

Perseverance pays for mezzo-soprano

By Mary Jane Doerr
special writer

The Metropolitan Opera Auditions of the Detroit District proved several things. First, that persistence and hard work pay off. Second, that sometimes some of the most promising talent does not place in competi-

tions. Third, there is a dearth of good male singers.

Detroit-born mezzo-soprano Claritha Buggs, 30, deservedly won \$3,000 and first place. The University of Michigan graduate sang the best this critic has ever heard her do especially in "When I am laid in earth" from "Dido and Aeneas" by Purcell.

She sang this for the final round. If there was any doubt that she would win, it was quashed with this moving performance.

Her first selection for the finals, "Samite implacabile," from "Codi Fan Tutti," showed off the quality of her voice and training, but her second selection was superb.

Buggs won the Detroit District Auditions in 1983, but didn't do as well at the regionals. Two years ago, she competed again in Detroit but wasn't in good voice and didn't win.

On Jan. 10, she will compete against winners from Toronto, Montreal, Cleveland and New York State for the chance to go to New York March 29 for the national finals. There is no doubt that Buggs has the maturity and the musicianship to do well in those competitions.

THW AUDITIONS were held at



Mary Jane Doerr

Marygrove College theater. The acoustics were good for the singers, but it was impossible to hear co-director Mary Sue Ewing announce the selections. For the listeners, in the absence of programs, it became a game of "name that tune" and "name that singer."

Voice teachers and opera experts could recognize the arias, but to anyone else, this along with the competition in the theater and inability to hear the announcer were serious distractions.

The three judges did consider their singers and met with each one of the 24 and gave encouragement to the brightest talent of the group with an Honorable Mention.

That went to 26-year-old Indiana voice student, Janet Williams. She sang the difficult aria "Non mi di-

from "Don Giovanni" in her first appearance and "Deputi le jour" from "Louise" by Charpentier in the final appearance.

Williams is one of the youngest who auditioned. She wasn't given one of the first three places because of her incorrect interpretation of "Deputi le jour."

Williams is extremely talented, has great variety and interest in her tone and displays remarkable stage presence. The only problem with such a beautiful voice is that, if she pushes herself too far, too soon, she will ruin it. The judges were right in awarding her an Honorable Mention and saving her from moving into a world where she will be tempted to put demands on her voice that she isn't ready for.

Here's hoping we will hear more

from this Detroit who happens to live near Marygrove College.

SECOND-PLACE winner, Barbara Youngerman, a 30-year-old mezzo-soprano from Royal Oak, sang solidly "Que Falt-Tu, Blanche Tourterelle" from Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet" and Jane Seymour's famous aria from "Anne Bolena" by Donizetti. Her style was developed, but had little variety and color.

Stephen Morschcheck, a bass-baritone from Ann Arbor, was given the third prize of \$1,000. He sang "To Beauty, O Handsomeness, Goodness" from "Billy Budd" and in the concluding round sang "O, Du Mein Holder Abendstern" from Wagner's "Tannhauser."

This 27-year-old, the only man to make it to the final round of the competition, sang with an even voice

that clearly defined his notes and his pronunciation. At times, his interpretation was boring and uninspiring.

The judges were Detroit George Shirley, who won the auditions in Detroit in 1959 and went on to have a great career as an opera star all over the world; Carol Anne Curry of the Canada Council of the Arts; and David Lloyd, director of the American Opera Center at Juilliard School of Music. Shirley is now artistic director of The New School for the Arts in New Jersey.

The competition was one of the best in the last few years. Maybe next year, more men will make it to the finals and Janet Williams will have the courage and perseverance that Claritha Buggs has shown to come back and pursue her dreams.

Bonus for garden visitors

Visitors to Cranbrook Gardens 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday will get an added bonus.

The Cranbrook House Oak Room will come alive with more than a

dozen bonsai trees, arranged by the Four Seasons Bonsai Club, to preview the million-dollar Japanese ink painting exhibition scheduled for the following weekend at the Detroit Institute of Arts.



Claritha Buggs

Jewelry design show to help Heritage House

Ajour Ltd. of Birmingham, will present "From Primitive to Modern: The Art of Jewelry Design" 8-9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20, at Your Heritage House, 110 E. Ferry, Detroit, in the Cultural Center area.

Ajour Ltd. designers/gemologists Jerry LeDuff, Annette LeDuff and Sue Ann Valentine will present a collection of handcrafted pieces from different countries. Original designs by Jerry LeDuff will also be featured.

Local celebrities will model the collection during the evening and Annette LeDuff will give informal talks on gemstones, pearls and jewelry design.

Door prizes from Ajour Ltd. will be awarded

and refreshments will be served. Entertainment will be provided by the Storytellers.

Jerry LeDuff, designer, has a master's degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art and worked as an automotive designer and engineer before changing to fine arts. He is also a jazz musician and composer.

