

Those fluffy white flakes are snow-where to be seen

Remember snow? It's that white, cold, wet stuff that fell on us last winter. Winter is usually known for snow.

This winter is becoming known for the lack of it. There isn't enough snow to try out those new sleds. There isn't enough snow to build a snowman. There isn't even enough snow for motorists to get caught.

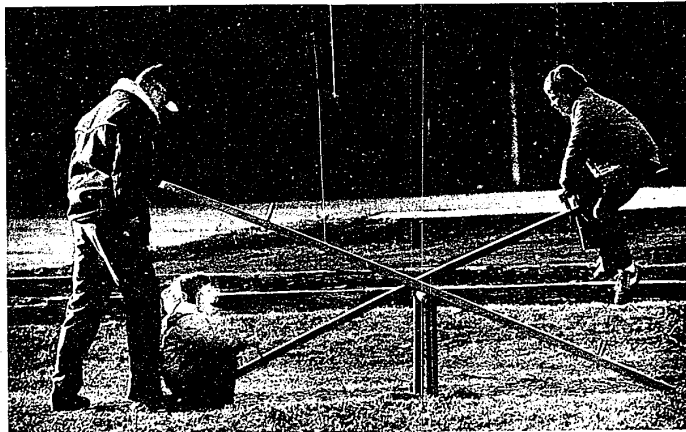
This year we were blessed with a sunny Christmas and a snow-free New Year's Day. It was beginning to look a lot like Easter.

Farmington-area residents began to partake of some strangely spring-like pastimes. Down in Farmington City Park on Shiawassee, Patty Hansen, 6, and her brother George, 10, were discovering what goes up must come down on the see-saw while their father, Paul, watched. Instead of bundling up in scarves and boots, Patty and George trotted out in jackets and tennis shoes.

Poking in the grass instead of the snow was Irwin Perrie. Armed with his metal detector, Perrie spent a sunny winter afternoon taking advantage of the snow-free ground. He hoped to find some valuable metal. Instead he found junk.

While Perrie was walking his metal detector, tennis buffs in the area converged on the courts for a little mid-winter netting.

The thought occurs — maybe when 1979 packed its bags it took the snow, too.



Staff photos by Randy Borst

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

WHILE WE'RE STILL bravely attempting to keep all those New Year's resolutions, the people at the Farmington Post Office are patting themselves on the back for keeping their holiday promise to deliver those seasonal cards and letters on time. "Twas the night before Christmas and all through the post office not a single Christmas letter or package was left behind," said postmaster Kenneth Harris with apologies to Clement Moore. He gives kudos to the mailing public as well as postal workers. (Quick, hush up that wisecrack who is itching to say they're talking about Christmas 1978.)

SPEAKING OF NEW Year's resolutions, Edith Stone from the Fancy Farmers of Farmington Square Dance Club hopes to get more exercise, go out more and drive less. Of course, she's thinking of square dance lessons beginning Jan. 16 for eight weeks at the Ten Mile Community School. The class for persons who have some square dance experience runs from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Pre-register at the school, 32789 Ten Mile. There's a \$20 fee per couple. For further information call 553-3270.

A BIT OF THAT old '70s disco made it's appearance around Christmas in the Farmington Training Center when students had a chance to strut their stuff at a holiday party.

Music was provided by Farmington High School musicians who banded together under the name Threshold. While Rick DeForge, Edgar Kalns, Jeff Franchi and Buryl Hills provided the music, FHS students Dave Sutton, Bill Cantor and Doug Lynch gave the party that ultimate disco accessory: fancy lighting. A big New Year line of stars to these FHS all-stars: ★★★★★★★★★★

THE NEW YEAR'S PARTY may be over but those empty bottle and cans have a way of lingering on longer than that last stubborn guest. If you still haven't made your way down to the store with your load of empties, consider giving them to the Farmington Community Center. No, they won't turn them into vases or windchimes. The Farmington Jaycees are going door-to-door collecting the bottles on Jan. 5. The empties will be cashed in and the money given to help the Center. The goal is \$10,000. That's a lot of empties. So pitch in for the Community Center and pitch out those pesky bottles all in one fell swoop. (How's that for economy of motion?)

IF YOU'RE HAVING problems while rummaging around your family tree, the "Brainstorming in Genealogy" session at 2 p.m., Jan. 12 in the Explorer's Room of the Detroit

Public Library, 5201 Woodward, Detroit is for you. Betty Lou Morris will offer an opportunity to present your genealogical hunting problem to the group. Individual consultations with members of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research will be available in the morning in the Burton Historical Collection room.

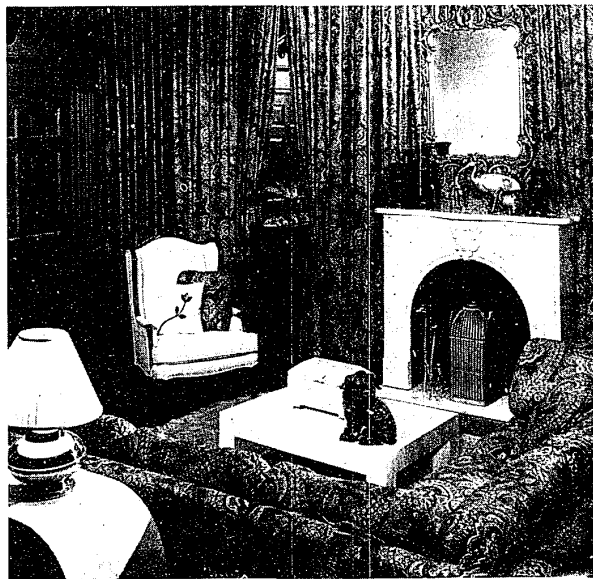
THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY BAND? Board is calling all interested supporters to a meeting at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 7 in the Farmington Hills branch library, 32737 12 Mile. The occasion is the kick-off planning session for the FCB fundraiser, an all sports and variety show. The group is trying to reach its goal of \$20,000. The third biennial fun-raiser is scheduled to go public on Feb. 29. (Let's hope supporters leap at the chance to help the FCB on that day.)

ARE YOU A FRAIDY cat when it comes to the water? Would you rather sit on the beach and wait for a 90-pound weakling to kick sand in your face than dip your toes in the water? Make a resolution this new year to change all of that. The Farmington Area YMCA sponsors its winter session beginning Jan. 14. The classes include fraidy cat swimming (yup, that's what they call it) and swimming for anyone from six months through adults. For those who prefer other pursuits, there's fitness, judo, ballroom dance, gymnastics, karate, disco dance, dog obedience, pre-school variety shows and more. Call 553-4020 for further information and a brochure.

DO YOU HAVE enough muscles to call yourself an oyster shucker? Then, here's a contest to warm the cockles of your heart.

The Maryland Department of Economic and Community Development is sponsoring a contest to find the Michigan champion oyster shucker. The winner will receive a free trip to the national finals in Leonardtown, Md. next October, compliments of the State of Maryland (their tax dollars at work). Entrants should call Loretta Harris in Detroit at 963-1244 to register. The contest will be conducted at three Chuck Winer restaurants in the state: on Jan. 21 at the Gandy Dancer in Ann Arbor; on Jan. 22 at the River Crab on St. Clair River, two miles north of St. Clair; and on Jan. 23 at Charley's Raw Bar & Seafood restaurant in the Hotel Penitentiary, Detroit. Maryland has an ulterior motive in all of this hoopla, of course. It hopes to draw attention to its Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean seafood with oysters and crabs as its prime products.

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