

m.m.memos

I never fancied myself in the role of a gasoline station attendant, but the price of that stuff that makes cars go does strange things even to staid types like me.

So there I was, on one of the coldest days of winter, trying to pump fuel into my beat-up gas-guzzler.

I'd been working up to this returning-back commitment gradually, of course. At first, I just looked for places a little cheaper and steered clear of anything that had self-service.

My knowledge of car anatomy, I should explain, was restricted to what appears on the dashboard, so I wasn't even sure how to locate the gas tank inlet, let alone how to get the cap off.

BUT YOUNGER DRIVERS in the family were more venturesome and started heading into self-serve stations. That gave me a new opportunity I crossed their palms with green when they were going out and had them fill the tank for me.

There was a problem with that system, though I couldn't always remember to run low on gasoline at a time when one of the girls would have the car.

So when a shiny, new self-service station



By MARGARET MILLER

opened, right on my beaten path and with a relatively low per-gallon price, I drove in one day when I had a daughter in the passenger seat.

She obligingly showed me how to lift the license plate and find the tank—not hard at all and the cap screwed off quite readily—and how to lift the lever on the pump to start the gas flowing. Seemed easy except that she got gas on her gloves.

SO THEN I CAME to the next fill-up time, and I was on my own into the station, as if I knew what I was doing. Gloves off, in spite of the cold I didn't want them smelling of petrol.

Up to the pump. Lift the lever. Stretch the hose. It hardly reached. I should have pulled the car up farther.

Numbers raced by on the pump indicator, and I figured all was well. But then the car ahead of me drove up to the pay booth, and it turned out it was his numbers I was watching.

Pull the car up to make the hose reach, try again. Nothing happened. Then a voice came over the loudspeaker, suggesting I make sure the lever was up.

I elicited it firmly and found success at last. The hands were from, but there was a great feeling of accomplishment as I drove forward to pay for the gas I pumped.

I must say I'm glad I didn't choose to pump gasoline for a living. I'm sure those who operate the stations are even more glad.

But just maybe, when the weather gets warmer, I'll pluck up some more courage and go into one of those do-it-yourself car washes.



Alice in Wonderland

Alice and a strange assortment of creatures from Wonderland cavort on stage in the Rag-a-Muffin's production of the children's classic coming to the Farmington Community Center Saturday, Feb. 7. Sheryl Janney takes the title role in "Alice in Wonderland" which can be seen at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. Early reservations are suggested, through the center.

Club Circuit

AMERICAN LEGION, Fives-Walkers Post, and its auxiliary will hold a joint meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5. The group meets in Farmington's American Legion Hall, 3175 Grand River.

SENIOR CITIZEN DROP-IN CENTER, of Farmington, is open every Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Masonic Temple, Grand River and Farmington Road. Guests are asked to bring a sandwich for lunch. Coffee and dessert are furnished.

BRIAR HIL BOOK CLUB meets at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, in the home of Marian Gahagan, 2992 Briarton. This month's meeting will be conducted by Barbara Lopinski.

FARMINGTON WELCOME WAGON meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, in Farmington Hills Community Library on Twelve Mile Road to hear Dr. Weldon Pez talk on Abraham Lincoln.

Members are invited to bring their husbands. The club membership is open to all persons who have lived in Farmington or Farmington Hills for less than one year.

LA LECHE LEAGUE, of Farmington, continues its series of meetings with "The Art of Breastfeeding and Overcoming Difficulties" at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, 3007 Papers Lane, Farmington.

The meetings are open to all women in the area interested in breastfeeding their infants. Membership inquiries will be taken by calling Janet Scheer, 478-4008.

NEW HORIZONS, Women's Auxiliary, will meet at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in the home of Mrs. John Teasmar, 3276 Eastlady Drive, Birmingham. Mrs. William Salter, of Southfield, Mrs. G.T. Etheridge, of Farmington Hills and Mrs. Edward Bracken of Birmingham will assist the hostess.

New Horizons is a non-profit organization offering vocational training and employment opportunity for the physically and mentally handicapped. The main office and workshop is located in Pontiac. Branches are in Madison Heights and Farmington Hills. Auxiliary president, Mrs. Charles Drent, of Birmingham, welcomes persons to this meeting who are interested in learning more about the organization.

SENIOR CITIZENS SOCIAL CLUB, of Farmington, meets at noon Friday, Feb. 12, in First United Methodist Church social hall, Grand River and Warner. Guests are asked to bring a sandwich for lunch. Cards will be available for afternoon recreation.

FARMINGTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB meets at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, in Room 101-G of Farmington High School, 3200 Shiloh. All meetings of

the club are open to all persons interested in amateur radio.

FARMINGTON NEIGHBORS CLUB meets for a noon luncheon in the Farmington Community Center, Wednesday, Feb. 18. The program for the day will be a lecture and demonstration of Japanese brush painting by Mary Bowman. Advance reservations are necessary, through Helen Brinza, 478-0225.

MONDAY BOOK REVIEW

with RABBI SHERWIN WINE of Robert Firtig's astoundingly good new work on philosophy and life style
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