



## retirement memos

**Margaret Miller**

# Dutch and Charlie pool their efforts

A gentleman everyone knows as "Dutch" has made a difference in the quality of life for people in the building where we now live.

No one goes to our swimming pool in these balmy summer days without appreciating Dutch. We think of him as we take in the fragrance of the jasmine and enjoy the beauty of flowers with names still strange to me — purplish blue plumbago, dark red bougainvillea, pink jatropha and orange Mexican flamevine.

Some who go across the wide lawn on the way to the pool also enjoy meeting Dutch's friend Charlie. Charlie is a stately white bird, usually referred to as a heron but actually a great American egret, who favors our area with his presence largely because Dutch has fed him many fish.

FOR DUTCH, planting flowers at the pool evolved naturally, and it made a positive difference in his life as well as the lives of his neighbors.

Like Joe and me, Dutch is a transplant from Detroit's western suburban area. He served on the beautification committee in his home community and helped plan landscaping for the city hall and school offices.

When he came to live in our building several years ago, plans for landscaping around the pool seemed to be coming to a halt because earmarked funds were running out.

"People were pretty concerned," he remembered, "because there were garden dug around the pool, but no plants

being put in. It was late spring, so I told people who were going north for the summer to give me their houseplants instead of throwing them out."

Dutch began digging, glad to have a project that took him outside to the garden where he loved but kept him nearby where his wife, whose health was failing, could summon him if she needed help.

The "throwaway" plant did so well that the next year owners of other apartments contributed to a special fund so Dutch could buy and plant larger bushes and vines. These in turn prospered and spread.

And Dutch met Charlie that first year. "He came up behind me while I was working out there," the volunteer landscaper remembered, "and he waited while I went up to get him some fish."

DUTCH IS alone now, the long illness having claimed his wife's life. He's had a couple of operations and gets around more slowly so he can't do as much as he used to in his garden.

But the pool area is a place of beauty, and its planner thanks in the appreciation of his neighbors. "I like doing it," he said, "and I like it ever better now that people tell me how pleased they are."

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for the Observer Newspapers for 16 years. She and her husband, Joe, have retired to Florida, where she now writes Retirement Memos.

## Crook-Mekjian

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Crook of Milford announce the engagement of their daughter Carl Lynn to Gregory Peter Mekjian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mekjian of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be received a degree in graphic communication from Center for Creative Studies in Detroit and is employed with an advertising studio in Troy. Her fiancé is a graduate of Michigan State University Business School and employed with Burroughs Corp.

A September, 1984, wedding is planned in St. John Armenian Church, Southfield.



## Gilbert-Abar

Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Gilbert of Royal Oak announce the engagement of their daughter Diane Lynn to Matthew J. Abar, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Abar of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Michigan State University, employed as a sales representative for Procter and Gamble. Her fiancé is a graduate of Michigan State University, employed as a sales specialist for Kroy, Inc.

A September wedding is planned in Addison Oaks Conference Center, Rochester.



## Lamaze class starts July 11

Plymouth Childbirth Education Association begins a seven week series of classes of the Lamaze method of painless childbirth at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 11, in the church of the Spirit Lutheran Church. The church is at 34563 Severn, Mile, Livonia.

Other classes starting later this month will be given in St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton and Westland Community Center.

Registration and information given by calling the association, 459-7477.

# Scandia Down opens shop here

A Birmingham real estate agent, community volunteer and mother of two is the new owner of the Scandia Down Shops franchise in Farmington Hills.

Cynthia Adams Leonard, a Weir, Manuel, Snyder and Ranke real estate associate and a former president of Junior League of Birmingham, is now feathering her nest with the European, pillows, bed linens and specialty items.

Located in Hunter's Square shopping center on Orchard Lake Road south of 14 Mile, Scandia Down's only Detroit-area store is one of 60 franchise outlets in the United States that market the European sleep style through a trademarked line of down-filled bedding and coordinated sheet-case ensembles.

The Seattle-based Scandia Down Corp., founded in 1969, was responsible for introducing the European sleep style to American consumers and is the only nationwide business devoted to quality down and down-related products.

Described by the American Marketing Association as "one of the greatest success stories of the decade," Scandia Down has grown from a handful of bedding shops to a multimillion-dollar operation with a constantly expanding franchise network.

Thomas L. Reichman, Scandia Down's president, and a group of investors purchased the then-struggling corporation in 1980 and are credited with its phenomenal growth.

LEONARD, LIKE the corporation she represents, will not be sleeping on the job. During the next three years, she plans to open a shop in the Birmingham-Troy area and another in Grosse Pointe.

According to Leonard, the Scandia Down European sleeping concept offers ease of bedmaking, a variety of bedroom decors and a lifetime investment in comfort. She simply inserts the comforter into the "sheet case," a giant pillowcase-like enclosure, zips it up, and gives it a few quick fluffs. And just as a goose unrolls its feathers, the comforter is restored to its original loftiness.

To improve a customer's night life, Scandia Down offers seven trademarked comforters priced from \$150 for the twin "eatherydown" to \$870 for the luxury king-size Quiltessa, filled with Balkan white goose down from Eastern Europe.

The luxury-fill, synthetic comforter, Quallifill, sells from \$90 to \$140. Down-filled comforters, matching robes and booties and a full range of bed and decorator pillows are available along with feather-filled featherbeds.

Scandia Down comforters come in different weights, fill powers and stitching designs to accommodate various climates, body metabolisms and home temperatures. All are filled with the finest goose or duck down and feathers encased in quality cotton ticking.

There is a limited two-to-10-year warranty when the comforter is protected by a sheetcase.

Washable sheet-case ensembles, consisting of the sheet case and matching fitted sheet and two pillowcases are available in imported cotton or domestic cotton-polyester patterns or solid colors.

Matching pillow shams, dust skirts and custom sewing services also are offered. The total look, Leonard said, is elegant, down-home comfort.

"The European way of sleeping is light, warm, comfy and economical, like sleeping under grandma's heirloom comforter."

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