

There's snow business like yuletide business

By mid-week, Farmington's thin blanket of snow had melted into a mere early winter memory.

Nonetheless, slowly and surely it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Tell-tale signs, such as Christmas tree lots, are cropping up all over town.

The Jaycees' tree lot on Grand River next to Burger King offers those seasonally correct evergreens from noon until 10 p.m. every day until Christmas Eve. Proceeds will go toward the Farmington YMCA and the Farmington Area Advisory Council.

On the other side of the two cities, Farmer John's Greenhouse on Haggerty features Christmas trees and poinsettias for those who like to decorate early.

The folks down at the greenhouse advise buyers to put a fresh cut on the bottom of the tree and place it in water. Exotic concoctions such as water, sugar and aspirin said to keep the tree fresh longer were discredited by greenhouse employee Craig Pelchat.

As Farmington area residents begin to buy their trees and trimmings, old Santa is putting the finishing touches on his schedule of visits. Santa will breeze into town for a brief visit to Crowley's on Twelve Mile near Farmington Road from 7-9 p.m., Dec. 14 on the second floor of the store.

THERE ARE A FEW holiday programs for the young and the young at heart being offered by the Farmington



Finding the perfect yule bush is Jerry Kaufman who was helping the Jaycees sell trees this year. (Staff photo)

Community Libraries

Pre-school and kindergarten students can attend a story and craft session planned around the holidays at 10:30 a.m., Dec. 20 in the Farmington Hills branch library on Twelve Mile near Farmington Road. Each child should bring a gift box wrapped in solid colored paper for a craft activity.

"Christmas Fun" a holiday craft program, is offered for students in grades one through six at 2 p.m., Dec. 22 in the Farmington Hills branch library. Each child should bring two sheets of tissue paper.

At the Farmington branch on Liberty, the library system is offering a film for 2- to 5-year-olds and their parents at 10:30 a.m., Dec. 14. The films, "Santa's Toys" and "The Little Drummer Boy" will be shown. A roly-poly snowman will be made and children are requested to bring their crayons.

The 6-11-year-old set can watch a film called "Yes, Virginia, There Really is a Santa Claus" at 2 p.m., Dec. 15 in the Farmington library. There will be a holiday craft project, too.

Parents can get a little card shopping done at the libraries. Both branches are carrying samples and order forms for cards from charitable organizations.

SENIORS CAN kick up their heels at a holiday party in the Gathering Place, gate 4 of Mercy Center on Eleven Mile near Middle Belt. The party is scheduled for 1 p.m., Dec. 20.

Little ones can give Santa a ring by dialing 478-TOYS courtesy of the

Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department.

For those who would like to thumb their noses at the price of gasoline and travel around the state looking for ways to enjoy the holidays, there are a few events available.

Until Dec. 31 the International Institute of Detroit offers a program called "Christmas Around the World" featuring yuletide traditions from other countries. At Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, crafts and baked goods of Christmas past bring back another age of celebration.

Detroit's Christmas Carnival will be open to the public until Dec. 23 at Cobo Hall. This year's carnival includes 35 exhibits, many of them animated.

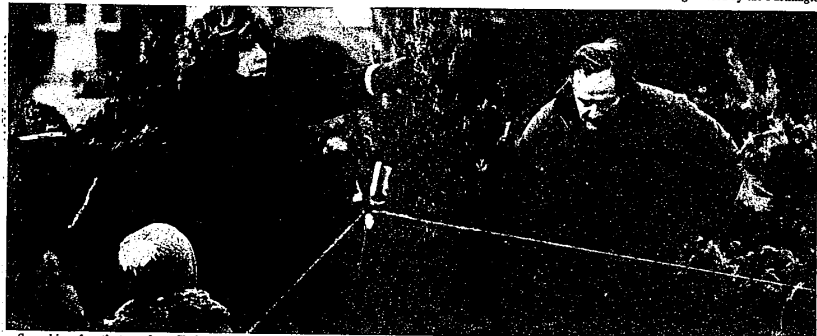
Lunch with Santa and take a cruise on his sleigh Dec. 14-16 and 21-23 at the Kensington Children's Farm near Milford. Reservations are required since the old elf is busy this time of year.

The "Nutcracker Ballet" will grace the stage at Ford Auditorium on Dec. 28-30. For those who prefer singing to dancing, the Detroit Symphony performs the "Messiah" on Dec. 21-22 at Ford Auditorium. The Kenneth Jewell Chorus will sing.

FOR THOSE WHO venture further out into the state, there's the Harrison Mardi Gras in Harrison, Mich. Activities emphasize snow, of course. There's a snowfall every day, a Snoedoo and a poker rally. For those who are snowed under by the cold, there's hot dogs and hot chocolate. Harrison celebrates snow from Dec. 26-Jan. 1.



