Auction Sales

A HOUSEHOLD AUCTION
Sat. 7pm
5089 Duce - Waterford
810-679-7120

A HUGE ESTATE SALE this weekend see Everything Goes ad, section 710 in today's paper.

CARS UNDER \$350. Vehicles auctioned off by IRS, DEA, FBI, nationwide, trucks, boats, furniture, computers & more! Call Col. Frank 1-800-549-2951 ext. 2052

FAX US YOUR AD
313-953-2232

706 Auction Sales

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN AUTO AUCTION PUBLIC & DEALERS WELCOME

Mon & Thurs Evenings 5:30pm
Fleet, Lease, Dealer Consignment, Bank Repo, New Car Trade-ins
Arrived Late Model Ford Taurus's Reserved Numbers
Prompt Service
Pick-up & Delivery Service
25 yrs. Automotive Experience
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Carleton, MI
Phone: 313-586-6698
FAX: 313-586-5303

710 Estate Sales

ANNOUNCING A Huge Estate Liquidation Sale!
By Everything Goes
Sat. & Sun. only
Dec. 30 & 31, 10-4
973 Orchard Lake Rd.
SE corner of Orchard Lake & Telegraph, across from Porfabc Home Depot.

LARGE SELECTION OF CUSTOM MADE & WOOD FURNITURE:
Bedroom & dining sets, sectionals & sofa groups, wall units, bookcases & entertainment centers, occasional table & chairs, mirrors, fine art work, chaise, ottomans, lighting, beaded glass doors, etched glass panels, mahogany furniture, antiques, loads of glassware, household accessories, decorative items, fine jewelry, loads of costume jewelry, watches, old toys & much more. Don't Miss 810-655-0063

ESTATE SALES BY DEBBIE IN HOUSE
Full Estates - 20% Fee
Cash paid 48 hrs. after sale
Auction - Consignments
ANTIQUES WANTED
CASH BUY OUTS
Our Reference List is the Best Thing We Have!
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WE DO ALL THE WORK!

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Shirley Rose 313-425-4826

HOUSEHOLD SALES CONDUCTED BY Lilly M. & COMPANY
Call Toll Free 1-800-558-8851

710 Estate Sales

Happy Holidays!
Coming Jan. 5 & 6 in Rochester Hills...

A huge, gorgeous colonial pictured on the cover of House Beautiful, Spring 1995. See You Soon!

EDMUND FRANK & CO.
LIQUIDATORS & APPRAISERS
(313) 869-5555
NUMBERS AT 9 A.M.

HUGE ESTATE SALE - Sun. Dec. 31, 10am-5pm. Almost new furniture, accessories, rugs & more. Everything must go! 12070 Hunter's Creek, Plymouth (off Powell Rd. between Back & Ridge). For more information call (313) 418-0198

PLYMOUTH, 14180 Shadywood Dr. Apt. 23, south of Wixom & West of Hagerty off Schoolcraft. Dec. 29th & 30th from 9am-4pm. Many household items, mahogany and Walnut furniture, Depression Glass & Press Glass, Bavarian and English China, lamps, prints, Queen Ann chairs, Bedroom Set. Enter by our number only. Available at 8am, 1 per person.

713 Moving Sales

FARMINGTON HILLS - Furniture, Household Goods, Sports Equipment. Call (810) 474-3740

MOVING SALE: Refrigerator, wall unit, china, chairs & chairs & Press. Excellent condition. (810) 626-2265

714 Clothing

BEAUTIFUL WEDDING Dress by Christian Dior, excellent price. Call eyes: 313-368-8046

FUR COAT - full length natural beaver, wrap yourself in elegant warmth this winter. size 10, 3 yrs. old, TLC, sacrifice \$600. 517-676-0970

FURS - Designer ranch mink coat, \$499; white mink, \$499. 1/2 beaver, \$399. Small-Medium. (810) 855-6171

MINK COAT - Silver Mink, size M-L, Fingert length. (313) 981-6944

MINK JACKET, lady's medium, \$195. Persian Lamb jacket, lady's medium, \$195. (810) 262-8695

WEDDING DRESS sweetheart neck-line, full skirt & detachable train, size 18 new \$900 asking \$750. Mothers long gown 1 Blue, 1 Burgundy size 16 \$50 each 313-427-0739

716 Household Goods

A HUGE ESTATE SALE this weekend see Everything Goes ad, section 710 in today's paper.

716 Household Goods

AARDVARKS TO ZEBRAS
If you have an item listed for under \$75.00 that you want to sell!

Sell it under our classification
720 BARGAIN BUYS
and save 25% Off our regular line rate.
Call Today!
313-591-0900
810-644-1070
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ALABAMA SHIPMENT ARRIVES!! OVERSTOCKED 2nd ANNUAL

50% OFF EVERYTHING

8-piece Kindel dining room suite hand-painted & wood inlay. Rice carved lawyer's bookcases, circa 1870. 12 Louis XVI dining room chairs, 7 mahogany english breakfast, English rosewood planters, circa 1920. Curved mahogany glass curio, circa 1850; extremely rare oak side-by-side secretary, circa 1700's. Mahogany dropfront secretary w/bubble glass; several upholstered french sofas & chairs, oak hall tree, circa 1860. 5 mahogany Duncan Phyfe dining room chairs.
Doors Open at 8am Each Day
Thurs. - Fri. Sat. ONLY

TIMELESS ANTIQUES
15531 W. 12 Mile Rd.
Southfield
(just W. of Greenfield)
810-569-8008

AREAS LARGEST CONSIGNMENT FURNITURE STORE
* Living * Dining * Bedroom * Lamps * Appliances * Consignments
We pick up and Sell for You!
YANKEE CONSIGNMENTS
31562 Grand River (810) 471-0320
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BAKER'S QUALITY pair curio cabinets & cocktail table, brass & glass Chair. New carpet, room sizes, different colors. 810-539-1209

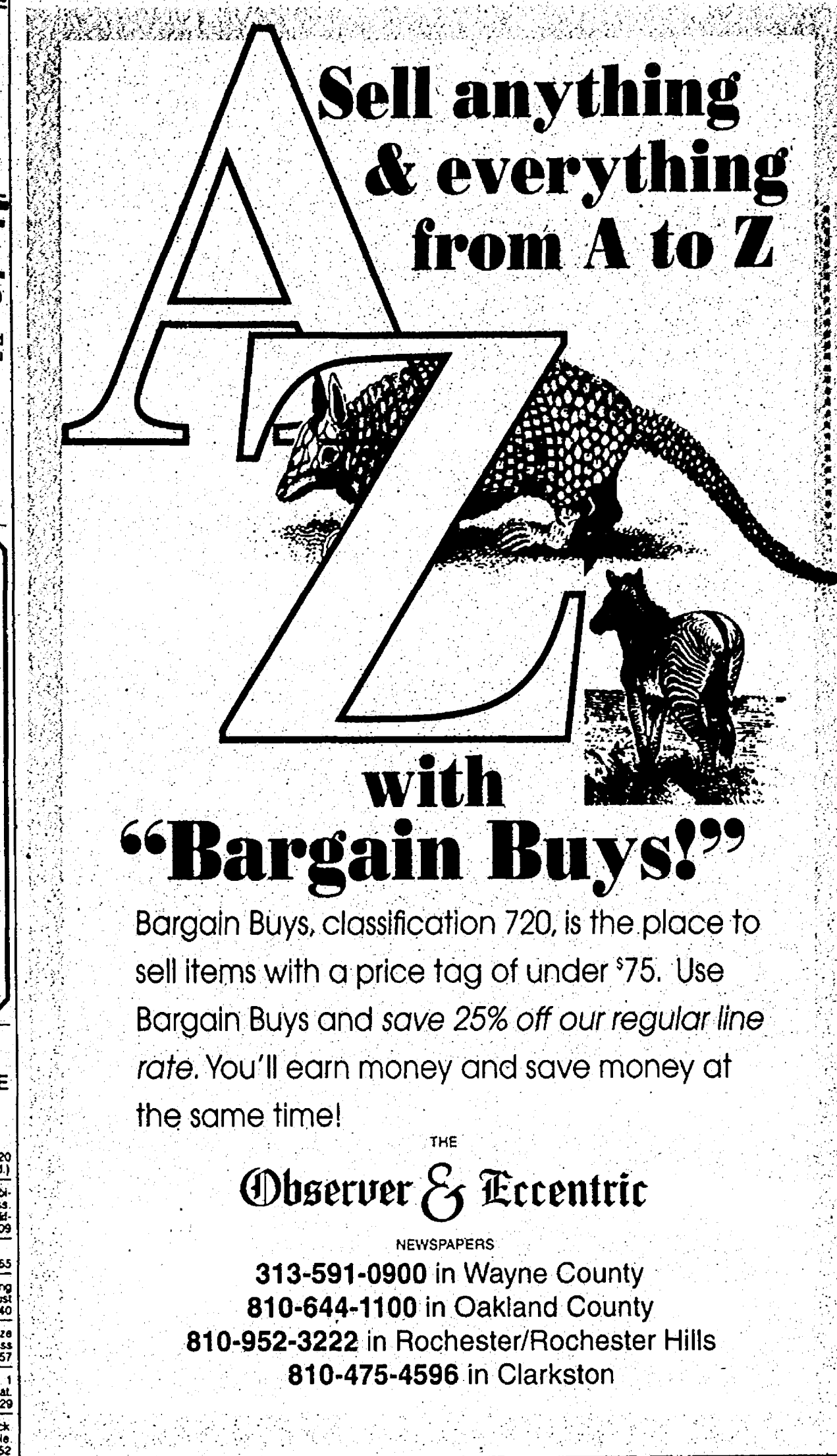
BARBIE JEEP - Asking \$70. (313) 910-8205 or (313) 568-2565

