

Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Wertheimer of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Karen Lynn to Robert Gerald Dickey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Brian Chambers of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Ferris State College, employed with Michigan Physicians Mutual Liability Co., Birmingham. Her fiancé is employed with Smart Industries, Farmington Hills.

An August wedding is planned in Orchard United Methodist Church.



Brenda Louise Scaglione and Richard Wayne Gallant were married April 29. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Scaglione of Farmington Hills and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gallant of Farmington Hills.

Best man and matron of honor for the couple were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Polcyn.

The bride is a graduate of North Farmington High School and Western Michigan University. The groom is a graduate of Harrison High School, employed by NorthAmerican Van Lines. The couple will make their home in Farmington Hills.



Schaeffer-Abrams

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin G. Schaeffer of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Virginia Katherine to Mitchell Abrams, son of Mrs. Sandra Abrams of Southfield and Solomon Abrams of Ferndale.

The bride-to-be and her fiancé are both graduates of the University of Michigan. She is employed as an auditor with Coopers and Lybrand in Detroit. He is an engineer with Hewlett-Packard Company in Fort Collins, Col. An August wedding is planned.



Handy guide arrives just in time for a vacation

By Jeanne Whittaker
staff writer

It's a moot point which is the more popular way to spend a summer vacation — fishing or a good book for reading. The truth is, both popular American pastimes have enormous followings; but, for our purposes, vacations and good books hold particular interest at this time of year.

One doesn't need to be an avid garage sale enthusiast or auction house freak to appreciate the value of a simple set of four books produced in time for summer consumption by Alfred A.

Knopf publishers, but it helps. One of these literally handy editions is a collectors' guide to every type of glass, tableware, bowl and vase ever made or widely used in America from the colonial era through World War II.

Companion works are devoted to quilts, coverlets, rugs and samplers; chairs, tables, sofas and beds; and chests, cupboards, desks and other pieces, all of which have commanded widespread popularity throughout the same periods.

Anyone who has ever contemplated entertaining oneself while on holiday knows that the lure of an "antiques"

sign in some remote New England or northern Michigan hamlet is virtually irresistible.

But, once inside, what's to do about the mind-boggling array of cast-off treasures and attic relics one generally finds in such places? If you have been in the business of snooping your way through many such corners of heaven on earth it's easy to assume that almost every place you visit is sure to have a treasure of some intrinsic value. But how do you know it's a treasure? How do you winnow the wheat from the chaff, so to speak?

Until now, there seemed to be little more to do about solving this important question than to trust your instincts and go for it. After all, who ever starts out on vacation trucking along one of those weighty tomes devoted to the history and origins of antiques, which is the usual way that editors and publishers have dealt with the topic?

So, just in time to be added to the list, along with mosquito bite spray, sunblock, and Walk Man, are the Collectors' Guides, priced \$13.95, which might put a small crimp in the vacation budget, but not much of one.

GLASS EXPERT Jane Shadel Spillman was in town recently to talk about the American pressed glass to the Henry Ford Museum Collectors Club; and while here the curator of American glass at the Corning Museum of Glass explained how she took part in helping to put together the series for Knopf.

Spillman said that when the Knopf editors first approached her with an idea for such a book she thought their method of attacking the subject was somewhat odd. For instance, she said, she didn't quite understand why they wanted to divvy up the items by shape rather than the classical method of dividing the items by origin and manufacturer.

Later, she said, she began to see the value of this novel approach for the beginning collector, since earlier publications done in the classical method frequently require some prior knowledge of the subject just to locate the object in question.

A Vassar graduate, who specialized in history and art history, Spillman said that glass collecting is the third most popular hobby in the United States, behind stamps and coins. Acquiring glass, she noted, is attractive not only for the objects it involves, but because it is still a relatively inexpensive hobby. It often begins when the collector discovers on appealing glass object and then decides to find out more about that object. She herself, she said, has only a modest collection, but she has ample opportunity to express her enthusiasm for the subject while she works with the 20,000 piece Corning collection located in Corning, New York.

"It's pretty impressive," she noted while studying the collection of glass on display at the Henry Ford Museum.

Spillman SEES the value of the Knopf Collectors' Guides to the beginner who sees a pleasing object and wants to know more about it. The first step in developing a hobby, she noted, is to read everything there is to read about a particular piece. But, first, she said, you have to have some idea what that object is, and what it was used for.

"You are looking for historical knowledge of where it fit in with life of the period," she said.

Terminology is often a stumbling block for the beginner, she said. The book, she added, will serve as a primer on such descriptive terms. Of particular interest to many collectors is Depression glass, which is still readily available.

"Depression glass is the antique of the future," she said.

