

Mr. Laurel and Mr. Hardy

Fans fete comedy team

Stan moves his chair closer to his pal who gets his hand stuck, yelling sharply. The Exalted Ruler looks at them stonily, then goes on to declare that every man in the group must do his part. "There must be no weaklings in our midst . . . The weak must be helped by the strong!" Ollie looks significantly at Stan. The Exalted Ruler, with rising fervor, declares that "this, the oldest lodge in the great order of the Sons of the Desert must be represented 100 percent at our annual convention in Chicago next week!" He tells them to prepare for their oath, an oath that once taken "has never been broken by any man down through the centuries of time."
— From "Laurel & Hardy" by John McCabe and Al Kilgore (Ballantine Books, New York)

By Carol Azizian
staff writer

Laurel and Hardy fans from around the world are preparing to relive this classic scene and countless others acted out by the great comedy team. During a weekend of sheer zaniness, more than 300 fans will don fezzes and carry "Sons of the Desert" banners. They'll imitate Stan's cry and Ollie's frustration when he says "Well, here's another fine mess you've gotten me into." And they'll exchange treasured status, posters, books and other Laurel and Hardy memorabilia. It's all part of the third Sons of the Desert convention, which begins today and ends Sunday at the Michigan Inn in Southfield.

FORMED IN THE early 1960s by

John McCabe, a professor at Lake Superior State College, and Stan Laurel, the fan club is devoted to the "celebration" and preservation of Laurel and Hardy films. More than 5,000 members — some from as far away as Australia, Europe and South America — share this interest in recapturing the Laurel and Hardy "vocabulary of phrase, gesture and movement."
"It's just for kicks, fun and laughs," said Marshall Korby of West Bloomfield. Korby and Dan Waldron of Detroit are co-chairmen of the convention.
"There's a camaraderie between us. We act foolish, watch films and show each other rare items we've collected." An avid collector and history buff, Korby has amassed some 1,000 Laurel and Hardy "treasures." They range in value from a 25-cent package of sunflower seeds, imported from the Philippines and complete with an illustration of the comedians, to a porcelain statue of the duo in a Model T, worth "hundreds of dollars."
Korby's goal is to collect rare memorabilia from the 1930s. "People sometimes pay \$1,000 for an original piece of art (poster) created for the 1930s movies," he said.
But Korby's biggest thrill is to watch the movies over and over again.

ALTHOUGH he's seen some movies — such as the classic "Sons of the Desert" — 50 times, Korby still gains new insights into the team's style of comedy.
"The last time I saw 'Sons of the Desert,' I heard Stan muttering something under his breath that I had never heard before," Korby said.
"Stan Laurel probably has the greatest sense of timing (when he performs). It's really an art."
Korby has viewed all but two or three of the 165 films Laurel and Hardy made. "The few I haven't seen are unavailable now. But they might show up in collections someday."
When they're not watching films, conventioners will walk around, tipping fezzes and derby, and greeting each other in the familiar, gentlemanly way: "I'm Mr. Hardy and this is my friend, Mr. Laurel."



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Marshall Korby of West Bloomfield sits amid part of his collection of Laurel and Hardy memorabilia. Fans of the comedy team are gathering this week in Southfield.

Zaharias tournament

lures 288 women to aid cancer society

The Babe Zaharias Golf Tournament has drawn 288 area women to compete Aug. 9 in Farmington Country Club for the benefit of the American Cancer Society.

The tournament, now in its seventh year, has netted the society more than \$225,000. The goal this year is \$50,000 for cancer-control activities in the Metro-Detroit area.

The inter-club tournament is the largest women's tournament in the Detroit area and is a top money-raiser nationwide for the American Cancer Society. Golfers from 21 country clubs will participate in two shotgun starts at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Low-gross and low-net winners will proceed to the state finals in September at Boyne Highlands.

Last year's winning teams were from Meadowbrook Country Club and Wabek County Club. The Meadowbrook team won the state tournament and went on to represent Michigan in the finals at Disneyworld in Florida.

Among those players was Gisela McCabe of Farmington Hills.

BETTY DEUEL, from Farmington Hills will be playing with the Birmingham Country Club team this year. Farmington resident Ina Eggefer will

be on the Tam O'Shanter team. Plum Hollow's team has two Farmington Hills players, Amy Langdon and Judy Wine.

M McCabe is back in the tournament with the Meadowbrook team with Farmington resident Helen Kenerson.

The Farmington Country Club lineup lists Sue Davies, Judy Houser, Joan Tobin, Phyllis Foreman, June Longfield, Rox Blackmer, Pat Spoboda, Gale Girolami, Ione Foley and Bessie Williamson, all from Farmington Hills.

Farmington residents on the Farmington Country Club team are Vicki Conroy, Helen Clappison, Alice Martin and Virginia Russell.

Farmington Hills residents Reva Jacob and Eily Grossman will be playing with the Franklin Hills Country Club team.

The tournaments 1982 chairwoman, Esther Quattiere of Franklin, says that golf is not the only way the committee raises money through the tournament.

"Committee members solicit contributions from generous individuals and businesses," she said. "Without their continued support, we would never reach our goal."

In addition, the committee sponsors a raffle and auction for tournament-night activities.

Seniors ID cards bring discounts

Oakland County residents age 60 and older are eligible to participate in the Senior Citizen Discount Program sponsored by Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA). Seniors have their photographs taken, which then are laminated into plastic identification cards. The ID cards enable the seniors to take advantage of

discounts offered by local merchants that range from 4 to 50 percent. The ID card is free. For persons in this area, pictures will be taken at two senior centers in August. The Gathering Place will take pictures from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1-3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, in the seniors

meeting place in Mercy Center, 26500 11 Mile Road. Guests are asked to enter the center from Gate 4 on 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt Road. Lakes Area Senior Center will take pictures for the ID card from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, in Novi Community Building, 26350 Novi Road. A DIRECTORY of participating

Oakland County merchants is now available and may be purchased for 65 cents in the senior centers. Persons who wish to order the directory by mail may send a check for \$1.20 to OLHSA, 196 Oakland Ave., Pontiac 48058. For inquiries, OLHSA's toll-free WATS-line number is 1-800-482-9250.

Jaycettes raise funds with Saturday car wash

Farmington Area Jaycettes will be out in numbers washing cars from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, in the Shell gas station on the corner of 10 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

The women will be raising money for the food baskets they give to the needy in Farmington and Farmington Hills, for the Christmas party they will give for residents in Oak Hill Nursing Home Annex and for the programs they sponsor for residents in Marillac Hall.



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August 11th...Wednesday
10a.m. to 6p.m.
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Look forward to seeing you.

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