

Show makes whistle stops

By ETHEL SIMMONS
A new children's theatre group, which gives performances for and by children, has been whistle stopping with its first production "Professor Pomposus in the Potato Patch."
Known as the Whistle Stop Theatre, the young players even have their own T-shirts, for which one member created the design, and a song they sing at the end of each performance that goes, "Chug-a-chug, we are the Whistle Stop Theatre."
Taffy Jones is the enterprising full leader of the troupe, who performs free for charity and for a \$10 charge to schools. The children do all the work putting their production together.
"We're not in any way a money-making organization," Ms. Jones said. "We're just playing, we have a few people here, and we're just having fun."
MS. JONES is a dear old Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, where the Whistle Stop Theatre is organized. She puts on two plays a year there and has just written a new play she wanted to get produced and directed.
"The children said, 'Why not do it for you?'" she explained. Here the old play "Professor Pomposus in the Potato Patch" went into rehearsal and recently was performed at three whistle stops.

The play is written for elementary school children, grades 1-6, and lasts under an hour.
The program includes an opportunity for members of the audience to visit with the cast after the show.
DONOVAN SHAND, who stars as Professor Pomposus, also is a member of his school drama group at Groves. Miriam Twardon, Mrs. Pomposus, belongs to her college drama group at the University of Detroit.
Informality is the keynote to Whistle Stop Theatre rehearsals. The children all call their director Taffy. Although "Professor Pomposus" is Ms. Jones' creation, "If somebody comes up with a play, we could do their play too," she said.
Membership in the Whistle Stop Theatre is open to any school student in "Professor Pomposus" junior high, senior high and college students appear. "In the next play we would like to

Entertainment

use younger children," Ms. Jones said.
Anyone who wants to join the players, or arrange for a performance at a school, hospital or church, should call Jody Newton at 642-0217.
A lot of the Whistle Stop Theatre troupe is interested in acting. Ms. Jones said, "It's a showcase for them and gives them self confidence, to see how they develop to dress rehearsal. It's a complete joy to work with children."
FOR THE LAST five years, Ms. Jones has done religious-oriented shows at Kirk in the Hills. This year she has written the Christmas program "The Nativity" in which all young church school children will appear. Kindergartners will play angels.
Taffy Jones came by her catchy name through a nickname. Her name was Suzanne Taff. She grew up with the name who became her husband, Don, who nicknamed her Taffy from Taff.



Mrs. Belvedere chats with Mr. Pomposus (Miriam Twardon) after the performance.

In February, two more performances will be presented, and in April, there will be three whistle stops.
The Franklin Community church was interested in developing a community for children, Ms. Jones said, and it has become the Whistle Stop Theatre's new home.
She is a member of St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook, an adult theater group in Bloomfield Hills, which is also interested in developing a children's theater group.
"Professor Pomposus" is about the American Indian and a farmer who got a valuable birdstone speckled Michigan granite in his potato patch.

Guides needed at Fairlane

Volunteers for guides are needed for the 1988-89 season at Fair Lane, former home of Governor James Barry Ford. The home is open from the University of Michigan Dearborn campus.
Tours are given from 14:30 p.m. every Sunday through the winter months. Space is limited, so advance reservations are necessary. Programs presented in participating areas will include: 1988-89 season. 201-240-1100 ext. 207.

Guides needed at Fairlane

Volunteers for guides are needed for the 1988-89 season at Fair Lane, former home of Governor James Barry Ford. The home is open from the University of Michigan Dearborn campus.
Tours are given from 14:30 p.m. every Sunday through the winter months. Space is limited, so advance reservations are necessary. Programs presented in participating areas will include: 1988-89 season. 201-240-1100 ext. 207.

Pearl's Garden
the English, Chinese & American Cuisine
469 S. Woodward, B'ham.
644-2913

Dining And Entertainment Guide
ON THE TOWN

the roman terrace
27622 ORCHARD LAKE RD. 851-4094
At 12 Mile, Just Off U.S. 696
Open Mon. thru Sat. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 a.m.
PRIVATE CATERING AND BANQUET FACILITIES
• Businessmen's Luncheons • Dinners
COCKTAIL HOUR • Entertainment

Tenuta's
Specializing in
MEXICAN FOOD
LUNCHES - DINNERS
OUR SPECIALTY — NACHOS
Try our New York strip steak
imported Mexican beer — margaritas
YOUR HOSTS: Dave Villereal — Pete Tenuta
for parties call
338-9639
across from Pontiac General Hospital
additional parking on northeast corner of Main & Johnson
Closed Sundays

