

From English to macrame

Teacher trades kids for seniors

Teaching macrame and dried flower arrangement in a quiet, sunny corner of Mercy Center won't cause the world to beat a path to your door.

But Yvonne Singer doesn't seem to mind being in the background as long as she's reaching out to the senior citi-

zens who come her way to learn a new craft or polish up an old skill. Mrs. Singer, 42, didn't start out to be an integral albeit quiet part of a local senior citizen center. Until 1969, she taught English in Detroit area junior high schools. But she realized she

wasn't altogether happy with the position.

"It was during Viet Nam. There was some unrest in the school. I guess there was some unrest in me too," she says of her decision to quit.

She turned from being a teacher to becoming a student and attended Madonna College. She studied arts and crafts, a pastime that she enjoyed.

That was about 3½ years ago. During her study at Madonna, she read in an ad that a person was needed to teach crafts to seniors. With that ad, Mrs. Singer came to the Gathering Place.

HER ORIGINAL call for the job at Farmington's then new senior center received warm thanks and the news that someone else had filled the position. A few weeks later, center director Loretta Conway called Mrs. Singer back, explaining that the original person who originally took the post couldn't stay.

Mrs. Conway hasn't regretted hiring someone who was almost a runner-up to the job.

"She's just super," Mrs. Conway. "What other people go to school to learn, Yvonne already knows," said co-worker Karen Ross. "She knows you listen to people."

Reaching out is the way Mrs. Singer describes her style with seniors.

"I do a lot of listening and hopefully a lot of reaching out. I thoroughly enjoy working with people," says the dark-haired mother of four.

As a senior adult programmer at the Farmington Hills center she plans and works on different activities for the center's clients.

SOME OF THE inspiration for her projects come from crafts she did with garden clubs in the area. Occasionally, a demonstration goes awry. Her attitude toward those occurrences is typical.

"I just say that this one has a little more personality than the others," she says of projects that come out less than picture perfect.

But the hardest project was completed not by her but by a woman who was determined to finish a six-foot-high macrame wall hanging.

"When she went into the store the clerk told her she was too old to do the project," Mrs. Singer remembers. "When she brought the project here, I called the clerk and asked for instructions myself."

"There were about 120 white cords hanging from the ceiling when we started. When we finished it was beautiful," she says, her words marked with pride over the woman's accomplishment.

"She wants to make another one now."

In addition to macrame, she teaches one-day sessions in old favorites such as paper tote and needlepoint. In addition she helps make Christmas gifts to raise money for the Northville Home for the Retarded. She is on its steering committee for volunteer services.

Legislature to decide on \$5 million state fund

A bill to create a \$5 million state energy conservation and research fund was introduced in the Michigan House by State Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington.

The fund would be used to make grants to public and private institutions, agencies and other groups for specific energy conservation and research projects and demonstration programs.

Under the provisions of the bill, the Commerce Department, which would have control over the fund, would be required to give public notice of its existence, objectives and the requirements for participation. Interested parties could then submit proposals which would be of immediate or long range benefit towards solving Michigan's energy problems.

"The energy crisis could very well have a significant impact on our lifestyle and economy in this state in the very near future," Brotherton said.

"So much of our industry is heavily reliant on petroleum products that it would be foolish not to arm ourselves with the kinds of research and programs that can make a potential contribution toward solving energy problems of special concern to Michigan."

"A fund like the one proposed may provide the added impetus needed to



REP. SANDY BROTHERTON

speed up our technology and ensure that we are better prepared to cope with energy shortages in the future."

Other provisions of the bill state that no single agency or group would receive more than 25 percent of the annual fund. Priority would be given to proposals with the most potential for solving problems specifically afflicting Michigan.



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Golfers compete

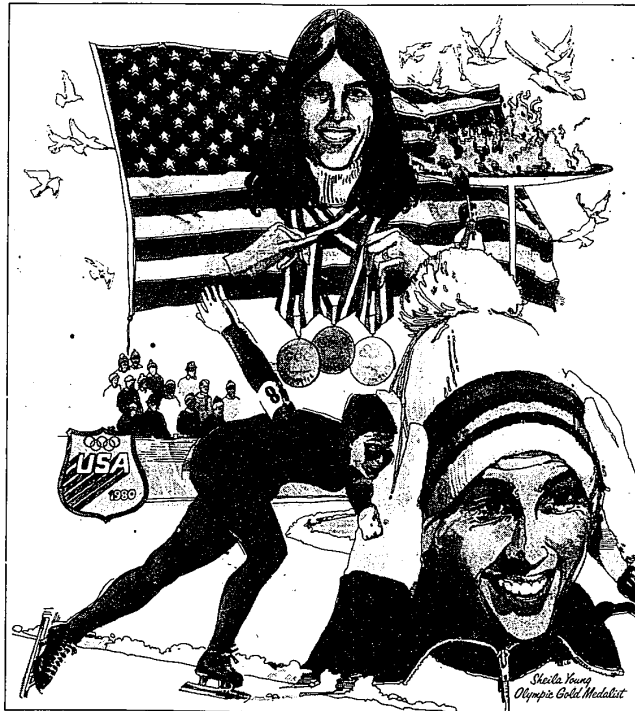
Amateur golfers Andrea Hodel of Birmingham and Terri Weber of Detroit, both former winners of the Observer & Eccentric Golf Tournament, and Patricia Lapham of Farmington will compete for a position in the Lady Stroh's Open II during a one-day qualification round on June 4 at the Dearborn Country Club.

The three amateurs will bid for six available spots in the Lady Stroh's Open II starting field which includes top players from the Ladies Professional Golfers Association (LPGA) tour. Play for the 72-hole \$150,000 Lady Stroh's Open II begins on June 28 in

Dearborn. Ms. Lapham, 25, plays out of Meadowbrook Country Club and enters the amateur qualification round with a four handicap. She was the 1978 winner of the Women's District Match Play championship at Holly Green Golf Course.

Ms. Hodel, a Birmingham resident, won the O&E tournament in 1976. A graduate of Birmingham Groves High School, she attends Oakland Community College.

Ms. Weber enters the amateur qualification round with a four handicap. She won the O&E event in 1978.



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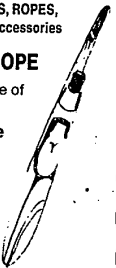
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