

Ice cream parlour birthdays prove popular

Looking for a place to hold an old-fashioned birthday party? One establishment to consider might be the newly-reopened Soda Saloon, 2200 Five Mile, one block east of Middle Belt in Livonia. Owned and operated by John and Georgia Gumas, the store operates with a policy of going all out to make sure that each birthday child has a party to remember. The festive ice cream parlor now serves food and is open for lunches daily. Carry-out service is also available.

Recently, Barbi Rogaczewski, daughter of Mary Rogaczewski, 22731 Tulane, Farmington Hills, was surprised when she walked in on the planned secret bash and saw 10 of her pals and family waiting at the large, red picnic-style tables. Gumas of the Soda Saloon had arranged for all of their regular entertainment to appear that night, starting with the Livonia Bentley High School Choir, who serenaded to a packed house.

Next was Greg Gumas, 13, son of

John and Georgia Gumas, of Livonia. Greg is a magician whose repertoire includes professional tricks up his sleeve and prop tricks distributed all over the stage.

Greg's stage presence and timing are notable. He pulls out scarves from mid-air, makes bottles filled with water disappear, pulls a rabbit from under a hat and takes a volunteer from the audience, puts them in a square box, sticks swords throughout the box, and then, when he pulls out the swords, out pops a gorilla, to the delight of the audience. And all the while telling jokes and using people from the audience as helpers for his tricks. Greg gets everybody into the act.

"I learned most of my tricks by myself," states Greg, whose hobbies include, besides his magic, horseback riding and roller skating, coincidental to the fact that the Gumas' also have been running the food concession at the Riverside Skating Arena for many years.

While the kids ate a meal of hot dogs, cake and ice cream, popcorn, cotton candy and drank root beer, couples and individuals from the Livonia Bentley choir took turns singing to the gathering.

As a special surprise, Bob Gilbert, 17, son of Jack Gilbert, of Livonia, sang a sweet love song to young Barbi, who was embarrassed but enjoyed it anyway.

The real surprise of the evening didn't even faze the efficient Gumas', as they discovered that there were three other kids also celebrating birthdays the same night. Turning 16 was Sandy McKee, a Farmington High School sophomore. Lisa Barry, 16, of Livonia, sang a rousing rendition of "Hey, Big Spender" to an embarrassed-about-to-turn-green McKee in honor of his birthday.

A friend of McKee, Yvonne Roth, of Livonia, turned 15. Yvonne's father, Richard J. Roth, is a resident of Farmington Hills on Tulane. Jim Pollard, 20, a Schoolcraft College student from Livonia, sang a love song to her.

And busy Bob Gilbert sang a song in honor of the 11th birthday of Robin Prato, daughter of Diana Aquino, of Belleville, a guest of Barbi.

"We'll be having a lot more entertainment," claims Gumas. "We're in the planning stages of producing a 'Gong Show' complete with celebrity judges."

"The musical group, the Dixie Cats, are now appearing every Sunday," said Gumas. "Starting this summer, we will have the professional mime, Tyvone Sally, 16, of Plymouth."

Both of the Gumas claim a great love for kids and want to make their establishment a showcase for budding new talent. "We're always on the lookout for more," they said, "and we always want to be sure that our customers have a really great time."

To help insure that goal, the Gumas have enlisted the talents of local actor-writer, TV producer Russ Vogel, a Livonian, to put together a 15-20 minute show to be done at regular intervals as an extra drawing card for the saloon.

Vogel, who is TV's Sawdust the Clown, is known for his shopping mall shows: "The Mipps" at the Livonia Mall, and most recently, "Dudley the Dragon," at the Oakland and Macomb Malls and soon to be done in Livonia. Vogel also has a TV special coming up tentatively titled "The Wacky World of Make-believe." Vogel performs nationally and is curly currently scheduled to tour the country with Dudley and the Mipps.

The Gumas' have a soft spot for bringing fun for the mentally retarded children. "Somewhere someone's got to do something for these children," relates Gumas. "Jerry Lewis has his telethon for muscular dystrophy and other people have their special causes. In early summer we're going

to do a special benefit for the retarded kids. We'll bring them in from Northville. It's really touching to watch their reactions to these shows, a real pleasure for us."

In mid-summer of 1976, the Soda Saloon did a special show for the trainable retarded from the Harrison School in Livonia, which was covered by Robbie Timmons and the TV-2 news crew.

The Soda Saloon, with its old-fashioned popcorn machine and showcases with homemade candy is similar to many other ice cream parlors but claims a more personalized touch. Barbi summed up her evening by saying, "This is the best party I ever had. This place is sure a lot of fun."



Bob Gilbert(left) croons a tune for Larkshire student Barbara Rogaczewski, who recently celebrated her birthday.



Magician Gregory Gumas, 13, stages a disappearing act with the aid of volunteer Bobby Roth.

Wolverine State draws students

Twenty-two Farmington students were among more than 1,300 Michigan students participating in the annual Girls and Boys State programs last week held at Olivet College and Michigan State University.

The 37th session of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State gave 10 Farmington girls an opportunity to enjoy nine days on the Olivet campus, where they participated in an in-depth government learning program.

