By ETHEL SIMMONS
Birmingham resident Mark Lashlee
is singing the oraises of Deroit.
In fact, Lashlee is only one of a
group of talende, enthusiastic creative people who have banded together
to write, produce and star in a new
"show appropriately titled "Detroit."

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They hope that the exclamation point at the end of the title will do as much for "Detroit!" as it did for "Oklahoma!"

Lashlee, a Detroit booster from 'way back, although he is a young man, originated the idea for the show, which he describes as a play with music.

Formerly a guitarist with Mel Ball and Colours and then leader of the group Friendship. Lashlee had written several songs about Detroit and recorded some of them on his own label. Life.

"I WANTED to develop a play about a band in a bar in Detroit." he said.

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In "Detroit." Lashke plays a band-leader, naturally. Other characters are Alifo Most, an ex-boxer who is an ex-middleweight championship con-tender, portrayed by Albert Zolton of Farmington Hills: Agnes Pairchild (Saint Agnes), who once ran a mission but lost faith in herself, played by Mary Callaghan Lynch of Birming-ham: and Chiek Stone, who had a suc-cessful Packard dealership fand you know what happened to Packard1, olaved by William Unger of Detroit.

nlaved by William unges of some In other words three losers. "Through these people, you see new-hope for Detroit." Lashlee explained Roosevelt Richardson appears in the show as a black man who is the ulti-mate hope of Detroit. "The show closes at the point of inception of Renaissance." Lashlee said. "A Detroit" (pronounced "a De-war which is "To Detroit" in French is a song written by Lashlee. "It will

twa" which is "To Detroit" in French is a song written by Lashlee. "It will be our curtain call. Hopefully. there will be one."

First performances of "Detroit".

First performances of "Detroit" are slated for 8:30 pm. Oct. 7 and 8 at the McAuley Auditorium of Mercy College. at the Sudhfield Freeway and Outer Drive in Detroit.

Other Drive in Detroit.

IF THE SHOW takes hold, it will continue in dinner theater format at Mercy. The college has a history of successful dinner theater productions, including Phil Marcus Esser's presentation "Jacques Brel" and his "Personals."

Albert Zotton, the man who is Alfio Most, ago into the act when writer Datfacilities to perform "Detroit." Zolton is head of the drama department at Mercy College.

Intrigued by the show. Zolton agreed to be its director and to play in the cast. But he found both roles too much and released the director's reigns to Ralph Maffongelli of Detroit.

Zolton calls the production "a concert-drama, a new form. The music is so beautifully integrated in the show." The control of the

him. "Country Boy, Factory Man," which

'heater

some air plav last year when it came out. It is also sung by him in 'Detroit!'
There are new songs by Lashlee. too. Listening to plavbacks of some of the tapes, he commented on some of its musical numbers.
The songs in the show offer thues. spiritual, country rock, a little disco, and a ballad or two A rag blues type of flavor pervades the score.

Hearing himself singing "Detroit Detroit." Lashlee said. "I think this is my favorite in the slow, only because it's raunchy and I kind of let my hair down a little." The song has an infectious, earthy sound, as he wails, deep-voiced against a bluesy background. "Detroit! Detroit! Aw, pretty baby keep trying. ... You've been so exciting, to me."

I always think of Al Jolson when I

get into that."

On "So This Is Life." he drawls.
"... I'm in loye with you ... "And when you're feeling blue. I'll come to you."

The song "So This Is Life" was conceived on Quarton Lake in Birming-ham. "It was early summer." he recalled. "The blossoms were falling, swans floating by. I was thinking. So this is life. The song came to me. I ran home (I had my bike) and wrote it."

Lashlee looked at the script to decide which of his songs was appro-priate to each part.

The theme song for "Detroit" is "Roll Back the Stone." written by Datition and his wife Catherine Grimshaw, who sines it as a precurtain number the couple live in Grosse Pointe.
Dattillo and Grimshaw also wrote "I'ry Too Hard"—be on lyries, she the music—sung by Agnes in the show

"A celebration of the spirit of life" is "A celebration of the sport of life" is how the show is being valued by its performers. Tickets are on sale at the Little Professor Book Center in Bir-mingham, the Merev College Book-store Piper's Allev in downtown Detroit and Grosse Pointe Farms, and Cafe Harmonie in downtown Detroit. For further information - all 628-0899.

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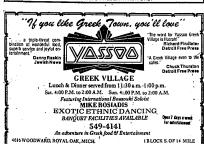
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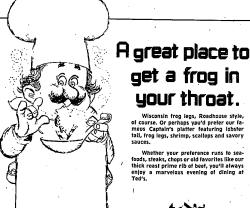
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