Xi Epsilon Beta chooses its first sorority queen

By LORAINE McCLISH

Nancy Drury describes the Xi Epsilon Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi "as sort of a newcomers club. All of us have been members before. We come from all parts of the country."

Mrs. Drury is one of about a dozen new residents to the Farmington and Bloomfield area who found the closest chapter of their international sorority was too far away to their liking and set about forming their own.

Xi Epsilon Beta has yet to reach its first birthday, but is involved in a local service project, has two successful fund-raising events, and has chosen its first queen.

Kathy Schram, of 32636 Woodridge, Farmington, will represent the chapter as its queen when it joins the North Woodward Area Council of Beta Sigma Phi at an annual Valentine's Day Dance in Southfield's Benham Hall.

She was chosen, said President Sally Herbst, "just because we wanted to honor her. Some chapters might select their queen for beauty or for friendliness or some other criteria, we just wanted to honor her."

MEMBERSHIP turnover is high because of the transient nature of the suburbs. Since the chapter received its charter, it has lost four members, and Mrs. Herbst, a former member in Dayton, and originally voted in as vice president, took over the presidency when the president moved away.

But that is part of the value of the club, according to Mrs. Drury, who came here from Florida. "Five of us had already written to international (headquarters) about a chapter here and the rest of the members

we got through a notice in the Club Circuit column (of the Farmington Observer & Eccentric.) Since we were all involved in other chapters and had that as a common background, we were anxious to get together."

Mrs. Schram, formerly a member in an Ann Arbor chapter and now membership chairman, is getting ready for the group's first spring rush for three pledges now but is still on the lookout for newcomers to the area in search of a local chapter.

MRS. SCHRAM describes Beta Sigma Phi as "a social and cultural group." Members take turns hosting two meetings a month with programs this season geared to "Heritage and the Woman." The theme is set by the international board with guidelines for topics and discussion "though we can go where we want with it, follow it as closely or as little as we choose." Mrs. Herbst said.

Likewise, the individual chapter is autonomous in the areas of service to the community, fund raising and social events. Members supply womanpower for the

once-a-week bingo games in Bedford Villa Nursing Home in Farmington. The treasury got its first big boost when the chapter rented a table to sell crafts in a community arts and crafts sale sponsored by the Farmington Jaycettes prior to last Christmas. Members plan a social event once a month which includes husbands.

Most of the members now are doubling up on officer-duties and committee posts and they will all be involved in a city-wide rush scheduled for March by two chapters in Birmingham. And all will be involved in selecting a "favorite charity for a donation of some kind at the end of the year," Mrs. Herbst said.

ONE OF THE club's first purchases was a tiara, which will be worn for the first time by Mrs. Schram when she represents the chapter at the Valentine's Day ball.

She has chosen a pale green chiffon gown to wear that evening with her tiara, her red velvet sash, red roses and her achievement band, a silver charm bracelet of stars and hearts representing earned services to the sorority.

KATHY SCHRAM

SALLY HERBST

Musicale artists stage program of originals

The Farmington Musicale, a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs, will observe Parade of American Music month by presenting a program called "Farmington Musicale Composers and Writers" consisting of original compositions by Betty Love, Eleanor Lorentzen, Peets, June Rado and Charlene Slabey.

The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Farmington Community Library, on 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads, at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4. Refreshments will be served. There will be a small guest fee. Mrs. Charles Osterdale, 30450 Springland

in Farmington Hills, is accepting reservations.

A group of art songs composed by Ms. Slabey will be performed by soprano Mary Sue Ewing and pianist Helen Anderson. "Fantasy," "Voices in Eden: Lucifer and Eve" and "Incantation" have lyrics by June Rado. "Lost" has words by Carl Sandburg, and "Tranquillity," one of a set of three titled "Pieces of Jade," was written to words by Ssu-K'ung T'u.

Marilyn Wallas will read Ms. Rado's trilogy of poems "Psalms for the Present," written at the request of Ms. Slabey, who

is presently setting them to music for soloists, chorus and instruments. In addition she will read Ms. Rado's "Selected Letters from Sludge Creek," one of two humorous sketches; the second of which, "The Invitation," will be read by the author.

