

# Joan Fontaine at rare china exhibit

## class reunions

The Observer & Eccentric will be glad to help locate classmates for high school class reunions. Submit announcements to Margaret Miller, 36245 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Include names with any telephone numbers submitted.

- **FARMINGTON 1961**  
Members of the class of 1961 at Farmington High School are being sought for a July 24 reunion. For more information, send inquiries to 26980 Crestwood, Franklin 48025.
- **ROYAL OAK KIMBALL 1974**  
The Kimball High School class of 1974 is planning its 10-year reunion June 20 in the Main Event restaurant, Pontiac Silverdome. Reservations will be accepted until May 20. Those interested should write to 2865 Roxbury, Troy, 48064.
- **CHIPPEWA VALLEY 1971**  
Members of the class of 1971, Chippewa Valley High School, are planning a 10-year reunion Sept. 12. Information is available from Debbie Bevan Rood, 779-4778, or Pam Stanko Allen, 689-7489.
- **REDFORD THURSTON 1976**  
The Thurston High School class of 1976 will hold its five-year reunion June 13. Those who have not been contacted may call Annette Alberti, 533-0608, or Jan Breckenridge, 534-6997.
- **WATERFORD LADY OF THE LAKES**  
Those who graduated from Water-

By Margaret Miller  
staff writer

And why was Joan Fontaine, the Academy Award-winning actress, so interested in rare china that she would be running around the country opening a major plate collector's show?

"I'm a Haviland," she answered as she looked over displays making up the World Plate Collectors' Fair at Westland Center, Warren at Wayne roads.

Of course, the sister of actress Olivia de Havilland also is cousin to Fredrick Haviland, current head of the family firm that produces some of the world's most famous fine china.

"I've been collecting for a long time," said Miss Fontaine, heading for the table where she would autograph photographs — handing them out complete with gracious comments to more than 300 mall visitors who lined up to meet her.

"I have the Haviland china my mother had before I was born. When she gave it to me, she told me: 'There's one piece missing, Joan. You broke it when you were 5.'"

The actress said she has a large collection of historic and contemporary plates and also has bought cups and saucers from all over the world, "like some people buy post cards."

"It's so lovely to have tea on a dreary day and remember Cornwall at some other lovely place by the cup and saucer you're using," she said. She's not sure of the count on these around-the-world treasures. "Some do get broken," she noted. "I collect china, don't ever rent your house."

THE MALL EVENT she opened Thursday will continue through

Wednesday and will include, in addition to more than 200 plates on display, a plate exchange for collectors, an appraisal day and a rare appearance by New York hand engraver add ether Rudy Drogett.

The Westland exhibit is only the second stop for the show billed as the world's largest traveling exhibition of rare and valuable collector plates.

It opened last week in Washington, where there were some 200,000 visitors, said Warren Weiner, heading the show.

This area was picked for the second stop because "this is an above average area for plate-collecting," Weiner said.

He noted that plate collecting has become the nation's third most popular hobby, right up there behind stamps and coins.

"We set out to bring this hobby to people who have not yet discovered it," he added. "But we also want to say thank you to those who have been responsible for its phenomenal growth."

Plate collecting is not cheap, Weiner said, "but the majority of plates are in the range of \$12 to \$100, so it's not prohibitive." But the exhibit contains some plates worth as much as \$4,000, including the first Christmas plate, made in 1895 by Bing & Grondahl in Norway and sold that year for 50 cents.

PLATE COLLECTORS who visited the first day did more than admire Miss Fontaine and get her autograph.

They also enjoyed a demonstration by Greenfield Village potter Vey Valentine and checked information on the schedule for Appraisal Day on Monday. Weiner said Timothy Tetlow, president of the American Appraisers Association, would appraise plates, figurines



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer  
"Peaches and Cream," a hand-fired porcelain plate, is the second in a series of four plates by artist Thaddeus Krumeich. It's valued at \$75. Actress Joan Fontaine (above) is a collector of rare china and she has been on hand at the exhibition in Westland.

and other porcelain treasures from noon to 8 p.m. He will give identification of the manufacturer and date of issue and a free verbal appraisal.

One other thing visitors were doing was bringing in their own plate for sale or trade.

"We check them in here," said Weiner, "and we'll set them up in the community room of the mall. It's a good opportunity for people to sell or trade without paying commission."

JOAN FONTAINE, who made her first movie in 1937 and won an Oscar in 1941 for her performance in "Suspicion," was on a tight schedule Friday. She was flying to New York for another opener, the premiere of a Broadway

production of "The Little Foxes" with Elizabeth Taylor and Maureen Stapleton.

"Liz Taylor was a child actress in the film 'Jane Eyre,' which starred Joan Fontaine," said Weiner. "She didn't want to miss that opener."

The next stop for the traveling plate show — and Miss Fontaine — will be Fort Lauderdale, and then it's New York.

"And somewhere in there I get to do a 'Love Boat' show," the actress noted along with an unburied pace. "How lovely you look," one visitor told the actress, who was clad attractively in a lilac knit suit.

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**Barbara Kopitz, A.S.I.D.**

Ms. Kopitz, who is a graduate of Wayne State University, recently received her Masters Degree in Interior Architecture. She has done extensive world traveling including the Mid-East, Europe and the Orient. She enjoyed sight-seeing and of course, studying the art and architecture of different cultures. In her nine years in the interior design field, Barbara has had several design works published. It's interesting to note that her clients have flown her around the country for her consultation on residential as well as commercial projects. She is a Professional member of the A.S.I.D. and the Founders Society of the Detroit Institute of Arts. With this extensive background, Barbara's services are available to you 'at Gorman's Troy.

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