BEDROOM - kingsize, Dresser, Dining room; sofa, chairs, top quality, must sell. After 6pm. (810) 356-6140

BEDROOM SET: Grts, full size canopy, dresser & hutch, w/mattress & accessories. \$400. 313-981-5057

BEDS - FULL set twin beds; 1 sorabed, 1 full bed; sofa & loveseat. Call after 6pm. (313) 251-1929

BED WALL - New, queen, back Amore, restaurant night table Sacrifice, \$900/offer. 810-626-3052



Sell anything & everything from A to Z

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Bargain Buys, classification 720, is the place to sell items with a price tag of under \$75. Use Bargain Buys and save 25% off our regular line rate. You'll earn money and save money at the same time!

THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS

313-591-0900 in Wayne County
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810-952-3222 in Rochester/Rochester Hills
810-475-4596 in Clarkston

MAKE THE MOVE NOW!!

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO BUY

If you've been thinking about moving from your current residence to the home of your dreams or from an apartment to a starter home, this is the time to do it.

- The selection is excellent.
- Low interest rates are available.
- There are many financing options available.



NOW is the right time to Buy a Home!

Purchasing a home has always been a wise decision, but current market conditions are making it even more attractive to buy now.

EXCELLENT FINANCING IS AVAILABLE NOW

Interest rates are lower, and mortgage lenders are offering a wide variety of financing options. Low interest rates mean you can get more for your money.

- 30-year fixed mortgages are still available as well as many other financing alternatives.
- First time buyers are encouraged to purchase now through financing packages offering small down payments.



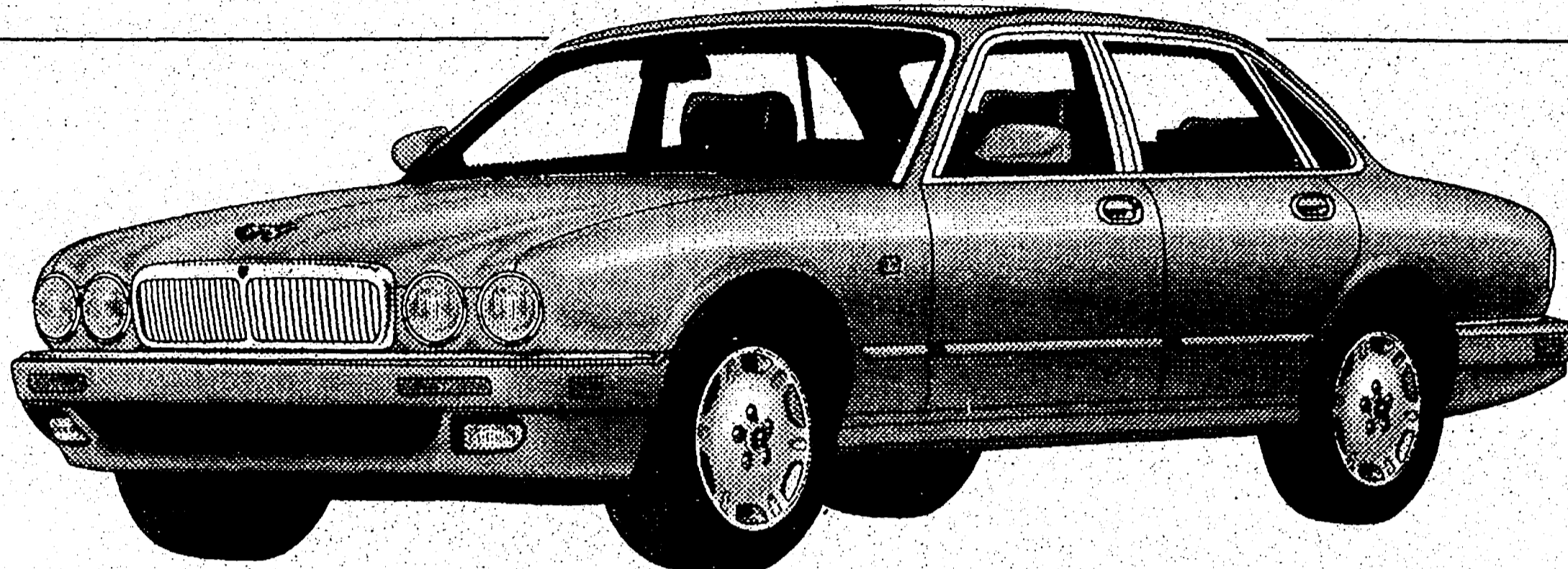
Go ahead, make the move. Now is the right time to buy a home.

Observer & Eccentric

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852-3222 ROCHESTER-ROCHESTER HILLS

THE ONLY PRESENTS YOU CAN OPEN EVERY DAY

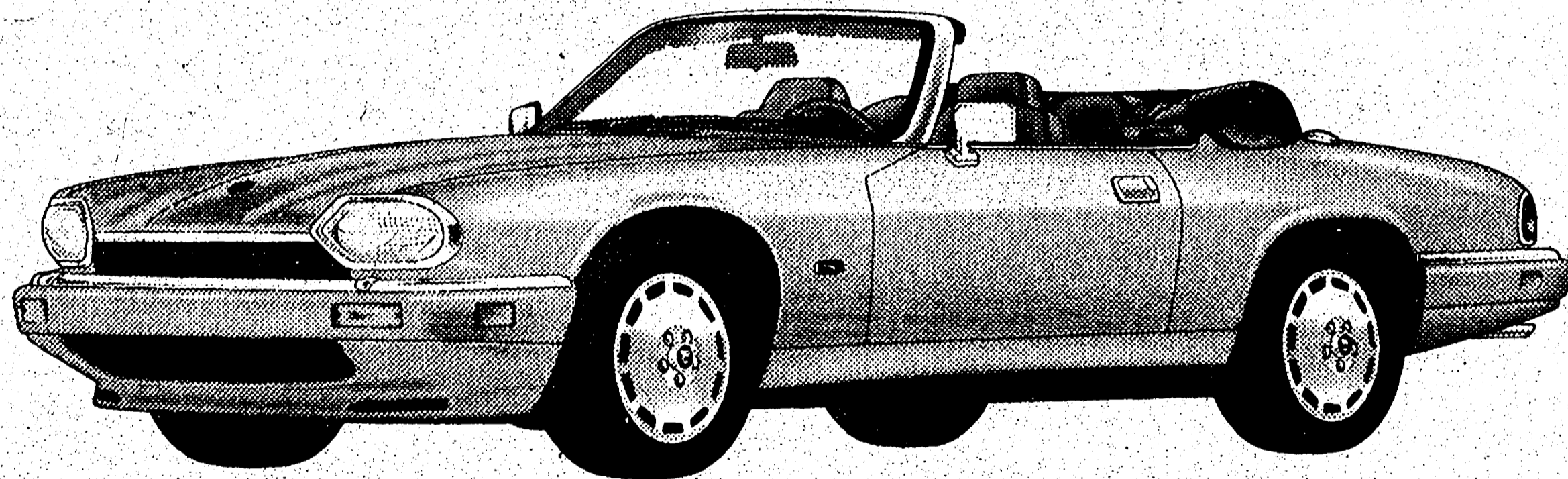


NEW 1996 JAGUAR XJ6

You always dreamed about owning a Jaguar. The classic styling, the sheer exhilaration of being behind the wheel; it's something you've always wished for. The 1996 XJ6 is your dream come true. Luxurious Connolly leather; rich burl walnut trim, and a 245hp engine to take you away. Test drive the 1996 XJ6 today. And while you're there, pinch yourself.