Maxine Skelton Zeitz will present Mrs. Love's "Suite for Piano," which has four movements: Presto, Lamentoso, Tranquillo and Scherzo Malinconico. Eleanor Peets will perform her own compositions: "Romance" and short selections from her piano suite "Travelogue." As a memorial tribute to Geri Szanto, well known Detroit area concert pianist, she will also perform Szanto's "Portrait of a Dancer" and "Nubanesit."

Mrs. Love studied piano from age five to 19, primarily with Harold DeRemer of Detroit. She studied at the Detroit Institute of Musical Arts with Margaret Mannebach, and is currently studying composition with Robert Jones, composer-in-residence at Schoolcraft College.

She began composing in May of 1973. She has sung in church choirs for 14 years and women's choral groups for five years, so most of her compositions have been for solo voice, chorus or organ. Various soloists and groups from Farmington Musicale, Tuesday Musicale, of which is is also a member, and Nardin Park United Methodist Church have performed her compositions.

Ms. Peets studied from the age of six with her mother, who was a pianist, organ

1st and vocal soloist. At age nine she studied piano and cello at The Detroit Institute of Musical Arts, coaching with Margaret Mannebach in piano and Dr. Manville in theory.

She also has studied with Jorge Bolet, and at Carnegie in New York under Dr. Lewis Pudney. At present she is president of the Friday Musicale, vice-president of Four Octave and a director of Tuesday Musicale. She is also listed as an accredited teacher of piano with highest certification in the National Music Teachers Association and Michigan Music Teachers Association, and claims Deanna Persch, who is president of the Student League of Tuesday Musicale as her student.

Ms. Rado took master classes with Prof.

Josef Raieff of Julliard, and studied with Leonard Shure and Beryl Rubenstein at the Cleveland Institute of Music. She trained as a concert pianist and has performed as such, but family responsibilities precluded further pursuit of that career.

She earned her living for a time as a creative writer, and has had light verse published in various periodicals. She wrote a one-act comedy, "Auditions Impossible," and together with Ms. Slabey wrote the musicals "Mackinac" and "The Power of It All," the cantata "A Star Out of Jacob" and several art songs.

She has worked in collaboration with four composers in Tuesday Musicale's Composers Group, and is a member of Tuesday Musicale.

Ms. Slabey is a graduate in piano from the Detroit Institute of Musical Art which is the music department of the University of Detroit. She has been teaching piano 26 years and is a member of Delta Omicron, a national honorary music fraternity.

Her composition professor is Dr. Anthony Iannaccone. Currently she is working on a masters degree in theory and composition. She has served on the Piano Teachers Advisory Board at Schoolcraft College. The pieces she wrote alone that will be performed on this program have been played on radio station WQRS. In conjunction with Ms. Rado she has written two musical plays, a cantata, several art songs and a new chamber opera, "Lydia."
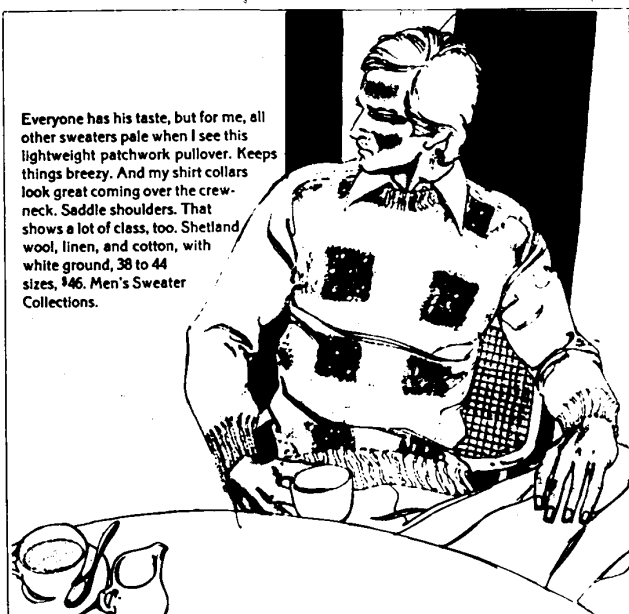
CHARLENE SLABEY

JUNE RADO

New reading room opens

A recent newcomer to the downtown Farmington area is the Christian Science Reading Room at 3321 Grand River, provided by members of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Farmington. They leased and remodeled the building once occupied by the Secretary of State's office. It contains a complete selection of authorized Christian Science writings and a selection of reference works and research aids for in-depth study of the King James version of the Bible. It is open for public use from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and Friday evenings from 7-9 p.m.