Underground railroad stopover

Vintage house was once slaves' haven

ress boomtiedt Editor

The City of Orchard Lake Village, with its political upheavals, has a heritage to be lauded.

In the pre-Civil War years when runaway slaves eager for freedom hid by day and ran by night, Orchard Lake provided a stopower in the "underground railloud" system.

Former Orchard Lake mayur Mel Rycus and his wife Barbara now own the vintage Pontiac Trail house once used to hide up to six runaways at a time.

time.

The space used by the slave is behind a a wall in the game room of the rambling house. Two built-in drawers, now used for storage, can be removed to reveal a false backing. Anyone not aware of the actual construction would ston there.

aware of the actual construction would stop there.

But as Rycus demonstrates, the backing is removable to expose a crawl space large enough, he supposes, for six adults, more if slave catch-

ers were rumored on the prowl.
Rycus explained the runaways, it is
believed, would find their way from
Orchard Lake up to Port Huron or
Bay City for escape and freedom in
Canada.

Canada.

THE RYCUS home, now located on two acres of wooded land across Pontiac Trail from the shores of Orchard Lake, used to be one of the main farms in the area.

Rycus still has a photocopy of the original land conveyance signed in 1265 by John Quincy Adams. The then Sense panel was bought by Armey the panel was bought by Armey the panel of the panel

When Rycus purchased the house from Hall, he gutted it and took it on as a restoration project with intentions of returning it to its original state within 20 years. "In seven years. I'm seven within 20 years." in seven years. I'm seven years and within years and within years and furnised selling. Along projects is still hopes of the years of years. Years years. Years years. Years years. Years years

WHILE RUMOR handed down with

the house indicates the former barn loft was also used to harbor runsway slaves, which brought a 2,000 bounty per head for slave catchers. Rycus dissipation of the property o

said. "Be be done.



A senatorial shake

Daniel Togaski of North Farmington High School recently met U.S. Senator Robert Griffin R.Michigan). Togasaki was in Washington D.C. on a week-long study of the political process. He is a Farmington Hills resident.

Center offers activities

(Continued from page IA)
from 7:309:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning April 7: Dale Crawford will instruct both novice and experienced
students in the eight-session course offered for 20 plus materials.
If your French vocabulary consists
of "merci," you may want to avail
yourself of the French for beginners
course, scheduled from 7:309-30 p.m.
Vednesdays beginning April 20. The
eight sessions are priced at \$18 and
taught by Ron Rapin.
Researching your family tree may
be a little easier if you sign up for the
center's genealogy course, offered
from 1-3 p.m. Thursdays beginning
April 21. Rosina Raymond will instruct the eight-session course priced
at
etg. Jackson will conduct a course
in Godey Laddy nictures, in which students will learn to make an elegant
three-dimensional picture from Godey
Lady fashion prints. The five-session
course is scheduled from 12:39-2:30
p.m. Tuesdays beginning April 19 and
priced at \$22 plus materials.

FOR \$24, various guitar instruction

FOR \$24, various guitar instruction courses are offered, all taught by Dor-othy Decker. Guitar 1 for beginngers,

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ages 9:12, is scheduled from 5-5:45
p.m.: Guitar 2, for ages 9:11, is scheduled
from 6-6:45 p.m.: Guitar 2 for
ages 12 through adult, is scheduled
from 7-7:45 p.m.; and Guitar 1 for beginners ages 12 to adult, is scheduled
from 8-8:45 p.m. All classes begin
April 4 and consist of 10 sessions.
Two classes in interior design,
which can be taken together, are offered from 1-3 p.m. and 9:30-11:30
a.m. Thursdays beginning April 7.
Kay Isola will teach both 10-session
courses each priced at 28.
To make your own jewelry, get
some advice from Nisi Pritz, who will
conduct a 10-session course in jewelry
making from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays
beginning at 351 just one course
Lace making classes, scheduled
from 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays beginning
April 5, will be conducted by Elsie
Bentley. Cost is \$24 plus materials for
10 sessions.

MILDRED WEBB will teach a

MILDRED WEBB will teach macrame course from 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays beginning April 19. The five sessions are priced at \$22 plus mate sessions are procestrials.

To learn how to make a macrame

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Halts Plus

purse, sign up for the beginner or advanced class, each course consisting of four sessions and priced at \$18 plus materials. Beginning classes are scheduled from 9:30-11:30 and advanced classes will continue from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays beginning April 21.

Learning how to cook with a micro-wave oven is what instructor Vincent McCallum's classes are all about. The four-session classes priced at 255 are scheduled as follows: from 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 7:30-30 p.m. Thursdays be-ginning April 21, with a second ses-sion running in the same time periods beginning May 19.

To learn to make miniature furni-ture, sign up for Jeanne Loe's class, scheduled from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays beginning April 27. The six-session course is priced at \$20 plus

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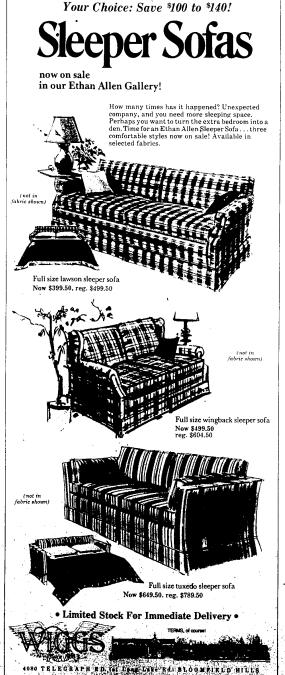
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