

## retirement memos

### Margaret Miller

## New musical provides insight on retirees' lives

A SOMEWHAT offbeat musical had a long run with one of several local theater groups in Sarasota, our retirement home.

The revue, "Taking My Turn" by Robert Livingston, was extended several times and several people mentioned to me that they had enjoyed it. They used terms like "upbeat" and "realistic" for its treatment of the retirees it depicts.

I read a few weeks ago that the theater group considered the response so good that it plans to lead off its fall season with a repeat of "Taking My Turn." The show will run six weeks this time.

AND THEN a day or so later the revue showed up on our television screen as a cable special and I had a chance to see for myself what people were talking about.

Not entirely upbeat, I decided as the five cast members spoke and sang lines meant to show how it feels to be growing old. I wrote down some of them.

Retirement is such a nice word for such a rotten feeling.

"In April I lost a son. My son."

## Freedoms guaranteed

The framers of the Constitution of the United States believed in the right of life and work free from tyranny. The Quaker town chapter Daughters of the American Revolution reminds us that we must be vigilant to protect the freedoms guaranteed to us by our Constitution. Lost rights may never be regained. Let us celebrate Constitution Week (Sept. 17-23) by resolving to be better informed responsible citizens. Read your Constitution.

"My mother has become my child. I didn't want that."  
"I never told anyone I always wanted a pair of silk pajamas. I never told anyone I never liked my wife."

BUT WHO EVER said all of retirement and aging is upbeat. Other lines are far more positive, and they're part of the scene, too.

"Old is 15 years from now."

"Is it my imagination, or did people before us grow old sooner?"

"Does anyone remember doctors who had time to listen? Waiters who cared if you got what your ordered? Dining cars where no one stole the silver?"

"We look back at things that looked earth-shattering, and we wonder what was all the fuss about."

"Takin' our turn, takin' a stroll, lookin' at life, seem' it all."

I HOPE to get to a live performance of this show to add to my television experience. I think it shows retirees pretty accurately — often nostalgic, sometimes bitter, becoming accepting, mostly forward-looking.

The theater director who will bring "Taking My Turn" back evidently thinks so, too.

"We're doing a service to this area," he said in announcing next year's program. "Since there are so many retired and older people here. People come back four and five times and say they'll be back again. You can't argue with that."

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for Observer Newspapers for 16 years. She and her husband Joe have retired to Florida, where she writes Retirement Memos.

## Koltz-Partian

Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Koltz of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Mary Catherine to Phillip Partian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Partian of Trenton.

The bride-to-be, a graduate of North Farmington High School and University of Michigan, is employed as an industrial engineer with Chrysler Corp. Her fiancé is a graduate of Trenton High School and attended Western Michigan University. He is employed as a physical therapist assistant at Heritage Hospital.

An October wedding is planned in First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.



## Hazen-Sclabassi

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hazen of Farmington announce the engagement of their daughter Catherine Agnes to Anthony Geno Sclabassi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Geno Sclabassi of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Farmington High School and is now a student at Western Michigan University. Her fiancé is a graduate of Farmington High School and attended University of Michigan. He is the owner of Redford Coin Gallery.

A September wedding is planned in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.



## 'Drug Free Kids' is new no-fee video

Movieland is making another free-rental video movie available called "Drug Free Kids" to all families or interested organizations.

Movieland is a chain of more than 50 stores offering video cassette motion picture rentals and sales based in the Detroit area.

"Drug Free Kids" is a parent's

guide to the problems of drug abuse and the techniques that will help to solve it.

The video features entertaining and educational role-playing scenes re-enacted to illustrate the most effective ways for parents to communicate to their children the dangers of becoming involved with drugs.

"Drug Free Kids" stars Marla Gibbs, Elliot Gould, Bonnie Franklin, Paul Winfield, and many more. In addition to Ken Howard acting as host, some of America's leading medical experts lend their know-how by offering sound and reasonable advice to assist parents in helping their children resist temptations of peer pressure.

