



COOKIE CUTTER DESIGNER



AID TO THE AGING



REAL ESTATE SALESMAN

### 3 who made it

## Goodbye 45.... Hello new career

LORRAINE MCCLISH

Three women who launched new careers after each was passed 45 years of age told how they did it to an audience in Schoolcraft College this week.

Each had been mothers for about 20 years. Each had taken some kind of inventory of themselves, trying to discern what she wanted to do with the rest of her life.

GERRY DODDS got her high school diploma later than most, via a GED test, but after a short time selling real estate for Thompson-Strom, she was averaging \$600 a month "which I think is just terrific," she said.

before she researched job skills and requirements in the resource center.

All of the panel advised women their age looking for new careers to "poke around, ask questions, and research every possible facet" of the job they were going after.

Mrs. Dodds added, "And take every opportunity to say yes. Every time you say yes, I will help you on that, that experience will come back to you seven fold."

AUDREY CUNNINGHAM is a Plymouth resident and a graduate nurse who volved back and forth between volunteer work and contemplating going back to school so she could teach nursing.

Her idea sent her into researching metal ties, patents, packaging (she claims it to be the only cookie cutter sold in a box), packaging design, embossing, advertising, sales, test marketing and even keeping records—all of which was new to her.

In the interim she received help from the school's resource center, the small business administration and SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives).

DOROTHY JANE GAITSKILL started thinking about what she wanted to do in the way of a career about six years ago, but it wasn't until she picked up a 78-year-old woman who was hitchhiking to the grocery store, less than two years ago, that she set her mind on helping the elderly.

## The Observer & Eccentric Farmington LIFE

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The memory of her grocery shopping partner never left her. In her pursuit to "do something about this," she ultimately brought teens from Northville High School and some professionals together who now

provide a once-a-week, free bus service for elderly residents in Northville including the town's nursing home.

Her plan gives seniors at the high school a 20-hour-a-week job assisting on the bus and with shopping chores, and brings the elderly and teenagers in touch with one another.

She had never written a proposal for state or federal monies before, nor did she have the least idea of how that was done but "one thing leads to another and it all begins with inquiry," she said.

full-time job in Detroit with the Wayne County Office on Aging.

THE THREE SPEAKERS wound up talking about their personal experiences with a lot of conclusions compiled from their individual searches.

- 1) College is not necessary, but it helps. Even if you get credits two hours here, and four hours there, you'll never get any if you don't start now. 2) You can do anything you want to do because you know so much more than you think you know. 3) It is valid to change your mind. 4) Life is a process that never ends. Keep growing, keep doing, keep changing with it. 5) Don't be afraid to find your own route. Conventional ways are not always the right way. 6) Confidence comes with doing. 7) Choose to be successful.

## Back to school after 36 years

(Editor's note) Toni Lewis was born in Germany more than 50 years ago. She now makes her home and runs a business in Westland. When she was a child, she wrote a book, brought her book to school. She shares her thoughts and feelings on the subject with our readers.

By TONI LEWIS Just because you are over 50 does not mean you are finished learning, or through going to school.

go back to school after 36 years" and "Why would anybody want to do this?"

School is not only for the young generation. Learning is for all of us, at all ages. You must learn until the day you die.

What would the young kids think of the grandmother of seven, and how would I compete with 18-year-olds fresh from high school, still with the knowledge of grammar in their minds, knowing verbs, adverbs and pronouns, things I never heard of before.

I have been in school now for a couple of months and I have found book-learning is not as fast as it was when I was younger. The most hassle for me is the term papers. They drive me up a tree. My nerves are like led rubberbands. But I'm trying to use experience which I have learned from in my life, and that helps a lot.

Meanwhile, her thought of becoming a professional artist was waning "mostly because no counselor in her right mind is going to advise a 56-year-old woman to start a career in art."

## Farmington Family Players

## Families that play together

The Farmington Family Players is a tight knit group of children and their parents who are putting on plays to build stronger, closer family ties.

HUSBAND OF director Sawyer and male lead in the play, Jerry "Buz" Sawyer, said, "We don't worry too much if somebody drops or flubs a line, we just ad lib and keep going." He was right and they did.

