

# Collection keeps alive Civil War sacrifices

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Jerry Maxwell's North Farmington High history classroom is crisscrossed with posters of different Civil War generals and statesmen.

His Commerce Township home boasts a collection of Civil War papers, artifacts, pistols and 5,000 slides of battle fields and monuments.

And when his workday is done, he teaches a class at Ten Mile Community School entitled, "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Civil War but Were Afraid to Ask." The 10-week course begins tonight.

Maxwell, 37, is hooked on the Civil War. He's fascinated by the persons who lived in what he calls the last truly romantic era.

It was a time when persons gave their all for an ideal and went to unusual lengths to fulfill their commitment. It was a time that saw at least 400 women pass the Army's perfunctory physical examination and be admitted as male soldiers.

Once they were sworn into service, the men in their units were reluctant to tattle on them. Women died on the battlefield, were captured in combat and served in prison camps alongside men.

"Soldiers weren't going to tell that the person in the next bunk was a woman," Maxwell said.

AMONG THE women who enlisted was a Brooklyn-born teenager who repeatedly ran away from home to join the Union Army. Eventually her weary parents sent her to live with relatives in Ann Arbor.

Undaunted, she ran away from her relatives and joined up as a man. From the field, she wrote to her parents and apologized for the grief she caused them. She didn't see her family again. She was killed in 1863 during the battle of Chickamauga, Ga.

It's such stories of persons who went beyond the usual bounds of commitment that attracts Maxwell.

Instead of shadows from the past, Maxwell sees persons who helped shape events or who were molded by them.

Some of the men are filled with faults while others are as honorable as their followers believed.

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee rates as the cleanest character of the time.

"There were no smudges on his character. As a general he's overrated, I think," he said.

"He's one of my favorite people."

When Maxwell read about Lee during a grade school class, the story had a personal impact.

A substitute teacher told Maxwell's class to choose from a stack of books

during one afternoon.

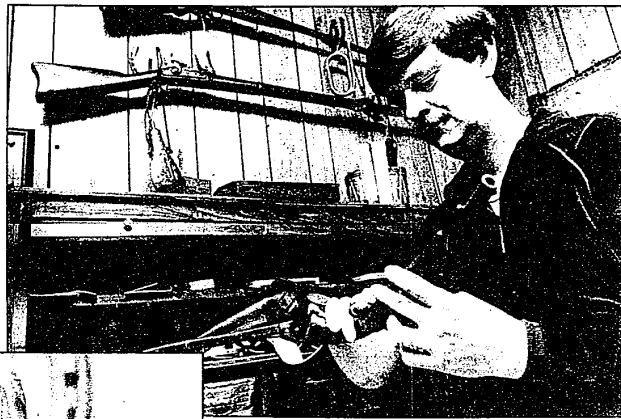
MAXWELL CHOSE a small book about Lee which he hadn't finished by the time class ended. So he smuggled it out of the school to finish reading it.

"I felt so guilty about it after reading about Lee, that I smuggled it back into the room the next day."

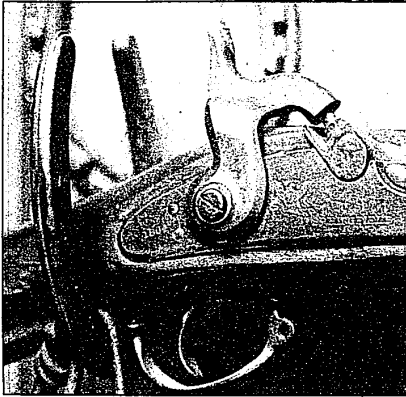
Lee made mistakes, too. He maintained later that losing the battle of Gettysburg lost him the war.

