



Retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Farewell to a lady

A remarkable lady is gone from our family circle, which in the last few months has done an inordinate amount of shrinking.

Our most recent loss came shortly before Christmas with the death of my stepmother, our daughter's Grandma Ruth. She was 95 years old and had failed greatly in both body and mind. But her departure is a tremendous diminishing, as were those of two other beloved family members just two months earlier.

The term "lady" is carefully chosen to describe my stepmother. Sometimes some of the family thought the French term "grande dame" might be even more appropriate. This was a woman of marvelous spirit, and it's that spirit we'll always remember with love and admiration.

RUTH WAS my mother's cousin, so I had known her all my life. And I knew that much of her life required all the spirit and courage she could muster. She and her first husband had one child, a daughter who died at the age of 8 in a fall from a bicycle. Not long after that, Ruth's husband developed Parkinson's disease.

The bread-winner role fell on her shoulders then. She hired a nurse-housekeeper and went to work for the Detroit Board of Education. She functioned so competently in its psychiatric clinic that her name was well known to woman I met here just recently, one who had been with the clinic several years after Ruth retired.

Death claimed Ruth's husband several years before my mother died. Then began a romance that brought meaning to my father's later years and an ele-

gant maternal grandmother to our daughters and their cousins.

After dad and Ruth were married, they lived in an apartment high above the Detroit River, far removed from our suburban scene. They used to have the grandchildren visit, a couple at a time. Weekends with them were never-to-be-forgotten experiences — lunch downtown, trips to Belle Isle, special movies, chances to ride an apartment elevator. They also offered tastes of gracious living with a gracious lady.

TIME WENT ON and age advanced. A few years ago dad and Ruth wound up in a nursing home near my brother's Saginaw residence. We watched them become more frail. Dad seemed to retreat into silence and Ruth into the world of her past.

But her spirit remained. Sitting in her wheelchair and holding her husband's hand, she always wanted to be sure her hair was properly combed, her dress becoming and her guests comfortably seated. Now he sits alone. His loss is the greatest.

In those 1983 years, Ruth loved to have a "party" when any of us visited. She was always ready to lift her glass of sherry in a toast: "Here's health to ourselves and confusion to our enemies. Worse than that we would not wish them."

I'll paraphrase that a bit. Nothing better than Ruth's spirit could I wish anyone.

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

Womencenter announces new series

The Oakland Community College Womencenter announces its new program series "Adventures in Growth."

The series will start at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Womencenter, Room 3308 on the Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road.

Featured speaker will be Carol King, administrative aide to Detroit City Council member Maryann Mahaffey, who also serves on the national board of directors for National Organization for Women.

King will present a feminist critique of George Orwell's "1984."

Family film series set

The Family Life Work Area of Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, will sponsor a seven week film series called "Focus on the Family" featuring Dr. James C. Dobson, one of the nation's leading psychologists and an expert in family counseling.

The series will be shown at 7:30 p.m. every Sunday beginning Jan. 22. It will conclude March 4.

Dobson's presentations were filmed live during his family life seminars.

Film topics are "The Strong-Willful Child," "Shaping the Will Without Breaking the Spirit," "Christian Fathering," "Preparing for Adolescence, Parts 1 and 2" and "What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women, Parts 1 and 2."

The series is open to all interested persons.

Join the Great Jewelry Caper.

You could win one of four treasures worth up to \$3,500 from Dobie Jewelers and Timeless FM 105.

It's a treasure hunt of classic proportions. Four clever souls will win Timeless treasures from Dobie Jewelers, including, during the Timeless FM 105 Detroit Symphony Marathon, a diamond ring valued at \$3,500. It takes luck, wit, an alert ear and a postcard.

It may sound like enough to cause even Brahms, Beethoven or Bach to lose his composure, but in fact it's deceptively simple. Here's all you do:

Write your name, address and phone number on a postcard and send it to The Great Jewelry Caper.

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And then keep your ear tuned to Timeless FM 105 for the mysterious clues. They tell you, in a baffling way, the whereabouts of one of four treasures stashed diabolically somewhere in the Detroit area. If your card is drawn, and you answer the phone when we call, and know where we've hidden the treasure, then it's yours. What could be simpler?

We'll be hiding one treasure a week for four weeks starting January 16.

There's nothing to buy and send in as many postcards as you wish. And be ready for the phone to ring. We'll give clues on the air every day... every two hours. And we'll make a new call every two hours, so lots of people get a chance to try for the treasure. Even if you miss the answer, your name still goes into the barrel for the Grand Drawing to win the diamond ring.

Naturally, the staff and employees of WORQ Dobie Jewelers, The Detroit Symphony Orchestra Association for the DSO, their agents and their families are not eligible to win. But everybody else is. And if you win, you can't claim cash or any other consideration in place of your fabulous prize. But then, why would you want to?

Timeless FM 105 will be the sole judge for the Great Jewelry Caper and its decisions are final. Maps, magnifying glasses and electronic detection devices are allowed, but they won't do any good.

Week 1: 18" Malachite bead necklace accented with 14K yellow gold beads and clasp - valued at \$92.00

Week 2: Contemporary 14K white gold pendant with .04 ct. diamond suspended on an 18" 14K white gold chain - valued at \$185.00

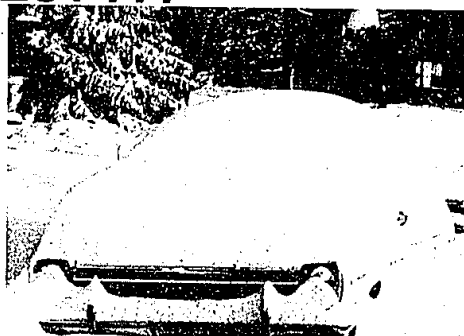
Week 3: Diamond pave star of 14K white gold hanging on 14K white gold chain to create an 18" necklace - valued at \$350.00

Grand Prize Marathon Week 1.03 carat diamond solitaire ring - valued at \$3,500.00



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