

class reunions

DETROIT SOUTHWESTERN

The 30-year reunion of Detroit Southwestern High School will be Saturday, Feb. 23, at Thomas Crystal Garden, Southgate. The classes that graduated 1943 through 1953 are invited to participate.

Those interested in attending may call Jim Leffler, 546-9666.

DETROIT MUNFORD 1960

A meeting to organize a 20-year reunion for the Mumford High School class of 1960 will be held Wednesday, March 5. Information on the meeting is available from Eleanor Aronowitz, 546-9438, or Barbara Kraft, 546-9563.

DETROIT PERSHING 1955

The Pershing High School class of 1955 plans a 25-year reunion dinner dance 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, April 12, in the Ukrainian Community Center, 26601 Ryan Road, Warren.

Music for dancing will begin at 9 p.m. Ticket are \$19.25 per person and may be reserved by sending a check to the Pershing Alumni Fund, June 1955, in care of Barbara (Lloyd) Farmer, 11312 Regal Drive, Sterling Heights 48078. Mrs. Farmer may be telephoned after 5 p.m. at 264-6215.

DETROIT ROSARY 1970

The Rosary High School class of 1970 will hold its 10-year reunion April 12. The cost is \$15, and information on arrangements is available from Terry (Niemiec) Bialobrzski, 464-6207.

DETROIT CENTRAL 1928-1932

A "50ish" reunion dinner dance is planned beginning at 6 p.m. Sunday, June 1, for persons who graduate from Detroit Central High School in the classes of 1928 to 1932. It will be held at Vladimir's Restaurant in Farmington Hills.

Reservations are limited and should be made with Lee Helsen, 535-5256.

DETROIT REDFORD 1943

The class of 1943 at Redford High

School will hold its first reunion Saturday, June 7, in the Shenandoah Country Club. Graduates from both the January and June classes will be welcome. Those interested in attending may call Clare Sanderson Johnson, 525-6671.

DETROIT ST. THERESA 1960

The St. Theresa class that graduated in 1960 is planning a 20-year reunion Saturday, June 14, at Holiday Inn, Farmington Hills. Those interested in attending may call Margie (Lutten) Connor, 474-3785, or Joste (Pace) Casar, 478-9921.

BLOOMFIELD ANDOVER 1969

An 11-year reunion is being planned for Bloomfield Andover High School Saturday, June 21, in Roma's of Birmingham. Call Bonnie Picou, 682-7406, for more information.

OAK PARK 1960

The Oak Park High School class of 1960 will hold its 20-year reunion June 28. Those who have not received a flier on the event may call Janice Nafaly Katz, 626-2939, or Rochelle Siegel Hoff, 355-1509.

REDFORD UNION 1960

A reunion for 1960 graduates of Redford Union High School is being planned Aug. 9 in Vladimir's restaurant, Farmington Hills. Those interested in attending may write Kay Kehoe, 22121 Cumberland, Northville 48167, or telephone John Verberke, 341-0246.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 1974

The Franklin High School class of 1974 will hold a reunion Saturday, Sept. 20. More information on the event is available from Kim Kaseta, 537-9662.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 1970

Those who graduated from Franklin High School in 1970 and are interested in attending a 10-year reunion should call reunion committee member Diane Epley, 459-7066.

Professor researches

Folk tales have common origins

Uncle Remus and his charming tale of Brer Rabbit and the Tarbaby have held generations of American youngsters spellbound at story time.

But not many Americans realize that as the old slave reaches into the ashes to pull out a roasted yam and begins his story, the tale he recounts is not a quaint sample of black American folklore.

In fact, the familiar tale originated in India in a collection of folktales about the rebirth of Buddha.

Even Cinderella, the world's most popular folktale, can be traced to a Chinese version found in texts from the seventh century.

GILBERT B. CROSS, an Eastern Michigan University associate professor of English, recently completed an analysis of folktales. The results were published in a collection by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

Titled "World Folktales," the book offers an assortment of world folklore from Europe, the British Isles, Scandinavia, Russia, Africa, North and South America, the Far East and India.

The book, although intended as a scholarly work, provides an analysis of each tale, including a history and migration, major themes and motifs and comparisons with similar tales from both the oral and literary tradition.

Cross, who recently published his first novel, a spy thriller, began researching the book while teaching a children's literature class at Eastern. He co-authored the work with Atelia Clarkson, former EMU folklorist now residing in Austin, Texas.

ACCORDING TO CROSS, the collection has several strengths.

"It is designed to please both the interested reader and the serious scholar. It is comprehensive collection of 66 folktales from all over the world. They are carefully grouped to make it easy for the average person to find them. We have also included extensive cross indexing."

"It is sufficient in itself for a folktale course but it does give many references to other folktales in other collections. Basically, what we have tried to do is give a mix of well known folk tales,

versions that would be known to most readers," Cross explained.

"WORLD FOLKTALES" contains two indexes of folktales listed by title and motif. Since the origin of many folktales is unknown because of their widespread migration, readers can tell at a glance if a common motif is found in any of the 66 tales in the collection.

Cross' book contains the familiar "Puss in Boots," for instance, but it's a Czechoslovakian version and Puss is actually a fox. For the tale of Cinderella, Cross and Clarkson picked a version that featured an Indian maiden in Canada.

"Cinderella" is undoubtedly the world's most popular folktale. There is a Japanese version, only it's about two sisters and instead of wanting to go to the ball, they want to go to the Kabuki theater. Their prince wants them to write a haiku about a toothpick stuck in a pile of sand on a platter to determine who is the most desirable. One sister gets the meter wrong, so he picks the other for his wife.

"Our goal with this book was to trace

all the variances of a folktale and try to find where it originally came from. Tracing the history and geography of a tale is most difficult," Cross stated.

Cross said he likes the Korean version of the frog prince and he's especially interested in tales of fairies and fairyland.

"The Adventure of Cherry of Zenon" is one of my favorites in the book. The fairies' greatest power is that of glamour. They cast a spell over you and when you wake up you find things aren't as they seem.

"We have also included some legends, stories of witches, vampires and were-wolves, in the book. We haven't included fables. They are a literary product and are not folktales," Cross added.

In his collection of 66 folktales, Cross has included a variety of motifs ranging from "magic to 'wages' to 'reversals of fortune.'" An index of types of folktales in the book includes "Blowing the House In," a version of the "Three Little Pigs," "The Fleeting Pancake" and "The Mouse Regains Its Tail."

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