

Putting on the final touches

Downtown Farmington gets a touch of the Yule by city workers, as that magic day, December 25, gets closer. (Staff photo by Harry

Performers gather to aid Focus Hope

By JACKIE KLEIN

bara Brechus; Charlie Latimer; Mary Ann Paquette and the cast of "Personals" and "Jacques Brel."

Each year, new acts are introduced. Pamela Smith, Kitty Donohoe, Dave Murphy and O.J. Anderson will be making their first appearances in Opus 10.

BOB HYNES of WJR will be master of ceremonies for the festival at the Raven Gallery on Greenfield north of Twelve Mile.

"An interesting note to the festival is something Dean Rutledge, a singer and guitar and banjo stylist, does each year before the event," said Bonuchi. "For about five weeks, Dean asks his audience to please write requests on dollar bills.

"He very nicely states that he will do all their requests but the ones on the dollar bills get special attention. These dollars are turned into Focus: HOPE on the day of the festival. We estimate that he has sung more than 1,600 songs for the cause."

Opus 10 is more than an outstanding entertainment event or a benefit for a worthwhile cause, Bonuchi noted. He calls it a total experience in which the

audience and performers seem to pick up something electric in the air, he said.

Perhaps the word for this feeling is "Christmas," Bonuchi observed. "It has never been the goal of Focus: HOPE to make this festival the largest musical benefit but one of the best in which a certain spirit permeates.

"PEOPLE LIKE Father William Cunningham, director of Focus: HOPE, were walking with Dr. Martin Luther King in Selma. Minstrel poets of folk music were singing 'The Times They are A'changing.' But they didn't change fast enough to prevent the 'Black Day in July.' Then came the hope that wrongs and injustices could be corrected by people working together. Out of that came Focus: HOPE."

Southfield and Southfield-Lathrup high schools last year enlisted the

services of Focus: HOPE to assist in the development of positive human relations among students and staff. Long range goals are to promote a sense of unity, improve inter-cultural understanding and respect and increase minority group participation.

"We call this program Training for Trust," said Fr. Cunningham. "Racially-balanced groups of key student and community leaders and faculty are selected and trained to ease racial tension. Then we assist them to get white and black persons working together on projects to improve the quality of school and community life."

Focus: HOPE also distributes free federal food to undernourished mothers, babies and preschool children in the Detroit area. Other major thrusts are advancing equal opportunity employment and public information on the volunteer organization.



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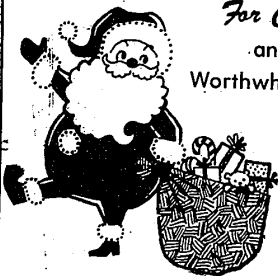


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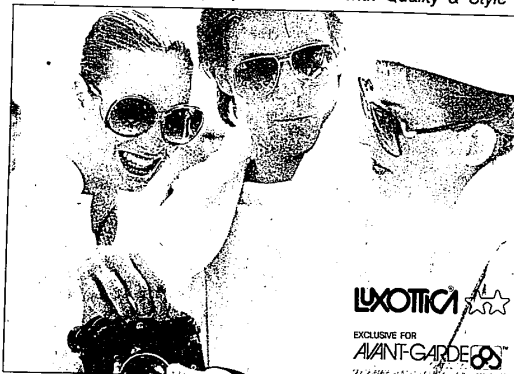
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