



Farmington Observer

Suburban Life

Monday, September 28, 1977

1 P. 8A

Shop thrives on friendly, casual air

By CHRIS MEEHAN

"We had the idea of opening a book-store for a long time," said Jerry Cunningham, the 52-year-old owner of Jerry's New-Used Bookstore, at 2362 Farmington Road. "Finally, when I got laid off at the trucking company, we decided to give it a try."

Cunningham and his small, brown-haired wife, Bertha, opened the store nine years ago. Today, while they aren't wealthy, they are happy and they earn a good living.

What makes them unique is that both are victims of polio.

Polio struck Mrs. Cunningham when she was 2 years old. She walks with a cane. Her husband was cut down by the disease in his early teens. Today, he is confined to a wheelchair.

The couple met 19 years ago at a National Association for the Physically Handicapped.

FROM THE start, reading was one of the couple's biggest interests.

"We both loved reading and collecting books from early childhood," Mrs. Cunningham said, "so we had lots of books to start with when we opened the store."

She is partial to romances, while he likes mysteries and biographies.

Their first store, a converted pizzeria on Grand River, almost went under. Cunningham says it was a real struggle. "Many's the time I wanted to chuck it all," he recalls. Mrs. Cunningham's job in as a secretary at an office supply store helped make ends meet.

But ironically, the turning point in the business came when she quit her job and started selling books full-time. Today, one of the store's biggest attractions is the friendly, homey atmosphere she created.

"Bertha makes the store for me," said Marion Magnusson, a Bloomfield

Hills housewife who was browsing in the store recently. "I come in to buy a book, sure. But talking to her is just as important."

Another customer, Bill Stark of Farmington, added that the Cunninghams go out of their way to get him his favorite reading materials. Tarzan and Sherlock Holmes.

THE STORE is one of the largest and best-stocked bookstores in the area, with thousands of science fiction novels, mysteries, westerns and romances.

Seniors and retirees get a 10 percent discount. When the Cunninghams moved into their present store in downtown Farmington, the moving was a community effort, preceded by customers who helped by cleaning and painting the new quarters.

Even today, customers often unload books, sweep floors or take Princess, the Cunningham's German shepherd, for a stroll. And they have been known to work the cash register on occasion.

Cunningham's biggest job is ordering and buying books. Accompanied by Princess, he makes two or three trips a week in his hand-driven car to local book distributors: book fairs and estate sales.

THE COUPLE is also active in charity work. Their store is a drop-off point for eye glasses and clothing, which Cunningham runs down to the Salvation Army in Detroit once a week.

Hours at the store are long: 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week.

"But it's worth it," Cunningham says. "It's a great feeling to know that you run your own life."

His wife agrees. The first few years were a little rough, she says, but with the help from their friends, she says, "I wouldn't have it any other way."



Bookdealer Jerry Cunningham collects eyeglasses which are turned over to the Salvation Army.



Bertha Cunningham, who gave the shop its friendly, casual air, poses with her companion, Princess.

William Frizzelles mark 65th anniversary

William and Mary Frizzelle, of Farmington Hills, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary at a party hosted by their sons for 40 guests. The couple were married Sept. 9, 1912, in Muncie, Ind.

Frizzelle was born in Galipolis, O., and his wife in Albany, Ind. After their marriage, the couple moved to Ohio, then Michigan, then California, and back to Michigan.

Their two sons, William and Robert, are both residents of Farmington Hills. Frizzelle is a retired toolmaker. The couple have six grandchildren:

Shirley Gaebler, of Vernon, Tex.; Barbara Wielichowski, of Fenton; William Frizzelle, of Cass Lake; Terry Frizzelle, of Taylor; Eric Frizzelle, of Farmington; and Linda Norman, of Sturgis.

Their great grandchildren are Julie Stanley and Steve Wielichowski, both of Fenton; Tina Frizzelle, of Taylor; Craig and Johnny Frizzelle, of Cass Lake; Christie, Michael, and Susan Norman, of Sturgis; and Bobby Gaebler, of Vernon, Tex.

Their great great grandchild is Andy Stanley, of Fenton.



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM FRIZZELLE

Rummage for sale

Fall and winter clothing for the entire family, winter sports equipment, Christmas decorations, and a host of attic treasures will be for sale when the women of Orchard United Methodist Church hold their eighth annual "Fall Closet and Rummage Sale."

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sept. 30 in the fellowship hall of the church on Farmington Road, north of 13 Mile.

The proceeds will be used to aid both overseas and local mission projects, as well as the women's own program of modernizing the church kitchen.

