



Marriage, American style

Practicing for the parts in the North Farmington High presentation of "In the Suds," a one-act play, are Janice Somerville (left), as the nagging wife of Doug Freedman, who plays the henpecked husband. The beginning dramatics class of NFHS, under the

direction of instructor Dean Cobb, will present the play at 8 p.m., Jan. 19, in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$1 for the evening's entertainment, including two one-act plays. (Staff photo by Cynthia Abbott)

Building group adds Marks

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Last November's election may be over, but Farmington Hills city council candidate Ben Marks was the center of attention at this week's council session.

Marks, who lost his bid for a seat on the seven-member council, won an appointment to the city's building authority this week but not before objections were waged by newly-elected Councilman Joe Alkateeb, who was Mark's major opponent in last year's political contest.

Alkateeb, who barely squeezed through last year's primary battle and

who knocked out Marks—a post-primary frontrunner—objected to Mark's appointment on the grounds of possible "impropriety."

Presently, Marks is involved in a legal battle with the city over rezoning of property he owns on the northwest corner of Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake.

Marks is a land developer who has constructed an office building on the southeast corner of that same intersection.

"I don't have anything personally against Ben Marks," said Alkateeb. "But I believe that persons serving on this city's board and commissions are to work within the guidelines set up by the city."

But Councilman Earl Oppenheuser came to Mark's defense, saying that a person shouldn't have to give up his constitutional rights when becoming a commission member.

"Mark's court case is a civil matter. He has the right to pursue such a course if he wishes," said Oppenheuser.

Alkateeb sought to have engineering consultant Jerome Neyer appointed to the building authority. Last year Neyer had been recommended for an appointment by then-Mayor Joan Dudley, but the recommendation was turned down by the council.

Voting with Alkateeb was Councilmember Joanne Soronen.

Children's coloring book pictures Polish culture

It bothered Catherine Macaro that she could find no suitable materials to introduce children to Polish culture.

"I was adverse to bumper stickers and to 'Kiss me, I'm Polish' badges," said the 38-year-old Michigan mother of two youngsters. "I didn't care for the plastic Eagle-type of approach to culture."

In the meantime, she noticed her own 4-year-old daughter, Mary Jo, frequently at play with crayons and coloring books.

The question popped: Why not a coloring book of Polish customs and traditions?

"This was the approach with dignity that I was looking for," Mrs. Macaro said.

TWO MONTHS AGO the book came off the press—entitled "Poland," in a red-and-white cover resembling the Polish flag, with 61 pages of illustrations for kids to color, three more

pages of footnotes and a brief bibliography for study and research.

"The response has been far beyond my expectation," Mrs. Macaro said. Priced at \$1.50, the book is moving briskly at the Center for Polish Studies and Culture at St. Mary College, Orchard Lake.

Director Robert Geryk, whom Mrs. Macaro praised for "his support, encouragement and direction," says that many schools have ordered the book for their students.

Mrs. Macaro reported that a pastor in Toledo bought copies for every child from kindergarten through the eighth grade in his parish school.

She said that one woman, after seeing the book, was going to do something in a similar vein about Denmark and Finland.

"I wanted something inexpensive

which would be readily available, cultural, authentic, and yet interesting enough to appeal both to kids who would color and to adults who would have to explain the customs and traditions to the child," Mrs. Macaro said.

But the book had to "reach the child." That was important to her.

MRS. MACARO, an art major from the University of Toledo, had taught high school in Gary, Ind., and elementary grades in Lakewood, Ohio.

"The visual approach, especially to children, on any subject is always the most attractive," Mrs. Macaro said.

On the subject of culture, "You have to start with the young," she said. "It can't be done too well later in life."

A native of Toledo, Mrs. Macaro (nee Katalafsz) grew up in a Polish neighborhood.

Civil War life fascinates Lent

(Continued from Page 3A)

"Recruiting offices on both sides had to close early."

The average age of the recruit was between 18 and 25. But there were over 10,000 men under 18 in the union army alone, he says.

Lent is the general manager of Redford Rail Iron Works and has lectured to local clubs and schools. He says people today have misconceived notions about the war.

"Most people think the Civil War started out to free the slaves," he says. "But it was actually a case of states' rights where the states wanted to make their own rules to supersede slavery."

He explains slavery did not become the main issue of the war until Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Lent describes the southern viewpoint as preservation of a way of life. "Once the North invaded the South, then it became an issue of preserving the home and land," he says. "That's why they fought so voraciously."

"As a matter of fact," he says, "they whipped the North during the first two years of the war, winning all major battles, until resources started to fail."

LENT SAYS he has about 35 books written from the southern point of view. He adds that those books are scarce and expensive.

Lent says the people he runs into at lectures and club meetings are proud of the fact that their ancestors served in the Civil War. He has even helped some trace accounts of their ancestors' lives.

"I was doing this even before 'Roots' was published," he says.

Lent's own great-grandfather, Jacob Lent, was a member of the 9th New York Infantry. Jacob Lent was an itinerant stonemason who signed all his documents with an "X." He was captured at the Battle of Bull Run in 1861 but was released shortly after. A case of rheumatism contacted during his imprisonment ended his career as a stonemason and from then on his pension salary was just \$8 a month. A

soldier's salary during the war was \$13 a month.

A soldier's lot was bleak in those days, he says. A soldier was issued at least one uniform, a woolen suit and broadcloth shirt, but after that he was left to fend for himself. Lent says that dead bodies were often stripped after a battle and their clothing dispersed to the remaining men.

Coffee was a soldier's main staple and was distributed in beans form. It was prepared by crushing the beans with a musket handle. Salt pork was also available, but it was often called salt horse and in very bad condition.

LENT SAYS the troops also received a piece of unleavened bread called hard tack, affectionately referred to as worm castles, tooth dullers, or sheet iron.

At least once a year Lent travels to a former battlefield where he studies the area's history. He has traveled to most of the eastern and southern states. Last October's field trip followed General Lee's retreat route from Petersburg to Appomattox.

Lent's favorite trip was a pilgrimage to the Antietam battlefield in Maryland where he says the land has remained virtually unchanged. Most of the farms in the surrounding area are still under the same family name, he says. He adds that this battle lasted only one day—but it was the bloodiest single day of the entire Civil War.

Through his studies, Lent says, he has found many errors in historians' accounts of wartime battles, their routes and timing. The errors are mostly technical in nature. For example, as a result of a recent field trip, Lent discovered that Gen. Jeb Stuart's reported route during the Gettysburg campaign was slightly inaccurate.

He learns about these inaccuracies by investigating official Civil War reports. There are 128 volumes of such reports for just the infantry. After he finds out which officers participated in what campaigns, he checks out their personal memoirs. Comparing the two with his first-hand observations, Lent is able to check the authenticity of the books.

Eight named for honors

Eight area students have been named to the Lawrence Institute of Technology Dean's Honor Roll.

The honor students named are: Kevin Malover, a mathematics student; David Migdalewicz, electrical engineering; Timothy Overturf, architecture; Paula Stoler, humanities; Amy Vandenberg, mechanical engineering; Michael Becker, industrial management; Barbara Malinowski, business administration and Thomas Wasachio, industrial management.

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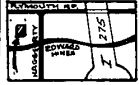
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