# Her pep talk debunks myths about aging

At 57, Louise Churches decided to first a career. In her 70th year—despite a heart condition and arthritis—she's heading for Africa.

And she's also a services coordinator for the Area Agency on Aging IB.

So the Birmingham grandmother seemed a perfect choice for keynote peaker at the second annual Oakland County Senior Power Day.

"I think the most important reason they asked me is because I'm an old woman," Churches told the 800 who attended the daylong event Friday in Southfield Civic Center." It can share with you what it's like to be an old person in this society.

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housing, transportation and utilities.

"We asked what they wanted to pursue," said Marion Coker, senior citizen department head for the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLH-SA). The agency co-sponsored the event with the Area Agency on Aging 1B.

"It really comes from them."

Waving banners like "Here's the beef

more senior housing," they were asked to offer suggestions that might improve their lives.

"For us to do the kind of job necessary in working with older Americans we need to hear from you," urged AAA ill director Sandra K. Reminga, "We have come together for comradeship, but also to deal with the hard issues.

"We have expanded the service system for older adults and can do even more with your help."

For some, like Eve Newman of Oak Park, the event was a way to learn more about issues that affect her. "It's very informative, if only it would come true," she said.

"To me, it's promises, promises. But in unity there is a trength. Maybe they can do something."

who spent a month with the primitive Most a tribe in South Artica. This trip she'll visit the Zulus.

"I lived in and saw the third world in its great, great poverty. I saw a whole new dimension."

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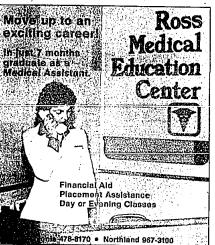
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Louise Churches (jett) told her audience at the Oakiand County Senior Power Day that society's information on the aging comes "from fietion," not fact. Robert Marks (at right, center) of Southfield was in the audience for the speech. The event was held in the Southfield Civic Conter.







## U.S. auto fleet is getting older

Although new-car registrations are increasing, more Americans are holding onto their older models longer than at any time since 1950.

The median age of the U.S. automobile population hit 6.5 years in 1982, years in 1970.

Those are among the conclusions of R.L. Polk & Co., automotive industry statistician, based on registrations filled as of June 30 last year, the most recent available.

"DESPITE THE welcome turnaround in sales that caused an encouraging increase in new-car registrations, the aging process continued," said Joseph C. Cirrindone, vice president and assistant general manager of Polk's Motor Statistical Division.

general manager of Polk's Motor Statistical Divi-sion. "The median age of the U.S. car population has been increasing steadily since 1970," Cirrincione said. "And since 1975, the median age of the Amer-can truck fleet has increased from 5.8 to 7.2 years." More than 8.33 million new cars were registered between July 1, 1982, and June 30, 1983 — an in-crease of 387,000 from the previous year. At a same time, the number of cars is or more years of age gree by 1.03 million to a record 7.9 million 100 million to a record 7.9 million 100 milli

registered.
"New cars definitely are an attraction again, and "New cars definitely are an accraction again, and we're expecting many older models will be replaced soon," Cirrincione said. "Not only have economic conditions encouraged Americans to keep their cars longer, but the built-in quality and the price and availability of replacement parts have extended the lives of those carse

HIGHLIGHTS of the Polk report:

• The registered passenger car population of the United Stars was 108.9 million on June 30, 1983, pp. 2.09 million from the previous year.

• The total increase in the car population was 2 percent, the greatest growth since 1977-78, but still well behind the average rate of 3.2 percent annually in the decade that ended in 1976.

• 6.2 million cars not re-registered are presumed to have been scrapped. This compares with 6.9 million autos scrapped in the previous year and with the all-lime scrappage total of 9.3 million during 1978-79.

### Madonna's open house March 25

Parents and prospective students are invited to attend an open house at 2 p.m. Sunday in Madonna College, Livone.

An added attraction will be the Music Department Student Spring Rectal at 430 p.m. in the new rectital hall. Students will exhibit their talents with such instruments as the plano, guitar, flute and violin, as well as voice. The event will highlight academic programs leading to associate and bachelor's degrees. Included are: nursing, allied health, dieteles, child guidance and development, fashion merchandising and computers.

Faculty members will be present to answer oues-

chandising and computers.

Faculty members will be present to answer questions. Also to be discussed are available scholar-ships and financial aid. For information regarding the open house, call 591-5052.



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DATE: Tedardy March 21 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
PLACE: Merrill Lynch Office, 26250 Northwestern Highway,
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