George Bussey hasn't forgotten what it's like to be a kid. And to ensure that he doesn't, he shows his daughter, Adella, 3, how good old Dad did it when he was young (or younger, anyway). (Staff photo by Randy Bors)



Searching for that perfect Christmas tree can be a lot of fun or somewhat frustrating. Here we have Brenda Crawley and Lee Pratt checking out this year's crop. Looking on in the cap is Mark Pratt. (Staff photo)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

THE SOUND OF tap, tap, tap isn't limited to Santa's reindeer impatiently waiting on rooftops. Some old fashioned toe-tapping sounds will be coming from the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church at 8 p.m., Dec. 14 when the Fancy Farmers of Farmington Square Dance Club holds its ninth annual Christmas dance. A portion of the dance is dedicated to the Farmington Goodfellows. Whenever Santa and Mrs. Claus dance in a square, others in the square can contribute to the Farmington Goodfellows. Of course, the Clauses will make sure to dance in every square. Visitors are always welcome to join in the Fancy Farmer's festivities.

A LITTLE HOLIDAY MUSIC will emanate from the halls of Our Lady of Mercy High, 29300 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. The music department's Christmas concert will be presented twice: at 8 p.m., Dec. 14 and at 3 p.m., Dec. 16. The concert will include Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" a medley of familiar Christmas melodies by the Mercy Concert Choir and orchestra and a performance of contemporary music by the Mercyaires. Admission is \$1 plus a donation of a non-perishable food which will be given to the Dun Scotus food distribution center in Southfield. Last year, the response was so good, the center had enough stock on their shelves to last through January.

The Mercy music department also wishes to make a gift of music to all senior citizens who will receive complimentary tickets to the concert upon request.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS Roman Catholic Church has a few holiday activities planned, too. At 8 p.m., Dec. 16 the parish will have a "Carols, Candles and Trimming the Tannenbaum" service. This will be the 10th annual tree trimming service for the parish. All of the parish children are invited to help trim the tree with their own decorations and join in singing carols. Parents and grandparents are invited. Wrapped gifts for distribution to needy children are welcome. Please mark the gift with the age and gender most suitable for it. Punch and cookies will be served afterwards in the church hall.

THOSE HOLIDAY spirited folks down at Sorrows have a Christmas tree brimming over with red ribbons, this year. The tree was barren when it was set up and small wreaths with the name and need of a senior citizen at Oakhill Nursing Home, Oakhill Annex or Whitehall Nursing Home were placed under the tree in the church sanctuary. Families or individuals selected wreaths and

received instructions on how to make someone's holiday a bit brighter. For every fulfilled wish, a red ribbon was placed on the tree.

'TIS THE SEASON for fledgling actors. Various auditions are opening up in the area. Open auditions for "Joe Egg" will be conducted by the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford at 2 p.m., Dec. 16 and 7:30 p.m., Dec. 17 in the Guild's home at 15138 Beech Daly, south of Five Mile. They're looking for a girl about 10 years old, two women and two men about 30-45 years old and one older woman. "Joe Egg" is a black comedy about a couple and their helpless handicapped child, Josephine. For further information call 425-3415.

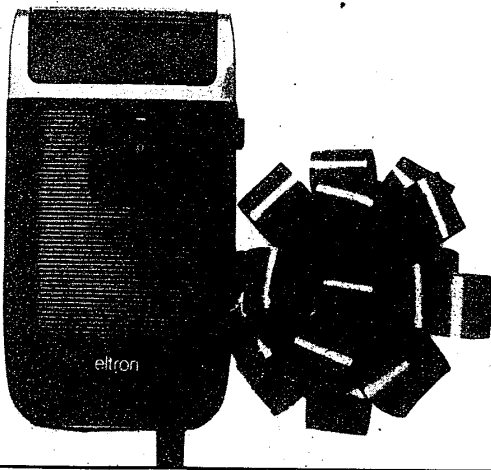
The Southeast Theatre Association of Oakland Community College will be conducting auditions for its production of the play "Flight" by Dr. Jim Warner. The story concerns a divorced man and a widowed woman who fall in love after breaking down the barriers each had built up during their first marriages. The play will run Feb. 29, March 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14 and 15. Auditions will be conducted from 8-10:30 p.m. Dec. 13 at Oakland Community College's Southeast Campus, 703 South Center in Royal Oak in the auditorium of building C. The roles are for men and women between 24-45 years old. SETA is planning to present "Hail," "The Petrified Forest," "The Great God Brown" and "The Taming of the Shrew" this season. For further information call 548-1252, ext. 58.

SPEAK UP at Warner Junior High School and expect some sharp answers. The school's forensics team returned from Ann Arbor with a showcase of awards.

This year's team at the Fall Individual Events Forensics Tournament at the University of Michigan did well, especially when you consider that 21 of the 24 competing students from Warner are seventh graders. Five of the students placed within the top five propositions in the state competition. Suzanne Delio, seventh grade, placed fifth in the state in humor speaking. Lisa Brown, a seventh grader, placed fifth in the state in impromptu speaking. John Kerrigan, a seventh grader took home a trophy for finishing third in extemporaneous speaking. Bill Smith, a ninth grader, earned a trophy for finishing third in original oratory. Marke Aune, seventh grader, placed first in the state in impromptu speaking. Stephanie East, Wendy Paris, Alan Cohen, Laurie Norfman, Beth Noteman, Julie Satz, Tammi Waldman, Jody Cantor, Suzie Merkle, Stacy Singer, Michelle Alameddine, Gwen Cassia, Michelle Miller and Joann Toth won certificates for superior scores.

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