

Young Detroiters sing at Ren Cen

"Deck the halls with boughs of holly" is the message ringing through Detroit as the city's own Young Detroiters have donned a new apparel of red and green to celebrate the holiday season.

The Young Detroiters are Detroit's unofficial cheerleading squad who have sung and danced their way into the hearts of thousands of metro Detroiters in the last six months. They are promoting a new spirit this week—

one of peace on earth and goodwill toward men—in a special one-hour Christmas show at the Renaissance Center, Detroit Plaza Hotel, Renaissance Level, at 5 p.m. today (Thursday).

The group regularly performs in the "My Detroit—Welcome to It" musical production sponsored by the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce as a promotional tool to create a new spirit for the City of Detroit.

The new show is designed specially to celebrate the holiday season. Hal Youngblood of WJR Radio and Nick Calanni of D'Arcy-MacManus & Masius Advertising Agency have created the holiday show for the Young Detroiters.

THE SHOW consists of various Christmas carols, such as "White Christmas" and "Jingle Bells" interspersed with holiday readings. Santa also will be stopping by to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The idea for the special Christmas presentation came from the Young Detroiters wanting to thank the public for being supportive of their "Self Detroit" efforts the last six months.

"We just want the opportunity to show how much we appreciate everyone by wishing them the very happiest holiday season in the best way we know how—through dance and song," says Alisa Foster, one of the cast.

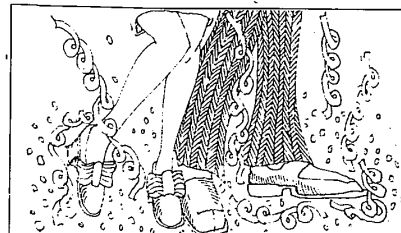
The performance is open to the public without charge. Persons are being encouraged to bring the whole family.

After the holidays, the Young Detroiters will return to the "My Detroit—Welcome to It" musical as bookings continue to come in for conventions, business gatherings, community functions and area schools.

National Bank of Detroit and the Detroit Institute of Arts have joined in making the musical available as a total educational experience for area high schools and middle schools to learn about the City of Detroit and its career opportunities.

To date the show has been presented approximately 110 times for audiences totaling 250,000. The goal of the troupe is to reach virtually everyone in the metro area and many beyond by June 1979.

For information on booking contact Marcia Nash Arter at the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, phone 964-4000.



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Money collection grows from gifts

Every day hungry travelers arriving at Metro Airport go to the nearby Elias Brothers Restaurant on Merriman Road. They bring with them not only hearty appetites but a wide assortment of money from countries all around the world.

Elias Manager Mike Curis started collecting all the exotic monies two years ago. From his first foreign bill, an English pound note tucked under the counter, his collection has now grown to 300 different bills and 400 different coins from nations all over the globe. Three boards in the Elias lobby proudly display the currencies and coins.

But what is even more amazing than the size of the collection is that every piece of currency has come from customers, either in the course of business, or as a gift.

In fact, many of the bills were given by foreign tourists who first saw the display and then wanted to leave behind an example of their country's money.

SAYS MANAGER Mike Curis. "Once we had a group of Japanese men come in for lunch. They couldn't read English, but fortunately, our menu has full-color pictures of the selections so the men could point to what they wanted. When they left, the gentlemen were so grateful for all of our help, they gave us some Japanese yen to add to our collection."

Money has even come through the mail.

"A young couple from California stopped in and were fascinated by our collection," relates Curis. "About three weeks later, they mailed us some money for our display from Nigeria."

Curis also tells the story about a beautifully colored bill from New Zealand.

"Two delightful, elderly ladies came into the restaurant. When they saw our collection, the ladies asked me why our display didn't include any money from New Zealand. They told me, 'You must take a bill from our country; our money is so beautiful.' Then they explained to me about the different denominations: 'Each bill is a different color. That's very good for us because we have a little trouble reading the numbers.'"

Americans will have no trouble recognizing at least one bill. For among all the intriguing, exotic bills in the collection is a familiar one. Displayed prominently is an American dollar.

"One day a customer stopped me and told me that we had every bill on our boards except the most beautiful of all. She gave me a U.S. Silver Certificate. I decided to put it in the center of our display as a way of saying 'thanks' to all of our customers," explains Curis. "After all, it's their collection."

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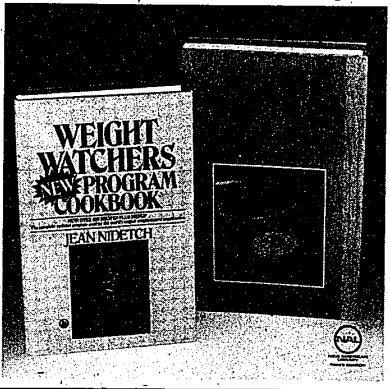
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