\$699*
24 month lease

YOUR CHOICE



NEW 1996 JAGUAR XJS CONVERTIBLE

The 1996 Jaguar XJS is what dreams are made of you'll find 237hp under the hood and the superior handling of a double-wishbone suspension. The cabin, you'll see, has been lavished with burl walnut trim and butter-soft Connolly leather, even the steering wheel received a generous portion. How could you wish for anything more?

\$599**
12 month lease

Limited Time offer
Expires December 31st 1995



Visit our showroom
and test drive,
a new Jaguar

**JAGUAR
OF TROY**
THE NATION'S #1 JAGUAR DEALERSHIP

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Hours: Monday & Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.
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(810) 643-6900

*\$2950 down payment. Lease payments based on 1996 Jaguar XJ6 MSRP of \$55,000 including transportation, excluding licensing, registration and taxes. Assumed capital cost of 9.9% of MSRP. No security deposit required. Option to purchase at lease end for \$14,700. Closed-end lease. Lessee is responsible for excess wear and tear and 20¢ per mile for miles in excess of 10,000 miles. See your dealer for details. Subject to credit approval and insurability as determined by Jaguar Credit. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 12/31/95. Conventional 24-month lease payments of \$699 total \$16,776. Lease payments subject to change without prior notice. Cash due at signing excludes taxes, title, licensing and registration. Enjoy tomorrow. Buckle up today. ©1996 Jaguar Corp.

**\$1950 down payment. Lease payments based on 1996 Jaguar XJS Convertible MSRP of \$42,450 including transportation, excluding licensing, registration and taxes. Assumed capital cost of 9.9% of MSRP. No security deposit required. Option to purchase at lease end for \$13,400. Closed-end lease. Lessee is responsible for excess wear and tear and 20¢ per mile for miles in excess of 10,000 miles. See your dealer for details. Subject to credit approval and insurability as determined by Jaguar Credit. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 12/31/95. Conventional 12-month lease payments of \$599 total \$7,188. Lease payments subject to change without prior notice. Cash due at signing excludes taxes, title, licensing and registration. Enjoy tomorrow. Buckle up today. ©1996 Jaguar Corp.

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1995 BUICK FINAL CLOSE OUT HURRY FOR BEST SELECTION!

1995 ROADMASTER

Fully equipped including leather, air conditioning, automatic, 5.7 V-8, power windows & locks, power seat, keyless entry & more. Stock #50499.

List Price \$27,198
Now \$23,916*

7 at Similar Savings

1995 REGAL 4 DOOR

Automatic, air, power steering/brakes & locks, keyless entry, 3.8 V-6, & more. Stock #50719. Demo.

List Price \$21,328
Now \$17,126*

For qualified AARP Members

1995 SKYLARK 4 DOOR

Power steering /brakes & windows, air conditioning & more. Stock #50372. Demo.

List \$15,252
Now \$13,959*

*All relates to dealer plus tax, title. Delivery included. Offers expire 1-2-96

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The Best Is All We Do!

(313) 525-0900

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REPAIRABLE VEHICLES

KENSINGTON MOTORS

1-800-437-9249

- '95 T-BIRD, sunroof, leather, 800 miles, light tint, black \$12,500
- '94 TAURUS GL, loaded, blue, light rear damage, drives \$11,900
- '95 NEW YORKER, loaded, leather, burgundy with leather \$8,700
- '95 CONTINENTAL, loaded, black w/gray, leather, front damage \$9,900
- '95 PROBE, air, 5 speed, 3,000 miles, black, light front damage \$3,750
- '95 TAURUS GL, pwr, power locks, leather, right side damage \$7,200
- '95 MUSTANG LX, red, auto, air, V6, hi front \$5,300
- '95 TOWNCAR, loaded, green, 5200 miles, rear damage, drives \$17,000
- '95 TOWNCAR CARTER, loaded, front & rear \$10,900
- '95 MUSTANG GT COUPE, front, missing motor & trans \$6,800
- '95 TOWNCAR, loaded, black/black, hi front & rear \$10,900
- '95 NEON 4 DR, 20k miles, 5 speed, air, light front, damage \$4,000
- '95 INTREPID ES, red w/tan leather, front damage, parts available \$6,000
- '95 CONTINENTAL, sunroof, black, front damage, 6000 miles \$13,900
- '95 NEON 4 DR, air, auto, blue, 30k miles, light rear \$2,850
- '95 TAURUS GL, loaded, 5600 miles, blue, rear damage \$4,000
- '95 CONTOUR, loaded, white, 4 cylinder, front damage \$5,000
- '95 LABARON COUVR, V8, white, 14 miles, minor suspension damage \$6,500
- '94 GRAND MARQUIS, loaded, leather, front damage \$6,500
- '94 CAPRI CONV, Red, light side damage, drives, auto, air \$6,200
- '94 MUSTANG GT COUPE, yellow, 23k miles, front damage \$6,200
- '94 TEMPO 4 DR, red, air, sunroof, 12k miles, bed \$3,950
- '94 CONCORDE, loaded, black, 21k miles, front damage \$4,100
- '94 MUSTANG GT COUVR, loaded, 4 spd, theft recovery, leather, 20k miles \$11,750
- '94 CONCORDE, loaded, 22k miles, side damage, 4 door \$5,500
- '93 MUSTANG LX 4 cyl, red, 12,000 miles, theft, needs minor work, white \$4,800
- '95 BRONCO XLT, loaded, black, theft, missing interior \$10,000
- '95 EXPLORER LIMITED, burgundy, loaded, rollover 4000 miles \$9,900
- '95 EXPLORER LIMITED 4x2, loaded, side damage, drivers 2000 miles \$16,500
- '95 F250 4x2 DIESEL, auto, white, missing motor and trans \$6,500
- '94 EXPLORER LIMITED, loaded, burg, needs minor bump work \$11,750
- '94 DODGE RAM PICKUP 4x4, red, power, v6, power locks, needs front \$8,800
- '94 SONOMA EXT. CAB, red, loaded, v6, V4, light front damage \$6,200
- '94 BRONCO XLT, black, leather, 8.0 missing doors, misc \$10,800
- '94 DODGE 1 TON DUMP, truck Cummins diesel, front damage \$13,800
- '94 RANGER XLT EXT. CAB, 414, 12,000 miles, light front damage \$10,800
- '94 GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED, V6, CD, Player, hi r. front \$13,700
- '93 FORD F-150 LX, 8 cyl, 4 spd, black, 27k miles, front damage \$4,200
- '92 F-150 XLT 4x4 4.0 2.000 mi., light front damage, red, loaded \$4,800
- '94 DODGE COMV, VAN H-100, loaded, black, hi front \$5,000
- '94 FORD VAN E-250 EXT. CARGO, front damage, red \$5,800
- '94 ASTRO VAN, air, auto, V6, motor, white, needs minor repair \$3,000
- '94 DODGE VAN 12 PASS, Loaded, white, hi left side, drives \$7,300

