

# Jackie Gordon relaxes as radio show hostess

By JIM WINDELL



Jackie Gordon interviews guests weekdays on WCAR radio's "Consumer Contact."

In between the almost constant telephone calls, Jackie Gordon relaxed on a couch in the living room of her Bloomfield Hills home.

It's usually dark outside when she finally can let down a little and enjoy a dish of chocolate ice cream. With a new daily radio show and gobs of interests that show her chairing a committee, or making that personal appearance, her days are understandably long.

Some of the stress she used to feel while co-hosting those 90-minute television shows with her late husband Lou Gordon is gone. But it is not forgotten.

"I didn't realize how stressful it all was until we didn't do it anymore," she said. That was three years ago when Gordon died unexpectedly.

Now she finds more time to listen to the birds chirping outside her home and looking at the greenery surrounding her spacious home.

"FOR 12 YEARS I didn't have any private time for me. The show was our whole life and we worked at a fast rate. Sometimes I would dream of being able to sit and listen to the birds or look at the evergreens by our home."

Once in a while there is something inside that grips her and she knows she hasn't yet recuperated from those 12 years of life on a very fast track.

As she ate spoonfuls of ice cream and talked about her life, Ms. Gordon's several dogs and cats nuzzled up to her and her guest. The gentleness of the animals and her own charm was broken as she said with some heat, "I'm not an appendage of Lou."

She is rankled by some persons' insinuations that have confused her approach with Lou's investigative, confronting style. She is well aware that sitting next to him for 12 years on television — as he probed and occasionally crucified an interviewee — did little to establish her as a separate personality.

In the three years she has been on her own, Ms. Gordon has been trying to locate her niche. For a while, she was a spokesperson for Great Super Markets, doing promotions and TV commercials. Then there was a stint as a public relations person for Detroit Institute of Technology. And, there was a few months of marketing for the Detroit Express.

What she really wanted,

though, was something of her own. A show, maybe, where she could really use the skills she acquired in the last two decades.

nothing like the "Lou Gordon Show."

"IT'S VERY RELAXED," she said. Her show features guests

*"For 12 years I didn't have any private time for me. The show (TV's 'Lou Gordon Show') was our whole life, and we worked at a fast rate."*

— Celebrity Jackie Gordon

She knew modeling and interviewing and had acquired an extensive knowledge of the media and the mechanics of how to produce a TV show. She also is interested in people and has a concern for consumer issues.

Since February, Jackie Gordon has been hostess of her own talk show. She thinks she has found her niche. Five days a week from noon to 1 p.m. on WCAR radio, 1090 FM, she conducts an interview program "Consumer Contact." And it's

every day and opportunities for listeners to call in and ask the guest questions. "What we try to do is give people as much information as possible."

Although the show has definite consumer focus, Ms. Gordon interprets this aspect in her own way.

"In the beginning," she said, "I was worried about that. Now, I've decided to paint consumerism with a very broad stroke."

We try to be fun and yet informative.

The warm Jackie Gordon personality makes for a relaxed atmosphere on her shows. She is easy-going and frequently breaks into a low, natural laugh. There is no strain, yet she is honest and open with callers and guests.

When a recent guest tried to explain a consumer issue that didn't sit well with her, she said, "I guess I see, but it sounds like a half-baked excuse to me."

Doing a radio show for the first time involved some changes after so many years of television.

"Radio is terrific. But for the first two or three weeks I was looking for the camera. I kept trying to figure out to talk to."

"One of the nice things, though, is that it doesn't matter how you look. Your hair doesn't always have to be just right."

She attempts to relax her guests as much as possible before the show. And once on the air, she just tries to relate to guests and their moods.

"I have a ways to go as an interviewer. I feel I am still developing," she said. During Gordon's illnesses she did a few weeks of interviewing guests on television. One interview that comes to mind was with her friend Joyce Garrett.

"She wasn't too pleased with that interview," she recalled, "because I asked her about her relationship with the mayor (Detroit Mayor Coleman Young). I had never experienced her difficult side before."

