

Seeking original splendor

Old tractors get new life

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Ask collectors about the types of vehicles they want to own and they may talk about a '57 Cadillac with fins or a Model A Ford.

Ask Lawrence Burmaster the same question and he'll point proudly to the 1935 John Deere B model tractor in his Farmington Hills garage.

He found the tractor, which he calls Marsha, rusting away in a Springport, Mich., barn this spring.

For \$3,400 Burmaster bought the tractor and the task of restoring it to its original green and yellow splendor.

With an additional investment of \$300 in parts and special John Deere green paint as well as four months of steady labor, Burmaster has his tractor ready to compete in such collectors' events as a recent exhibition at Greenfield Village in Dearborn.

As he coaxes the tractor's rebuilt 14½ horsepower engine into action, Burmaster admits he doesn't aim to make Marsha an overnight sensation along the antique tractor circuit.

His modest goal is to prevent the 3,500-pound machine from stalling during tractor pulls.

"If she's real good at Greenfield, I'll

give her new shoes," he joked, referring to plans for a better set of tires for the machine.

BURMASTER BECAME interested in restoring antique farm machinery last year when his son-in-law, Richard Cardecci of Farmington Hills, bought a 1935 John Deere Model A.

Burmaster was hooked and began searching for a suitable tractor to call his own. He put aside his hobby of woodcarving for the joys of soaking oil pumps back to use and prying an engine free from its prison of rust and neglect.

During restoration, Burmaster managed to buy the needed parts from a John Deere dealership or from other antique tractor collectors.

"I only had to fabricate two parts for it," he said still relieved.

Even the decals on the tractor's metal hood are careful reproductions of the insignia which would have originally marked the machine.

Occasionally as Burmaster walked into his garage this summer, he wondered "Is it worth it?"

"But being retired what else have I got to do," he said answering his own question.

Encouraged by his first success, Bur-

master plans to help Cardecci with his next project, restoring a 1924 Fordson tractor with metal wheels.

"It's a bucket of rust," Burmaster said looking at the tractor which is indeed covered with rust and old pine needles.

THE NEW ACQUISITION was discovered rusting in a field in the Upper Peninsula town of Paradise.

An extra width of metal wheel was added to the machine to give it more traction in the sand of a cranberry bog where it was last used in the '50s.

But the rusty machine is a future project and Burmaster is still enjoying the recently restored John Deere which he keeps in his two-car garage.

The garage which wasn't built to accommodate the extra height of a man on a tractor presents another obstacle for Burmaster and his antique machine. He must double over when driving the tractor in or out of the garage.

Next to Marsha in the garage is his son-in-law's tractor, which bears the nickname of John.

"I named mine Marsha to go with his," Burmaster said with a mischievous smile.

"John and Marsha — get it?"



Just like brand new, this 1935 John Deere sits in Lawrence Burmaster's garage ready to compete with dozens of other tractors from the old days which have been reconditioned. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)



Working on an old, worn-out tractor, like this 1924 Fordson, and making it as good as the day it was produced is the challenge for Lawrence Burmaster. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Get set for winter of activities

Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation is having its fall lecture activities.

The eight-week program of classes and activities for children, teens and adults at Eagle Elementary, Gill Elementary, Forest Elementary and Shawasssee Recreation Center. Register at the Parks and Recreation Office, 31555 11 Mile Road. For information call 474-6115.

Class sizes are limited, to assure placement in a class, pre-registration is suggested. Non-residents will be assessed an additional \$2 fee per each class. All classes begin the week of Oct. 6. No classes will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 27.

Preschool Age:

- A Time for Me — An hour full of songs, stories, games and art projects for youngsters ages 3-5 years. Fee \$10.
- Preschool Ballet — Learn the fundamentals of ballet and creative movements to music. Fee \$10.

Elementary School Age:

- Creative crafts — An introduction to many forms of arts and crafts such as painting, drawing and yarn pictures. Fee \$10.
- Fine arts — Combines gymnastics and tumbling skills for grades kindergarten through two. Fee \$10.
- Cloning, new games and pantomime — Be the clown of the town using games and silent stories. Fee \$10.
- Stunts and Tumbling — Combines gymnastics and tumbling skills for the beginner and intermediate student. Fee \$10.
- Pom Pom — Basic moves and dance routines using pom poms are set to music. Fee \$10.
- Drawing — Learn the basics of drawing and sketching. Shading, perspective, color and design are just a few of the areas to be covered. Fee \$10.
- Nature Collage — Form art pieces by using various materials found in nature. Fee \$10.
- Ballet I — Express yourself through fundamental dance movements to music. Fee \$10.
- Ballet II — A continuing ballet class to further develop dancing skills. Fee \$10.
- Jazz — It's the modern form of dance. Fee \$10.
- Dance — Learn several forms of dancing: ballet, jazz, modern, disco. Find out which one is for you. Fee \$10.
- Clay Modeling — Mold your talents in this class. Fee \$10.
- Popsicle stick and toothpick sculpturing — Make your dreams come true in toothpicks and popsicle sticks. Fee \$10.
- Open Gym — Games, games, and more games. 25 cents.