MACLD hosts coffee to meet new members

The Farmington Chapter of Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (MACLD) will host a Get-Acquainted Coffee at 8 p.m. Sept. 28 in First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall on Farmington Road, near Eleven Mile, in Farmington Hills.

The Farmington chapter is the only one in the Michigan association in the immediate area. Consequently, members come from all surrounding communities.

The group is made up of parents who have children with learning disabilities, their teachers, and others who are interested in being aware of new methods and techniques devised to aid these children in learning.

The reacquainted meeting will be hosted by the board members and advisors of Farmington MACLD, who will introduce special education

administrators and teachers from Farmington, Clarensville and Novi.

The Michigan association of the host group is a non-profit organization and an affiliate of the American Association for Children with Learning Disabilities.

It is the only national organization devoted to defining and finding solutions for the broad spectrum of learning problems. Its membership consists of parents and professionals.

THE PROGRAM for the evening will consist of a film called "You Aren't Listening." It portrays a child with learning disabilities, his symptoms, diagnosis and educational plan.

A question and answer session will follow. Guests are invited to browse through numerous publications that will be displayed on the subject of learning disabilities. Some are free, and others are for sale.

Singers salute Sooner state

Barbershop harmony will ring out Nov. 11-12, 1949 at Our Lady of Mercy High School auditorium in Farmington Hills when the South Oakland County Chapter of Sweet Adelines, Inc., presents "Hats Off to Oklahoma!" at 8:15 p.m.

A special benefit matinee for the Oakland County Easter Seal Society is scheduled for Nov. 13 at the same location.

Each production will feature the SOC Chapter chorus, other Sweet Adelines, and Detroit area members from the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA).

Nora Van Deven of Birmingham will be featured in the role of Ado Annie, the vivacious flirt who "Can't Say No." SOC Chapter chorus director and show music director Jacki Kaye of Farmington Hills will appear as the warm and hearty Aunt Eller.

ADO ANNIE'S beau, Will Parker, will be played by Wayne Brumm of Birmingham. Allan McPherson of Farmington will appear as Slim and Sally Burns of Troy as Ellen.

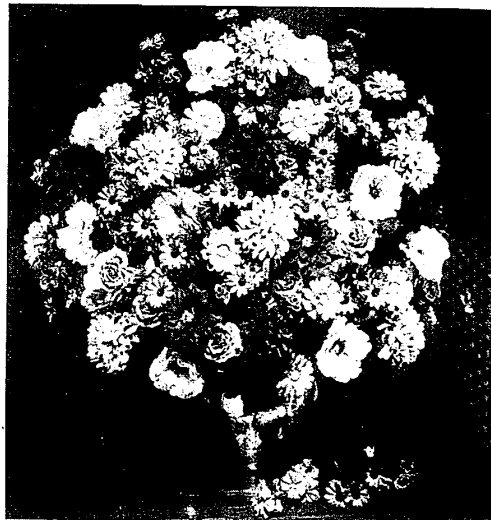
Special dancers include Janet Burweger of Bloomfield Hills, Jeanette Monaghan of Rochester, Penny Holiday of Lake Orion, Barbara Patrick of Southfield, Sally Burns and June Budzen of Birmingham.

Others appearing in the cast include Mary Bugis, Virginia Finney, Louise McCall, Marian Tuttle and Janice Hodskins, all of Birmingham; and assistant show chairman Del McPherson of Farmington.

Troy cast members include Gloria Hartman, also playing Aunt Eller; Mary Ann Frank, Janet and Peter Kaip, and Ruth Swanson.

Also appearing will be Evelyn Harper and Lee Macon of Rochester, Hermine Finger of Southfield and Mary Sands of Bloomfield Hills.

For ticket reservations, call Maria McClintock at 386-2629 or Mary Bugis at 645-0518.



Lasting splendors of Autumn, by Corham

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Thursday, September 29

Jacobson's
store for the home
BIRMINGHAM

FREE PARKING JUST A STEP AWAY - WE WILL VALIDATE YOUR TICKET

Pyle kicks off seminar

Ernest Pyle, recently appointed vice-president and trust officer of the Birmingham Division of Detroit Bank and Trust Company, will be the first business executive to speak as part of the seminar "The Exciting Challenge of Estate Planning."

His subject is "trusts."

The seminar is offered once a year in Farmington Community Center, and begins Sept. 27, and continues for seven Tuesdays, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Pyle joins the seminar with top business executives in the area who are experts in the fields of wills, stocks and bonds, life insurance, real estate, legal suits and taxes.



G. ERNEST PYLE