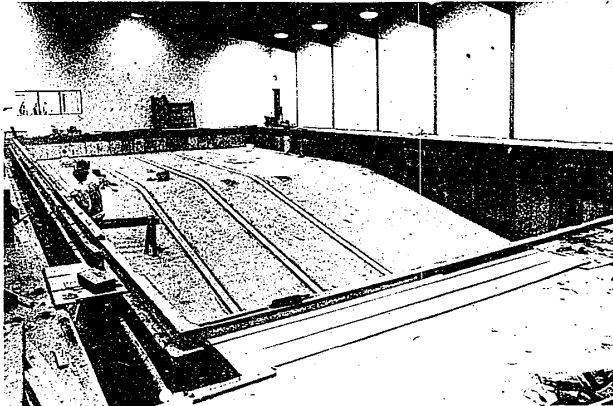


Looking over the gymnasium is Steven Light (left), who is standing on the running track. Down below, 'Y' board chairman Al Kenerson discusses

the new facility with editor Steve Barnaby. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)



Workers put the finishing touches on the new 25-meter swimming pool, which is one of the

highlights of the new Family YMCA center. (Staff photo)

April 1 deadline

YMCA scurries to open facility

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor
Al Kenerson proudly walks through the new Farmington Area YMCA family recreation center.

Hands in his pockets, he surveys the area with a knowing eye.

"Fine, real fine," he says quietly, a hint of fatigue in his voice.

Long time Farmington Y board chairman, Kenerson has spearheaded the fund raising effort since 1977 to build the new 40,000 square foot, \$1.8 million recreation facility scheduled to open April 1.

With workmen scurrying around to meet the deadline, Kenerson sidesteps building materials and points first in one direction, then another, explaining the highpoints.

Known for his robustness, he's uncharacteristically quiet this day, letting the building speak for itself. An occasional smile and a wink crease his face.

The look in his eyes is a mixture of happiness, relief and a touch of weariness.

Kenerson, more than anyone, knows the efforts put into the construction of

this building on Farmington Road, just north of Twelve Mile.

SINCE THE BEGINNING, Kenerson has captivated, begged and pleaded for contributions. The effort has paid off.

Already with two open houses under its belt, the Y facility, which will serve residents of the surrounding suburban communities, is ready to welcome the public. A third open house will be on March 8, at 1 p.m.

The Farmington Y has come a long way since that day in 1962, when a group met at Ten Mile Elementary School.

Its budget has grown from \$31,650 in 1965, to \$248,000 in 1978 when the Y formerly kicked off its fund-raising drive in February of that year with a community dinner.

By March, 1968, \$600,000 had been pledged. But, says Kenerson, the Y still needs an "angel" to raise more funds. The group has floated a \$400,000 loan to keep the effort moving. Besides the \$1.8 million, an additional \$23,000 is needed for new equipment, landscaping and contingencies.

The project also has been aided with

a \$600,000 allocation from the Metropolitan Detroit YMCA.

Finances aside, the Y is ready to go. Visitors are greeted in the lobby by handpainted, modernistic murals.

On the north side of the facility is the six lane, 25 meter pool which will be equipped with a one meter diving board and starting blocks.

Abutting the pool are locker rooms, two of which are equipped with saunas and a whirlpool which can seat 10 persons and heats to 102 degrees.

EMERGING FROM THE locker room area, visitors come to the combination handball, racquetball and paddleball courts. Health Club members will be able to use the courts free of charge.

General members will be able to rent a court for \$1 per person per 45 minute period.

Across the hall is a fully equipped weight training room.

On the facility's south side is the 77 foot by 92 foot gymnasium, covered with a maple floor.

The gym will have facilities for two volleyball courts and six glass back-

boards for basketball. Plates have been installed in the floor for gymnastic equipment.

A divider mesh curtain is available to divide the gym. The gymnasium is lit with mercury vapor lighting for better visibility.

Surrounding the gym's second floor is the running track, covered with a sports tread surface and banked four inches in the corners.

Joggers will find it takes 17 laps to run one mile.

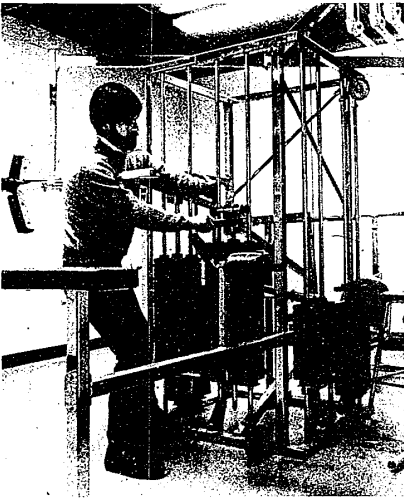
Other facilities include a cardiovascular room, lounge area, vending machine area and a multipurpose room which can be divided into three small rooms. Seating capacity is for 75 persons.

