

# YW ballet takes new step

By MARGARET MILLER

It will be a kind of coming-of-age event when the Northwest branch YWCA ballet school presents its first winter program Friday, Jan. 16. When about 20 of her leading dancers take the stage in Redford Union High School for the performance of two well-known ballets, school director Kathy Rowe of Redford Township will be seeing results of five years of work in the YW's ballet program.

The "Evening of Ballet," scheduled at 7:45 p.m., is a first for the school that for several years has been putting on a June recital and contributing an entertainment performance to the annual Christmas party at the branch, located at 2590 Grand River.

"WE'VE NEVER BEFORE tried this kind of production," Miss Rowe said, "and it's taking a lot of work, coming so soon after the Christmas program. But these dancers are the ones who are willing to work and put

in extra rehearsals to make it go well."

Miss Rowe, who began teaching a few classes at the Northwest YW five years ago and now has 150 students and a four-day schedule there, has planned a three-part program for the first winter session.

Tickets are \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children and may be purchased at the YW or at the school. Kinloch between Six and Seven Mile. The first part of the program will be a demonstration of bar work and the technique taught in ballet classes.

"Many parents," Miss Rowe explained, "have only a vague idea of how a ballet class is conducted. This will help people see what kinds of skills are taught both children and adults."

The dancers then will present "Les Patineurs," by Giacomo Meyerbeer, and a classical ballet using the music of Sergei Prokofiev's "Classical Symphony."

PARTICIPANTS will be mainly

members of the advanced class at the YW, the ones Kathy Rowe describes as "my dancers."

Joining those 11 dancers in some of the scenes in "Les Patineurs," which depicts a skating rink on a Sunday afternoon, will be several of the more advanced students in other classes Miss Rowe teaches.

"We're hoping many of the younger students in our classes will be able to attend the program with their parents," the instructor said.

"I've been able to watch so much maturing and growth in dancing in the time I've been here—I'd like others connected with the program to see what can be accomplished."

A STAR DANCER in the "Evening of Ballet" will be Anne Berry, 17, of Southfield, who has been in Miss Rowe's classes all five years. Miss Berry, a fellow student with Miss Rowe in classes conducted by Mary Ellen Cooper in the Grose Pointe War Memorial, also serves as an assistant teacher in the Northwest YW program.

Her teacher expects to miss her when she goes off next year to Michigan State University to study—not ballet but journalism.

"I want to keep on dancing when I go to college," said Miss Berry, a student at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington, "but I can't consider a career in ballet—I really don't have the build."

"If I were going to do that, I would have started by now. The companies pick their people when they are about 18."

Miss Berry, who will have solo performances in both the ballets to be presented, hopes someday she may be able to put her knowledge of dancing to use professionally—perhaps as a critic. Meanwhile, she's sure she would not trade the 12 years of study she has had.

FOR JILL OBERLEE of Rochester, the coming program has meant a lot of trips to Redford as soon as her work day as an insurance secretary in Birmingham ends.

"But it doesn't take too long to come over," she said, "and I really enjoy working with the group. I started studying with Kathy when I was living near the Y, and it's been worth the traveling to continue."



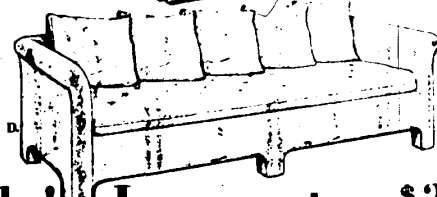
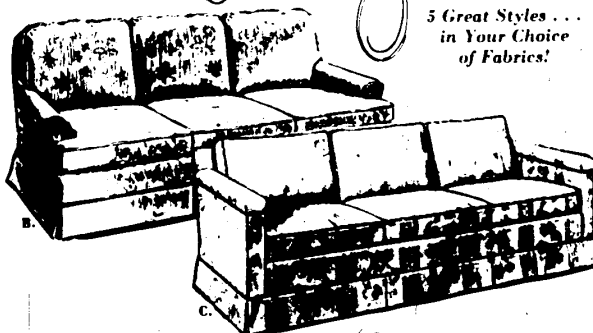
Anne Berry (left) and Jill Oberlee rehearse for the Jan. 16 Northwest YW Evening of Ballet. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)



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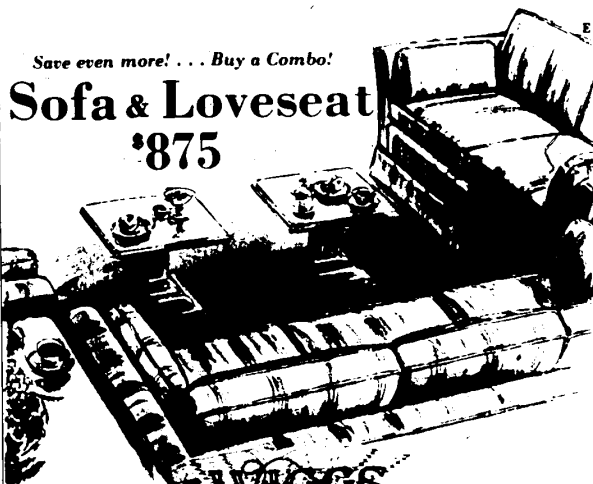
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