Thursday, February 18, 1984 O&E Agent sees upturn in travel

By Mattle Greene staff writer

Southfield residents are traveling to London, Paris, Italy and Florida in In-creasing numbers since the economy took a nose dive four years ago. "Four years ago, people were holding back on money and not going any-where," according to Janet Randolph, president of Book Courses Travel in Southfield.

president of book courses traver in Southfield. "Now they are taking bigger trips not only to Europe, but also Chinz. "During the recession people wanted the cheapest trip. Even now the word cheap constantly comes out. Everyone wants the cheapest trip. The badd. "People are going to Europe because the American dollar is strong. They are beginning to spend. I hope this will last for everyone, she added. "Companies, for example, are now sending six people on business trips, where they used to send only three, she said.

uld. The Farmington resident, currently

celebrating 25 years in the travel busi-ness, started out as a receptionist in ite -family-owned company: These days Randolph is involved in all phases of her travel business. Her one lament is that the fun has been lat-en out of the travel business because of the deregulation of the atrilnes. "Farts can change within an hour and they don't have to give adance no-tice."

THAT'S JUST ONE of the reasons she cites as to why travel agents are valuable. "We take the legwork out of planning trips for the cuitomer. We can find out. more information and have more sources than the average person. We special a fortune on books." "We know how and when to juggle times and flights to take advantage of bargains."

bargains." Over the years she has learned a lot about travel. Most of the time trips go well, but travel agents do have a few

Randolph was planning a trip to Bra-til for a young woman and her passport hadn't arrived even though the neces-rary paperwork was sent in sufficient time. Randolph had to fly one of her employees to Chicago to pick up the passport and once three the employee had to persuade the clerk in charge of stamping the passports to push this particular one ahead of others. Another time she had a man request tickets to a Spanish riding school and she managed to fud them for him. She has a number of hair-raising sto-ries to tell about the travel husiness. Big or small, few of the trips are sim-ple.

Big of share, for a set of the balloon trips, travel provide years to take balloon trips, travel freighters and barger. One woman wanted to take a trip to the same it is an island." One of the problems with travel is that there are too many fares, too many choices, scoording to Randolph. "I with they had a first and second class fare and that's it. We're constant-

what the fares

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Of AlfPort in New York and Loca Margoria New York and Carl and



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Store closing auction benefits charity

By Diene Gale staff writer

Even though business has been booming since 1974, when the Rumm-age Place in Keego Harbor opened, the doors will close for the last time Satur-dow sinch

doors will close for the task time satur-day night. The demise of the resale shop also marks the disintegration of the Michi-gan chapter for retinitis pigmentosa, commonly known as RP, because pro-ceeds from the store's sales have been demined the subserve ond treatment of

Ceech from the store's sales have been donated for research and treatment of RP, an eye disease characterized by gradual loss of sight. "It's really trajke that the tens of thousands of people that have family with the disease won't say they'll take over the helm," said Barbara Meyers, who founded the shop and Michigan chapter. chapter.

LACK OF membership support has caused the state's chapter to dissolve, and the national organization in Balti-more mandates that a local group manage the store. The thrust

age the store. The thrust behind the fund-raising shop is to give hope to the more than 100,000 people in the United States, mostly children and young adults, who are blinded by RP. A common symp-tom is tunnel vision, which eliminates the ability to see things away from the center of sight. Tits a shame that we're closing be-cause we have been a very successful store, "Meyers said. Longtime patrons of the non-prefit resale store, located in the heart of the city at 2945 Orchard Lake, are disap-pointed that the bargain hunter's haven no longer will exist. "I take my daily constitutional here, and it heart betor you hunter's haven the Mexure of Sylvan Lake. McKune has been visiting the shop on a regular basis for nine years. "There's terrific sales, great products and the sales people are so here," she thrust behind the fund-raising

ABLY HUMMAGE Place has become a city landmark where passersby slop in just to chat with Meyers, Ann Katz and Juanita Agnello, who run the store. The women and their co-workers tip-toe in and around the merchandlse, that covers the floors, fills the tables and hangs from the ceiling, to service their patrons. Meyers said the minute THE RUMMAGE Place has become

and hangs from the ceiling, to service their patrons. Meyers said the typical customer would be like the young man who had just completed his bar esam and hap-pened to be the same size as a man who domated expensive, barely used suits. The neophyte attorney walked out of the store with 20 suits for the price of two top-quality labels, Meyers said.

AN ELDERLY MAN, who visits al-most everyday, fingèred through the tles and modeled a few before he meandered his way to the next table to



see If a new item had been added since his last inventory. More than 75 percent of the custom-ers are regulars, Kats said. Over the years the store has sold ev-erything imaginable, including a kitch-en sink. The alsies are narrowed by stereo equipment, furniture, erystal, shees, paintings, albums, comic books and builging book shelves. Wedding dresses are priced at \$25, and the highest 'biddens' will be the prood owners of two mink jackets that look new.

Droug owners is the set of the se

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All the merchandise is donated, and contributions are tax deductible. During this last week of sales, the al-ready rock-boltom prices have been marked down to half-off the lowest price on the lag. The abop is closed on Thursday, but will roopen from 11 am. to 5 p.m. Fri-day and Saturday.

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research, ignited the birth of the research shop. "It just blew up, and we had to de-cide to either get out or in the busi-ness," Moyers said. "We decided to get in."

in." Even though the chapter and the shop have failen by the wayide, sup-porters say the group has accompliable a lot. Through the years, more than 200 people became involved in the Michi-gan chapter, Meyers said. "We're boiling in the future that we'll be able to start a new chapter," Sylvia Handter said. Handter and her humhand, Leonard, operate the Volunteer Infor-mation Beserch Center to disseminate MOST OF the store's best products geople became involved in the M have been snatched up by snart shoppers, but there's still many good buys left, Katz sald. All the mer-chandles that is still sold by by m. Satur-day will be sold to another store. Small runnings sales at local inclusion the values at local inclusion Research Center to dissemil-

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