Y employees sit in the familiar A-frame office center built in 1972, waiting for the day they can move into the new facility.

It's been a long haul for Kenerson and other Y activists who have seen a community's dream come true.

"Now, all we need is that angel," says Kenerson.

He knows that out there somewhere that angel resides.



Testing out the weight lifting equipment is Y employee Dave Seefeld. (Staff photo)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

BRING A BIT OF France into your home this summer and help a French teenager discover America. An exchange program with France is offered to Michigan residents by Evelyn and Julian Prince of West Bloomfield. Applications are being accepted from families who would like to host a French teenager for four weeks this summer. The Princes are state coordinators for the North Atlantic Cultural Exchange League (NACEL), a non-profit organization which last year brought more than 3,000 French students to live with American families during the summer. They began the NACEL program in Connecticut. It has been in operation for three years. The French students are from 13 to 18 years old and have had four to eight years of English language study. French parents supply their children with pocket money and pay for their transportation and insurance. A knowledge of French by the American hosts isn't required. But the organization would like host families to make sure that the French visitors meet Americans their own age. Program coordinators match students with prospective families according to general interests and specific activities they would like. Some families take their visitor on trips; others don't. In the reciprocal program, teenagers from host families will be offered the chance to spend four weeks with a French family next summer.

Interested persons should call 626-6641.

IA THINKS it's found a Renaissance man in the making at North Farmington High. Doug MacQueen, director of the bands at the school, changed the time of the Competition Concert scheduled for March 5 at North. His first oboist is a first stringer on the basketball court. "We had to change the starting time from 8 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. because Brian Bowditch, one of our student performers, is playing in a tournament basketball game the same night," MacQueen said. Bowditch is "indispensable to both," according to the band director. Bowditch is starting center on the North Farmington Raiders who are playing in Southfield at 6 p.m. March 5. At the end of the game, he'll trade his jersey for concert attire. The concert, open to the public, will feature soloists and the band and orchestra will play, too. Adult tickets are \$1.50; student tickets, \$1. As for our oboe-playing basketball team member, did you think for one minute Angles would pass up the chance to give a salute? Here's to you BB: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (and a pianissimo dribble)

DAHLINK, the Farmington Country Club is re-opening March 1 with a gala reception for new members on March 7. Both are vestry, vestry exclusive — invitation only, dear. But IA wants to

welcome new manager Charles Bartlett with a little angular ribbing.

ZIPPITY DO DAH! This year's National Zip Code and Post Office Directory will be a little cheaper, the Post Office says. The Postal Service is offering its customers the option of buying the directory at any post office or by direct mail. Two discount plans allow customers to save \$1.50 on a single copy or up to \$10.50 on a case of eight directories. By trading in the front cover of any previous year's Zip Code Directory (USPS Publication 65) or Directory of Post Offices (USPS Publication 26) mailers will receive \$1.50 off the single copy price of \$7.50. There is a limit of one front cover per single copy purchased. Persons who buy at a special price of \$2.50 receive eight directories for the price of seven. To order by mail, send a check or money order made out to the U.S. Postal Service to St. Louis Postal Data Center, P.O. Box 14672 St. Louis, Mo. 63180. Don't forget to trade in those covers. Handling or service charges won't be added to orders placed by mail. Please indicate the number of copies you want.

THE MARCH meeting of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research will be at 2 p.m. March 8 at the Explorer's Room of the Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward, Detroit. Bruce A. Hubbard, practicing attorney in Ypsilanti, will present "Where There's a Will, There's a Genealogical Way" in a discussion of Probate Court records which will be followed by a question and answer period. Individual questions will be answered in the morning in the Burton Historical Collection at the library.

IA KNOWS what they mean, but they're not saying it quite correctly. There's a design shop in town advertising home consultations for persons intent on decorating the family manse in style. The sign on the shop, though, admits passers-by, "Home consultation." IA knows that doesn't mean they'll come by and let you cry on their shoulder.

NOMINATIONS are being accepted for candidates to receive the 1979 Governor's Ambassador of Tourism awards. The awards are presented annually to individuals and organizations who have significantly assisted in the promotion of Michigan as a convenient and vacation site. Ambassador awards are presented to individuals and Embassy awards are given to organizations selected by a judging committee. Nomination forms and rules can be obtained from the Travel Bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 3028 Lansing, 48909, or phone toll-free, 1-800-292-2520. Nomination deadline is April 4.



Beauty befitting a bride:
nightfashions
in rich cream
from Miss Elaine

The shimmer of solitary tricot. The lavish look of lace. The innocent appeal of cream. It all combines in an exquisite night-ensemble designed with you in mind, whether there are wedding bells in your future, or simply romance in your heart. Miss Elaine does the gown and peignoir set in Antron® III nylon satin tricot. A soft bow adorns the gown's plunging V-neckline, tiny covered buttons close the robe. Misses' sizes, \$46. In sleepwear, all Hudson's stores.

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