

John Sargeant show worth a visit

Together-



Mr. and Mrs. Claus

Behind every successful man is his wife. Santa Claus is no exception in this card offered by the American Cancer Society. Call the society at 557-5353 for a color brochure of this and four other cards which are sold for a \$6.25 per box of 25, plus charges for mailing. Imprinting is available.

See the John Singer Sargeant show at the Detroit Institute of Arts sometime before it closes on Dec. 9. Detroit is the only city in the United States to host the intriguing display, assembled from private and public collections. It's unlikely that after the show disbands in early December, the like will ever be gathered together again.

Sargeant painted the elegant Edwardian age in all its beauty and some of its decadence. Unlike many portraits of beautiful people, these show what the sitters were like — or at least Sargeant's interpretation of their kind. His judgments are fascinating but not always flattering.

The Edwardians were in rebellion against the restrictive quality of life under Edward VII's mother, Queen Victoria. They wanted gaiety, variety and luxury, and they had the wealth to buy it. Sargeant painted the beautiful gowns, the opulent jewels and the lush environments that the British



the lively needle

Mary Kay Davis

Empire at its height provided for those at the top.

THE PEOPLE AT the top, however, were not always too happy if their faces expressed their true feelings. The portrait of Mrs. Robert Harrison is haunting. She is tall, elegant, beautifully dressed in red and white. Her face is sly, and seems to wonder how she should behave. Her hands are wonderful. They aren't quite wringing themselves with anxiety, but they're very close to it. Mrs. Harrison was in the midst of a juicy scandal at the time the

portrait was painted and Sargeant captured an understandingly reserved quality.

As I was seeing the exhibition, a man behind me said: "No wonder Sargeant was so popular. He made every woman he painted look luscious." Either the Edwardian era had more beauties per square foot than subsequent periods of history, or Sargeant brought out the best in his sitters.

THERE'S NOT A bad figure in the

bunch. The colors are rich, the gowns are breathtaking and the subjects tell you about their personalities. We live in a time when many artists don't wish to communicate directly with their audience, but leave them guessing at what, if anything, it is they want to say. It's delightful to spend some time with a painter who had a story to tell and superbly did so.

Don't miss "Madame X." Her portrait created a terrific furor in Paris. The lady, a member of the beautiful people was notorious for her amours — and that's just how Sargeant painted her, much to the outrage of the lady, her mother and most of Paris. But she would be long forgotten if not for that fantastic portrait.

Treat yourself to an afternoon with the woman and her companions. This is a show that you really shouldn't miss.

Avon clerk is speaker for seniors

Thelma Spencer, Avon Township clerk, will be guest speaker at the meeting of chapter 1081 of the American Association of Retired Persons at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, in the Rochester Elks Club.

Mrs. Spencer, now in her ninth term as township clerk, will discuss the history and future of the township and answer questions from the audience.

Involved in the development of the community since her employment in 1938, Mrs. Spencer did general office work in the township offices for eight years, served as deputy clerk 15 years, and was elected clerk in 1961.

The club is at 600 University Drive. Senior citizens their guests and visitors are welcome. A social hour and refreshments will follow the program.

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