



m.m. memos

Margaret Miller

Still the sea calls

Our ocean is still in place right where it belongs. It also is keeping its rightful place in our affections, and we are sure that never will change.

"Near an ocean" has for years been the major requirement as the man of our house and I picked spots for vacations. A beach and open water stretching to infinity always has held tremendous lure for us. In the summers it has been Michigan's ocean, Lake Superior. In recent winters it has been the Gulf of Mexico.

We felt incredibly lucky to find a retirement home right across the street from that gulf, and each year we have enjoyed it more.

This winter, arriving to stay, we followed the pattern of earlier visits and headed first for the beach, "just to make sure the ocean's still there."

AND DESPITE considerable moving business, we've kept up daily visits to "our" beach.

Many like to sit there in beach chairs, but we rarely do that. We walk the beach. Down a mile to a point where pines grow and the sands are shifting and the sea has cut off a little island for the gulls, pelicans and herons to gather. Or up a mile to a spot where piled-up rocks cut off further wandering.

As we walk, we check the sea's daily offering of shells. In the last few years we have lotted home hundreds of these treasures, using them for displays and to fill bowls and jars.

THIS YEAR, becoming year-round residents and bringing along a good supply of home decor, we've returned to the beach and sea most of our earlier collection.

But that doesn't keep us from watching the sands on our beach walks. "We've become a lot more selective," my husband noted, but we still can get pretty excited over a perfect specimen, and there's always going to be room in our homes for our best shells.

Perfect conches, whelks and the scallops we've named Shell shells in honor of the gasoline are a continuing joy to look at.

BUT THE SEA had far more than shells to offer, and these treasures we keep gathering in abundance.

The changing shades of the water and the differing shapes of the waves, just for starters. The ever new contours of the sand down at the point, and the chance to look there for new birds.

The never-the-same sunsets, and the afterglows ranging in color from gold to red and purple. The stillness of empty beach and water under the stars.

I can't imagine ever missing a chance to gather in these riches.

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for the *Observer's Newspapers* for 16 years. She and her husband Joe recently retired to Florida, where she will continue to write her M.M. Memos.

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Acclaimed production to be videotaped

The Actors' Alliance Theatre Company's premiere production of Nancy Beckett's "The Women Here Are No Different" will be videotaped for the archives. The videotaping will take place in a special performance at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus Fine Arts Theatre at 8 p.m. Saturday. Admission to the taping is \$5 or \$3 for students and seniors.

Following a successful run at the Lycee International in Southfield, the Actors' Alliance Theatre Company will perform the final performance for a live audience and for videotape. This videotaping will be the first full-scale usage of the video capabilities of the faculty, used in conjunction with a live performance.

Ten camera hook-up locations have been designed into the building structure by communications arts technology instructor Wallace Smith. The system also can be used to send the video signal into the adjoining television studio for final composition.

Domestic violence in all stratas of our society is revealed in this drama. The cast is made up of Divina Cook, Savannah Delaney, Annette DePietris, Beverly Halnauli, Paula J. Kline, Laurie V. Logan, Val McKinna and Cooke Winborn. For ticket information and reservations, phone 471-7541.

Social action is U-U topic

"A Mandate for Social Action" is the subject for the Rev. Joan Kahn-Schneider at the 10 a.m. service Sunday in Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington. The church is located at 25301 Hatfield Road.

"If we are to be peoples who are truly just in an often unjust world, it is necessary that we do our homework," Kahn-Schneider says. "Part of that homework is considering our theology. Sunday we will look at a humanistic theology model as groundwork for a vibrant social action program."

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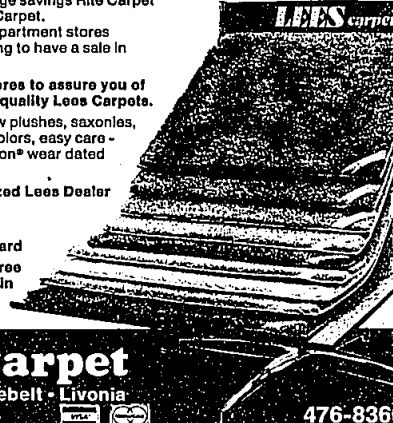
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