

Sister act warms up rinks with some cool skating

Watching a figure skater glide across the ice in near perfect form is a lesson in humility for the average skater.

When the performers are teenagers, who already teach their skills to other skaters, the lesson nearly becomes painful for the envious onlooker.

Standing on the sidelines while Farmington Hills sisters Janet and Kathy Hopkins perform salsas and spread eagles on their backyard rink only gives a hint of how well the North Farmington High students skate.

Bumpy ice, cold temperatures, and high winds aren't a skater's natural elements. Janet, 17, and Kathy, 16, are accustomed to indoor rinks, such as the Grosse Pointe Skating Club where they teach school figures (similar to compulsory figures performed in competition). That they earn \$14 an hour to do what they like is a bonus.

But neither sister entertains Olympic or even national dreams of recognition. Since they've both turned professional and teach, competition isn't in the picture. Winners of the state and national competitions must be amateurs. But Janet and Kathy have never been interested in competition against

others. The fun for each young woman is in competing against herself.

IT JUST wasn't fun," Janet says. Both sisters have done most of their practicing in Canada until recently, under the direction of coaches Paul Sales and Debbie McGuiness.

Now that they teach themselves, and since the Windsor arena where they skated has restricted the rink to amateurs, Janet and Kathy don't have as much time to practice. But they're still working on their medals. Skaters in clubs, as well as competitive skaters, test before judges to pass up into higher areas. Much like competitions, the skaters work for gold medals in areas such as school figures, dance, and freestyle, collecting bronze, silver, and pre-gold medals on the way.

Of the nine school figures, Kathy is working on her sixth, while Janet is working on her fourth. The medals are non-competitive, as a skater works strictly to improve his or her own standing.

That kind of competition against one's self is approved by the senior Hopkins, Tom and Martha.

"We've always taken the policy that school comes first," Mrs. Hopkins says. Ann although she's pleased that her daughters have stuck with skating, she encourages them to participate in other activities.

"To skate competitively, you have to practice seven or eight hours a day, and it's your whole life," she explains. "I've never been interested in that for the girls."

A skater herself, she enrolled the girls in a skating class at the tender ages of three and two. Brother John, 9, also skates, but seems to prefer other sports such as bowling.

Janet and Kathy manage to participate in a variety of activities despite their busy schedules. Kathy plays piano and is a member of the Farmington Soccer League. Janet enjoys macramé, and the sisters sew and sing in NFHS choral groups.

Next year, Janet plans to attend Albion, but will have to wait a year until Albion builds a proposed rink before she's able to supplement her income through skating instruction.

Kathy appears headed toward a career in medicine, but her immediate goal is to keep up with the studying.



For Kathy and Janet Hopkins, ice is a natural habitat. Janet, 17, supports sister Kathy, 16, in one of the dance steps both girls love. (Staff photo by Cynthia Abatt)

Farmington eyed for SEMTA runs

Farmington residents may be able to hop on a Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) bus within the next five years.

That's according to SEMTA's proposed five-year service improvement program. SEMTA does not service the City of Farmington although several bus routes have been established in the northeast section of Farmington Hills.

Planned routes include: a Grand River route from Farmington Rd. east; a Farmington Rd. route from Grand River south; and a route on Shiloh from Orchard Lake Rd. east. An Eight Mile route from Farmington Rd. east also is planned.

Farmington Hills proposed routes include an Orchard Lake Rd. route north from the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

Farmington City Mgr. Robert Deadman suggested during Monday's council meeting that the Orchard Lake Rd. be extended south to Grand River and that the Grand River route, scheduled to end at Farmington Rd., be extended to the Ten Mile-Grand River intersection "to facilitate the large residential and apartment complexes and the industrial park which are located along this bus route."

Deadman will forward the suggestions to SEMTA authorities per council's instructions.

"If the state legislature adopts the proposed two cents gas tax increase, and the formula for distribution of these added revenues includes subsidizing a bus route system, then SEMTA will be in a position to begin implementing this plan," he said.

Booms is appointed to appeal board

Raymond A. Booms, of 24761 Creekside Drive, Farmington Hills, was appointed to succeed William N. Evans of Warren on the Workers' Compensation Appeal Board. The appointment, effective Feb. 2, is for the remainder of a term expiring Feb. 1, 1979, and is subject to Senate confirmation.

Booms, a native of Detroit, is a trial attorney for the Michigan Mutual Insurance Co. of Detroit. He was formerly in private practice and is a graduate of the University of Detroit Law School. His professional organizations include the State Bar of Michigan and the Detroit and Oakland Bar Associations.