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- 1993 VILLAGER L8 \$13,895
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- 1994 FORD F150 MARK III CONVERSION \$16,998
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- 1993 EXPLORER SPORT \$15,895
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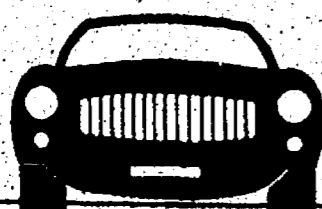
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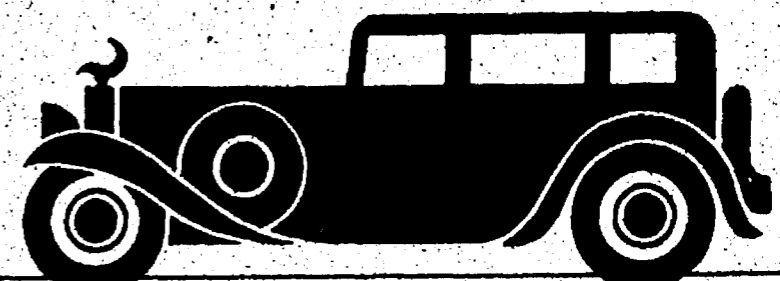
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<p>1996 TRACER 4-DOOR NOTCHBACK Sourmire Green CC Metallic, Dual Grey cloth, Preferred Equipment Pkg. 561A, Light Group, CFC-Free Air Conditioning, AM/FM Stereo Cassette Radio, Power Door Locks, Power Side Windows, Leather Component Group, Fingerprint Speed Control, 18 Steering column, 1.8L 5-SP Engine, Automatic Overdrive Trans, P175/65R14 BSW Tires, Aluminum Wheel, Stock #60731</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE \$149*** PER MO. \$195*** PER MO. \$242*** PER MO. \$288*** PER MO.</p>	<p>1996 GRAND MARQUIS GS 4 DR SDN LI Willow Green CC Metallic, Willow Green cloth, Preferred Equipment Pkg. 151A, Group 1: Front Carpet Floor Mats, Rear Carpet Floor Mats, Speed Control, Radial Spoke Wheel Covers, Group 2: Power Lock Group, Illuminated Entry System, 4.6L OHC SEFI V8 Engine, Electronic Auto OD Trans, P215/70R15 WSW Tires, Keyless Entry System, Anti-Lock Brakes With Trac. Assist, BodySide Paint Strips, Stock #60863</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE \$259*** PER MO. \$305*** PER MO. \$352*** PER MO. \$399*** PER MO.</p>	<p>1996 COUGAR XR7 2-DOOR Alpine Green Clearcoat Met, Medium Graphite Cloth/Leather, Preferred Equipment Pkg. 260A, Cougar Group #1: Electric Rear Window Defrost, Front Floor Mats, Cougar Group #2: Speed Control, Fingerprint, Cast Aluminum Wheel, Power Lock Group, 3.8L SEFI V6 Engine, Elec Auto Overdrive Transmission, P215/70R15 BSW Tires, Cougar Group #3: 6-Way Power Driver's Seat, Illuminated Entry, Leather Wrapped Steering Wheel, Keyless Entry System, Double Leather Individual Seat, Stock #60323</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE \$205*** PER MO. \$252*** PER MO. \$299*** PER MO. \$345*** PER MO.</p>	<p>1995 SABLE GS 4 DOOR SEDAN Vibrant White Clearcoat, Mocha Sport Bucket Leather Preferred Equipment Pkg. 470A, L15 Decor Group, Leather S/B STS 6-Way D-Force, Leather Side Mirrors, L15 B/S Classic Luxury Pkg, Unique Cast Aluminum Wheels, Unique L15 Floor Mats, Paint Strips, Delete, Group 1: FR/R Carpeted Floor Mats, Group 2: Power Lock Group, Fingerprint Speed Control, Dual 6-Way Power Seats, Group 4: Leather W/rag Steering Wheel, Power Antenna, 16 Level Audio Sys W/Cassette, Keyless Entry System, 3.8L EFI V8 Engine, Automatic Overdrive Trans, Power Moonroof, CFC-Free Auto Air conditioning, Chrome Wheels, Leather Individual Seat L15, Stock #50468</p> <p>3.9% A.P.A. On Select Models With Approved Credit</p> <p>LOOK WHAT WE FOUND! 8 Brand New 1995 Sable LS Sedans Your Choice WAS \$25,645 NOW \$18,900</p>

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• Tilt & Cruise
• 3.3 V-6 Engine
• AM/FM Cassette


• Dual Air Bags
• 16" Wheels
• Cloth Buckets
• Console

Stock #35012

\$16,480

Lease \$299* 24 MO.

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• Laramie SLT
• Automatic
• Air Conditioning

• Power Windows & Locks

• Tilt & Cruise
• Cassette & More

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\$16,980

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• Air Conditioning
• Automatic
• ABS

• Rear Defrost
• Full size spare


• AM/FM stereo & More

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POWER SUNROOF INCLUDED

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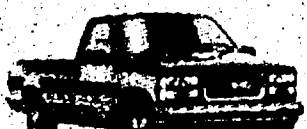
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SALE PRICE \$12,195* GM OPT II Deduct \$640.45


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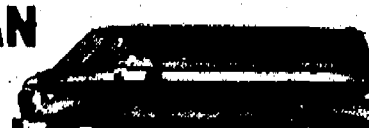
1995 GRAND AM SE COUPE



Automatic transmission, ABS brakes, power door locks, stereo, reclining bucket seats, dual mirrors and more! Stock #950472.

SALE PRICE \$12,595* GM OPT II Deduct \$743.45

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V-8 engine, air conditioning, four speed automatic transmission, ABS brakes, 33 gallon fuel tank, full size spare tire, fixed rear door glass, AM/FM stereo. Stock #957562.

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36 MO. \$242* Per Month LEASE
8 Others Available At Similar Savings



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3800 V-6, bucket seats, power driver's seat, keyless entry, aluminum wheels, cassette, CD player & more. Stock #6128.

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35 Others Available



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NEW HOMES

Business & Finance, 3AA
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1995

1AA*

New home buyers know what they want

BY DOUG FUNKE
STAFF WRITER

Sitting areas/rooms off the kitchen. Lots of windows. White cabinet facings. Special attention to wiring. High ceilings.

Those are some features prospective buyers of new houses specifically look for nowadays during their searches, builders and sales representatives say.

"People are really luxury conscious. What's amazing is they can afford it," said James Bonadeo, a Plymouth builder with 49 years experience in residential construction.

White is the popular decorative color.

"The hot thing this year is white cabinets," Bonadeo said. "Some are made of wood, some of compressed material, some plastic. It all looks the same. It's all expensive."

White microwaves, ranges and sometimes faucets, too, complement the cabinets, Bonadeo added.

"One thing people keep asking about is a sitting room off the kitchen," said Fred Capaldi, a Rochester Hills builder.

"It used to be called a nook where you could set up a table and four chairs. Now, it's more like a little room, maybe with a hexagonal-shaped ceiling," he said.

Some builders place a two-way fireplace between the kitchen and family room to accent the sitting area. Some call the space a hearth room.

"A lot of plans we're modifying because people want more living area in the kitchen area," said Ellen Whitefield, vice president for the Selective Group New Home Center in Southfield.

"People spend a lot of time there," she said. "Someone may be doing homework, someone may be cooking, someone may be working on a computer."

There is a flip side, apparently, to more space in the kitchen.

"Some rooms, like the living room, are getting smaller," Bonadeo said. "One reason, I think, is fewer people want to use them."

Customers and builders have an eye on making use of every nook and cranny.

"Window seating — it seems invariably someone asks, 'Can I put a window seat in my little girl's bedroom?'" Capaldi said.

"We're doing almost the same thing in master bedrooms, put-

'One thing people keep asking about is a sitting room off the kitchen. It used to be called a nook where you could set up a table and four chairs. Now, it's more like a little room, maybe with a hexagonal-shaped ceiling.'