His opposite number in the Union

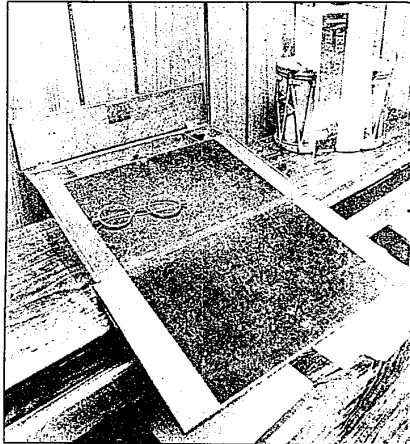
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Jerry Maxwell (above) studies a .44 caliber pistol he has in his collection of Civil War arms. The breach of the 1864 vintage rifle (inset) bears the name of its famous maker, Springfield. The .58 caliber weapon is the type the Confederate army used.



Peaceful pursuits on a hunting trip are pictured in this brass powder flask which eventually saw service in the Civil War. Made in 1836, the flask's belly bears an illustration of a man resting during a hunting trip. His dog lies next to the tree in the foreground. On the right side of the tree is the day's prey.



This field desk belonged to Maj. Henry Alden of the 38th Illinois Infantry. Maxwell kept Alden's papers and field kits together out of a sense of responsibility toward the man's memory.

Staff photos by Randy Borst

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

**THE LUTHERAN SOCIAL** Services of Michigan (LSSM) needs foster homes for 25 13-17-year-old Vietnamese Chinese refugees who have been separated from their parents or whose parents are missing or dead. More than 900 of these children are in a camp in Malaysia. LSSM is the first agency in the state to concentrate on 13-17-year-olds. It has a bi-lingual consultant who is Vietnamese. The consultant will work with the foster families and the children. Since 1975, the agency has resettled more than 300 Indo-Chinese families — about 2,000 persons — in Michigan through the sponsorship of congregations and groups. For further information call the LSSM at 579-6353.

**THE MICHIGAN COUNCIL** of the Arts opened up its bag of fiscal goodies and a few Farmington-area groups wound up with some cash. The Farmington Area Arts Commission received \$4,100 to develop and strengthen organizational stability. Michigan Ballet Theatre received \$5,500 for special arts projects. The money is to be used to sponsor three half-day dance festivals of classes, seminars, lectures and two dance performances for 900 dancers, dance company directors and choreographers. Out-state guests will include Richard Englund of the American Ballet Theatre Repertory Company, Maria Grandy and Sally Bliss of Joffrey II and Doris Hering of the National Association for Regional Ballet. The activities will take place at the Music Hall and the Radisson-Cadillac. Oakway Symphony Inc. received \$4,500 for operational support to strengthen and expand operations.

**WAKE UP, MA BELL** We caught you sleeping again. In your 1979-80 directory, you listed the Farmington Observer at its old address in Southfield and with its old Southfield number. Hey, Ma, we're at 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington, now. And for the phone company's information, you've been billing us for the privilege of using 477-5450. (And for this they want higher rates?)

**THE YVCA** of Western Wayne County Support Group for Divorced Women in conjunction with the Women's Justice Center is presenting a Divorcee Overview from 1-3 p.m. on Oct. 1 at the Y on 28279 Michigan in Inkster. The featured speaker will be attorney Joan Myers, who will discuss general legal procedures for women in this situation and will answer questions about the process of divorce. The support group serves women who are in the process of divorce or are recently divorced. The groups meet every second and fourth Monday of each month from 1-3 p.m. at the Y and 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Rosedale Garden Presbyterian Church in Livonia. For further information, call Leslie Frederick at 561-4110.

**THE NARDIN** Park Community Nursery School is sponsoring the child care food program,

designed primarily to provide meals to children in child care centers, recreation programs, etc.

Meals are available at no separate charge to all children under 18-years-old who are enrolled in Nardin Park Community Nursery School.

**A TIP OF THE** Angles' symbolic shaving cream can to Dave Finney and his newly acquired beard. Finney, a North Farmington High School teacher, spent his summer dressed in a woolen Confederate uniform giving open-air lectures for the U.S. Parks Service. Finney admits that his first day of school was rough. He kept on wishing he was back outside. Gosh, you mean even teachers get claustrophobic?