Middle School Age:

- Pom Pom — Basic moves and dance routines using pom poms are set to music. Fee \$10.
- Cloning, new games and pantomime — Be the clown of the town using games and silent stories. Fee \$10.
- Watercolors and still life drawing — Learn the basics of drawing and watercolor painting through the use of still life. Fee \$10.
- Silmnastics — Exercises set to music. Bring a small towel to class. Fee \$12 or any two nights \$20.
- Stain Glassery — An introductory class with instruction in the fundamentals of design and working with glass. Fee \$12. Materials extra.
- Ballet — Learn the beautiful and graceful art of ballet. Fee \$12.
- Jazz — It's the modern form of dance. Add some pizzazz to your life. Fee \$12.

Teens and Adults:

- Jazz — It's the modern form of dance. Add some pizzazz to your life. Fee \$12.

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INSIDE ANGLES

BY LOUISE OKRUTSKY

FRESH FROM ITS vacation in the Bermuda Triangle (it's safe for geometric figures), Angles is back on the trail of fast-moving Farmington events.

FOR THOSE who think tiny: The Farmington Community Library, 23550 Liberty, presents "An Evening with Miniatures" at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 16. Irene Cancy, instructor at Country Miniatures and a member of Minor Scale and the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts, will speak on furnishing miniature rooms and dollhouses as well as demonstrate techniques in the hobby. For further information, rush over to that tiny candlestick phone on the third floor of the dollhouse and call Jane Alstrom at 474-7770.

THE EFFECTS OF various tax proposals on the school district will be discussed at 7 p.m. Oct. 6 in the Farmington School District administrative offices, 32500 Shawasssee. The meeting, open to the public, is sponsored by the Finance Committee of the Farmington Board of Education.

THE GLASS RECYCLING capabilities of the Farmington Hills recycling center have come to an end this week as the firm which hauled glass for the center announced it will no longer handle that chore. The center, located on the west end of the Farmington Hills City Hall parking lot, 11 Mile west of Orchard Lake Road, continues to recycle newspaper. Please bundle and tie all the newspapers intended for the recycling center. Magazines aren't accepted. For those who stubbornly insist on recycling their non-returnable glass containers, the Southfield recycling center continues to accept glass at its location on Berg east of Telegraph at Civic Center Drive.

IN A QUANDARY ABOUT what to do with storm water? The Conference on Stormwater Management focuses on the problems of stormwater management Oct. 17 at Schoolcraft College, on Haggerty between Six and Seven Mile roads in Livonia. The day-long conference carries a \$12 fee and is aimed at persons who make decisions in the community, environmental and planning agencies, public interest groups and the general public. Registration deadline is Oct. 8. For further information call the Stormwater Management Conference, Institute of Water Research at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

BRODHEAD Farmington Hills VFW Auxiliary 2269 sponsors a garage sale at 9 a.m. Oct. 11 at 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Baked goods will be on sale and a home-made afghan will be given away.

THOSE FANCY FARMERS of

Farmington are all set to celebrate the 16th anniversary of their square dancing group at a home coming dance, 8 p.m. Oct. 10 in the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills. Square dancers who have been club members or who have attended the club's classes are invited. Old and new members of the club who want more information should call Edith Stone at 553-3270.

A TWO-DAY workshop exploring the role of the elderly in the family will take place 6-10 p.m. Oct. 10 at Madonna College, 3660 Schoolcraft, Livonia. The workshop carries a fee of \$50 and covers such subjects as the relationship between generations, family neighborhood services and communication among family members. For further information, call Sister Colleen Morris, chairwoman of the Department of Gerontology, at 591-5095 or 591-5000.

SKIING ON BEAUTIFUL Orchard Lake Road will begin at 3 p.m. Oct. 13 and last through Oct. 25 when the Bavarian Village ski shop on Orchard Lake Road and 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills hosts the Nordica Ski School. The school uses a portable ski slope which measures 20-by-50 feet and is covered by synthetic snow. Classes are taught by the staff of the Killington Ski Area of Vermont. For further information call Jim Purcell at 553-8565. (Next year we'll swim Grand River.)

FOR THOSE OF US who need to mark down something on our calendars this week, try jolting down Postal Consumer Protection Week for Oct. 6-11. That's the week the folks who bring us the mail remind us that there are persons out there who want to swindle us. Mail fraud and misrepresentation schemes include curses for illnesses, work-at-home promotions and chain letters.

Before putting a stamp on that envelope, seek advice from experts before investing in claims that sound ever so good. If you do run into a problem or haven't received merchandise you've ordered, call the Postal Service.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL has two semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Contest. They are Tim Crowe and Lara Limatta. Commended students include David Kamm, Patricia Rosman, Mike Russo and Barry Saeed, A tip of the old Angles square topper to all.

THE WOMEN of North Farmington meet at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14 in the Detroit Bible College main building, 35700 W. 12 Mile, west of Drake in Farmington Hills. The film, "What You Are Isn't Necessary" will be shown. Guests are welcome. A \$1 donation is requested. For reservations call Gail at 655-8480.

Introducing the Racquet Club Suit Collection by Hart, Schaffner & Marx

For the young executive set, traditional business suits tailored for a comfortable, mature fit. It's the new Racquet Club Collection. And like everything Hart, Schaffner, & Marx designs, it's an investment in the best. With a dominating style that's simple, refined and never outdated. Shown from the collection: Natural shoulder jacket with flap pockets, 6-button vest, and slacks in polyester/wool pinstripes or solids. Fully lined. Two piece suit, \$275; vested suit, \$315. Now in Hudson's Better Suits.

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