

'Kennedy fever' keeps phones busy

By ALICE COLLINS

At the Bloomfield Hills headquarters of the Oakland County Democratic Committee, typewriters are being worked a little harder and the telephone lines are ringing more often.

"We've had a lot of phone calls in the last two weeks," said executive director Kay Penner, "from people wanting to know if there's a Kennedy (Sen. Ted Kennedy) for president organization in the area."

"We refer all these calls to the senator's office in Washington. The county committee must remain absolutely neutral. We don't get involved with a candidate until he's nominated by the party."

"Any calls concerning President Carter," added Ms. Penner, "are referred to the Democratic National Committee. The party committees operate under the concept that an incumbent is the candidate until he lets you know that he isn't."

Although there may be some money being raised for Kennedy on an individual basis, Ms. Penner said she was unaware of a Kennedy organization in the area now.

MS. PENNER said getting Democrats elected to Oakland County offices is a primary focus. "Actually, the activity never really lets up here. People keep asking me, 'Why do you work full time when there isn't always an election coming up?'"

"The answer is we have to do it just to get ready for the election."

In the fall of next year, Oakland County voters, like voters in other parts of the country, will cast ballots for president, congressional delegates, state representatives, county commissioners and county officials.

The Democrats are headquartered in suite 14 of the Bloomfield Office Plaza in the heart of Republican territory. "We may be in somewhat of an enemy camp," said Bunny Goldman, who

works for the committee as the liaison to the county government, "but I don't feel any hostility. Actually we're making inroads in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area."

"IT'S NOT as homogenous as it used to be," said Ms. Goldman. "Many who wouldn't have lived here in the past feel very comfortable living here now. And many of them are Democrats."

The Democrats have other things ahead in Birmingham. On Oct. 28, the County Democratic Party will stage a \$25-a-person cocktail party fund raiser in Tweney's Cafe.

Because Tweney's is normally closed on Mondays and because it has a liquor license, the cafe had to get special permission for the party from the Birmingham City Commission. Approval came on a four-to-three vote.

"For a little while there, I wasn't sure they were going to give us permission," said Ms. Goldman, who attended

the commission meeting to speak for the Democrats. "But they finally came through, even if it was by one vote only."

The Tweney's party will be limited to 300 persons (set by the fire marshal) at a time. "It'll be like a St. Patrick's Day party," said Ms. Penner. "If you reach the limit you close the doors until someone leaves."

Later in the fall, county Democrats will hold their 100 Club (those who have contributed \$100 or more) holiday party at Birmingham's historic Allen House.

"GETTING DEMOCRATS elected to county offices will be especially important next year," said Ms. Goldman. "It will be the last election before the redistricting brought on by the 1980 census."

"We know there's been a population shift and a population loss in many of our communities, and it will be the county officials elected next year who'll sit on the redistricting committee."

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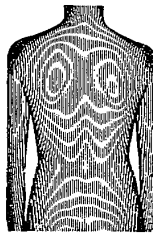
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To buy or not to buy is the question

This is the fourth in a series of five articles by the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA) on "Living With Inflation."

In these inflationary times, would it pay us to rent things we need rather than buying them at sky-high prices?

If so, there are places where you can rent, at daily rates, or on lease for a month or more, boats, clothes, recreational vehicles, power tools, sports equipment, musical instruments, cameras, TV sets — just about anything you can name is available somewhere.

Railroads even rent freight cars, and airlines some of the planes they use.

But aren't rental rates inflated also, thus nullifying the advantages of renting? What must the ratio of rental fee to purchase price be to make one preferable to the other?

Business clients are regular helpers in making such buy-or-rent decisions, following a line of reasoning that might help families, too, arrive at sound decisions in this area.

The first step is to determine the relative costs of the three alternatives in terms of what each method will cost per day (or other unit) of expected use. If an item will be used only one day per year, for example, obviously

the daily rental is the best bet. If it's to be used every day of the year, purchasing the item is the only answer. But what do you decide when usage is likely to fall somewhere in between?

Let's cite the hypothetical example of an electric typewriter that costs \$900, let's say, rents for \$7.50 a day, and can be leased for \$50 a month. To

determine the full cost of ownership it is necessary to add to the \$900 purchase price the interest expense — either interest paid on borrowed money or interest income lost — plus such other costs as insurance and maintenance, all of which might bring the total close to \$1200.

Amortized over a life expectancy of

eight years, ownership cost is a modest \$150 a year, or \$12.50 a month, but it must be remembered that this cost would be incurred for the full eight years, regardless of how much the machine is used.

If you use the typewriter no more than six days a year, therefore, your costs will be \$45 for daily rentals, which is less than either alternative.

Caskets give police an upset

(Continued from page 3A)

"He was 90 percent certain we'd interrupted something gruesome." Because police occasionally do uncover such strange situations, everyone was taking it seriously, Garwood said.

"We made all the classic movements," he chuckled.

THE FARMINGTON Jaycee haunters are delighted their work is so convincing, although they regret the alarm they caused police.

"It's been kind of funny — I've been chuckling about it all day," said Terry Seaver, who is among those preparing the house for Halloween.

He said he doesn't know who owns

the cars that awakened the officers' suspicions, but added that Jaycees had been working at the site until midnight that evening.

"It was rather dreary — cold and windy," Seaver recalled. "It had been drizzling."

The farmhouse has been a Jaycee haunt since early October. Police may have found the place eerie last week, but the best is yet to come, he said.

"We generally don't put the last touches on until the final week," he said. "From here on, we will be there 'round the clock."

The Jaycees expect 15,000-20,000 visitors at their spooky site this year, according to Seaver. It's the 13th lucky

year of operation for the Farmington scare spot. Last year, 18,000 people went through the Jaycee house, he said. A different house is chosen each year.

About 100 members are involved in setting up the house and guiding youngsters through on autumn evenings. Seaver promised goblin music, monsters and more coffins.

The haunted house will be open Oct. 20-31. Times are 7-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; and 7-midnight, Friday-Sunday. Admission is \$1.50.

"I think this is one of the best houses we've had," Seaver said. "The basement is extra good."

West Bloomfield police might be willing to verify that.

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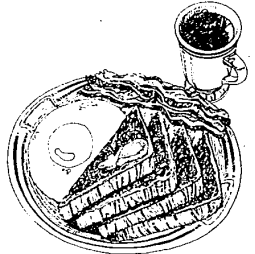
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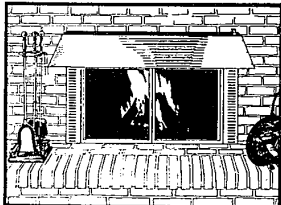
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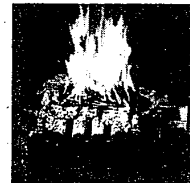
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