Fred Capaldi
Rochester Hills builder

ting little bubbles out and they become good sitting areas."

Some buyers look for bonus rooms built over the garage to be used as a play room, exercise room or computer room.

"There's a lot more customized wiring done on a house — additional electrical outlets, computer plugs, additional phone lines," said Deen Hyde, marketing director for Pulte Homes. "Everyone has to make sure they have enough current to run their toys."

Plant shelves increasingly show up at the foot and head of staircases and in the bath area of master suites.

Granite and marble countertops and brass fixtures also are on the increase. Volume ceilings are still popular. More and fancier windows add to a feeling of spaciousness.

Other things jump out at housing providers.

"There's an increased demand, and I expect that to continue, for first floor masters or ranches," Hyde said. "Kids are leaving home and parents want to live on the first floor but still want extra room when the kids come back to visit."

"I'm amazed at the number of recessed light fixtures and pendant ceiling fans," Capaldi said.

"Oak stairs or oak stair ends have been a big thing with us this year," Bonadeo said.

"We're finding people tend to red in brick tones," Whitefield said. "For many years, people wanted white or gray. I think when they drive past older, established houses that have red brick, they equate that with quality."

That's what everything boils down to from Whitefield's obser-



TOM HAWLEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Beautiful features: Volume windows, wood flooring and high ceilings are in demand by buyers of new houses.

ations.

"We find people appreciate brand name quality, a company that has been in business and will

be in business," she said. "They want it to be included as part of the standard package. We offer Kohler in all-house plumbing and

GE appliances.

"The word quality keeps coming up. Customers feel like they're paying for and should get quality," Whitefield said.

ty," Whitefield said.

"The more homes people have owned, the more definite they are in what they want," Hyde said.

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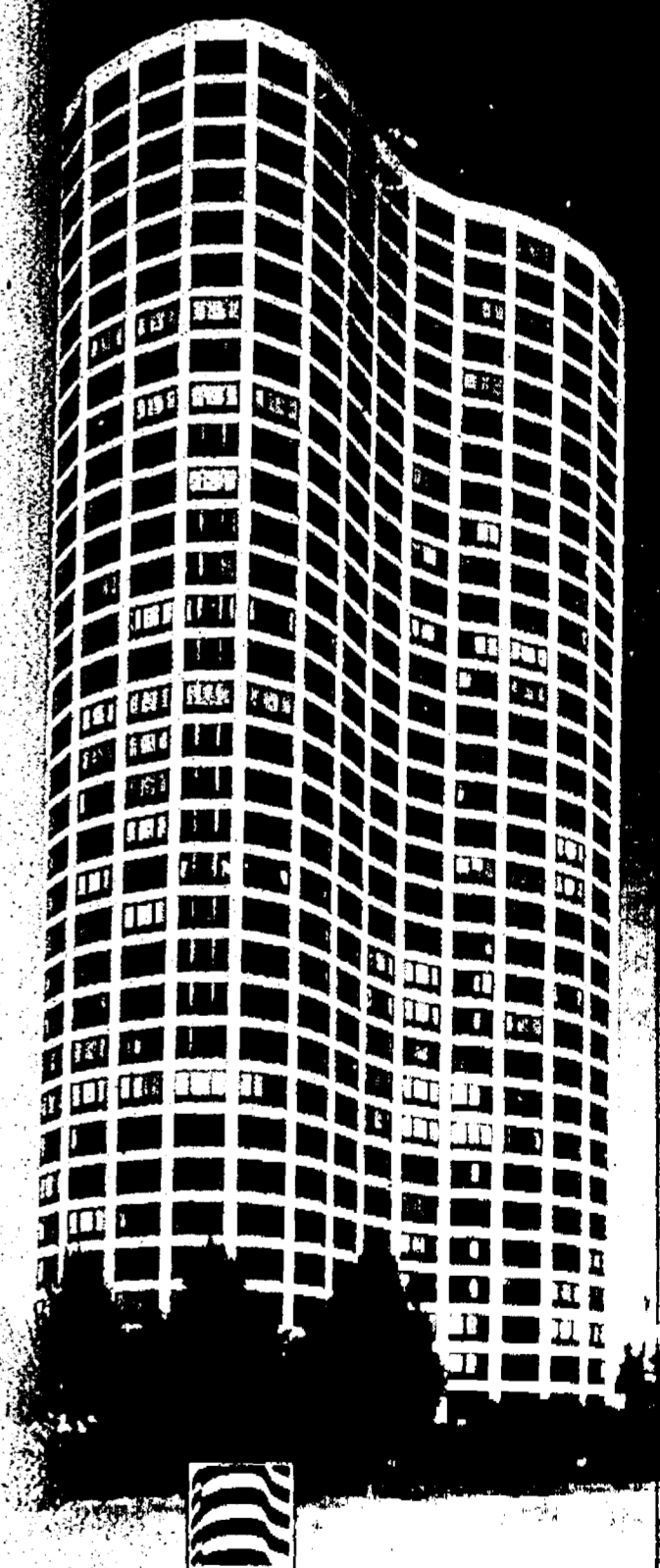
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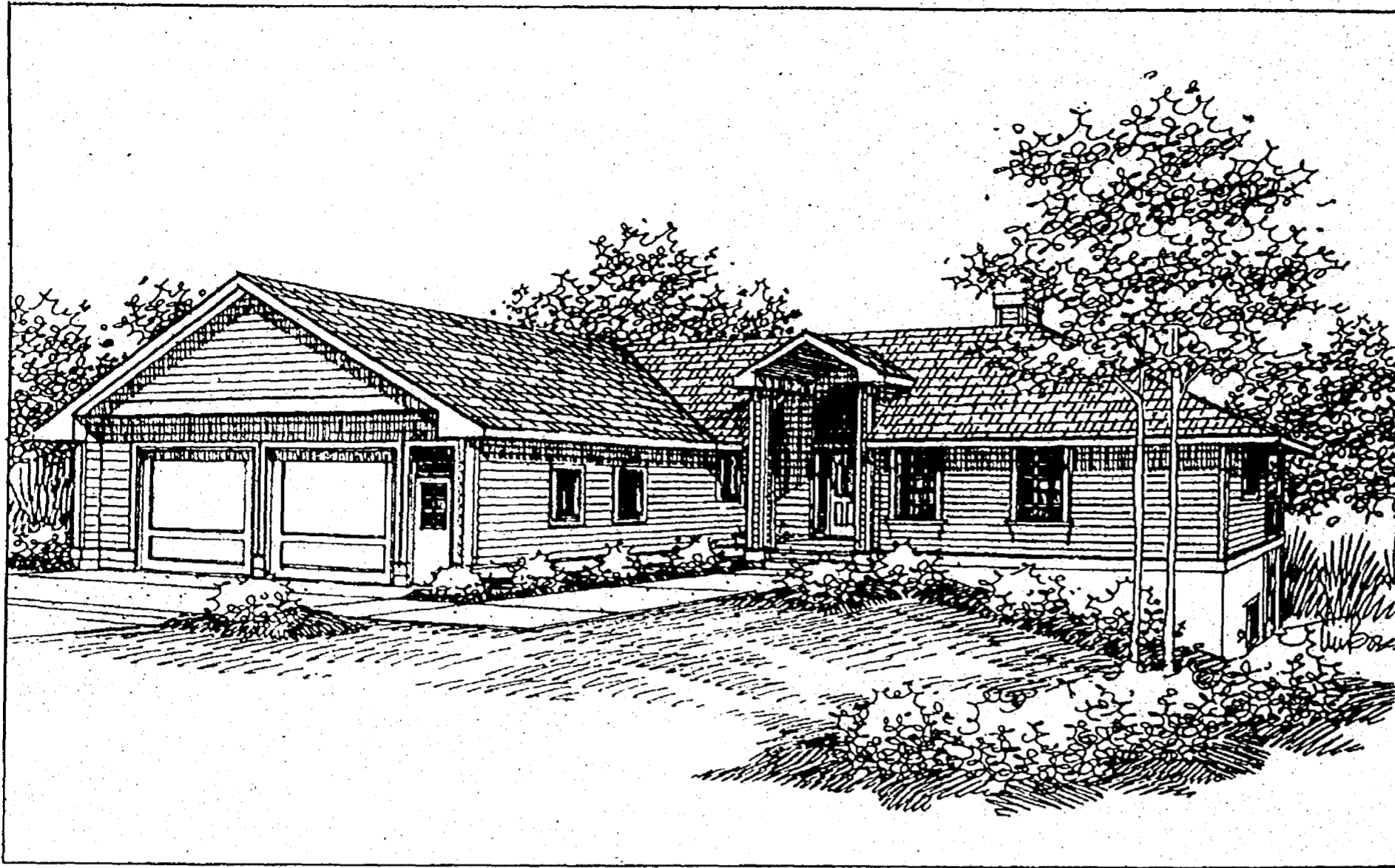


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The Tundra: The exterior has curb appeal with a beautiful vaulted entry way.

