

Suburban Life

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Thursday, September 28, 1985 O&E

Going for the gold

Scouts meet challenge of Farmington City Park

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

Five area teens are well on their way towards earning their "Gold Awards," the highest honor in Girl Scouting. Target date for the members of Troop 1784 to meet their challenge, the most significant and the most difficult task in achieving the award, is April 1986, when the scouts say they will have met "the challenge of Farmington City Park."

Logs, bicycle wheels, even parts of old cars have been removed from the river. Better than 100 bags of litter have been hauled away. Playgrounds, baseball diamonds and picnic areas were spruced up. The sandbox was raked and weeded.

"But the job isn't done yet," said troop president Laurie McKinnon who was in the park at least once a week

through the summer working with troop members Stacy Sukockas, Claudia Osowski, Stephanie Ellis and Heidi Austermiller.

"It was surprising that as many of us turned up as we did each week juggling summer jobs and family vacations, to get it all done, and we're right on schedule," Sukockas said. "But we've always worked well together. We've known one another for about 10 years." The schedule she speaks of got under way about a year ago. The scheduling continues with landscaped drawings made by Ellis that need approval from Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department. Plantings in the spring, then a sign with the park's name on it to be put into place and "the challenge" will be met.

"NOT TOO MANY girl scouts meet the challenge," said troop leader Ruth

McKinnon. "The rules are very strict and must be followed to the letter. And this challenge is a little different from most because this is the first time in the Michigan metro area that an entire troop has chosen to work on one overall project while each troop member is still responsible, individually, for one specific part of the entire project."

Choosing to put on hip boots and wade through a river of tangled weeds, or take a chance on getting their hands scratched clearing out a woods, came as a surprise to the troop leader.

"I've known these girls since they were in grammar school and they are a feminine group. They have never been big on camping. They worry about their manicures. When I heard what they proposed to do I started to worry about accidents because I've never seen a rough and tumble side to them," she said.

Only one mishap occurred through the summer, when Austermiller's father, a professor at Oakland Community College, got poison ivy.

According to the Gold Award rules, the teens must have adult supervision all along the way to completion of their project, which was supplied through the summer by their parents.

They also had to have, in this instance, a long string of approvals from many city offices.

"Learning to work through the (city office) channels and learning how that works was all part of the challenge," Laurie McKinnon said.

OSOWSKI is a junior at Harrison High School and a member of her school's varsity cheerleaders squad. The other four scouts are all students at North Farmington High School.

McKinnon made the news pages last spring when her flute solo won her the top award in Farmington Musical's "Excellence in Music" scholarship competition. She is a member of her school's student council, marching band and the Northern Lites, a select group of singers and dancers. She is also treasurer of the school's Honor Society.

Sukockas is vice president of her girl scout troop and vice president of her school's student council. The senior is co-captain of the flag corps at North Farmington and a member of the Northern Lites.

Ellis is a co-captain with Sukockas of the flag corps at North Farmington, and tutors students who are studying Hebrew.

Austermiller is a sophomore, a member of her school's marching band and assistant for young girl scout troops.

All of the scouts have helped one another in each of their individual projects and they will all be back in the park next spring planting in the designated areas Ellis has chosen to landscape when those plans are approved.

Meanwhile, they have all signed a resolution, sent to Rep. Sandy Brotherton (R-Farmington Hills) and State Senator Jack Faxon (D-Farmington Hills) stating the need of expanding legislature on bottle deposits.

"Of all the trash we picked up the only bottles we found were the non-refundable California Coolers," McKinnon said.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Borrowed hip boots are worn by Stacy Sukockas (at left), Laurie McKinnon and Stephanie Ellis for the struggle through the river to clean out debris. Before an hour was gone, Heidi Austermiller (at left on bridge) and Claudia Osowski had filled a trash bag full of litter cleared from the water.

DAR hosts 85th State Conference

Newly elected Michigan State Regent Mrs. John F. Weaver Sr. will preside at the 85th State Conference of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Sept. 28-29 in Marriott Inn, Grand Rapids. Honored guest is Mrs. Raymond Franklin Fleck, recording secretary general.

Mrs. Marwell E. Hunt, senior president of Children of the American Revolution (CAR), will present the CAR debuts at the opening session Thursday evening when 50 members will be honored. Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Wells will present a multi-media film, "Lest We Forget."

Friday's business meeting will open with reports from state officers and the state chairman. Delegates from 57 chapters across the state will attend. Luncheon speaker is Herbert T. Weeks, administrator of Kate Duncan Smith DAR school in Grant, Ala. Mrs. Raymond Franklin Fleck will be the banquet speaker.

Col. Jack Louma will be the Saturday luncheon speaker. He will present "Home Movies in Space."

Quakertown chapter will be represented.



Mrs. John F. Weaver Sr.

sented by its regent, Mrs. Neil W. Huard; Mrs. C. Harold Dolph, state chairwoman of DAR scholarship; Mrs. Orvia L. Hanks, state lineage research chairwoman, and Mrs. Don P. Fairchild.

Junior members from Quakertown serving as pages for the conference are Mrs. James A. Hanlon and Mrs. Dennis Wojdyla.

Lecture-workshop circuit spirals for Michigan potter

An invitation to conduct a ceramic lecture and workshop in England has spiraled into exhibition of John Glick pots in Craftsmen Potters Association galleries in London. The Michigan potter owns and operates Plum Tree pottery in Farmington Hills.

