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(F11B)

## The Farmington Area Jaycees

## 'It all adds up to making future leaders'

By LORANE McCLISH

The Farmington Area Jaycees want the 17,000 people who walked through the group's haunted house and haunted forest last month to know that their \$1 admission will likely turn up somewhere else in the community for their benefit.

Some of those dollars are being used for new gym equipment, needed in the police and fire personnel's training room, which should be installed this week. Another part of these dollars has met the Jaycees \$10,000 pledge to the Farmington YMCA's building fund.

For others, who will be attending the Jaycee's Millionaires Party in the Farmington Community Center on Nov. 11, their admission might show up with donations to Boys Republic, or buy tickets to a ball game for children at Sarah Fisher Home, or deliver a tray of food to a shut-in.

WHEN TERRY Seaver assumed the presidency of the local Jaycee chapter, he inherited a lot of on-going, long-standing projects to continue.

He also inherited the tradition of making a priority list of what was currently needed in the immediate community. He made his list with an in-

depth survey, interviewing city government officials, school and church personnel and heads of community agencies.

"The goal," he said, "was fund-raisers so people would be getting their money's worth in entertainment, yet still making enough money so we could accomplish what was on the priority list. Tough. But we are doing it. It's only November and we're better than half way down the list. Before May (when his term of presidency will conclude) we'll have turned back about \$30,000 in goods or services."

Seaver rattled off a list of awards the chapter has gotten from the state Jaycees for accomplishment in outstanding contributions, and credits this to the Jaycee leaders before him.

"Richard Tupper (mayor of Farmington), John Richardson (former mayor of Farmington), Sandy Brotherton, (state representative) Richard Headlee (leader of a group which placed the tax limitation proposal on the November ballot), all set precedents for those of us in the Jaycees now."

"They and a lot of other successful leaders who might not have celebrity or political names set the pace so we are known as the most active group in the state," Seaver said.

SEAVER TAKES on the zeal of an evangelist when he talks about the benefits that come from membership in the Jaycees.

"We've had our share of failures, but isn't that part of the learning process?" he asked. "The training ground offers the young man a chance to try something he's never done before, and if he fails it doesn't matter that much, whereas if he failed in business it might be out and out destruction."

"I say we've had failures, but we've never attempted anything that someone didn't learn a great deal from."

The in-house training ground Seaver refers to is the number of workshops, seminars and courses offered to the members running from public speaking to keeping the books, as well as on-the-job training of one of dozens of overlapping and on-going committees.

"It all adds up to making future leaders," Seaver said. The Jaycee president, who was general chairman of this year's Founders Festival and last month won the "Citizenship of the Year Award" said that before joining the Jaycees he had never before talked to any group larger than five and had never organized so much as a high school dance.

Seaver joined the local Jaycees because "it was a cheap way to play softball and I wanted to play league softball. Next thing I knew I was working for the rodeo (a one-time summer fundraiser) and I was flustered that the \$10,000 profit was all disbursed back to the community."

"NOW I KNOW that living in a

community cannot be all take-take-take. You've got to put back something in order to make it thrive. Recruiting for Jaycees has become something of a religion to me. I believe in it and it's easy to sell," he said.

"It sure must have something," he added, "when people like Tom Duke, Doug Miller, Jim Mitchell, John Snyder, Bob Rock and Steve Trinitik give 1,000 hours to pull off the haunted house and haunted forest."

The Jaycees are perpetually backed by businesses. Seaver named Chrysler Motors, Star Otter, Thompson Brown, Exotic Rubber, city government officials of Farmington and Farmington Hills, Stan Joint Venture, Farmington Lumber, Detroit Edison, Deroven Electric, as Jaycee supporters.

"We're unique," Seaver said. "We have no competition. There just is not another service club around like us, and this should be one of our peak years."

The peak-year prediction he credits to "my right hand men, Mitchell, Rock and Dan Getts."

THE JAYCEES hold a membership night every year, but newcomers who want to sit in on a meeting are welcomed any time, Seaver said.

Membership is limited to men between the ages of 18-35. Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, beginning at 8 p.m. in the American Legion Hall on Grand River.



Terry Seaver, who says recruiting for Jaycee members has become something of a religion with him, will hit a peak year in community services during his presidency of the local chapter.



Picture from the book portrays the joys of being a foster grandparent.

## 'How Old is Old?' changes view in children's eyes

By KATIE KERWIN

See John. See Jean. See mother and father. See any grandpa?

Not on your life. Check through any shelf of children's books and it's not likely you'll find anyone old. There might be a wicked old witch or two, and maybe even a grandma in a rocking chair. But if you were looking for a storybook showing old age as a productive and enjoyable phase of life, you're bound to be disappointed.

"How Old is Old?" is due to appear in bookstores this month and aims to change all that. The book, published by Program Resources, Inc. of Detroit, presents aging as a natural, enriching process. The crisp, matter-of-fact text is illustrated with warm black and white photos, the kind that make you smile as you flip through. The people and places are local; the faces are likely to remind you of people you know.

