

White Gloves and Party Manners

Teaching the basics which lead to gracious living

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Little girls are being turned into young ladies in classes that are now under way in Crowley's stores in Livonia Mall and Sterling Heights' Lakeside.

"It's a return to gracious living," said Paula Kempton, who, along with her partner Carol Mullen, hold sway over the sessions called "White Gloves and Party Manners."

The 5-12 year olds are learning both American and European table manners; how to sit and how to enter a room; learning how to introduce people and how to acknowledge an introduction; how to write a thank you note, and another dozen basics of etiquette.

"We want these children to be so well versed in these areas they will be comfortable in any situation," Mrs. Mullen said. She added that in one of the six-week Saturday sessions, the students get a lesson in the art of relaxation in the event they do encounter an uncomfortable situation.

"The whole aim," Mrs. Kempton said, "is to help the children become

such delightful guests that they will always be welcomed back by any host or hostess."

The two women have purchased the franchise for "White Gloves and Party Manners" for the state.

MRS. KEMPTON, a Birmingham resident, is a former kindergarten and nursery school teacher, so is accustomed to the ways of youngsters, but said teaching etiquette was a very small part of her working world.

Mrs. Mullen, a Bloomfield Township resident, is a former airlines stewardess who said that tact, diplomacy and etiquette played a large part in her one-time career.

The two met one another under the hair dryers in Birmingham's Hairmen Salon.

"White Gloves and Party Manners" is the creation of Margabelle Stewart, who started her career teaching diplomatic protocol in Washington, D.C.

A meeting with Mrs. Stewart was arranged after Mrs. Mullen had read "Stand Up and Say How Do You Do,"

written by Mrs. Stewart in cooperation with Ann Buchwald.

She had purchased "Stand Up and Say How Do You Do" for the benefit of her own 8- and 12-year-old sons, but has since found that teaching other people's children is a lot easier than teaching her own.

When the two women purchased Manners, Inc., after intensive training by its creator, they expected to be teaching the classes in local country clubs, schools, or community centers. But before they approached these outlets, they were contacted by Crowley's.

THE CROWLEY'S stores in Farmington and Birmingham are expected to be the next sites for new "White Gloves and Party Manners" classes.

A session for boys in the 5-12 age range is also on the agenda, and this will be a separate class "because the two sexes don't mix too well during those years," Mrs. Kempton said.

They are also prepared to give lessons to specific groups, such as Girl Scouts, clubs, organizations, schools.

Classes are limited to 20. "It would be foolish to consider anymore because questions take up so much of our time and we want to work with each individual as much as we can," Mrs. Kempton said.

The two women stressed that the classes were without rigidity or stiff formality.

"When you are sure in your own mind that you are wearing the right clothes, you are comfortable and you feel right," Mrs. Mullen said. "It is exactly the same as when you are sure of your manners."

"When you see a man sit down to the table and joke about the amount of silverware at the place setting, that man is joking out of embarrassment. He is uncomfortable."

"We want to make these children comfortable anywhere, any time."

"We're returning to more restaurant dining, the traditional wedding, the more formal gatherings, all these things are back in vogue," Mrs. Kempton said, "so it's important we have the manners to go with them."

Mrs. Kempton will take inquiries about future classes, or other classes that can be developed for special interest groups by calling her at 644-2534.



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The three little maids all in a row are Melissa Peters (at left), Natalie Howze and Terra Peters. The youngsters, in classes now going on in Crowley's Livonia store are learning the proper way to sit, stand, and enter a room.



Gretchen Nielsen (at left) begins her grooming session before students stage a mock birthday party. Looking on are Leslie Brock and Muffy Gurllinger. Melissa Witkowski has her back to the camera.



Paula Kempton shows her charges the proper way to prepare bath water. On the instructor's left is Muffy Gurllinger, at her right are Karen Baril and Jennifer Serio.

Rackham Choir pays a visit

The 110 voice Rackham Symphony Choir will present a special concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 25, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of First United Methodist Church, located at 35112 Grand River.

Charles Heard, director of the symphony choir,

has prepared a special arrangement of the United Methodist hymn, "O For a Thousand Tongues" that will be sung for the first time during the concert.

The copyright of this arrangement will be presented by Heard and the choir to the historic

church in honor of its sesquicentennial. The Rackham Symphony Choir, now in its 28th year, is the official choir of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets to the concert are \$2.50 for adults or \$1.25 for students and senior citizens. They are avail-

able at the door or through the church office, 474-6573. Nursery facilities in the church will be available for concert-goers use. The choir's appearance continues a year long schedule of special events to mark the church anniversary.

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