The question about broadcaster's style was hinted at and she asked it herself: "Am I going to be a controversial person?"

"I'm not ready to dig into a lot of controversy. But I also don't want to shirk the responsibility to the consumer. I hope, as the name implies, that we will offer people solutions to their concerns. I want the consumer to have enough information to make intelligent decisions about their problems and needs."

Finishing her chocolate ice cream, she said the show is "really a golden opportunity for me. It's my own show, and there's a sense of satisfaction about what I'm doing on the show."

"For the first time since Lou passed away, I have a sense of well being."

# Brigadoon

## Show delights ear, eye

By BARBARA MICHALS

review

"Brigadoon" is the mythical, mystical Scottish town that appears out of the Highland mists once every hundred years.

Being a wee bit impatient, St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook presents the Lerner and Lowe musical only 16 years after it last appeared on St. D's stage.

"Brigadoon" is a sumptuous feast for eye and ear in this production. Theatergoers enter to the sound of a live bagpipe. The authentic Scottish dancing and colorful Scottish regalia enhance the work of many fine singers and actors.

The lilting music is at its most romantic amid the lovely setting of Cranbrook's outdoor Greek Theatre in Bloomfield Hills where "Brigadoon" continues at 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Tommy and Jeff (Richard Shoemaker and Larry Finn) are two American hunters who become lost in the Scottish Highlands and stumble upon the little village of Brigadoon, not mentioned on their map.

AT THE VILLAGE fair, Tommy meets Fiona (Sandra Brian) and quickly falls in love. He becomes intrigued with the town and the miracle that preserves the villagers in a deep sleep for 100 years at a time.

Though Brigadoon proves unpleasant for Jeff, Tommy considers staying permanently. An outsider can only stay in Brigadoon if he loves someone enough to give up everything.

As Tommy, Richard Shoemaker's fine singing voice and polished delivery are a winning combination. Sandra Brian's Fiona is equally convincing, and her singing is clear and strong. The team for memorable duets of "The Heather on the Hill" and "Almost Like Being in Love."

In contrast to the romantic Tommy, Larry Finn's Jeff is a cynic. Finn smoothly whips off some great one-liners and manages to look as uncomfortable in a kilt as a man possibly could. He also makes an engaging drunk, not overplaying in the least.

The day that Tommy meets Fiona is also the day that her sister Jean is to be married to Charlie. Donald Daniels is immensely appealing as the eager young bridegroom and he delivers, pleasing renditions of "I'll Go Home with Bonnie Jean" and "Come to Me, Bend to Me." Petite Debbie Cragin is a graceful and charming Jean.

AMID THE large and talented cast, Felicia Nowak Shirk is a stand-out as man-hungry Meg, a girl who can't say no but can't get a man to say "I do." Her hyperkinetic pursuit of Jeff is a comic delight, though it's one of the reasons Jeff is anxious to leave Brigadoon.

Ms. Shirk lustily recounts her various romantic, but temporary, conquests in "The Love of My Life" and also sings the lively "My Mother's Wedding Day."

Bill Everson is convincing as the aged Mr. Lundie, the town's schoolmaster and resident sage. Marshall Eisenberg is effective as Harry, Jean's disappointed suitor who becomes embittered and nearly brings disaster to Brigadoon.

Dawn Daniels does a nice job as Jane, Tommy's sophisticated New York fiancée.

Director Charles Campbell and his assistant, Mary Anne Wilson, ably coordinate the large production. Musical director Jeanne Weston guides a full orchestra and sizeable chorus.

Choreographer Ann Kelly and her assistant, Liz Boyce Smith, direct the well-polished dancers. All the dancing in "Brigadoon" is exceptionally strong, and Mal Graham's sword dance is impressive.

The women's costumes pale next to all the masculine, kilted finery, probably an authentic effect. Sets are simple but adequate. On opening night, the only flaw was that speaking voices did not carry well, an unusual problem in the Greek Theatre.

