

Major changes in Michigan lives

Michigan residents are having fewer children, delaying marriages and finding it more difficult to afford single-family houses.

These are among the trends highlighted in a 301-page "Michigan Family Sourcebook," published this year by Michigan State University.

A joint project of MSU's College of Human Ecology and the Cooperative Extension Service's Family Living Education Program, the book brings to-

gether a wealth of statistics, compiled mainly from census reports and state agency documents.

It covers population, families, income and employment, education, health, housing, nutrition, energy use, recreation and quality of life.

Dr. Mary Andres and Dr. Robert Boger from the college's Institute for Family and Child Study, compiled the data. "There has been a real need for

this information in a comprehensive form," Andres explains.

A census report shows a 3 percent increase in the state's population from 1970-1978, compared to a 13 percent rise from 1960-1970.

In 1978, a record number of men and women were single. The average age for a first marriage is now approximately 23 for men, 21 for women, according to sourcebook data.

Although 74 percent of Michigan's

families owned homes in 1970, the growth in home ownership seen in the 1940s and 1950s has come to a halt with housing costs now consuming approximately 40 percent of family budgets. This trend was among a number of changing lifestyle patterns forecast in the book.

HOWEVER, PEOPLE are still managing to have fun, according to data from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



Zany muggings that are a Jerry Lewis trademark were part of the brief meeting between the MDA television star and Tom and Dorothy Cencer, who lost five sons to muscular dystrophy. Minutes after meeting the Livonia couple, Lewis posed as a waiter to surprise guests at a pre-awards dinner honoring 7-Eleven store operators in Las Vegas two weeks ago.

Couple meet their main MDA man

By MARIE McGEE

hands and said: "I know all about you beautiful people."

FOR THE CENCERS, that simple handshake spoke volumes.

"We had to get back to the dining room because the dinner was about to begin. We no sooner got to our seats when we noticed Jerry enter the dining room — still in the waiter's jacket and carrying a tray of food over head on the palm of his hand. That's Jerry," we told the others at our table. Then we began to applaud. Everyone around us couldn't figure out what we were doing. Then they recognized Jerry and they gave him a standing ovation," the Cencers said.

Unfortunately, a promised second meeting with Lewis in his dressing room the following night after the star awards never materialized.

"We think that there wasn't enough time. He was opening his own show that night in the Sahara and he was running a pretty tight schedule. We can understand that," the couple said.

The disappointment, however, didn't stop them from enjoying a "super weekend." They went on to take in shows by country western star Freddy Fender and Tony Orlando. And as might be expected, they dropped "a few bucks" here and there" playing the slot machines. They even toured Circus Circus, a casino for the bubble-gum set.

"You don't see many children in Las Vegas," Mrs. Cencer said. "And if you do, they'll be at Circus Circus."

Mrs. Cencer brought home a living memento of the weekend. At the conclusion of the awards dinner, she was presented with the table centerpiece — a colonial-style arrangement of fresh flowers.

She wrapped it carefully in paper and — much to the dismay of her husband — carried it in her lap on the plane ride home. She took the flowers to St. Michael Catholic Church convent in Livonia where she presented the flowers to the nuns.

"They were thrilled. It was a nice way to end it all," said Mrs. Cencer.

Midway between the cheeseboard with fresh fruit and the cold vichyssoise, Dorothy and Tom Cencer met comedian and MDA superstar Jerry Lewis.

The informal meeting took place in — of all places — the kitchen of the posh Hotel Sahara in Las Vegas where the Cencers were staying as guests of John P. Thompson, president of Southland Corp., parent firm of 7-Eleven stores.

The Livonia couple, who lost five of their seven sons to muscular dystrophy, were invited to Las Vegas specifically to meet Lewis as part of Southland's "Oh, Thank Heavens" star awards. The event recognized the efforts of 7-Eleven managers nationwide for their role in raising more than \$4 million for "Jerry's kids."

INCLUDED IN the group was A-lie Stothers, manager of a 7-Eleven store on Ann Arbor Road. It was through Mrs. Stothers' efforts that the Cencers received the invitation to attend the presentations and meet Lewis.

A rendezvous in the kitchen was necessary, the Cencers were told, because it would afford them an element of privacy that probably would not be possible in the busy dining room.

Anyway, a meeting in the dining room would have spoiled the surprise for the honorees who didn't know that Lewis was going to make an appearance before dinner. The weekend schedule of events had him scheduled for an appearance Friday night as part of the awards ceremony.

It was a typical zany Lewis stage entrance — and that made it all the more memorable.

"They took us into the kitchen where we had our picture taken with comedian Rip Taylor. Then all of sudden this guy in a red waiter's jacket came busting through the doors — it was Jerry," said Dorothy Cencer.

"He came over and shook our

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Alcoholism education credit course offered

To address problems of increasing alcoholism, St. John's Provincial Seminary, Plymouth, is offering a course beginning Nov. 20, on Alcoholism Education under the direction of Rose Teresa Izzo, S.C.M.A.

Oriented to family members, ministers and counselors, the course will continue for 11 weeks, excluding the holidays, and may be taken for credit or audit.

The course will include a three-part study of alcoholism and its effects — what it is, who is the alcoholic, what is the role of the family members or counselor-minister in intervention, referral and treatment of the alcoholic; what responsibility the counselor or

minister and family have to familiarize themselves with the literature and kinds of therapy available to the substance abuser and his or her family.

A former in-patient staff member of St. Joseph Hospital Alcoholism Treatment Center, Ms. Clemens, Sister Izzo is a counselor, adjunct faculty member at St. John's Seminary, and part-time instructor at Macomb County Community Resource Center.

Like other courses at St. John's, Alcoholism Education is a two-credit course, meeting two hours once a week. The fee is \$50 per credit hour, \$25 per audit hour. Students may register by calling Academic Affairs, 453-8200, Ext. 88 or 71.