

## Wonders of Storybook Land

Dramatics director Ralph Valatka is flanked by his students in a script reading session that leads the way to "The Wonders of Storybook Land," to be staged at 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday, March 31, in Farmington Community Center. At his left is Jon Hoff and on his right are Marc Tenenbaum, Derek Howard and Becky

Land, who take lead roles in the play that winds up classes for the 7-10 year old set. "Cinderella" comes to the center at 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 1, from those 11 years and older who took classes this winter under Valatka's instruction. Tickets are \$1.25 each and can be purchased by calling the center, 477-8484.

## Governor recommends arts budget increase

Gov. William Milliken's budget recommendation for 1979-80 includes a significant increase in state funding for the Michigan Council for the Arts (MCA).

The governor's budget calls for a record allocation of \$7.2 million for support of the arts in Michigan. It is anticipated that this figure will be supplemented with federal funds amounting to some \$700,000. Comparable figures for the current fiscal year are \$5 million in state funds and \$500,000 in federal support.

The proposed MCA budget must be reviewed and voted on by appropriation committees in the House and Senate prior to final action by both houses of the legislature.

Significant changes in the budget include increases of 56 percent for community arts councils, 48 percent for operational support of more than 60 statewide arts organizations of all disciplines, and 33 percent for locally initiated "grass roots" arts projects.

This year, for the first time, the council has proposed a grants program which will provide direct assistance to individual artists. The governor's budget also recognizes the council's need for additional field and administrative personnel by recommending an increase of 14 staff members.

A public meeting, slated for 9:30

p.m. April 5, at Long's Conference Center in Lansing, will provide additional detail on council budget and appropriations process.

Agenda items include information on the MCA's budget for fiscal year 1980, legislative contacts and discussion of the appropriations process.

Walter R. Boris, chairman of the council said, "In recent years these public meetings have been effective in drawing together artists, arts managers and arts advocates who favor increased appropriation of state dollars for support of Michigan arts and artists. Due to the involvement of these individuals the council has received significant budget increases during the past four years. We strongly encourage Michigan arts supporters to join in this event."

Also featured will be an address by Rep. Ray Eshes on "Legislative Appropriations Process." Jack Peschley, of the government relations department of Michigan Consolidated Gas will discuss "Effective Legislative Contacts."

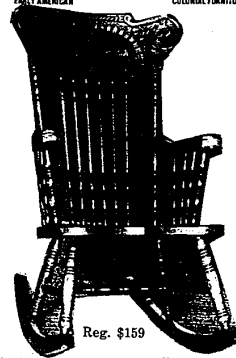
The meeting is expected to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. and is free and open to the public. For more information contact the Office of General Services, Michigan Council for the Arts, 1200 Sixth Street, Detroit 48226 or call (313) 256-3732.

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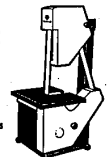
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