# Band Radio City breaks the mold

By NICK CHARLES

Radio City is ready to rock Motown. "I don't think we're like any other band in Detroit," said Dick Coulson, vocalist/rhythm guitarist for the band.

"We really break the mold of Detroit bands. We don't sound like Seger, Nugent or The Look. We're not as heavy as most Detroit bands."

Radio City is comprised of five young musicians from the metropolitan area — main songwriter Coulson, drummer Michael Perantoni, keyboardist Art Joseph, bassist Dan Logan, and lead guitarist Garrett Bryan.

Radio City is releasing a single, on the band's own Automatic label.

"The single is 'True Love' backed with 'Telephone Ring,' which is a song about John Spengelmink, the first man executed since 1967," Coulson said.

"THE RECORD will be distributed by AMI and it will cost the same as the other singles," he said.

"Record companies are afraid to sign acts these days because it costs a lot of money. We're trying to prove ourselves in Detroit, which is a limited, but major market."

Radio City's songs are geared for the radio, and that's where the name came from.

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# Audiences find the familiar funny

The Detroit Comedy Society, which performs at Doug's Body Shop in Ferndale, likes to make people laugh by poking fun at familiar things.

"We use local material," said Bill Thomas of Troy. He and Stu Cassell, also of Troy, are among the laugh-getters who appear in shows at the comedy workshop.

Thomas and Cassell manage and book Detroit Comedy Society entertainment at Doug's, offer a road show for colleges, and now are lining up a package for parties during the Republican Convention.

At Doug's, showtime for comics is 9:30 and 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. On Thursdays, beginning June 19, open mike night will provide amateur comics an opportunity to go on stage.

AREA COMICS among the metropolitan Detroiters featured at Doug's are Sheila Kay of Lathrup Village, Gary Divine of West Bloomfield, Wayne Briston of Birmingham and Tim Lilly of Southfield.

Jokes about Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, John Kelly and Marilyn Turner, Bill Bonds and other Detroit headliners are sure to amuse metro audiences, Thomas said.



Ethel Simmons

personalities will have the audience falling on the floor laughing, Thomas said.

AT A MINIMUM of \$90 a crack, plus the cost of dinner, to go on the town by limousine, you'd think there might not be many takers.

However, Dick Foerster of Detroit Renaissance Evening, offered by Foerster-Garret — Wilkerson Limousine Service in Southfield, said the new service has been very popular since it began last December.

For \$30 an hour, and a minimum of \$90 for three hours, you get to ride around in a limousine, sipping champagne. The service will make reservations at the restaurant or theater of your choice, or at other dining or entertainment spots you would like to visit.

restaurants offer Renaissance Evening the red-carpet treatment.

The service will go anywhere in the Detroit area or Windsor.

GENERALLY, one or two couples request the on-the-town service. These are not necessarily visitors to metropolitan Detroit but often local residents who want to go out, particularly to downtown Detroit.

"I'm astounded," Foerster said, indicating that the service is used by all ages. "There'll be young men who want to take their girls out." Obviously, the most impressive part of the package is getting to sally forth in a limo. Even in these recessionary times, people love to live it up.

"He gets standing ovations at the bar," Harris said.

Roland plays piano 6-11 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays and 6 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays. Sydney's offers casual, quality dining "under the canopies" on the Top of Troy's main level.

Currently, Harris is petitioning the Liquor Control Commission for the right to serve on the grass. He is hopeful that he will get approval for use of an outdoor patio.

Since Harris has 20 sun umbrellas ordered, can the LCC's approval be far behind?

ALSO EXPECT to see lots of nationally known celebrities dropping in to Sydney's to dine and visit with Harris. The restaurateur is a former producer and agent who managed many name entertainers.

Bob Hope, bringing some of his relatives from Cleveland, is the first of the biggies expected to be stopping in soon. Telling how he developed a friendship with Hope, Harris said, "I represented Bob on personal appearances."

Harris is planning to start a gallery of celebrity photographs for the walls. Visitors will be snapped and framed for posterity.



Bill Thomas is one of the Detroit Comedy Society regulars appearing at Doug's Body Shop.