

Rocky story: 'It ain't heavy it's my boulder'



Margaret Hoops says of her pet boulder, "I'm glad it wasn't a gall stone." (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell)

Red Cross tests blood pressure

A new tactic in the battle against the "silent killer" will be introduced early this fall when the Red Cross launches a high blood pressure detection, referral and follow-up program at its blood donor sites throughout southeastern Michigan.

Each time a person visits a Red Cross donor site to give blood, a blood pressure reading is taken as part of the routine pre-screening process for donors. Individuals with readings of 200 over 100 or higher will be concentrated on in the program.

"We are hopeful that this will give the medical personnel access to many people who may not otherwise be reached by other agencies conducting hypertension screening," said Natalie Prince, RN, chairwoman, Nursing and Health Services Committee, Red Cross southeastern Michigan Center.

The follow-up is planned for both people who currently are receiving treatment and those who are not," she said.

Last year, more than 255,000 potential blood donors registered at Red Cross blood collection sites in southeastern Michigan.

"About 10 per cent of those people were deferred from giving blood for a variety of reasons, one of which is high blood pressure," she said.

She added that the follow-up program has been based on the premise that there is a greater probability that a hypertensive patient will seek and continue treatment when someone other than a family member shows concern about his or her well being.

The program is scheduled to go into operation Sept. 1.

Red Cross Nursing and Health Services regularly offers a free course throughout the community in which the basic skills of measuring blood pressure are taught to laypersons.

The program will be instituted at two area Red Cross offices: 23900 Greenfield Road in Oak Park, and 2398 Franklin Road in Bloomfield Hills.

By JOE MARTUCCI

Some people have pet rocks. Margaret Hoops of Bloomfield Township has a pet boulder.

And like most people, Mrs. Hoops grew attached to her pet over the years. She and her husband Carl didn't have the heart to abandon the imposing rock when they bought a new home in Wabek.

So, last week they hired a towing company to move it. "He didn't have any trouble, but the tires on the trailer kind of flattened out when he lifted it out the truck," Mrs. Hoops said Friday, the morning after the big move.

The towing company charged \$50 an hour to transport the five-ton boulder to the Hoops' new home. But Mrs. Hoops said it was worth every penny.

"Sometimes, if you like something you don't care how much it costs," she said.

Mrs. Hoops' love affair with the boulder, which her husband calls "Margaret's Rock," goes back about nine years to when they moved into their house on Post House Court in Fox Hills.

"When we moved into the subdivision, there were only four houses on the court and three empty lots and one of them had this stone that looked like it was two or three feet high," Mrs. Hoops recalled.

IT WAS apparently love at first sight. "I kept telling my husband, 'I want that rock,'" Mrs. Hoops said.

The rock turned out to be much larger than it appeared—about half of the boulder was embedded in the ground. Mrs. Hoops estimates its size at five feet high and four to five feet in diameter.

Accordingly, the Hoops' efforts to extract the boulder from the empty lot were trying. A conventional tow

truck couldn't budge the huge chunk of granite. "I shed a few tears when we couldn't get it moved," Mrs. Hoops admitted.

Eventually, however, perseverance paid off. A more powerful vehicle was summoned and it transported the boulder to the Hoops' front yard, where it presided until last week.

When moving time came, it again took two towers to accomplish the task. The first crane operator declined the assignment, but not before the neighborhood's curiosity was aroused.

"The neighbors saw this crane pull up the other night and they wondered what was happening," said Mrs. Hoops.

Finally, the Hoops retained the Garvin Towing firm. Mrs. Hoops was confident about the company's ability to handle the task because, "it can move tanks."

Why all the fuss about a dumb rock?

To the Hoops, "Margaret's Rock" is not just a massive hunk of inorganic material. It transcends that. "It's a symbol of our strength," Mrs. Hoops explained. "My husband and I work real hard. If we want something we just struggle and get it no matter how difficult."

"Other neighbors wanted that rock too, but they gave up on it. It's an accomplishment and we didn't want to leave it behind."

