

Jaycees play Santa Claus all December long

By LORAIN McCLISH

Because a record number of children walked through the Farmington Area Jaycee's haunted house last fall, the 100-member club has been playing Santa Claus to a record number of local civic and service groups throughout the month of December.

"We had better than 17,000 kids go through the haunted house which made it our biggest money-maker of the year," said Dave Kenerson, who took the club's presidency in June.

"The rodeo has always been the big one for us, but we've never cleared this much money before on one event in the whole history of the club."

The haunted house did the same for the Jaycees as it did for the Jaycees with their offerings of candied apples, popcorn and snacks, the auxiliary group always sells during the October event.

Because of the windfall, almost every money-gift budgeted for the 1977-78 year, was upped considerably, and other requests that came in, not budgeted at all, were granted.

A \$1,000 BUDGET item for the cities, for example, was upped to \$1,650 to purchase a micro-film copier for the libraries.

Children at Sarah Fisher, who were not listed in the budget, were given a Christmas party at Holiday Inn, and went home with \$300 worth of gifts.

The Jaycees' \$100 allocation for food baskets this month was matched with another \$100 from the Jaycees.

The sum of \$590 collected by Jaycee members with Goodfellow sales on the corner of 10 Mile and Orchard Lake at the beginning of December, was

matched by the club for a total donation of \$1,400.

Gary Unruh, executive director of the Farmington YMCA needed \$3,000 for his Guys and Dolls program, and got it.

"The Y is a regular recipient of our walk program," Kenerson said. "We generally hold that in June, but had to postpone it until the fall this year, but Gary needed the money now, and the board approved it."

"I just feel very privileged to be president at this time when we have enough money to say yes to requests like that," Kenerson said.

Another benefactor from the haunted house is the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC).

"Steve Tretnik is our liaison from the Jaycees to FAAC," Kenerson said, "so he keeps us advised of their needs. They needed \$3,100 and we had it."

The FAAC gift was another that was not in the budget.

Another \$1,000 gift went to Clinton Valley Boy Scouts, and another \$1,000 gift went to the Farmington Community Band, both new recipients of Jaycee endeavors.

The Farmington Community Band's gift will be used to secure another \$1,000 in a matching grant arrangement.

Kevin Burns joins USMC

Marine Private First Class Kevin M. Burns, son of Bernard F. Burns, Jr., of 201 Blanchard, Farmington, has

reported for duty at the Marine Corps Base in Camp Lejeune, N. C. Burns joined the USMC in July, 1977.

ment so the band can continue its tradition of presenting a concert to senior citizens and the handicapped, scheduled for March.

ALL TOLD the Jaycees have distributed close to \$9,000 this month, alone, "and the bulk of that was due to the people who visited our haunted house," Kenerson said.

The total amount budgeted for the year was "about \$16,500, but there will be a turn over of about \$35,000 before the club year is out, I'm sure," he said.

Kenerson credits Dan Getts and Mark Sherman, co-chairmen of the event for its success.

The two, he said, worked with about \$1,000 to pull the thing together. "The big cost would have been manpower, if we would have had to pay for manpower. It took about 20 people to man the house for ten nights straight, plus getting new ideas and putting them in operation. Even so, it's always been a fun project for us; we all enjoy working on it."

SPONSORS of the Jaycee's Walk for Farmington can expect their individual bills in the mail "in about a month," Kenerson said.

"We're waiting for some computer time before we get those out. We never budget for that because we never know what the weather will be. I

don't have any figures to give you on that now, but I do know we had about 600 walkers and each of those had from 10 to 20 sponsors each."

Co-chairman of the walk this year are Bob Lamb and Dennis Brills. The Jaycees will follow its tradition of passed years concerning the walk, to allow the chairmen and their committee to decide where this money will go.

Again, traditionally, recipients of the walk money are the Farmington Y, FAAC, and the Farmington Community Center.

Meanwhile, Kenerson and Terry Sever have taken turns donning the Jaycees' Santa Claus outfit for the party for the children at Sarah Fisher Home, for a party at Oak Hill Nursing Home, for a party at Boys Republic, and caroling in Botsford Hospital.

ALL TOLD, Kenerson said he thinks he is ex-officio head of about 150 projects for the year, either administratively, interally, or those for the community.

His vice presidents are Bob Rock, John Snyder and Sever. Tretnik is treasurer and Howard Aldrich is secretary.

Jack Davis is chairman of the board of directors, which includes Pat Short, Bob Fitzpatrick, Dan Getts, Dave Clappison, Jim Mitchell, Wayne Huber and Neil Goldman.

The group meets once a month in the American Legion Hall on Grand River, in Farmington, and are in the midst now, of planning for Jaycee Membership Night, and Jaycee Week, both in January.



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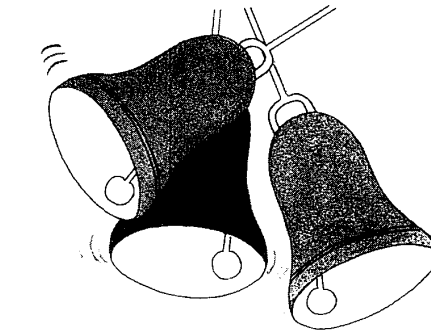
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