Only slightly less accessible, and somewhat more pricey, are the brilliant cut glass bowls and tableware that, said Spillman, "were the wedding gifts of grandmother's day. The more

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ornate it is, the more likely it is to be European in origin. The simpler patterns are American."

Spillman stressed that most glass objects, even the finely cut pieces, trace their origins to some practical use. Whether etched, hand blown, colored, or engraved, the objects after all were used as pilferers for serving beer, jugs for serving syrup, or glasses for preserving jelly.

The Spillman book on glass objects contains 350 objects, which were photographed in color, plus a description of each object, its type, use and dimension, locality and period, matching items of glassware, and hints for the collector. The book also contains tips on how to recognize glass by type and style, the names of America's glass manufacturers and the dates they manufactured, a glossary of terms, advice on buying at auction, and perhaps most important to the novice collector, an up-to-date price guide.

"For many collectors, the fascination and indeed the fun of collecting is

directly related to price," said Spillman. Though she thinks that there is a great deal to profit, Spillman agrees that, "knowing current market values is essential. No one wants to pay substantially more than the market price."

THE COMPANION books have been prepared by equally knowledgeable experts in their fields. The Collectors' Guide to Chairs, Tables, Sofas and Beds was authored by Marvin D. Schwartz, curator of decorative arts from 1954-1958 at the Brooklyn Museum, and a frequent lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and a former columnist with The New York Times.

The Collectors' Guide to Quilts, Coverlets, Rugs and Samplers was authored by Robert Bishop, director of the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City. Bishop established the first master's degree program in folk art studies at New York University and sits on the editorial board of Antiques Monthly.

Also a contributor of Antiques Monthly, William C. Ketchum Jr. wrote the Collectors' Guide to Chests, Cupboards, Desks and Other Pieces, about which he writes, "Interest in American antiques has grown immensely, and no area within the field has attracted more attention than furniture."

"This is hardly surprising," concluded Ketchum, who asked, "what is closer to us or more directly associated with our lives than the furnishings that surround us? Collecting furniture is fascinating and appeals to all ages, tastes and budgets."



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retirement memos

Margaret Miller

How to retire gracefully

We're finding a whole blueprint for successful retirement through getting to know a lady named Meta.

Actually, it's a renewed acquaintance for me. Meta was a high school and church friend of my parents, so she's had a niche in my life as far back as I can remember. But whether it's Florida living or some inner spark, she seems now to have skipped a generation and to be more our contemporary.

Meta was a high school teacher in Detroit for a lot of years. Never married, she made her home with another single woman. She retired and then moved to Sarasota 20 years ago.

THEY BOUGHT a house here, and then, through a local church they joined, Meta became active in a project that proved to be one of the prototypes for the kind of retirement community now springing up all over, but especially in Florida.

She had a busy role in her church's planning of the complex known as Plymouth Harbor. It includes apartments of various sizes, a central dining room, amenities like a shop, library, swimming pool and chapel and an infirmary for those no longer able to care for themselves. That is a common set-up now, but in many ways they were breaking new ground when they planned and built Plymouth Harbor, and Meta became one of its first residents.

Getting there was not uneventful. Her friend suffered a stroke and died three weeks before moving. Meta took care of arrangements, modified the apartment size, and moved in right on schedule. "I was pretty busy for a while," she told us much later.

I PICKED UP my friendship with

Meta a couple of years ago when a letter she had written to a friend wound up in my aunt's possession. I wrote to her that we were coming to live in Sarasota, and when we were resettled, she had time for us, Joe and I went to visit.

With pride she showed us around the well-planned complex. We enjoyed a good lunch in the pleasant dining room and then admired her apartment with its view of bay, pool and wooded park where the residents picnic.

Meta is 82 now, a little shorter and definitely grayer than I remember her, but otherwise she seems little changed. She still drives her car and paid us a return visit in our new home. She still has a busy schedule of church, cultural and social activities. These she has had to curtail a bit recently, though, because she is serving a term as treasurer of the residents' association.

"YOU KNOW," she told us, "when the first group of residents moved in here, it was expected that there would be a complete turnover by now. But we fooled everyone. There are a number of us still in apartments."

"I'm sure the life here is the reason people are so well taken care of."

If I had to guess, I'd that's not quite true in her case. I think a lively interest in everything around her has kept this lady young in spirit.

I'm glad to know her again. Possibly we may sometime investigate the kind of place she lives. For sure, we'll keep in mind the kind of life she lives.

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for the Observer News-papers for 18 years. She and her husband, Joe, have retired to Florida, where she now writes Retirement Memos.

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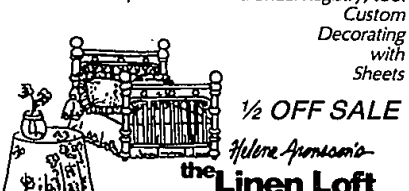
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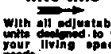
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