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For a study kit of the Tundra (403-47), send \$10.00, to Landmark Designs, P.O. BOX 2307-OE48, Eugene, OR 97402 (Be sure to specify plan name & number) For a collection of plan books featuring our most popular house plans, send \$20 to Landmark, or call 1-800-562-1151.

If you have been searching for a house design that has extra space for future development, take a good look at the Tundra.

As your children get older, or your family increases, the Tundra provides an unfinished basement that gives you 2128 square feet to finish as you like. When the time is convenient, you can decide if your family needs more sleeping quarters, a game room or home office.

Perhaps the future will bring aging relatives into the house. In that case, a small apartment can easily be created, offering a safe environment while still providing privacy. The basement comes with a partially completed bathroom, extra storage and a separate entrance.

The exterior of the Tundra has tremendous curb appeal, showcased by the beautiful vaulted entry, multi-paned glass floods the entry with sunlight, fashioning a welcome atmosphere for your guests. Horizontal siding accents the trim lines of the outer design.

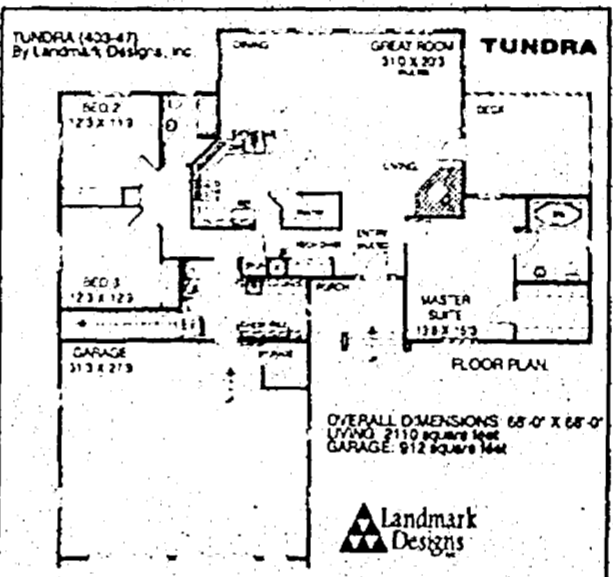
The main floor of the Tundra has an open configuration that doesn't waste any of the available 2,110 square feet of living space. Facing directly into the entry is a huge great room. This is the primary gathering area in the house and has windows on two sides. There is access to a side deck, where warmer weather will find the sun seekers.

The walk-through kitchen adjoins the dining room, allowing the cook in the house to save steps while serving meals. For a quick snack or less-formal dining, there is a handy eating bar. In addition to built-in appliances, the kitchen features a roomy walk-in pantry.

The elegant master suite is situated to the

left of the entry. Isolated for privacy, the master suite amenities include a large walk-in closet, vanity and private bathroom with an oversized spa tub. The two secondary bedrooms are at the opposite end of the house. Each has abundant closet space, and they share a full bathroom and linen storage.

A spacious utility room, with deep sink and freezer chest, completes the design. Placement of the utility by the garage is a big plus when it comes to unloading groceries.



Flexible plan: The Tundra has a lot of space that can be developed for different needs.

Wood shake roofs are crowning glory of restored houses

(AP) — The crowning glory of an old-house restoration is a new roof of wood shakes or shingles.

The standard roofing material of Colonial times continues to be used today in many parts of the country. Originally, the type of wood used was dependent on what was available locally. For example, red cedar was plentiful on the West Coast, swamp cedar in the mid-Atlantic states, white cedar in New England and cypress in the South. Today you'll still find a variety of woods used to make wood shakes or shingles, such as red and white cedar, white pine and oak.

If it's installed and maintained properly, you can expect a wood roof to last a long time. Although 25-30 years is a good minimum, we've seen some 70-year-old roofs that are still functioning properly. Understanding what's involved for installation and maintenance will go a long way in helping you decide if a wood shake or shingle roof is the right choice for you.

One of the secrets of a successful wood-roof application is adequate ventilation. Because of the nature of the product, air must be able to circulate underneath it to prevent moisture buildup and its resultant rot. Historically, an open-sheathed roofing system was used, which accomplished this objective very nicely.

Today, this is still the preferred method of installation. But keep in mind that the rough, uneven nature of shakes demands some extra protection. When installing shakes, the open sheathing should be interwoven with the felt paper so the tips of the shakes are up underneath the felt. This provides extra protection from driving winds and rain, but still allows adequate ventilation at all times.

The felt paper interweave is usually not necessary with shingles, since they lie flat. If an open-sheathed roof isn't a practical option for you, the shakes or shingles should be attached to horizontal furring strips that allow an inch or so of air to move between the bottom of the shingles or shakes and the plywood or solid sheathing.

Another important factor is allowing for the natural expansion of wood. If space is not left for this and the shingles or shakes are butted up close together, you're likely to get a failure, or crack, in the nail line. Usually, leaving one-quarter-inch space or keyway between each shingle, and about one-half-inch space between shakes is enough to allow for any movement.

When actually fastening shingles, the shingle, ideally, should hang on its nails. The nailheads should be driven so they are just flush with the shingle surface. Don't dimple it or sink the nails in, as you run the risk of punching a hole which will allow the shingle to lift right off the roof. Two nails should be used per piece, placed about three-quarters-inch from each side, 1-inch above where the next butt line for the next row will be. Covering the nailheads like this helps prevent them from rusting and staining the roof surface. The seams should line up for three courses, preventing water from wearing a channel or path in the roof.

Before starting the job, always check local building codes before reroofing to see what requirements there might be in terms of products used.

By Popular Mechanics for AP Special Features

Buyers are looking for quieter houses

By BARBARA MAYER AP NEWSFEATURES

It wasn't even noon and already Dana Hougland had fielded phone calls from two clients in search of some quiet. The owner of a large open-plan house in Aspen, Colo., was bothered by reverberating footsteps. The caller from Vail, Colo., wanted to minimize plumbing and heating noises so he could better enjoy his new home theater.

The scenario is repeated almost daily, says Hougland, an acoustical engineer in Denver, Colo., who leads the technical committee on architectural acoustics for the Acoustical Society of America.

A noisy home is becoming a no-no. Whether an open-plan layout or overcrowded lives set nerves a-jangling, the need for the sound of silence is rising, especially among the affluent.

Floors that don't squeak, appliances that are seen but not heard and walls that don't talk are held up as models by those in pursuit of quiet homes.

"Sometimes, it is even a matter of 'I don't want to hear my own teenagers,'" says Hougland, a principal in the firm of David L. Adams Associates.

Through the 1970s, a lot of the residential construction was aimed at first-time buyers, and speed and cost were factors. Today, the market is in luxury homes, and insulation against unwanted sound is important.

In a survey conducted for Owens-Corning Fiberglas in Toledo, Ohio, more than 40 percent of prospective home buyers said they would pay an extra \$500 for sound barriers in interior walls and floors. As a result, the company is promoting its thermal insulation as a sound insulation, too. Jim Schmiedeskamp, a company spokesman, says a 1995 booklet titled "Quiet Please" refers to the insulation as a "comprehensive acoustical control system."

Prior to the postwar building boom in the 1950s, Hougland says interior noises weren't much of a problem because walls were built of plaster on lath. That's far too expensive today and in some cases wouldn't meet modern building codes.

