A funny thing happened to Rudy
Fedus on the way to Peru 27 years ago.
He got hooked on the place — canalbals, chiggers, monkey meat and alt.
A Livonia resident, Fedus is probably best remembered for his work at
Cranbrook. In Bloomfield Hills and
Greenmead, Livonia's historical site.
He was once referred to as "a man
for all soils' because of his borticultural
a accomplishments that include the
restoration of the Cranbrook rock gardens after a decade of neglect.
But few people know about of his adventures in the wilds of Peru where
some of his favorite friends are canalbals and where he works with the Seventh Day Church missionaries in trying
to make life a little better for the Peruvian Indians in general.

In the 27 years he's been making the
trek—on his own—Fedus has observed that life for the villagers who
can be a served there is a
popt of dry jained sunger where is a
popt of dry jained sunger where is
a part of dry jained sunger where
were hard for very little. They still
work very hard for very little, seratching at land with ancient tools, existing
mainly on a diet of fish and rawaged by
disease due to the lack of medical facilities.

SO WHAT'S A nice, gentle guy like

Itles.

SO WHAT'S A nice, gentie guy like Rudy Fedus doing in a wild place like that? Helping people, that's what. Every January, Fedus tries to work a little special magic — sometimes by sleight of hand in magic tricks he does to bring smiles to their solemn, weatherbeaten faces or in the form of good works he performs with the Seventh Day Adventist misstonaries who operate from a small settlement in Pucalipa on the Ucayal River, about an hour by plane from Lima or 24 hours by bus. Fedus is not a member of the Seventh Day Adventist denomination. He fell in with them by chance in the third of his annual "wocations."

He said he was drawn to them by the humanitarian acts they perform "without any ballyhoo or fanfare."

"They are sincere people who don't like frilis." he said. And they steer

out any ballyhoo or fanfaren with-They are sincere people who don't the first properties and they steer clear of politics. All this files Fedus to a tee. The reside has been a strong friend-ship and admiration on both sides. The missionaries look forward to Fedus' arrival, and the "special" proje-cts begin. Usually it starts with Fedus overhauling the mechanical equipment on the air base. Then he moves on to whatever else needs to be done.

whatever else needs to be done.

THIS YEAR, ONE of the requests was for 28 chairs for the school the missionary group hopes to establish. There were 10 pieces to cach. The results of the school the missionary group hopes to cach the school through the school t

rived before plans for a celebration be-gin.

It probably should be noted here that
one of Fedus' personal trademarks is
the black wool beret he wears at all
times — regardless of the occasion.
For his trips to Peru, he wears it as far
as Lima where he then stashes it and
switches to a red bandana. He usually
gives the bandana away before he
leaves.

FEDUS OFTEN uses the celebration to pass out trinkets and gifts he collects in between visits and to perform feats of magic — like bending a set of fron bars. It's a ritual the natives have come

bars. It's a ritual the natives have come to expect.

"They laugh," Fedus said, "And that's something you seldom see. But then, they don't have much to laugh shout. It's is shard, lonely life."

The celebration this year had special significance for Fedus. It gave the opportunity for a reunion with a old-time friend—a cannibal chief whose son's life Fedus had a part in saving several years ago.

life Fedus had a part in saving several years ago.

The youlh was dying of a jungle malady, and Fedus arranged to have him flown to a nearby hospital. That incident has endeared him to many of the Indians who have heard the story and now regard him a good friend.

Medical emergencies make a big part of his adventures, Fedus said. While the missionaries do most of the actual work, once in awhile he is calted upon to help. One of those times came when the missionary team was operating a floating medical clinic, visiting

On one of his trips to Peru. Fedus was pressed into service unexpectedly when the doctor became sick. After watching the doctor's wife demonstrate the technique, Fedus wound up pulling 15

the tiny riverfront villages. Their main purpose this trip was extracting teeth.

ON THE EXPEDITIONS, Fedus usually piloted the craft. But one of the trick was pressed into service unexpected that the craft is the continue with the certaction under the continue with the certaction. "His wife told me I better watch her because I was going to have to take over," he recealed.
"I wound up pulling 15 teeth," he said.

"I wound up pulling 15 teeth," he said.
What brought him to Peru in the first place, he said, was an account in Holi-day magazine back in 1956 that told of American Henry Melgas' struggle with the construction of the TransAndean railroad in which 1,000 lives were lost. The sheer thought of a trip that begins at sea level and goes to 16,000 feet above in the space of 85 miles was intrinsicial.

at sea level and goes to 16,000 feet above in the space of 85 miles was in-triguing.

