



retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Wonders of the north

It was nearly two years ago that our youngest daughter was assigned by the Air Force to serve in Alaska.

Ann had asked for the post and was delighted. The first reaction for her dad and me was, "Why Alaska? It's so cold there." But almost before we could complete the question we were thinking how great it would be to visit her in the summer.

We knew the upcoming summer would be filled with selling a house and planning a move. "But we'll come in the summer of '83," we promised.

We couldn't realize then, of course, that by the time we could vacation in Alaska I would already have made a quickie trip to the far north for Ann's wedding, or that she would first get back to Michigan to introduce her husband, John, to the rest of the family.

BUT the vacation came off right on schedule. We have photos and a carved walrus tusk and a freezer full of sockeye salmon to prove it.

We also have some great memories of time shared with a daughter who is adjusting happily to life in the north and a son-in-law who grooves perfectly with the state that has been home for a good share of his young life.

They took great pride in sharing their comfortable apartment and showing us their beautiful land. Alaska is so vast that even in nearly three weeks we knew we couldn't cover much, more than the area near Anchorage. Regretfully, we crossed a trip to Mt. McKinley off our agenda — just not enough time.

BUT WE DROVE north through a beautiful mountain pass where the remains of prospectors' gold mines hang on the cliffs. We saw rushing rivers and lakes that serve as airports. We took a spectacular ferry ride close to Colum-

bia Glacier, marveling at the blue of glacial ice and the chill of the wind that blew across it.

On the deep-sea fishing expedition, we not only caught sea bass but also watched cavoring sea lions and spotted some whales. A highlight that day was the magnificent eagle that swooped down for the bass thrown out to him and then followed the boat a short distance.

We hauled in salmon and trout from the Kenai River and rode up and down the rapids of its indescribably green waters.

And everywhere we enjoyed the mountains. Mt. Sustina, the Sleeping Lady, visible from our kids' front steps. Green velvet mountains lining the highways, snowy peaks jutting out in the distance.

OUR DAUGHTER had made all the arrangements for our visit very carefully and very well. We joked that she order the weather. In mountainous country you expect some rain, but when we really needed a sunny day we got it. She even spotted one of Alaska's favorite animals feeding in a lake, and her husband stopped the car so our collection of photos wouldn't be moose-less.

We're getting back to normal now, but already we're calculating how soon we can get that view of Mt. McKinley. Alaska holds many wonders, but for these parents not the least of them is the transformation of a somewhat flighty teen-ager into a thoughtful and responsible young woman. What better vacation could we ask?

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.



Joey Lucas (at left), making an important telephone call, and Robert Mooney, taking his turn on the slide, are two of the toddlers who have



enrolled in Farmington Hills Nursery School which is now accepting 1-year-olds.

One-year-olds toddle off to school

One-year-olds no longer have to watch and wave bye-bye when big brother or sister goes off to nursery school.

Now, if they can walk, they can join their siblings in Farmington Hills Nursery School.

Between 9 a.m. and noon plus extended hours before and after school, the nursery at 25225 Middlebelt offers an educational and enrichment program for youngsters from 1 to 2½ years of age.

Preschool programs ordinarily are for youngsters at least 2½ years old. In the classroom the children are in-

troduced to colors, letters and numbers using learning materials they understand, such as blocks, puzzles, and sorting games. Through stories, records, plays and songs, they work on language development. The learning environment allows them the opportunity to explore, use their imaginations and solve problems.

The three main areas emphasized in the program are resolving a separation problem, when parent leaves child; developing affective communication and toilet training.

The program is patterned after one

established in Oakland University. Through testing there it was discovered that toddlers can communicate themselves and learn social skills, not merely play.

In Farmington Hills Toddler Center, parents can bring their youngsters for as many as five weekly sessions, or start with one to use as a beginning learning experience.

Some children cry in the beginning, others are eager and join in immediately, and some don't want to leave. Most toddlers adapt after a brief adjustment period. More of a problem is posed by the parents who are hesitant to leave

their child. So it is important that adults have the right attitude, so they do not pass on an apprehensive feeling to the child.

Jacquelyn Lachowicz directs the staff and supervises the kindergarten, nursery and toddler center. Registrations are being accepted for the toddler program as well as the certified kindergarten program and nursery school. Day care is provided from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For registration information, contact Farmington Hills Nursery School at 478-3110.

Be worthy of protection

Constitution Week, Sept. 17-23, commemorates the 16th anniversary of the Constitution of the United States. As the oldest constitution still in active use in the world today, it is the basic document of the United States government, a government which protects the individual liberties of its citizens. Quakertown Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution urges everyone to be worthy of its protection by studying their Constitution.

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Dance students wanted

Hudson's Beauty Salons invite dance students 18 years and older to audition for a hair and fashion show. The audition will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday in historic St. Andrews Hall in Detroit.

Extensive dance experience is not necessary, but an ability to move well, follow direction and perform before an audience is needed.

The show will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, in St. Andrew's Hall. Expected audience is about 5,000 people.

Models will wear dance wear from Hudson's, have their hair styled by Hudson's Beauty Salons stylists, their names printed in the program and will receive compensation for their time in the form of goods and services.

Models must be able to attend three rehearsals, Saturday, Oct. 1, and Sunday, Oct. 9, and dress rehearsal Monday, Oct. 17. All rehearsals will take place in St. Andrews Hall.

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