Instead, there are newer products and techniques to create sound barriers such as lightweight concrete for subflooring

and metal channels for walls that decouple joists and wallboard.

The door, a first line of defense against unwanted noise, has also changed. Hollow-core doors replaced solid wood doors as an industry standard in the early 1950s because they cost less. Unfortunately, they filter out less noise.

Several companies now sell solid-core doors with a molded fiberboard filler for better sound insulation. Premdor, a Tampa, Fla., manufacturer, says prices start at about \$75, compared with about \$25 for hollow doors. Solid wood doors start at about \$100.

Quieter appliances are other allies in the war against noise in the home: Older dishwashers can be loud enough to stop conversations. Upscale European brands such as Miele and Bosch introduced the concept of the quiet dishwasher about five years ago. American makers were quick to follow.

"Quiet operation has become the main selling point for high-end dishwashers in the last year or so," says Mark Buss, vice president of Jenn-Air Co. in Indianapolis.

Jenn-Air recently introduced three UQ — ultimate quiet — models that the company says are 50 percent quieter than its other dishwashers. At around \$500 to \$650 each, they're about \$50 more than other Jenn-Air models.

Although many new dishwashers are quieter than their predecessors, there's no industry standard to measure the differences, as there is with energy efficiency measurements.

"At this point, consumers are at the mercy of the seller and manufacturer," Hougland says. "If they say it is quiet, you have to take their word for it."

Dishwashers may be quieter, but refrigerators are noisier than ever because of recent changes in condensers for greater energy efficiency, says Tracy Haak of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers in Chicago.

Other major appliances due to be pushed are home laundry equipment.

"It wouldn't surprise me if clothes washers received more attention, now that they are moving out of the basement and into the kitchen and the bathroom," Haak says.

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WAYNE BUSINESS & Finance

Precision Tune shop owner stresses service

BY BETH SUNDRLA JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Kathy Spencer is moving her Precision Tune stores into the '90s.

Spencer, owner of the recently opened Precision Tune on Five Mile at Middlebelt in Livonia, is a veteran of the car-care business.

She opened the Precision Tune at Middlebelt and Warren 15 years ago. She owned 11 Precision Tune shops at one time, but has sold some. She now owns five: three in Detroit, one in Wyandotte and the Livonia store.

"Livonia has been a difficult place to penetrate," she said, in part, because no property has been available.

Spencer's also a regional manager, which means she troubleshoots at shops. She spends a day or two at each store as she makes the rounds. As a regional manager her area includes 13 shops.

She first got into the business with her now ex-husband. He was an engineer with General Motors and she was a hairdresser, managing a shop in Dearborn. Neither of them had a background in car repair.

But now she feels confident. "I can't fix cars, but I can often pinpoint the problem," she said.

Precision Tune services include anything under the hood plus the brakes. The shops don't do major engine work, mufflers or body work.

Things have changed in Spencer's years in car repair. Convenience and service are the watchwords these days.

Precision Tune is leaning more and more toward service to keep people coming back, she said.

Many people come in saying they are looking for a good mechanic. "I say to them 'I hope we're the one,'" she said.

When the business started, it was only for tuneups. Now people bring cars in for maintenance. That service is usually performed in under two hours.

Making the wait less painful is one of Spencer's goals. She tries to offer a customer-friendly waiting room. And rather than just waiting at Precision Tune, she plans to offer certificates, so cus-

■ Making the wait less painful is one of Spencer's goals. She tries to offer a customer-friendly waiting room. And rather than just waiting at Precision Tune, she plans to offer certificates, so customers can visit the McDonald's across the street during the wait.

tomers can visit the McDonald's across the street during the wait.

Years ago people didn't get their oil changed until the oil light came on, but people are starting to understand that maintaining a car is a way to keep it a long time, Spencer said.

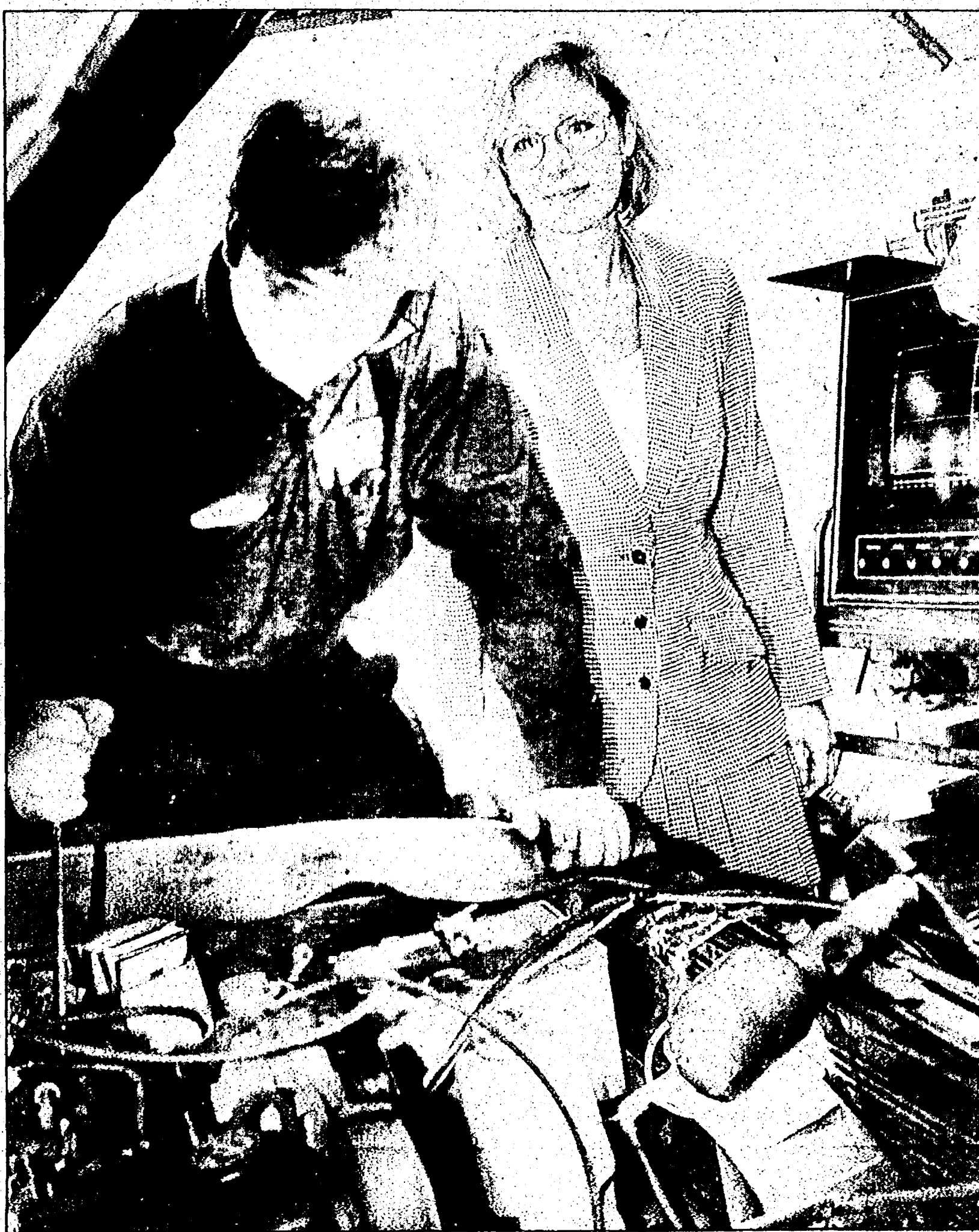
Cars are complicated now. It may take a couple hours to find the problem, she said. Also a person can't really be a backyard mechanic now. "The average consumer doesn't understand the training that our technicians have," she said.

The industry has changed. Cars have changed. It used to be a repair shop followed the rule don't fix it if it's not broken. But in recent years the move is toward maintenance and even warning customers when they are headed for a problem.

"I had a lady in the other day. She had no protection in her antifreeze," Spencer said, because she was worried the engine block would crack in the cold, Spencer said she practically begged the woman to have the work done even if she took the car to another business.

