

Breaks teeth in Hills system

Kaptur takes skills to our neighbor

By LORNA McEWEEN
Special Writer

When Miriam Kaptur graduated from Birmingham's Marian High School, she looked for a career in which she could combine her interest in people and love for the outdoors.

She chose parks and recreation and the four-year undergraduate curriculum at Central Michigan University which offered intensive training in this field.

When West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation youth coordinator Mary Tapich recently left the department for a teaching career, Director Fred Woelkers looked for a person to fill the post who had both experience working with children and the versatility of interests and training necessary to a department with a small staff.

With a committee of three other parks and recreation professionals, Woelkers screened 27 applicants. Ms. Kaptur got the nod.

MS. KAPTUR, 25, has lived in Birmingham all her life.

"We're not one of those families with a Rolls Royce in the driveway, though," she said. As the third of six children, she felt she had a choice position in the family — an older brother and sister to learn from and younger ones to help teach now and then.

"My dad gave us all an interest in nature and respect for the environment," Ms. Kaptur said. Her older sister is also in parks and recreation. "My mom is just the opposite. She has taught ballet most of her life. But there's nothing wrong with liking both the arts and the outdoors," she added.

She's teaching ballet herself, for Bloomfield Hills Schools Recreation, has eight years of piano lessons behind her and plays the guitar well enough to

accompany any children she might be teaching.

"The minute I graduated I realized it wasn't going to be easy to get a job in parks and recreation," Ms. Kaptur said. "I even took the state civil service exam thinking of recreation in juvenile homes. It led to an interview at Huron Valley Women's Prison, where they asked me if I felt my life would be in danger on the job. When I said 'yes' that was the end of that job."

"It has taken me three years to find a position that is just right for me — and this is it. I'm going to do my best for West Bloomfield."

SHE BEGAN WORK the Sunday before her first official day on the job, helping out with the registration at the three-mile cross country race at Marshbank Park. "I could see right away why the department wanted someone who could do a lot of different things," she said with a laugh. "And I could see right away I was going to like it here."

On her first two "official" days, Ms. Kaptur found herself programming three months worth of children's activities to meet a printer's deadline for the department's fall listing of events. Only after she finished that assignment did she have the time to visit Bloomer Park and its nature center, where on Monday she will begin her first five-week "Exploring Nature" class for preschoolers. She will also give the class at parks and recreation headquarters at Church of the Advent using the heavily wooded property behind the church.

The Exploring Nature Class, one of the department's most successful programs in the past, is "right down my alley," Ms. Kaptur said. "I think there is a real need to educate kids on how to appreciate nature — and I enjoy work-

ing with children most of all. They're flexible, always willing to learn new things and willing to participate."

IN A CLASSROOM You learn from books. Outdoors you learn by doing," Ms. Kaptur said. "For math we often taught maps and compasses and pacing. For science we might do a lake study, look at pond water under a microscope. You can study the rings of a tree stump and teach a history lesson."

"Kids can write a story or a poem on a plant or animal for English. For geography they can map the shoreline of a pond from a boat in its center. The

possibilities are endless."

Both the Walnut Lake Road Civic Center Site and Bloomer Park, on Richardson Road in the northwest section of West Bloomfield Township should be good areas for developing programs in outdoor education, according to Ms. Kaptur.

Next summer, she will head parks and recreation's Meadow Woods Nature Day Camp — a job she comes well qualified to handle. This past summer she coordinated the day camp run by Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation.

New business opens

Instant Beeper, a wholly owned subsidiary of RAM Broadcasting, has been formed in Farmington with Marc J. Kircos as general manager.

RAM President Jim Peebles said the new firm was made possible by the purchase of the beeper license and operation of Instant Communications, headed by Steve Kircos, Marc's father. His firm will continue to provide telephone answering service in the Farmington-Dearborn area.

Kircos, 25, until joining the new RAM subsidiary on July 1, 1980 had served as vice president of Instant Communications, which his father bought 13 years ago. It was Michigan's first telephone answering service, founded 53 years ago.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, the younger Kircos received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1976.

Kircos, who is Youth Group Advisor for St. Clement Orthodox Church in Dearborn, is a member of the Michigan Telephone Answering Service Association.



MARC KIRCOS



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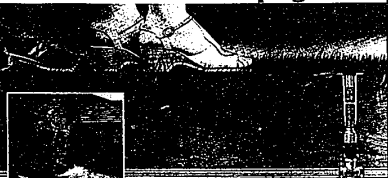
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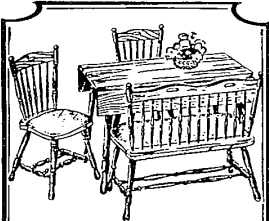
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