The book is designed to show that development continues throughout life. The first page shows a newborn infant and succeeding pictures depict progressive aging, through teen years and middle age to old age. The child is invited to place his own photo on one of the early pages, to include himself in the story of human development.

"Old people have more time to do the things they enjoy," the book pro-

claims. Older people are seen taking grandchildren on excursions, volunteering as foster grandparents and spending pleasant times with their contemporaries. Still others are shown pursuing careers, as a museum guide, a gardener, a photographer, cook and musician.

AUTHOR JOAN WEISSMAN said she wrote the book in response to the need she saw for positive, non-stereotypical children's literature on aging.

"I think this is something children wonder about," said the Franklin resident. "I did some research and found that there are books on adoption, on divorce and on death and dying, but there aren't books for children on the subject of aging."

"How Old is Old" is a three-way blend of the author's areas of specialization. A former Head Start teacher who had studied child development, she has written a number of children's books and recently received a special certificate in aging from Wayne State University-University of Michigan Institute of Gerontology.

"The object was to show older people enjoying their lives," Ms. Weissman said. "We wanted to let children know that they have a lot to look forward to." Only a tiny segment of the elderly population is confined to nurs-

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## Church favor returned

## Nothing unorthodox about their aid

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Members of St. Thomas Albanian Church know that one good turn deserves another.

Seven years ago, St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church in Detroit burned down and the congregants were left without a place of worship.

"We opened our doors to them then," said Father George York, pastor of St. Thomas Albanian Orthodox. "Now, we have sold our former church and are looking for a place to build or an existing church to buy and they are returning the favor."

Father George, a Southfield resident, said the members of his church come from almost every community in the metropolitan area. "Some come from as far as Pontiac."

Next Sunday, St. Thomas Parish will celebrate its 4th anniversary with a united Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. and a fundraising bazaar for the new church to follow.

Church members under the direction of chairman Gus Gorguz of Farmington Hills and Mrs. Helen Koc are donating their time and talent to make the anniversary celebration a success.

"What our goal is, is to be in a new church by Christmas of next year in the 50th anniversary year," said Victor Chaco, a church member for more than 20 years.

"See you in church" is more than a casual remark to members of St. Thomas for whom family and church are top priorities.

SOME 212 members, 30 of them children make up the congregation. Father George is a newly ordained priest. A native of Cleveland, he was ordained in May.

"Our clergy marries and my wife, Mary, supported me when I studied at the seminary," Father George said. "She was a bank manager and now she works at the Advance Mortgage Co. in Southfield."

In addition, she is the director of St. Thomas Sunday School.

"We have a new Sunday School program," he said. "The children are taught and it includes both children and adults. School is every third Sunday of the month after the 11 a.m. liturgy."

Chaco said the Russian Orthodox congregants have their services at 9 a.m. so that St. Thomas can use the facilities two hours later without complications.

"It's like cooking in someone else's kitchen," Father George said. "We really are grateful, but we will be happy to be in our own church."

Chaco said his wife, Vivian, is a teacher in a Southfield elementary

school and active, along with his two children, in church activities, including choir.

"We have a board of directors made up of men and women members," he added.

Father George said that although the name of the church includes "Albanian," all orthodox are welcome to join.

"WE'RE OPEN to all nationalities in our parish and we really want our parish to grow," Father George said.

Albanians were the first and oldest inhabitants of southeastern Europe, older in language and nationality than the Greeks and Romans. Modern Albania represents only half of the true ethnic Albanians, since part now belongs to northwest Greece and part to Yugoslavia.

"There are only 13 Albanian churches in all of the United States," said Chaco, "and no church, not one is open in Albania. All the churches were either bulldozed or changed to other uses. It is a completely communist state."

He added that the red Albanian flag with a stylized eagle is one of the oldest flags in the world. "Albanians are known as the eagle people," he said. Albanians, according to Father

George, are quite determined to teach their children about their ethnic origin and customs. He said the language is rarely spoken, however.

Albanians in the metropolitan area largely belong to the Roman Catholic Church. The Albanian Orthodox Church as an independent entity is relatively young.

In 1912, Albania became independent after 500 years of Turkish rule. The church became an independent national Orthodox Church, but not until 1937.

MEANWHILE in the U.S., the Albanian national movement struggled for church independence and in 1908, the Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America was born. Thus, the unique situation is that the Albanian Orthodox Church in this country is the "mother" of that in Albania.

About half of Albanians today still belong to Greek Orthodox churches, and according to Chaco, the accurate count of Albanian Orthodox people in America is being diluted. In 1929, the Albanian Orthodox people who settled in this area formed their own ethnic parish and elected St. Thomas as their patron saint. In 1943, their first church building was located on Fourteenth Street in Detroit and in 1956, a new church was dedicated at Coleman Boulevard and Joy.



FATHER GEORGE YORK



VICTOR CHACO

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