"I decided to go to see it," said Fedus. And two decades "it's still the most fascinating trip I know" because of its ruggedness and beauty, not to mention the dangers. The trip by bus is also considerably shorter, he noted. Where it noce took 2½ days to cover the 500 miles, it now takes 24 hours. Fedus travels light in the clothing department for his month's stay in the warm, humld villages that dot the Amnazon and where chiggers can make life unbearable. He prefers to use his air space allotiment for tools and costume jewelry (this trip it was 50 pounds). Before teaming up with the missionaries, he used to bring over-the-counter medicale donated by a doctor/friend. He quit because the medical teams have a good source of their own.

This trip the missionaries used his special expertise in gardening and asked him to create a garden area for them.

THE REQUEST came from Dale

THE REQUEST came from Dale and Pat Derkson, who operate a small medical clinic about 160 miles from Pucalipa.

The 74-year-old Fedus managed to clear a path in the dense forest and established two raised garden areas 30 by 4 feet where the Derksons will attempt to raise some vegetables in an ongoing effort to be solf-sufficient. That's if the river cooperates and doesn't flood too much. This year, for instance, Fedus said the river raised six feet in one night.

The weather is bad enough but now politics, he said, are worse for the Peruvians and the people trying to help them.

Peruvians and the people trying to help them.

"No one knows from one day to the next what's going to happen," he said.
"Now the president is in' and the military junta is out. It's played havoe with such institutions as the Amazonas Hospital that once was the South American Albert Schweltzer Hospital. It now is under the control of the government, and the result is that there are no government doctors in the jungle while 4,000 of them sli tidle in Lima."
"Apparently they feel it is too lonely

4,000 or them att idle in Lima."
"Apparently they feel it is too lonely and there's no reward or no money," he continued.
The gap is being filled by the various missionary groups who are in the countries.



Rudy Fedus, a favorite with Peruvians

HOMES

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MINISTERS:
James F. Anderso
Robert L. Lindsey

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9:30 am and 11:30 am

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Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm A Nursery is Provided For All Services

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No Stairs Nursory

9:30 Church School 10:45 Church Worship Nursery Provided Dr. David Truran, Pastor

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8:45 a.m.: CHURCH SCHOOL • 11:00 a.m.: WORSHIP SERVICE 6:30 p.m.: EVENING SERVICE

Wednesday Evening Family Night 5:45 Dinner 6:45 Family Activities 8:00 Adult Choir

SALVATION ARMY
27500 Shiawassoo
at Inhater Road
Sinnay Schedule
Sunday Schoot: 10 AM
Evoning Worstly: 11 AM
Evoning Worstly: 11 AM
Evoning Worstly: 6 P.M.
Envoy John Crampton

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Cross of Christ
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Junior/Senior High and
Adult Bible Classes



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• 203 and 1100 AM
• Nursery Care All Services

9:30 and 11:00 AM
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Family Church Worship: 9:30
Worship and
Church School: 11 AM
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Barrier-Free
MINISTERS
The Rev. Charles O. Erickson
Carol D. Grim

Orchard United

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Pastor Gerald Fisher
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10 00 Am The Church School
11 15 Am Second Victoria Se

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Minister: John W. Bray

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5.45 pm. Vewth Missing-Tem Sun Live Service Tem West Middlern Service

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NURSHIP: 11 AM
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Ecumenical in Spiril

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36075 West T Mee - Livonia -476-3432 SUNDAY LITURGY 10:00 AM (All Services in English)

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BIBLE STUDY: 7 PM WEDNESDAY 645-1202

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8:00 AM · Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM - Holy Eucharist and Sermon (Murning Prayer 2nd and 4th Sundays) 11:15 AM - Morning Prayer and Sermon (Eucharitt First Sundays)

Weekday Eucharist Tuesday 10:00 AM Wednesday 7:00 AM

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Pastor Michael A. Halleen Associate Pastor Mary Miller-Vikander

EPISCOPAL CHURC OF THE ADVENT 3325 Middlebell Road Orchard Lake, Mi 338-3505 Rev. Gregory R. Sims, Rec BERVICES

lunday:
800 AM Holy Eucharist
900 AM Chorel Eucharist
1000 AM Chorel Eucharist
11:00 AM Christian
Education/Sunday School
Vednesday:
2:00 PM Holy Eucharist
8:00 PM tible Study

Thursday: 7:30 PM Choir Reheaveal

iday: 6.30 AM Holy Eucharist *Nursery Provided

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