North Farmington High School students attending the conference were Kristin Gunderson, 33678 Colony Park, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of North Farmington; Carolyn Hooper, 28976 Farmington Road, sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary; and Susan Riedel, 27815 Peppermill, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of North Farmington.

Deborah Hatch, 33647 York Ridge Drive, originally chosen as a Girls State representative, was unable to attend the session. Alternates for NFHS were Juliette Rogier, 26488 Pleasant Valley, and Marianne Thomas, 28826 Foxgrove.

HARRISON HIGH girls included Julie Markovich, 30115 Thirteen Mile, sponsored by the City of Farmington Hills; Anne McDewitt, 25144 Castleleigh, and Barbara Vagnozzi, 26193 Kiltartan, both sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of North Farmington.

Alternates were Holly David, 29542 Gramercy; Leann Gorte, 24746 Springbrook; and Shelly Wood, 26650 Badalmon.

Farmington Senior High girls included Krista Faria, 33530 Shawassee, sponsored by the Groves-Walker Unit No. 346 of the American Legion Auxiliary; Marianne Lavere, 24605 Glen Orchard, sponsored by the City of Farmington; and Carol Svoboda, 42426 Farmington Rd, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Farmington.

Alternates were Lori Kanny, 33265 Cloverdale; Cathy Mullen, 21228 Birchwood; and Alicia Bergers, 21298 Eastfair Lane.

Michelle Abowd, 29238 Twelve Mile, was the Our Lady of Mercy High representative, sponsored by the Our Lady of Sorrows Altar Society. Miss Abowd's alternate was Donna Brown, 31174 Byereth.

The purpose of Girls State is to provide citizenship training for girls of high school age; to afford them an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens; to inform them about

the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.

AMERICAN LEGION Wolverine Boys State, held on the MSU campus, is structured so that the students may put the theories of American Government into actual practice as they are taught in the classroom.

This is done through the actual control of city, county, and state offices organized as a mythical 51st state. The program is designed as a practical experience in the problems of self-government as operated in Michigan.

Twelve Farmington students, who just completed their junior year in high school, attended the 4th session. Farmington High Students were Daniel Hickey, 33335 Glenview, sponsored by the City of Farmington; Phillip Stitnick, 33921 Macomb, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Farmington; Craig Misch, 34201 Conroy Court, sponsored by the Exchange Club of Farmington; and Mark Poindexter, 23719 Whittaker, sponsored by the American Legion Groves-Walker Post, No. 346.

Alternates were Martin Bona, 36679 Vicary Lane; Kevin Bersche, 23963 Colchester; Terry Inch, 23140 Meadowlark; and Thomas Svoboda, 27750 Livingston Circle.

Harrison High students included Rocky Ellens, 25762 Kilreigh, and Dan Flesher, 28126 Harwich, both sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of North Farmington; Brett Homover, 25211 Skye Drive, sponsored by the City of Farmington Hills; and Tim Kay, 25531 Lyncastle, sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees.

Alternates were Pat Driscoll, 29937 Pipers Lane; Tom Ervin, 25101 Springland; Gary Koel, 25101 Cretaceous; and Peter Lambert, 25503 Lyncastle.

North Farmington High students were Jeffrey Hildebrand, 28260 New Castle, sponsored by the American Legion Groves-Walker Post, No. 346; Mark Honeyman, 27850 Peppermill, and Mark Thompson, 30728 Fourteen Mile, both sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of North Farmington; and Peter Vandenberg, 26267 Hidden Valley, sponsored by the Lions Club.

Alternates were Todd Langen, 30637 Woodstream Dr.; Timothy Mather, 32443 Nottingham; Christopher Rentz, 33992 Gloucester Circle; and John Crotty, 33035 Red Clover.

Phi Mu alumni holds shower

Phi Mu alumnae held a poolside shower for their Delta Pi (Western Michigan University) chapter at the home of Joyce Bisson in Farmington Hills on June 21.

Alumnae members brought household gifts, including two folding tables, a rubber plant, and many kitchen and decorative items, for the sorority house in Kalamazoo.

Laurie Norman of Flint is president of the collegiate chapter. Gail Highland of Bloomfield Hills is president of the alumnae chapter.

Farmington students on dean's list

Kathleen Czajkowski of Farmington Hills and John C. Fennell of Farmington have been named to the dean's list of the University of Michigan-Dearborn School of Engineering for winter 1977.

Students named to the dean's list have achieved a 3.4 grade point average or better.

Northwood graduates

Five Farmington area students were among more than 400 students who recently graduated from Northwood Institute in Midland.

Farmington residents include: Shawn Marie Conway, BBA, cum laude graduate; Jeanne Marie Domperiere, AA; and Kelly Anne Lacore, AA.

Farmington Hills residents include Jerry Michael Makinen, AA-BBA, magna cum laude graduate, and Charles Patrick Audette, Jr., AA.

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Candidates speak

A candidate's night for those running for the Farmington Hills City Council will be on July 13 at 8 p.m. at the Civic Center Office Plaza, Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

Each candidate will be allowed a three-minute opening statement, fol-

lowed by questions from the floor.

The Farmington Democratic Club is hosting this meeting as a public service, and all are invited. For further information contact John Campbell at 474-9404.