

Cashing in

State's lottery millionaires think they could win again

By Jeane Whitaker
staff writer

"Oh, yes, hope to die, I'm going to win the lottery!"

LOTTO FEVER. The symptoms, general physical nervousness, sweaty palms and dreams of early retirement, trips to exotic locations, fur coats and \$35,000 Porsche sports cars, can be acute while trying to guess which numbers will make up the elusive winning combination in the State Lotto drawing.

But, be forewarned, should you be the one to pick the right numerical sequence there is really only one thing you will find in common with the millionaires who have preceded you.

If you say early retirement, long vacations or a pricey sports car, you picked the wrong combination, again. Also wrong are qualms, nervousness, sweaty palms and apprehension. If you say you think you could win again despite your million dollar-plus windfall, count yourself right.

Last week 46 of the 123 individuals who have won the state lottery's top prize were guests of the Michigan Lottery Commission at Dearborn's Hyatt Regency. On the agenda were sessions with representatives of Coopers & Lybrand, Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, and Danielson, Schultz & Co., brunches, lunches, dinners and a fashion show staged by some of Fairlane Town Center's headline stores, including Saks Fifth Avenue, Gantco, Antoin's and Hudson's.

The schedule, according to Commissioner Michael J. Carr, was designed to allow the winners to pool their experiences and concerns to find out what happens to an individual's life when he suddenly finds out he, or she, is the winner of \$1 million or more. The results, said Carr, will be put together as a guide for future winners.

Included on the list of invitations sent to 79 cities and four states were Oakland County residents Alfred Bennett of Troy, Claudia Susalla of Novi, William McCarthy, Harry Ling and Betty Parker of Plymouth, Erma Woodman of Rochester, Farmington Hills resident R. Zuliani, Robert Smith of Northville and Mike and Harry Mammo of Southfield. Also, Livonia residents Barbara Papler and Casimir Kliza and Kathryn Boyle of Westland.

ONE BY ONE, the "millionaires," with wives and/or children, began checking in on Friday afternoon. Among the last to arrive were the lottery's newest winners, Canton residents

Nancy and Ray Reed. The Reeds checked in on the return trip from Lansing where they picked up the first installment of the earnings that will be doled out to them over the next 20 years.

Reed made a wry face when he explained that the day's events had proved to be so hectic that the side trip to Mount Pleasant to take their daughter, a Central Michigan University student, out to dinner had turned into a trip to McDonald's.

Already checked into their rooms were winner Erma Woodman, 70, and her daughter, Suzanne Nurek, Woodman, a Rochester resident who won \$50,000 a year for life on June 3, 1980, said her plans included a shopping trip to nearby Fairlane Town Center.

Asked if she would indulge any particular or spectacular fantasies, Woodman smiled and said that she was looking for a toy store to buy a surprise for her 2-year-old youngest grandchild. The family's teen-agers, she said knowingly, prefer money.

Said Carr, few, if any of the millionaires have gone to extremes in terms of purchases or a change in lifestyle. Some, he says, have bought new homes, but almost always in the same community.

PRIOR to the weekend, said Carr, the commission mailed a blind survey questionnaire to 63 individuals who have become millionaires since the \$1 million-plus drawings began in February 1973. The 78 responses, he said, provided a good profile of the winners.

"Most used their initial prize payments to pay bills, buy a new car, fix up a home or make a move. Their responses indicate that many popular conceptions about what happens to large prize winners are simply untrue."

MILLIONAIRE William McCarthy, who won \$2,384,704 on March 30, told of advice he received from another millionaire he met during the weekend get-together. Since that encounter, he said, his response to unsolicited requests for donations will be that if things are that tough there are numerous charitable organizations better equipped to address the request than he is.

Besides, said McCarthy, most millionaires already know people and organizations they wish to help or include in their windfall.

Commissioner Carr said unwanted solicitations are not as common as one might expect. "Only one in five reported being particularly bothered by people seeking to share in winnings," he

said. "Most of these contacts came from sales people by telephone or mail."

It should ease concern, he said, to know that solicitations appear to diminish after the first month.

The smartest thing instant millionaires can do is to immediately get themselves in touch with a trust officer, McCarthy said. On the morning after his windfall he presented himself at the trust officer's desk at the bank where he works.

McCarthy also advises instant millionaires to keep quiet, at least for a while. He wishes, he said, that he had taken more time to adjust to his new financial situation.

