

Prokofiev's wolf charms Farmington students

For art aficionados, the third month of the year is "Youth Art" month, and ballet stepped into the spotlight as 1977 stepped into March.

The Michigan Ballet Company, a nonprofit Farmington-based group, gave two morning performances to about 900 Farmington fourth-graders this week in Harrison High School, thanks to the Farmington Arts Commission and a \$1,500 grant from the Michigan Council of the Arts.

"It's a terrific experience for the kids," said Asst. Supt. Larry Freedman, who hopes the Farmington Arts Commission will be able to successfully renew the grant in coming years.

For the ballet company, community performances are the major thrust of its program, according to Marilyn Majeski of Farmington Hills and a mem-

ber of the company's board of directors.

"We're celebrating our 10th anniversary, and what better way to do it than to offer our performances to the community," she said.

The elementary children delighted in the performances of Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" and "The Snow Queen," with music by Offenbach, Glazunov, and Vivaldi.

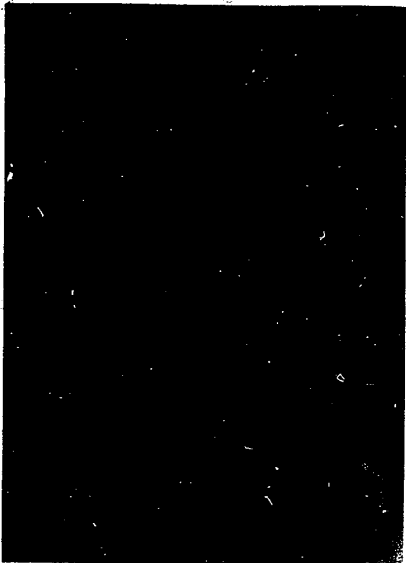
The 20 youthful members of the

company annually perform twice a year for the community. "The Nutcracker" in December and a spring presentation.

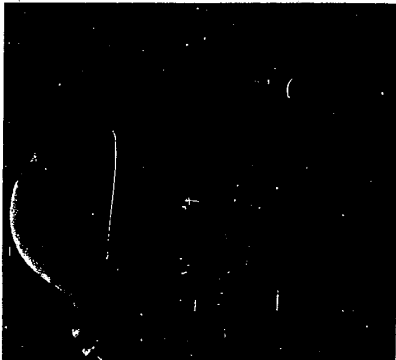
This year, the Farmington Arts Commission supplemented a grant to finance the elementary school performances, and the troupe gave the Harrison public performance last Sunday in recognition of the commission's efforts.

cated on Thirteen Mile in Farmington Hills, holds auditions twice a year and draws from the entire metropolitan Detroit area for its members who average 14 years of age.

ANOTHER ASPECT of the March celebration of youth art gives Farmington students a chance to exhibit their own art work, as 17 schools will be represented in exhibits at both Farmington libraries, the administration building, and Botsford General Hospital.



Farmington's Tom Williams' mime interpretations added to the drama of the presentation made by the Michigan Ballet Company at Harrison High School this past weekend.



Photos by Jack Margolis



Urban railroad recalled by Farmington residents

By SHERRY KAHAN

At the turn of the century, it was easier for many Redford Township, Livonia or Farmington residents to get around than it is today.

Workers, housewives, youngsters and the elderly could simply step onto the handy Interurban trolley and much of southeastern Michigan lay at their feet.

For a charge of from five to 25 cents, they could glide up to Pontiac or down Grand River to Detroit. They could even head for points west by first rolling into Northville and transferring to a street car on its way to Plymouth, western Livonia and Wayne. From there, they could head toward Jackson or Battle Creek on the same system.

"The cars could cruise along at 40 miles an hour," recalled Walter Schweizer of Farmington, who rode the Grand River line regularly. "They

could seat about 60 people plus a motorman and conductor."

THE VEHICLES were sparked by electricity delivered from overhead cables by means of a stick-like cable held against the wire by a pulley.

"Sometimes the pulley would come loose from the wire, and the car would come to a dead stop," laughed Mrs. Alice Rossow of Livonia, who grew up in Old Redford, and rode the Grand River trolleys frequently.

"The conductor had to go out on the rear platform, lean back and pull the cable back into place."

The cars, which looked like a Pullman car on a traditional train, was partitioned so that early nicotine users could enjoy their habit without bothering other passengers. "The smoking section could seat about 16 people," said Mrs. Rossow. "But no women ever sat in it."

Schweizer added that "it also had a

(Continued on page 12A)

One upon a Springtime



ONE BRIGHT SPRING DAY, DANNY AND JASON MET A FRIENDLY FROG, HOPPING ALONG IN HIS BEST GREEN OUTFIT. THE BOYS WORE THEIR NEW VESTED SUITS FROM FARAH.

Our suits have tucks on the pockets and tucks on the backs. Striped belts, too. Blazer: 4-7, \$22; 8-12, \$25; 14-20, \$30. Vest: 4-7, \$10; 8-12, \$11; 14-20, \$13. Pants in regulars/slims: 4-7, 10.50; 8-12, 13.50; 26-30" preps, 15.50. Selections vary by store in chino and light blue. Boyswear and Boys' Clothing at Hudson's.

hudson's



There is nothing like a book of photographs to bring back recollections of the old days. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schweizer of Farmington regretted, however, that they had taken no pictures of the trolley cars that once traveled on Grand River through Farmington. The trolley meant not only cars chugging up the line but also extensive track, car barns and a power station soon to become new offices and a restaurant called The Winery. (Staff photo by Sherry Kahan)