

Once upon a time . . .

Storyteller in the park popular with youngsters

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Once upon a time, in a land not so far away, there was a woman named Debbie Masson from the Farmington Community Libraries who sat in the Farmington City Park among the birds and trees telling tales.

Masson had about 60 children and their parents spellbound Aug. 1, as she related stories that she memorized from books at the Farmington and Farmington Hill libraries.

She was showered with compliments at the conclusion of the 45-minute stint, which included finger plays, songs and a puppet show.

But Mother Nature got in the last word when she added the final touch to the event with a quick summer rain.

"We want to make people aware of the public library and the different stories that are available," said Masson,

who heads the Children's Department in the Farmington Hill library.

"We want people to use the library to know what we have," she said.

Masson listed games, educational toys, collections, records, cassettes, magazines and filmstrips as some of the many learning and entertainment options available at the libraries.

The Picnic in the Park program began last year as the libraries' public relations outreach program. Relaxing amidst the terrain and listening to tales of faraway places is designed to pique the imagination of people of all ages.

"It's usually younger kids and their moms who come, but people of all ages like to listen to stories," Masson said.

"We're hoping to reach people who aren't typical library users," she said. "We want people to have a good time in the park and to think of the library as fun."

There were three storytelling sessions this summer under the libraries' Picnic in the Park program.

Storyteller Debby Masson treats a group of youngsters to a tale in Farmington's City Park.



photos by RANDY BORSY/staff photographer

Brent and Sean, 3½-year-old twins, are caught up in Debby Masson's story.



The Urbanczyk family — mother Nancy, son Nicky and daughter Jackie — enjoy a story and a day in the park.

INSIDE ANGLES

CONGRATULATIONS to Laura Banchoff of Farmington Hills, a 15-year-old North Farmington sophomore, who has just returned home after spending two weeks at a Robert Joffrey workshop in San Antonio, Texas. The workshop was for gifted 14- to 18-year-old ballet dancers who auditioned and won one of the 40 openings for emerging dancers. Laura is also a member of the Michigan Ballet Theater, located in West Bloomfield.

THREE NEW MEMBERS recently were initiated into the Beta Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, an honorary teachers' organization; Lillian Bryant, an elementary vocal music consultant with the Farmington schools; Joann Kefalas, a special education teacher at Clarenceville High School; and Jeanne Walkowicz, who teaches German, psychology and social studies at North Farmington High School.

LORI A. WAGNER has been elected director of advertising and roster for the Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Accountants. In this capacity she will be responsible for the preparation and publication of the Annual Program and Roster and for obtaining advertising for the chapter's Roster and other publications. Lori is employed by Lavenhol & Herwath in Southfield.

KUDOS to John Thomas Crotty and Richard Lee Burrell of Farmington Hills, who have been selected for inclusion in the 1983 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America." "The Outstanding Young Men of America" recognizes the achievements and abilities of men between the ages of 21 and 36. They are being honored for their outstanding civic and professional contribution to their communities, their state and their nation.

IT'S EXCITING TO SEE a shooting star on a summer night. On Saturday it will be possible to see hundreds of them. Each year, as we pass the constellation of Perseus, burning meteors penetrate the atmosphere, to produce what we know as shooting stars. In Meteor Magic, a public interpretive program at Independence Oaks County Park, people can view this night of stars with guidance from a trained naturalist. The program is from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. To register and for more information, call 858-0903.

ELIOT AND ESTHER MACIDSOHN of Farmington Hills attended Elderhostel '83 at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. The university is one of 350 colleges and universities in 50 states which each summer offer one-week academic programs at low cost for people aged 60 and older. Living on campus in student apartments, Elderhostel

participants attend daily classes, and spend their free time swimming, playing golf, attending performances, and exploring the local area. Developing friendships with people from different backgrounds and locales is an important part of the Elderhostel experience.

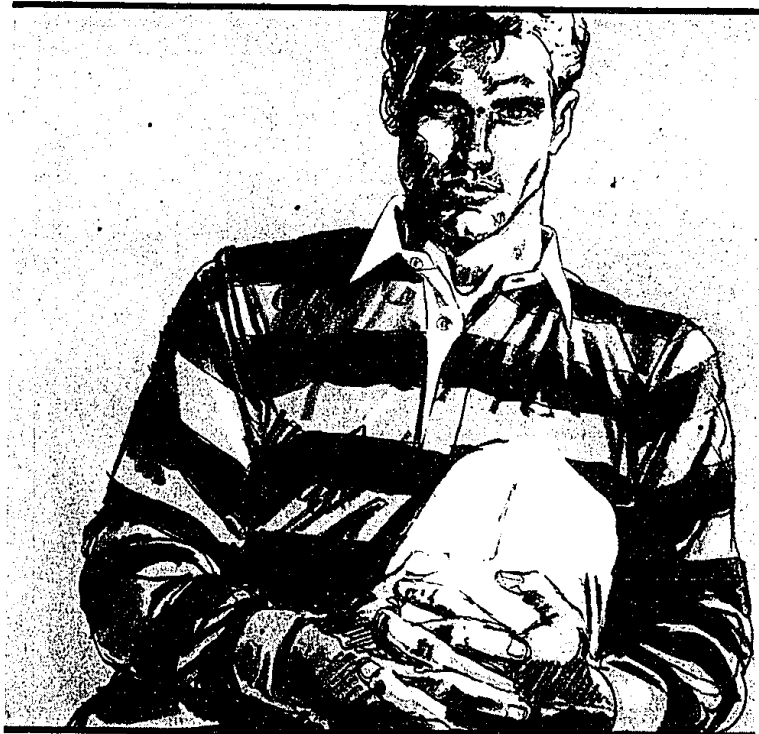
TEAMWORK CAN BE more fun and rewarding in the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's upcoming scramble golf tournaments. A three-man scramble is set for Saturday at Springfield Oaks Golf course, on Andersonville Road in Davisburg. Cost is \$75 per team. A Three-Woman Scramble takes place Saturday, Aug. 27, at White Lake Oaks Golf Course, on South Williams Lake Road off M-59 near Pontiac. Cost is \$60 per team. Start for both tournaments is 8 a.m. The first-place team in each event could win up to \$1,000, depending on the number of entrants. "We usually get a good turnout for the men's tournament," Jim Mansfield, golf supervisor, said. "We'd like to see more women sign up." In a scramble tournament, all three golfers hit the ball, and the best one is played. For more information, call Springfield Oaks at 625-2540 or White Lake Oaks at 698-3700.

JOHN H. BARKACH of Farmington Hills was one of 70 students from 20 colleges and universities attending the annual Miami University Summer Geology Field Course in Wyoming near the Teton Mountains. The program, providing intensive study in field methods, is headed by Dr. Wayne D. Martin. John is a student at Michigan State University.

JOHN T. KENNEY of Farmington will join up to 1,000 jigsaw puzzlers from across the nation competing for prizes of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 to be awarded winners in two categories: singles and doubles teams. Specially made Springbok puzzles, manufactured by Hallmark Cards, Inc., will challenge the contestants in semifinals and finals rounds.

KEVIN PODSIADLIK of Farmington was among the young chess enthusiasts who were tutored by some of the "kings" of the game at Michigan State University's summer chess camp July 8-15. At the camp, he received expert instruction from internationally and nationally known chess masters including Salvatore Matera and Fred Lindsay. Kevin is a freshman at Bedford Catholic Central and the son of Eunice and Leonard Podsiadlik.

MELISSA A. GATTEN of Farmington received her bachelor of arts degree from Marquette University, Milwaukee, May 22 at the University's 102nd annual commencement ceremonies.



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