

m.m. memos
Margaret Miller

No snow in Michigan? Florida sends regrets

Our daughter who likes to ski had her own theory about Michigan's lack of snow early in the winter.

The snow powers, she reasoned, were waiting for her winter-weary parents to remove themselves from the state. "And when you leave," she told us, "they're going to stamp your hands so you won't be able to get back into Michigan when there should be snow here."

As things worked out, we sneaked out of the state under cover of early morning near-darkness and managed to miss the border patrol. Reports we've heard and read since then indicate the non-white winter has continued almost unabated.

HAVING DEPARTED, we intend to avoid any further participation in the continuing argument between those who love snow play and those who appreciate clear streets.

In fact, we find ourselves already acting like Floridians, worrying over the recent cool temperatures here on behalf of those who are on short stays and want to return north before it warms up.

But we probably should tell our daughter she has lots of sympathy in the south when she bemoans the lack of snow in part of the north.

THE NEWSPAPERS tell us the tourist industry here does a lot of looking northward and is less than happy when it doesn't see long-term frigidly. Not so many people head south when there's less cold to escape.

And we've also noted with some amusement that moderation of weather in the north can play havoc with the

front pages of the paper we read each morning.

An almost-certain front page feature in winter months is an account of how horrible the weather is elsewhere, and the chiller the north winds blow the bigger the play of that story.

Customarily it is accompanied by a cold-looking photograph, preferably of blizzard conditions or someone digging out of at least three feet of snow. And preferably the photo is one from the midwest, since that's where a large portion of this newspaper's readers are from.

THIS YEAR, though, there has been a shortage of such photos from our home state and its neighbors. Atlanta snow and New England ice receive big play. But moderates temperatures in the north and unseasonably cool ones in the south have led to a downgrading of weather news.

Sometimes the report has even been moved off the front page.

But our daughter remains faithful to her theory and continues to hope for a chance to ski.

"Please communicate with the powers that be," she wrote recently, "that you have left Michigan and it's OK for it to snow now."

I'd hate to disillusion her and suggest that she credits her parents with too much influence. But maybe we might own up to that early-morning sneak run.

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for Observer-Newsletters for 16 years. She and her husband Joe recently retired to Florida, where she will continue to write her MM Memos.

Methodist women host 'Mission Festival'

Orchard United Methodist will be hosts for a "Mission Festival" beginning with a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, in the church at 30450 Farmington Road.

Members of El Buen Pastor United Methodist Church in Detroit, the only Hispanic United Methodist Church in Michigan, will participate by bringing ethnic dishes for the potluck. Rev. Eduardo Cartes, pastor of El Buen, will lead the devotions with members of his church sharing ethnic songs and dances.

The multi-cultural congregation represents at least six Latin American countries.

The program for the evening, which runs from 6:30-8 p.m., will be led by David Diaz, a mission interpreter-in-residence assigned by the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. He will speak and show slides on the work of the United Methodist Church with Latin American people.

He is a former assistant principal of Lydia Patterson Institute, El Paso, Texas, a mission school serving predominantly Latin American students.

The evening is sponsored by the Mission Work Area and United Methodist Women of the host church, and is open to area residents without charge. A free will offering will be taken.

Jewish War Veterans offering scholarships

Three Michigan college scholarships in the amount of \$300 are offered by the Department of Michigan Jewish War Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary.

The grants are available to Michigan students who are veterans of the American Armed Forces, or their son, daughter or grandchild.

There is no restriction as to race, sex or creed. Applicants may include students attending accredited institutions of higher education as well as members of the January or June 1983 high school graduating classes.

The qualified student should immediately write a letter requesting scholarship information and forms to Scholarship Committee: 16990 12 Mile, Southfield 48076.

All completed forms must then be returned by April 15.

For further information, call JWW at 559-5660.

Judith S. Pearson Award to cite writing on women

Wayne State University announces the Judith Siegel Pearson Award for the best creative or scholarly work on a subject concerning women.

Fiction, drama, poetry or essays in literary studies of no more than 20 pages are eligible. Competition is open to all interested writers.

Submissions should be anonymous with the author's name on a duplicate title page. There should be two copies of each entry, clearly typed, double-spaced, on one side of standard opaque paper.

Contestants retain copyright of all work submitted.

Manuscripts should be sent to: The Judith Siegel Pearson Award, English Department, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich. 48202 by March 1, 1983. Awards will be presented April 20.

Thursday, February 17, 1983 O&E

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