Farmington Observer

Published weekly, Monday and Thursday
by the Observer & Evening Times
10000 West 15th Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48219
Subscription rates: \$1.00 per copy, \$25.00 per year in advance.
Postage paid at Detroit, Michigan. Postage paid at Farmington Hills, Michigan. Postage paid at Farmington Hills, Michigan. Postage paid at Farmington Hills, Michigan.

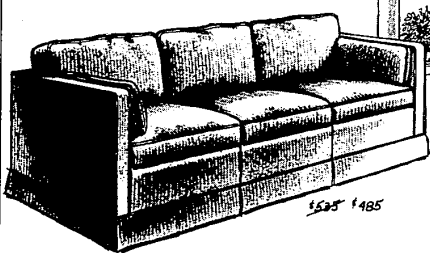
HOME DELIVERY SERVICE
Newspaper Carrier per copy 25¢
Monthly \$1.25

COME, SAVE ON THESE VERSATILE SIMMONS
HIDE-A-BEDS AND SOFA-SLEEPERS
BY WITTENBURG... CONVERT ANY ROOM TO
AN EXTRA BEDROOM!

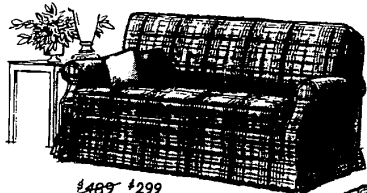
up to **43% off**

We're closing out our entire stock, including floor samples. Simmons Hide-a-Beds and Sofa-Sleepers by Wittenburg. Our fine selection includes queen, full and love-seat sizes in your choice of Contemporary, Traditional and Colonial styles. In this group is a wide array of fabrics including 100% Herculons, Nylons, corduroys, stripes, florals, plaids, solids and textured solids. If you've been dreaming of big savings, this is your chance to scoop up a great buy, come in this week for your best choice!

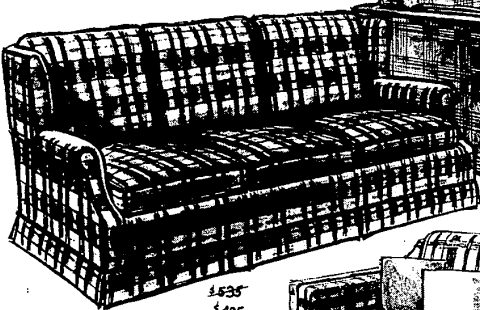
Use our convenient charge plan, Visa or Master Charge



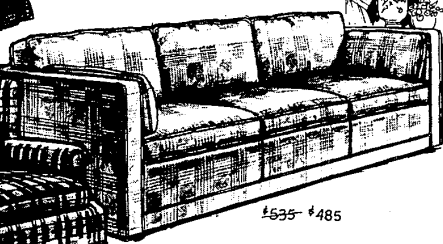
\$525 \$485



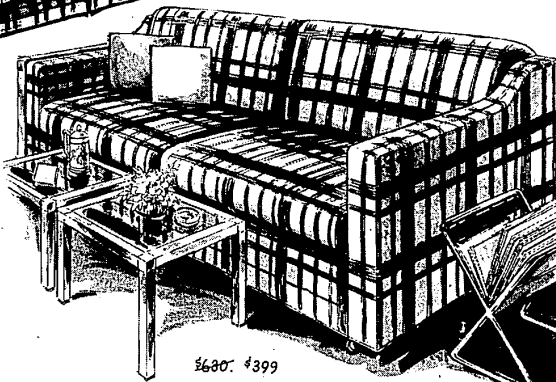
\$489 \$299



\$535 \$485



\$535 \$485



\$630 \$399

SEMI-ANNUAL
STOREWIDE
SALE



Towne & Country Interiors

Dearborn—23800 Michigan Ave.—East of Telegraph—565-3400—Monday through Saturday 10-9
Bloomfield—4107 Telegraph Rd.—at Long Lake Rd.—642-8822—Daily 10-9—Wed., Sat. 10-6
Rochester—1110 S. Rochester Rd.—In Winchester Mall—652-3500—Daily 10-9—Wed., Sat. 10-6



Hours: Monday thru Saturday 9:30-6:00

Maple or Lahser Bloomfield Commons Birmingham 646-4475

BankAmerica & MasterCard

tennis time
"Contemporary Clothes for the Court"

SCOTT'S



**On Kodacolor
Developing and Printing**

12 Exposure **\$1.99**

20 Exposure **\$3.54**

NEXT 6 DAYS

ONLY WITH COUPON BELOW

SCOTT'S OFFER EXPIRES 1-24-78

COUPON MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

SAVE NEXT 6 DAYS ONLY

On developing and printing Kodacolor-type film.

12 Exposure **\$1.99**

20 Exposure **\$3.54**

SCOTT'S

23314 FARMINGTON RD.
DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON, CT.
OFFER EXPIRES 1-24-78



by **Linprints**