Other free-rental video movies that are available through participating Movieland Stores are "Strong Kids, Safe Kids," "Too Smart for Strangers," "Baby Proof Your Home," and "Where Do I Come From?"

## WAND talk to probe aftermath of Chernobyl

The major nuclear accident at a plant in Chernobyl in the Soviet Union produced a shock reaction around the world.

Questions about the lessons of Chernobyl and the accident of April 27, 1986, will be the topic of Dr. Felix Rogers at 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Southfield Public Library, 26000 Evergreen.

Rogers will address a meeting of the Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament Inc. Metropolitan Detroit Chapter (WAND). The meeting is open to the public at no charge. For

information about the meeting, call 851-0984.

A Detroit area cardiologist and active member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Rogers was part of a group of physicians invited to the Soviet Union by Soviet physicians following the Chernobyl disaster.

The physicians attempted to gain an understanding of the health care consequences of the accident. Rogers spent 11 days in the Soviet Union from June 1 to 11.

At the WAND meeting, Rogers will share his reactions and some in-

sight, personal and medical, into the perspectives of the Russian people. He will present slides and commentary.

WAND is a national organization

dedicated to ending the use of nuclear weapons through public awareness, education and political action. The metropolitan Detroit chapter was formed earlier this year.

## Holy day observed

The most important Holy Day during the month for Greek Orthodox Christians the world over is the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. The day is commemorated each year on Sept. 14.

In Farmington Hills Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross the celebration will begin Saturday evening with Great Vespers conducted by the Right Rev. Bishop Timothy of the Diocese of Detroit. He will be assisted by all the Orthodox priests of the Metro Detroit area.

On Sunday morning, "Feast of the Elevation of the Holy and Precious Life-Giving Cross," Orthodox (morning prayers) will begin at 9 a.m., followed by a Solemn Episcopate Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. Bishop Timothy

as chief celebrant will be assisted by the Rev. S.J. Anthony, priest of the Parish of Holy Cross.

Highlighting this Episcopate Liturgy is a special procession during which a gold cross will be borne aloft on a tray of sweet basil and flowers placed on a specially prepared table in front of the altar. Bishop Timothy will then elevate the cross to the four points of the compass and invoke the blessings of God on the president and the civil authorities of America, on members of the armed forces, the clergy of the church and all the Orthodox faithful.

The prescribed reading from the Gospel of St. John relates the story of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ and is read as a reminder of Christ's death.

## 2 U.S. flags stolen

The Farmington Nursing Home has had two U.S. flags stolen from the flag pole on its grounds in less than two years time. The events have left the staff "baffled" and at least one resident "very hurt," according to Carolyn Darling, who is coordinator for the Adult Day Care program in the home on Fulsom.

The first flag to be raised on the nursing home grounds was bought at the request of resident Joe Fink.

"Joe is very patriotic-minded," Darling said. "He came here from Russia, fought in World War I, and wanted the flag to fly from the pole

where he could watch it from his window."

"The staff made a big ceremony out of it — a party really — for him when the flag was first raised. We even had a high school band to play for us that day," she said.

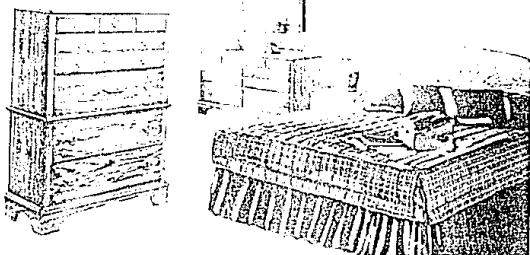
When that flag disappeared, Lena Click, one of the home's housekeepers, donated a flag for the empty pole "because Joe was so distraught," Darling said.

"Now he's just sick over the whole thing. Nobody here has even a guess as to how or why anybody could lose two flags in so short a time," she said.



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