

# Suburban Life

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Thursday, December 5, 1985 O&E

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Dancers trying out for the chorus or specialty numbers in "Annie Get Your Gun" auditioned individually or in groups against a back ground of holiday packages. During auditions the stage was set with food gifts the students had prepared to be distributed by Focus Hope. Before the cast is chosen the girls will have launched their holiday clothing drive.

## Double anniversary

Mercy High marks 40th year, Mercyaires mark 25th

By Lorraine McClellan  
staff writer

**A**NNIE Get Your Gun," which opened on Broadway in the spring of 1946, will be produced in the spring of 1986 as part of the celebration of Mercy High School's 40th anniversary.

The school shares the anniversary with the Mercyaires, a select group of the school's singers, dancers and instru-

mentalists who performed around the metropolitan area about 60 times a year. This year the group marks its silver anniversary.

The Mercyaires received their first silver anniversary "gift" early in the season when they were invited to appear as the back-up group for Rosemary Clooney's "White Christmas Party" in Sterling Heights' Premier Center.

"It's one of the nicer things that has

ever happened for the girls and couldn't have come at a better time," said Larry Teevens, who is head of the school's music department and initiator of the traveling troupe.

Rosemary Clooney uses all local talent for back-up for her pre-Christmas shows, and when she was in Vancouver she used the Vancouver Symphony and the Vancouver Chorale. So, being asked was pretty heady stuff. It was the reputation of the past Mercyaires that got the invitation, but I had no worry about the 20 we have now passing the audition. They are an extraordinarily talented bunch," he said.

Rosemary Clooney's White Christmas Party advertisements read "Featuring The Mercyaires" in big and bold letters, at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19 in Premier Center, 33970 Van Dyke.

Ticket information is given at 978-3450. Optional buffet and group rates are available at both performances.

MERCY HIGH School's anniversary year opened with auditions for "Annie

Get Your Gun" and about 130 teens lined the halls waiting for their number to be called to go on stage.

Many wore cowboy hats or petticoated skirts. Many were clustered in small groups singing snatches from songs of the long-running show. Some were working out their own choreography to perform for their appearances. Some had taken it upon themselves to teach others basic dance steps that would be used.

Auditions are open to all Mercy High School students to fill the female roles. If tradition holds the male roles will be filled by teens who come from as many as a dozen area high schools to audition.

"The cast can run up to 60-70 in this show and every student in the school is encouraged to audition even if we have to sit here all night," Teevens said of the three days of casting calls for singers, dancers and actors.

"We encourage them to audition for the experience of auditioning and we

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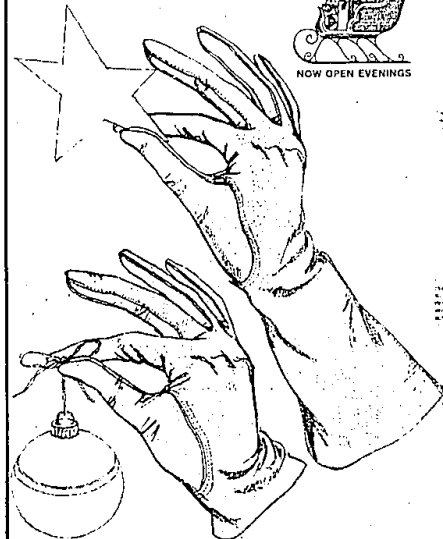


Kevin Nolan (at left) and Danny Poux, both students at University of Detroit High School, found a corner of the choir room to bone up on "Annie Get Your Gun" choreography before going on stage to audition. Students from about a dozen area high schools will be auditioning for the male roles.

Juno Williams will remain at her piano accompanying all comers throughout the three afternoons and evenings of auditions for "Annie Get Your Gun."



Juliet Ewing (at left) and Tricia Forlinski, both juniors at Mercy High, fill out the necessary application required of all auditioners who want to be part of the school's spring show.



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