Annette LeDuff is a gemologist with a master's from Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Valentine is an experienced jeweler who also has a degree in business from Western Michigan University. Their shop is at 800 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

The Final Fable of Foxpointe

In days gone by, we began the tale of a very clever fox. A fox that liked the facts about foxminiums...the condominium homes in a prime location with contemporary styling, the latest designer features and a price below \$200,000. And since we built this fox his foxminium, folks have flocked to Foxpointe Condominiums of West Bloomfield.

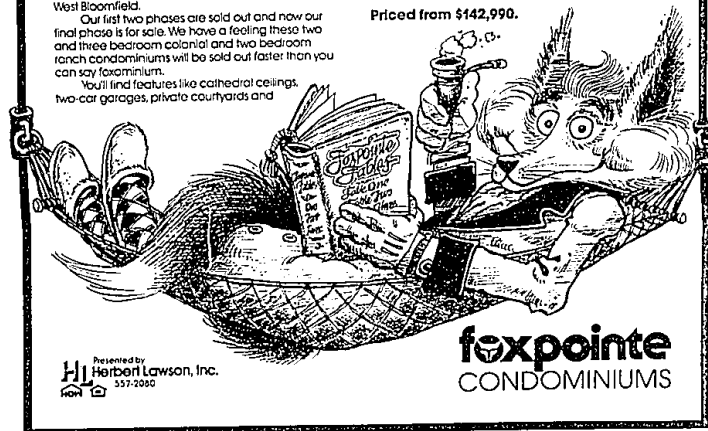
Our first two phases are sold out and now our final phase is for sale. We have a feeling these two and three bedroom colonial and two bedroom ranch condominiums will be sold out faster than you can say foxminium.

You'll find features like cathedral ceilings, two-car garages, private courtyards and

magnificent mature landscaping. Plus tennis courts, swimming pool and bathhouse. But if you don't buy now, they'll be gone!

Visit our decorated models any day between noon and five or call 681-3112. Find us on the west side of Orchard Lake Road, just south of Leno Pine Road. And live happily ever after.

Priced from \$142,990.



foxpointe
CONDOMINIUMS

Local news you can use Local news you can use Local news you can use

FOXCROFT CONDOMINIUMS

With its unique style and panache that lights up the eyes of jaded condominium buyers, Foxcroft is fast becoming the talk of the town. It's little wonder. Since this exclusive hideaway is surrounded by all the worldly luxuries that makes Bloomfield such a sought after address.

So come see these sprawling two and three-bedroom residences that were built with care and attention rarely seen in this day and age.

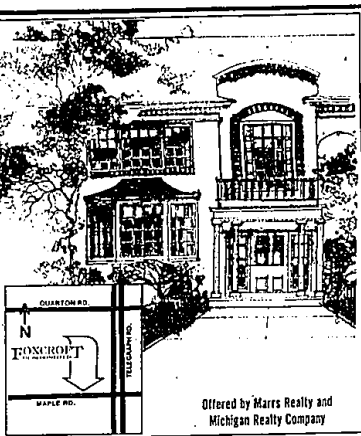
Foxcroft is worth looking into today... especially since the secret is out! Priced from \$90,000.

INCLUDES:

New self cleaning range and oven
* frost free refrigerator * G.E. dishwasher * carpeting
* clubhouse * swimming pool

Foxcroft is tucked away behind the tall trees on the north side of Maple Road just west of Telegraph

Model Open Daily and Weekends:
1 to 6 pm.
855-1066 (Model) or 296-7002 (Office)



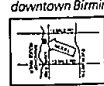
Offered by Harris Realty and
Michigan Realty Company

O&E sports... your guide to local scores

Where Coming Home is a Special Occasion.



Village Pines Condominiums is where it all comes together. All the amenities, the luxury, and the peace. Features like an atrium, a greenhouse, or a private outdoor retreat off the master bedroom suite accentuate the natural beauty of the surroundings and create a feeling of spaciousness. At Village Pines Condominiums you enjoy a private, single-residence lifestyle within minutes of downtown Birmingham. And when you come home to Village Pines, you'll know you've arrived.



Another Robertson Brothers Community.
Priced from \$234,900 +.
For more information,
call 540-4470, or ask your Realtor.



Rb ROBERTSON BROTHERS CO. RESIDENTIAL BUILDERS

MAPLEWOODS II SELLING OUT OF PHASE I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF 1985 PRICES.



Winding sidewalks throughout subdivision

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

☐ MONTEREY BUILDERS MODEL

includes fixtures, carpeting, 2 marble fireplaces, landscaping...\$279,500.

☐ MONTEREY ENLARGED

includes 2 fireplaces, cul-de-sac lot...\$236,345

☐ MALIBU JUDOR

includes 1st floor master bedroom, 3 bedrooms upstairs...\$230,500.

LATE FALL OCCUPANCY

LOT 148 • LOT 160 • LOT 171 • LOT 173

TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR PHASE II

851-9898

MODEL HOURS: 1-6 P.M. DAILY EXCEPT THURSDAY

Broker Cooperation Invited