It's also important to be community aware, she said. Along with that Precision Tune is working on a fund-raiser for local high schools and sponsors a local charity softball game between the Detroit Red Wings and area celebrities planned for Aug. 11.

She hopes all this goes toward bringing customers back. But, it's not enough to have a satisfied customer, you have to have a fan, Spencer said.



Getting in tune: Mike Ciesla, service manager, and Kathy Spencer, owner, have recently opened a new Precision Tune at the corner of Five Mile and Middlebelt roads in Livonia.

ART EMANUELE/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lack of balanced budget hurts economic growth



BETH ALLEN

The government's forward-looking gauge of the economy clearly has shown that the economy plunged to a 20-month low in October.

Federal Reserve Governor Susan Phillips

recently stated that fragile consumer spending should still create enough demand at current

levels of employment to fuel economic growth at about 2½ percent through 1996.

If we do not get a budget accord in Washington in the near future what could that mean? "The reaction could be quite negative," said Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, predicting that even though the Federal Reserve reduced the federal funds rate from 5.75 percent to 5.50 percent on Dec. 19, mortgage interest rates and rates in other areas of the economy would rise if a budget agreement was not achieved.

The segments of the economy that might be most affected would include autos, major appliances and other consumer goods. This could further fuel the slowdown in the economy and eventually lead to a recession.

What the politicians in Washington do about the budget will have an effect on consumers. It could cost more to borrow for the purchase of big ticket consumer items such as cars, televisions and stereos. Reluctance on the part of the consumer to buy will

slow down the economy, which could result in higher unemployment.

Wall Street will also take notice. The prospects of a slowing economy translate into lower corporate profits and lower stock prices. Recent sharp downturns in the markets are a validation of this concern.

Short-term recent interest rate reduction and the fact that the parties in Washington are meeting, the economy and Wall Street should be stable. Long term, beyond 1996, lack of a balanced

budget accord in Washington could cause interest rates to reverse course. Higher interest rates could put a significant damper on economic growth.

As citizens in a country in which the vote counts, we should be writing or calling our senators, congressmen and president urging them to act responsibly and balance the budget. Their attention to fiscal matters in Washington has a great impact on all of us.

Questions and comments are welcome. If you would like to have a particular financial subject ad-

ressed, contact: Thomas E. Hogan or Elizabeth A. Allen in care of the Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Attention: Editorial Department. Or tell us via E-mail address newsroom@oeonline.com.

Elizabeth Allen, a certified financial planner practitioner, is a registered representative with Sigma Planning Corp. in Livonia. A former high school math teacher and product analyst for Ford Motor Co., she lives in Farmington Hills.

No New Year's plans? Join celebration on-line



EMORY DANIELS

It's that time of month again — time to clear off another corner of my desk. Before tossing away another pile of messages and notes, let me pass on some of the goodies that haven't called for a complete column but are

worth sharing anyway. ■ Are your New Year's Eve plans all made? I plan to spend the evening with friends and hope you have made similar plans. Whatever you do, don't spend New Year's Eve on-line; it's not healthy. But for those with a fixation, who insist on being sick anyhow, then you might as well check out First Night New York '96.

— First Night '96 is the New Year's Eve celebration with something for everyone. Whether you want to wait in Grand Central Terminal, enjoy an evening of jazz in the New York Public Library, dance the night away to the music of the '60s through '90s in Bryant Park, or meet and mingle at New York's largest singles mixer, visit First Night at <http://www.lnch.com/tilde/mark/esoterio/FirstNight.html>.

Apple Computing Company's QuickTime Live! site will host "Bill Graham Presents San Francisco New Year's Eve on Dec. 31. The live, interactive SFNYE site will feature seven blocks of San Francisco waterfront and bands such as Santana and the Gin Blossoms. There also will be images from New Year's Eve at New York's Time Square taking advantage of QuickTime Live!'s digital camera. Point to <http://live.apple.com>.

■ There are times when the Internet can be far more useful and efficient than other means such as phone or car. A couple weeks ago I sent Christmas gifts to my nephew and niece in Illinois using United Parcel Services. This involved two deliveries to two different cities. On my receipt was two tracking numbers, one for each delivery, and the clerk said I can call to confirm delivery. It was a lot easier than that, using the Net.

I went to <http://www.ups.com> and chose the "Package Tracking" option. All I had to do was type in the tracking number from my receipt. Within 15-20 seconds the tracking information came back, indicating the day and time of delivery, the address delivered, where the package was left (front door) for one package, and who signed for the other. The specific

■ Apple Computing Company's QuickTime Live! site will host "Bill Graham Presents San Francisco New Year's Eve on Dec. 31. The live, interactive SFNYE site will feature seven blocks of San Francisco waterfront and bands such as Santana and the Gin Blossoms. There also will be images from New Year's Eve at New York's Time Square taking advantage of QuickTime Live!'s digital camera.

address to skip the Home Page and go directly to the tracking page is <http://www.ups.com/tracking/tracking.cgi>.

■ Politics by the Number is a site that takes a close look at the votes behind the Washington, D.C. rhetoric. Each week the site offers a new analysis of selected votes cast by members of Congress. Also provided are key votes on recent bills and resolutions and major votes of the 104th Congress. And there are links to other political information sites that have information on Congressional voting records, lobby group ratings of members of Congress, and other political information. Point your Web browser to <http://www.spyder.net/politics/>.

■ Scrooges should not visit "The

State of the World's Children 1996, UNICEF 50" page. The 50th anniversary of UNICEF is marked at this Website with a forward by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, secretary-general of the UN, a message from UNICEF director Carol Bellamy, a link on "Children in war," open on "Anti-war agenda," another on "Fifty years of children," and to statistical tables, to panels, regional spotlights, and references. If you aren't Scrooge, point to <http://www.unicef.org/owc96/contents.html>.

■ The Right to Die site also is a very interesting site to visit, but you might want to wait until after the holidays. The site, maintained by the World Federation of Right to Die Societies, is a quarterly newsletter of the 37 right to die

organizations in the world. The newsletter deals with euthanasia, assisted suicide, the Hemlock Society, Derek Humphry, Dr. Jack Kevorkian, etc. When I visited, I found nothing on Dr. Jack but should be surprised that he is elusive on the Net as well? What I did find was an article on "Ethics in Medicine," one on "Deciding How We Die," and another on "Medicine — A Divided Profession." There also were poll results from Canada and legislative action in New Hampshire. If you are not suffering from the holiday blues than on Dec. 26, point to <http://www.efn.org/tilde/ergo/rights.news.html>.

■ The Internet is filled with several computer-topic magazines (ezines). An easy way to access them is to visit a site I discovered that has links to the top 100 computer related WWW magazines and journals. Internet Valley offers a list of 100 computer-related ezines, including BYTE Magazine, Boardwalk, Info World, Information Week, Internet World, Mac Week, Net Guide, PC Magazine, PC World, UnixReview, UnixWorld, WebMaster Magazine, Wired, and 87 more. Point to <http://www.internetvalley.com/top100mag.html>.

■ Michael Lissack has spent the

last year uncovering a \$1 billion fraud involving major Wall Street firms in the municipal bond business. He spent 14 years as an investment banker at Smith Barney where he helped finance the activities of state and local governments through the sale of tax-exempt bonds. He now is working on a doctorate in business administration at Henley on Thames in England, Europe's largest management school with more than 6,500 MBA students.

Anyhow, Lissack is writing a dissertation on how information overload is dealt with in the context of decision-making, and is working on a book with Mark Rose titled "The Whistleblower." If you point to <http://home.navisoft.com/munibond/index.htm> you will find news clips, articles and related documents on scandals in the municipal bond market maintained by Lissack.

You can direct questions to Emory Daniels by e-mail with emory@oeonline.com or fax number 591-7279. To sign up for O&E On-Line, dial (313) 591-0903, at "log-in" prompt type "new" and at "Key:" prompt type GL6NY2. Past columns may be accessed on-line at <http://oeonline.com/tilde/mark/emoryd/archive.html>.