Her husband was supportive during the rock-moving ordeal.

"He wanted this done," Mrs. Hoops said. He likes it too. He knows I really like it. It's just a nice rock."

She figures the boulder may be worth quite a chunk of money, but she's not sure how much.

"It's one of the biggest I've ever seen. It's pink granite. They use it to make gravestones and stuff."

Plant honored

Ingersoll-Rand's Automatic Production Systems plant in Farmington Hills has received the company's top Energy Saving Award at ceremonies attended by local dignitaries and executives from corporate headquarters in Woodcliff Lake, N.J.

The Farmington Hills plant won the company's third-annual Energy Saving Award at ceremonies attended by local dignitaries and executives from corporate headquarters in Woodcliff Lake, N.J.

In the award ceremonies, held recently at the plant's Halstead Road location, William Grant, Ingersoll-Rand Vice-President of Manufacturing, said: "This is the greatest improvement achieved by any of the company's 67 plants in any year that the contest has been held."

Grant noted that the Farmington Hills plant also cut its energy consumption last year by 10 per cent, even though production increased almost three-fold. This represented a saving of 28.9 billion BTU's of energy that would have been consumed had the plant operated at its 1976 rate of consumption.

Ingersoll-Rand has been conducting a vigorous company-wide energy saving program for the last five years.

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GRACE MARTIN

Grace Murphy Martin, 84, of Farmington, died July 22 in the Oak Hill Nursing Home. Services were July 26 in the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home with Fr. James Wright officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Mrs. Martin was retired from the Detroit Times as a reference librarian. Surviving are her daughter Virginia Cahill; and grandchildren: John M. Cahill, James R. Cahill, and Nancy Johnson.

JOHN STEWART

John A. Stewart, 64, of 20886 Cass, Farmington Hills, died suddenly July 30 in his residence. Services were Aug. 5 in the Harry J. Will Funeral Home with the Rev. Kenneth W. Travilla officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery.

Mr. Stewart was a 16-year resident of the community and an inspector-salesman for American Express. He was a member of the Highland Park Baptist Church and the Farmington branch of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). He is survived by one brother.

LLOYD ISAACS

Lloyd (Bud) Isaacs, 52, of 13052 Nathaline, Redford Township, died Aug. 4 in Garden City Osteopathic Hospital. Services were Aug. 7 in Harry J. Will Funeral Home, and burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery.

Mr. Isaacs was a 31-year employee of Conrail railroad and belonged to the Brotherhood of Railroad Workers. Surviving are his wife Marie; mother

Mrs. Callie Wheeler of Farmington Hills; daughter Jill of Redford; brothers Peble of Hazel Park, Clyde of Alpena, and Thurman of Santa Monica, Cal.; and sister Opal Phillip of Prudenville.

MERRILL DAVIS

Merrill DeVore Davis, 58, of 2919 Norborne, Redford Township, died Aug. 5 in Detroit Osteopathic Hospital. Services were Aug. 9 in Harry J. Will Funeral Home with Pastor James Willis officiating. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland.

Mr. Davis was a tool grinder for Detroit Diesel Allison division of General Motors Corporation. He worked at the Outer Drive plan for 15 years. He was a member of Dunning Park Chapel.

Surviving are his wife Shirley; mother Mrs. Flossie Batson of Farmington Hills; daughters Marlene Lee of Southfield, Cheryl Caporosso of Farmington Hills; Debra Daubner of Farmington Hills; and Diane and Glenn Davis of Redford; brothers Melvin of California, Robert of Milford, and Donald of California; and three grandchildren.

PATRICIA PFAU

Patricia Pfau, 47, of Farmington died Aug. 5 in Henry Ford Hospital. Services were Aug. 7 in Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home and a mass was recited at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church Aug. 8 with the Rev. Msgr. Thomas Beahan officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Mrs. Pfau is survived by her husband Raymond; mother Mrs. Ruth Foley; son James; and daughter Mary Gilette.

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