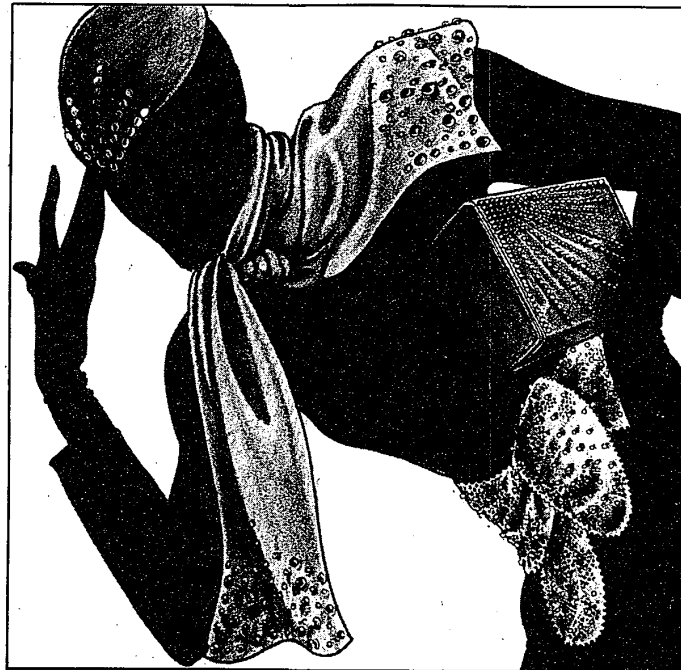
**SPEAKING OF** Civil War buffs (and we are) IA wants to welcome the Michigan Civil War Round Table to the Farmington Hills library where it will conduct its meetings.

**FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS** will be available from Oct. 1-4 at Twelve Oaks Mall on Twelve Mile in Novi. Testing at Health-O-Rama will begin each day from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. No appointments are needed and the tests are free to anyone 18 or older.

Tests have been designed to detect the symptoms of high blood pressure, diabetes, cervical cancer, anemia, heart disease, kidney disease, hearing and vision losses. Health-O-Rama shouldn't replace your yearly check up at the doc's. Test results will be forwarded to the physician or clinic of the person's choice. The service is part of the Torch Drive.

**THE MICHIGAN HOUSE** Judiciary Committee will conduct two additional public hearings on the revised juvenile code (House Bills 4774, 4775, 4777 and 4778). Hearings will take place at the following: 9:30 a.m., Oct. 5 National Guard Armory, 614 Chrysler, Cheboygan; 9:30 a.m., Oct. 15 Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 6767 West O Avenue, Kalamazoo. Persons who wish to testify should submit written copies of their statements. (Twenty are requested, if possible). Testimony should be limited to 10 minutes.

**IT'S FOOTBALL** time again and local teams are setting fire to the playing fields. In recent action at East Junior High's field, the Steinhaus crew defeated the Hashashians 20-16. The colorful Hashashians are easily spotted by their printed jerseys which feature the crescent and star insignia. After each touchdown, the team lifts its voices in the cry, "Hash sabah" (What else did you expect from a team that named itself after an ancient Mid-Eastern group that ultimately became known as the assassins?). Seems the original group of less-than-fun-loving guys had a penchant for preying on stray travelers in the name of religion. Shucks, anybody would love to be a sacrifice, right? IA salutes the Hashashians: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



SONDRA SCHNEIDER sends word from HEAVEN. And the word is—studding! Her accessory collection for HEAVEN DESIGNS is a stunning stud-up on the subject. Luxe little extras illuminated with studs of every shape, size and pattern. Plum reptile wrap belt, \$175. Burgundy suede box bag, \$145. Black muffin hat, \$80, and 4-foot-long wine scarf, \$115, both in wool jersey. Just the items to spark a suit look, light a night look, spotlight your individuality. In The Woodward Shop Cache, Northland only.

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