## Bricker Shimmer becomes ambassadors

## Club dates help Easter Seals

By ETHEL SIMMONS

When the lounge act Shimmer was playing at the Holiday Inn in Howel last summer, many people in the audience came in wheelcharts from nearby Camp Hickory Ridge.

"They had a wonderful time," Dans Gross of Shimmer recalled. And Davic James, another member of the group said the camp director was impressed. the camp director was impressed. Hickory Ridge is the Easter Seals Camp for Handicapped Children and Adults, where both youngsters and grown-ups can spend a "barrier-free summer."

summer."
Not long afterward, Shimmer—which also includes group leader Paul Appolonia and Johnny Robison—was approached by camp director Jim Magyar with the idea of their helping the Easter Seals fund-raising

AFTER MEETINGS with Shimmer AFTER MEETINGS with Shimmer and its agent-manager Judie Horwitz of J-1 Talent in Southfield, it was agreed that the group would act as the first Easter Seal Roving Youth Ambassadors.

"The purpose was to take an established group with a middle-America image, to involve young people in the

campaign," said Ms. Horwitz.
"Middle America!" said bearded
Johnny Robison, with a laugh. "In
high school, my nickname used to be
freak."

high school, my nichname used to be 'freak.' "
The group was interviewed one afternoon last week around a luncheon table in the Poolside Terrace Restaurant at the Troy Hune. Summar played an engagement at Fanny's in the hotel Jan. 2-15.
Sumday night was to be their first Easter Seals Benefit Night in the Detroit area. At each club where they perform from now until April 1—date of the Easter Seals Telehom—Shimmer is devoting an entire night to raising money for the Easter Seal campaign.

WITH "BAR BUCKS," certificates WITH "BAR BUCKS," certificates to which customers can tape donations of \$1 up, Shimmer brings in the cash.

Oustomers can include a request for a song, on a separate slip of paper, or just fill out a certificate with their bucks, which are then posted on a board.

board.

Manager Horwitz said Tuesday that
the Sunday benefit night was successful and raised several hundred dollars.

"They got an excellent response
from the audience," ishe said.
Little Kerri Hines, who has been the
Easter Seal poster child for three

years in a row, was guest of honor Samay night.

There is no cover charge at Fanny's in the Troy Hilton, and contributions were purely voluntary. Ms. Horwitz said that at clubs that have a cover charge, the cover charge will be donated to Easter Seals, on the benefit night.

donated to Easter Seats, on use summingth,
Saimmer has been together since
August 1976. Three members of the
quartet originally worked together in
the band Sounds of Karisma, a sixmember group that split.
When the group broke up, the three
d us continued together and found
David," Dana Gross said.

MS. GROSS, a level-headed pretty brunette handles flute, tenor and sopr-ano sax, strings and wocals with Shim-mer. She is from Ann Arbor. Group leader Paul Appolonia of Flint plays keyboard, bass and does wocals. David James, from Wapako-neta, Ohio, is featured on drums, banjo and wocals. Johnny Robison's home is White Plains, N.Y. He plays lead guitar, congas and does wocals.

Shimmer has performed all the way up to Marquette and down, in Michigan, during its 1½ years.

Branching out shortly, "We've got a' couple of gigs in New Jersey, Atlanta and Illinois," Robinson said.

Shimmer has written an Easter Seals campaign song for Michigan called "Reach Out," which will be heard on radio and TV spots beginning Feb. 15. The song emphasises reaching out to touch someoody's hand, to help each other and not shut out the handicapped or disabled.

THE THEME OF the 1978 campaign is development of the handicapped person as a self-safficient individual. "Easter Seals has been looking for a song to use for all local and national campaigns," Ms. Horwitz said. "Reach Out" could be it. Money is raised for Easter Seals in each state. Michigan morey is basically used for Hickory Ridge. The campaign also is devoted to adding the detection and treatment of scollosis, curvature of the spine, which usually curvature of the spine, which usually begins during the ages of 9-15.

## 'Plaza Suite' auditions set

Auditions for dinner theater per-formances of Neil Sirmon's "Plaza Static" will be held by Janus Produc-tions at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Sussex House, 1970! W. Twelve Mile. South-field. This is Janus' second production and will be presented at the Sussex House on Thursday and Friday nights start-ing the first weekend in March.

Members of Janus Productions are Mary Geiger, Dick and DeeDee Charl-ton and Fran Loud, Their first produc-tion was "Thurber Camival," which was presented at Alvaro's in Troy.

Charles N. Campbell will direct "Plaza Suite." For further informa-tion call Frank Loud at 647-2757 during office hours.



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Shimmer is (from left) Dana Gross, Johnny Robison, David James and Paul Appolonia.

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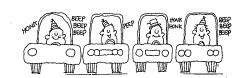
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