"I couldn't remember anything for about four months," he said. "I couldn't recall a thing that I said. I wish now that I hadn't said anything at all to anyone until I got myself together."

Like most winners, after the initial

flurry of publicity and excitement, McCarthy and his wife Shirley refused to discuss their windfall, preferring instead to return to a normal routine. McCarthy said he will continue to work until his scheduled retirement in March. Shirley McCarthy, a volunteer docent at Greenfield Village, plans to continue her volunteer work.

"She insisted on going to do her volunteer work over picking up the check," said McCarthy.

COMMISSIONER CARR said, "In their long-range planning nearly all of them sought some sort of financial counseling. Their interests run to investment programs, saving funds and trusts for children."

Carr explained that by law the Lottery Commission is prevented from advising the millionaires. "Other than advising them of tax withholding requirements, we aren't empowered to

offer any counseling."

But, he adds, that doesn't mean that the Commission doesn't become emotionally involved with the millionaires. "You can't help but hand out the checks on Monday morning and not share in some of the excitement with them," he said. "It's a wonderful experience for us."

WHILE THERE are overwhelming similarities between the millionaires, there is one area in which the winners are remarkably dissimilar. All had their own method for picking the winning number.

Nancy and Ray Reed of Canton say they picked their winning number by combining their birthdays — 8, 15, 35, 12, 11, 34. "If I hadn't married her I wouldn't have won," said Reed, a unit supervisor at Ford Aerospace Communications.

William McCarthy said his initial

plan was to number table-tennis balls, but when that idea proved expensive he settled for little pieces of paper.

John Foleak, a Flint resident who won \$2,395,125 on March 9, said that at the last moment he decided to change the last two digits of his usual numerical sequence. Still others say they have stuck with the same numbers, with some saying that they continue to play their exclusive status as instant millionaires.

Their initial excitement past, the millionaires were reluctant when asked how their windfalls have changed their lives, preferring instead to talk about the discovery that their lives were already pretty satisfactory.

Oh, there will be a few extravaganzas, said Nancy Reed of Canton. This Christmas, she said, "the presents might be a little bit bigger."



Stephanie Dexter (at left) takes the role of The Sugar Plum Fairy, Jean Haugan is Clara and Christine Schwark is the Snow Queen in Michigan Ballet Theatre's production of "The Nutcracker." This

year the holiday classic is staged with the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra in West Bloomfield High School's auditorium.

Holiday classic returns Dec. 7-8

The Sugar Plum Fairy, Clara, and all her friends in the Kingdom of Sweets will delight audiences in the holiday classic "Nutcracker" ballet. Michigan Ballet Theatre and the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra will perform the complete ballet at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, and at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, in the West Bloomfield High School Auditorium.

Michigan Ballet Theatre, whose artistic director is Evelyn Kreson, will perform the "Nutcracker" for the 18th straight year. The Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra is conducted

by Felix Resnick.

Guest artist in the role of the Nutcracker Prince is George Nunes, who trained with the Maria Ballet in San Rafael, Calif., and is currently a dancer with the Cincinnati Ballet and the New Orleans City Ballet.

A FUND-RAISING silent auction to benefit Michigan Ballet Theatre will be on-going during all performances and will offer many bargains for holiday shoppers.

Prospective buyers may make open written bids on items donated by many

metro Detroit businesses and individual friends of Michigan Ballet Theatre. Bidding will be closed at 8:30 p.m. Dec. 8 and shoppers may pick up their purchases in the forum at the high school after 9 p.m. High bidders unable to return at that time will be contacted the following week to obtain their purchases.

Among the items donated are an onyx and gold necklace from Sidney Krandall and Sons Jewelers, a German nutcracker from Eaton Nursery, Ltd., a large tray of candies from Sidney Bogg Chocolates, and tickets to the "Messiah" from the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra, as well as Pigeons and Red Wings tickets.

All proceeds from the silent auction will benefit Michigan Ballet Theatre's on-going pursuit of excellence—the field of regional ballet. Founded in 1987 by Kreson, M.B.T. is nearing the end of its second decade as a non-profit arts organization.

Farmington and Farmington Hills residents performing in the Nutcracker are Carrie Adams, Meridith Bellinger, Stephanie Lawton and Mindy Marx.

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