The exhibition is the first to be given in the galleries by a non-English potter.

GLICK WAS invited to the British Isles as the guest potter for the Craftsmen Potters Association of Great Britain's annual conference. The trip plans began with an initial commitment to offer one two-day workshop in London. As plans developed, the European potters offered two more workshop sites.

A workshop presented in Highland Craftpoint, Inverness, Scotland, drew 100 potters. This facility is a government sponsored training center founded to promote crafts education in a variety of disciplines. Another in London drew a capacity audience of 250 potters from England, Germany, France, Spain, Ireland and Scandinavia.

The final workshop in Manchester Polytechnic, Manchester, England, was given to teachers.

Michigan Foundation for the Arts funded the overseas shipping costs for the exhibit, which will remain through Oct. 10. Glick's exhibit is comprised of about 80 stoneware and porcelain pots.

Fall fashions shown

The YWCA fall fashion show will be held at noon Friday, Oct. 8 in Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River. The show, presented by Leytons, will feature fall and winter designs following a catered salad luncheon. Tickets

for the luncheon and fashion show are \$5 for YW members and \$8 for non-members and can be purchased at the YWCA desk.

Baby-sitting service is available.

'Old Bach' is first of special musicals planned for the fall

"Old Bach," billed as a lively tribute to Johann Sebastian Bach, will be presented at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8 in Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 2987 11 Mile.

The program is the first of three special musical events the church is planning this fall to raise money for the proposed expansion and renovation of its Casavant pipe organ.

"Old Bach" commemorates the 300th anniversary of the musician's birth. It was created by James Hammann, professor of music at Pfeiffer College in North Carolina. He takes the role of Bach as he performs the composer's works in the one-man show.

"Hammann has done his homework with great care and with deep affection," said Betty Love, speaking for the church's Music and Fine Arts Committee. "As a result the audience is introduced not only to Bach the musician, but primarily to Bach the man."

"The show portrays major events in the composer's life while bringing the individual to life, accurately and with humor."

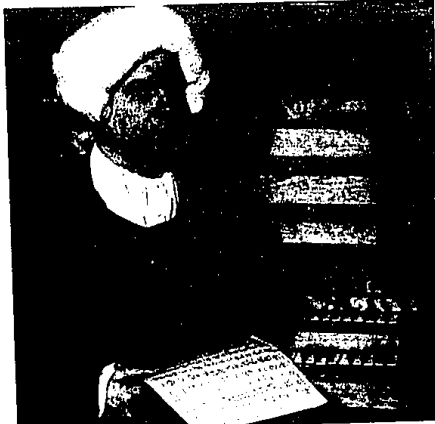
HAMMANN HAS created a witty and factual script that utilizes his acting talents and musical gifts. He uses period costume and props and performs Bach's works on the organ and harpsichord.

The music ranges from venerable fugues to a Brandenburg Concerto with toe-tapping stops in between.

His show has received standing ovations and rave reviews since its debut in January in Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Clearwater, Fla.

Tickets for "Old Bach" will be sold at the door on the evening of the show. Prices are \$5, or \$3 for seniors and \$1 for students.

Admission includes light refreshments served during intermission.



James Hammann is writer, producer, actor and musician in the one-man show, "Old Bach," to be staged at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8 in Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

'Considering Change' is topic for 8-part class

"Considering Change," an eight-session course for people thinking about re-entering the work force or going back to school, will be offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 30, in Church of Our Saviour, 6555 Middlebell Road just south of Maple, West Bloomfield, by Oakland University Continuum Center.

Classes will meet Mondays and

Wednesdays through Oct. 23, and will be led by Judith Schneider, a psychotherapist with a private practice in Birmingham, and a counselor on the Continuum Center staff.

"'Considering Change' is a springboard," says Schneider. "We have tried to take into consideration the personal side of making major life changes. We

think this program provides a useful structure and a launching pad for helping people sort out the possibilities."

The course includes large- and small-group experiences, interest tests and a specially designed workbook, plus skill sessions for learning how to set goals, make decisions, and access to additional resources, information, and support.

For registration call Continuum Center at 370-3033. Fee for the course is \$75.

The Continuum Center is a part of the School of Human and Educational Services of Oakland University and an arm of community outreach in the area of adult guidance.

Short story contest worth \$1,750 in prizes

Michigan writers will have the opportunity to vie for cash prizes in the second short-story contest sponsored by Detroit Auto Dealers Association. The winning entry will be featured in the 1986 official Detroit Auto Show program. The first prize winner will receive a check for \$1,000. Second- and third-prize winners will receive checks

for \$500 and \$250 respectively.

The purpose of the contest is to help foster good creative writing in Michigan, and to add an unusual and extra feature to the auto show program.

Winners will be selected by a panel of independent writers and editors now being formed.

The contest is open to any Michigan resident, except employees and family members of the sponsors. There is no theme requirement, but entries must be fiction, in good taste, and must not exceed 2,500 words. Each entry must be titled, typewritten and double-spaced.

The author's name and address must appear on the first page and the au-

thor's name must appear on subsequent pages. Manuscripts will not be returned. A complete list of rules is available from the dealer association.

Entries must be received in the offices of the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, 1800 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy 48064, no later than Nov. 15.