The simple living room set served as the center of the play's action. Mrs. Sawyer explained, "In a couple of years we will be able to afford a better set. Right now, we have to rob everybody's houses." Including her husband added, these words.

ferent means of communication within a structured format. Direction for improvement in acting technique could conceivably offer its members a mental measuring device as a means of interpreting thought and action.

A community project which links family members, friends, school, library, church and neighbors in a common enterprise is a formidable accomplishment. Never mind that the "theatrical" outcome is less than spectacular. Such a coalition, even a tenuous one, is an admirable goal in itself.



SALLY SAWYER

## Salisburys team up again for Farmington Players

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

When Jan Salisbury took on the job of ticket chairman for the Farmington Players this season, she thought it would preclude her taking a part onstage.

She's back again on stage as Catherine in Paul Zindel's "And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little," directed by Bill Salisbury.

It will be the fifth time the two have worked together in community theater.

"I have complete faith in Bill as a director and that is very necessary in working together."

She took the part of Anna in a guest workshop production of "Miss Reardon," so it is a completely different experience for her to tackle the part of Catherine. It's not too often one has the opportunity to play two entirely different characters in the same show, she said.

set of the Farmington Players." His first time on stage called for two loans in a workshop production in early 1969.

"I had no other credentials but desire going for me when I graduated from small parts in larger ones, culminating in BFI in 'Death of a Salesman,' and George in 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf,'" he said.

"Miss Reardon" is his third directing job, followed by "Goodbye Charlie" and "Hailaway Up A Tree."

Salisbury cites his approach to directing as "very serious" and his main goal as "creating an environment surrounding my shows of people having fun."

"THIS MEANS striving for that last bit of emotion in a scene or the exact piece of time to extract the desired effect, however," he explained.

"The hard work of a long rehearsal schedule reaps its own rewards when the show is presented. The Farmington Players are a joy to work with. The spirit of cooperation is outstanding and the skills necessary to produce good theater is there in abundance."

Salisbury said he spoke for both himself and his wife when he said, "I feel community theater."

"And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little" is set to run for three consecutive weekends in the Players Barn on Twelve Mile between Orchard Lake and Farmington Road. Tickets are on sale now through the box office, 961-6888.



BILL AND JAN SALISBURY

## Warner teacher named 'Careerist'

By MARGARET MILLER

The kind of involvement that for Paula Joyner began back in Livonia Stevenson High School is carrying her to the state competition for Young Careerist of the Year for the Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc.

Mrs. Joyner, 25 and a teacher of vocal music at Warner Junior High School in Farmington, was picked by BWPW District 9 as its representative for the state title when the Michigan BWPW convenes in Southfield next month.

And for the District standard-bearers, fitting in time to prepare a speech for that competition will be just a matter of combining the kind of full schedule that has been her life for years.

"I guess I got busy in high school and couldn't stop," she said.

As a young adult, it means, in addition to teaching duties and after-school choir work, active membership in the Livonia Joyce Auxiliary, Livonia's Friends of the Barn, Inc., Friends of the Library, the Ecology Commission, the Democratic Party,

Common Cause and the Music Educators National Conference—and the BWPW.

SELECTION of Mrs. Joyner, who was Young Careerist for the Livonia BWPW in 1973, as well as 1974, attended a recent Sunday brunch for District 9 members.

She took editor of the Garden City Observer & Eccentric and the nominee of the Garden City BWPW, was runner-up in the competition that included a written resume, a talk before the members and interviewing by three judges.

The other competitors were Therese Whitten, a young weaver nominated by the Plymouth club, and Colleen Mahon, social worker who represented the South Redford Club.

Judges were Barbara Gell, Schoolcraft College director of admissions, Jean Day, women's editor of the Northville Record, and Fran L'Heureux, Plymouth beauty consultant. Louise Cutler of Northville was competition chairman.

MRS. SALISBURY's roots lay in western Canada. She has lived in Farmington for the past 13 years and has taken on roles for the Players, for area theater groups and area churches. She was last seen on stage as "Charlie" in last season's "Goodbye Charlie" for the Players.