梅MOY'S RESTAURANT
Cantonese & American Food
Japanese Steakhouses
• Exotic Cocktails •
4642 23rd Street, B'ham
644-2525 • 644-2526
Grand Opening 11/22/88
1623 WOODBERRY AVE. N.W. LYNN
427-3178 • Barry, No Reservations

Brass Broiler
AUBURN HEIGHTS, MICH.
RESERVATIONS: 852-5211
For Lunch & Dinner

THANKSGIVING DINING
OPEN MONDAYS DURING DECEMBER
COME SEE OUR BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
OPEN 12 NOON THANKSGIVING DAY
Complete
TURKEY DINNER with all the trimmings
plus Regular Menu
HUCK'S BAVARIAN VILLAGE
27331 W. FIVE MILE
Reservations Requested
535-3200

Something New from Chuck Muer...
A SEAFOOD TAVERN
* HUMBLE: BURGERS & HAM'N'CHEESE
* CLASSY: CRAB LEGS & PRIME RIB
* MESSY: BAR-B-Q & ONION RINGS
* SPORTY: GIANT TV SCREEN
SON OF SARDOG
MICHIGAN AT TELEGRAPH
COCKTAIL HOUR & DINNER...
MON. - SAT. - 278-3000

Depend on the Coach & Four for Thanksgiving.
It's the warmest, family-est holiday of the year. And to give you something very special to be thankful for this year, we're preparing our very special, traditional feast. The complete dinner includes:
• Homemade Mushroom Bisque
• Roast Turkey Stuffed With Savory Dressing
• New England Cranberries
• Choice of Freshly Cooked Vegetable
• A Choice of Dessert • Beverage
Depend on Stouffer's to give Thanksgiving a special flavor.
\$5.95 Adults \$2.95 Children
Coach Four
STOUFFER'S NORTHLAND INN
21000 Northwestern Hwy. • 569-4700

don't get left out in the COLD!
So this year it's your turn to make sure your company's Christmas party is a "win-win" affair. If you haven't begun to think about it yet, let us think about it for you. Let us gift wrap your Christmas party.
We'll take care of all the details. Take Santa Claus and the Christmas tree for parties over 300. His group is too large or too small.
Just call our Catering Department at 879-2100 and we'll go right to work on the best Christmas party you ever had. And you can take all the credit.
H Northfield Hilton
5500 Crooks Rd. at I-75
Troy, Michigan 48063
(313) 879-2100

the PILGRIMS
never had it so good!
Our forefathers set a bountiful table featuring turkey. This Thanksgiving Day at the Northfield Hilton you not only can enjoy delicious Roast Tom Turkey with all the trimmings but also a choice of Baked Honey Glazed Ham, Poached Salmon Steak with Lobster Sauce or Prime Ribs au Jus. Potato and vegetable, appetizer, soup, relish tray, salad, bread, dessert and beverage included. Noon till 7 p.m.
\$6.95
FROM
Northfield Hilton Inn
5500 Crooks Rd. at I-75
Troy, Michigan 48068
(313) 879-2100
RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED

• BANQUETS
• MEETINGS
ted's
Old Town Inn
Woodward and Square Lake
in Bloomfield Hills 644-7764

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS
PRESENT
WARREN MILLER
LATEST SKI FILM
"SKIING ON MY MIND"
COMEDY TRAVEL ADVENTURE
FORD AUDITORIUM
WED., NOV. 24 — 8:30 P.M.
TICKETS: ADULTS \$25 TOURTS \$28
Available at Nelsons, Wards, and American Youth Hostels 14325 W. McMillan

NAPOLEON'S
RESTAURANT & GAZEBO ROOM
ENTRANCE ON MAIN STREET DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTH SOUTH OF ANN ARBOR TRAIL
WELCOME.
We offer a unique setting for the individual or the entire family. Join us in our dining room for an "all you can eat" "Frankenmuth style" family dinner featuring the best in fish, chicken and spaghetti or choose an individual entree from our dinner menu. Visit the Gazebo Room for light meals, sandwiches, cocktails and plenty of chilled draught beer. This room was designed with the adult in mind offering a large bar and dancing area... and later in the evening you can bump and stomp to the greatest names in popular music singing their latest hits via video disco.
THANKSGIVING
We are adding the turkey with all the trimmings
FAMILY STYLE
from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the dining room.
ADULTS \$4.45 CHILDREN 12-16 \$3.25 CHILDREN UNDER 11 \$2.00
HOURS: DINING ROOM TUES. thru SAT. 4 P.M.-10 P.M. SUNDAY NOON-8 P.M.
GAZEBO ROOM MON. thru SUN. TIL 2 A.M.
Reservations 426-6170