

Artist-feminist speaks at OWL's Sunday brunch

Patricia Hill Burnett, a noted portrait artist who converted the first chapter of National Organization for Women in Michigan, will be in Farmington for the Older Women's League's Christmas Brunch.

From her vast repertoire of lectures concerning either artists or the status of women in their changing roles over the past 20 years, Burnett will address OWL members and their guests on "Have Women Artists Been Brushed Aside?"

Burnett will speak after a noon brunch Sunday, Dec. 7, in Botsford Inn. The event, coupled with a silent auction, is the major fund-raiser of the year for Farmington Chapter of OWL.

Tickets are \$12.50 each and will be held at the door for guests who call Virginia Nicoll, 474-3094, or

Betty Griffin, 349-7502.

In her talk Burnett uses women artists and their careers as symbolic of women in all careers, as NOW marks its 20th anniversary this year.

Burnett's own career as a portrait artist was well under way before her secondary career as a leader in the women's movement began, in 1970, with a meeting she called in the Scarab Club to tell Michigan women about NOW.

She has many times repeated the story of how that came about. She was visited by a representative of a large corporation who wanted her to do portraits of its executives. One of the requirements for the commission was that she sign her name only "Burnett" because paintings by women were not considered as prestigious as those done by men.

SHE HAS SINCE served on NOW's national board, chaired International NOW, and convened NOW International Affiliations in 21 countries.

She was an elected delegate from Michigan to the International Women's Year Convention, served on Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and visited both Russia and China at the invitation of their governments to study the status of women.

She has chaired the World Feminist Commission continuously since 1974 and continues in that position working to establish an international network of communication.

She has been appointed to numerous commissions by Michigan governors and Detroit mayors and has amassed numerous awards and honors for her political achievements as well as her works of art.

She has been commissioned to paint a string of notables that run from Indira Gandhi to Hiram Walker, from Walker Cister to Jean Stapleton.

Burnett rode on the crest of major NOW successes, many of them evident in legislation that changed Michigan and federal laws.

As to NOW's future, after suffering its first defeat in failure to ratify the Equal Right Amendment, Burnett believes conservative women must be brought into the movement. She believes that because so many women are working now, the issue of child care for those women — women who don't remember the struggle — is going to have to be brought to the forefront if NOW is going to survive.

OWL IS THE only national

grassroots membership organization whose sole focus is women in their middle and later years. It works to provide support for its members, to achieve economic and social equity for its constituents and to improve the image and status of the older woman.

OWL was organized in 1980 and now has approximately 14,000 members across the nation who support their lobbying and watch-dog headquarters in Washington, D.C. Farmington Chapter of OWL is made up of 66 women, headed by president Margaret Walker.

Local members will give their support to National Family Caregivers Week late in November, and later this year to the national "Give 'em Health" campaign, sponsored by the national organization.



Patricia Hill Burnett



retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Retirement is chance to learn about people

ONE OF THE fun things about retirement travel is the chance to pick up newspapers of small communities and to try, in their lines of type, to capture a capsule view of an unknown area.

I skim the headlines about governmental happenings and look inside to meet people who live where I am visiting. And in doing so last summer I happened on the story of an amazing retiree whose home is in the town of Kennewick, Wash.

Leon Ensch refuses to consider himself a retiree — he says instead his life is "in review." I guess that's his privilege at age 92. I maintain he fits into this column because he no longer treats townfolk as a chiropractor, which he did for well over half a century, and instead mainly talks politics and takes care of his home and his invalid 96-year-old wife.

WHAT'S TRULY remarkable about Ensch is his housing arrangement. The combination home and office he has owned for 40 years is on a busy downtown street next door to Kennewick Industrial. And for some 30 years the firm has been trying to buy the chiropractor's property to build a parking lot.

Ensch never would sell. While his business was going strong, he liked the central location, and later he just didn't want to move. There were the matters of familiarity, and a collection of more than 1,000 medical books, and his wife's health problems.

But he always was on most friend-

ly terms with his industrial neighbor, and recently the owners of the factory made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

If Ensch would sell, they said, he and his wife could stay in the house rent-free for life. Furthermore, all utility bills would be paid, and two spaces in the new parking lot would be reserved for them and any guests who might drop by to talk politics.

Oh yes, a few more things. A color television (the couple's first) with cable hookup, and a modern air-conditioning system would be thrown in. And there would be a privacy fence to divide their home from the parking lot, and a metal garage where the chiropractor could putter about.

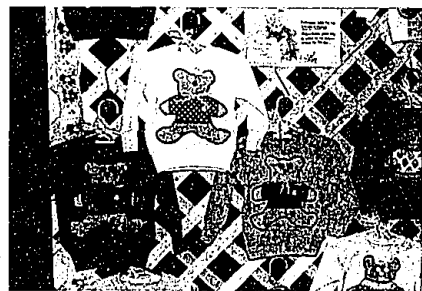
AS I SAID, Ensch couldn't refuse. The factory owners were pleased because they had been wanting that parking lot for a long time and, as one of them noted, "With Leon, nothing moves very fast."

But the retiree, no, reviewer, is sure he has the best of it. "I told them they made a bad deal," he said, "because I'm going to live to 125."

All he has to do is figure out what to do with 1,000 books.

What I should have done when we passed near Kennewick was stop to meet this gentleman instead of just reading about him. I could have learned a lot about living.

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.



Sizzlie rizzlies

Doby Metter will set up her booth with appliqued sweatshirts she calls "Sizzlie Grizzlies," at Farmington Area Community Women's Arts and Crafts Show, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, in Farmington High School. Metter is one of 70 artisans who will fill the school gym on Shawassaw, between Orchard Lake Road and Power Road with their original works for the sale. Admission is free.



Crystal craftsmen from Ireland

Waterford master craftsmen Michael Condon and Joe Powers from Waterford, Ireland will be at Jacobson's to sign and date crystal pieces. They will be in the Birmingham store 2-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21.

The collection includes handcut and handblown serving pieces, room

accents, table accessories, stemware and lamps.

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Two exhibits showing the various stages of the hand process of produc-

tion will also be part of this special event. The first exhibit emphasizes the blowing stages and the second exhibit emphasizes the cutting stages. Tools used in the blowing process and photographic enlargements of blowers and cutters at work also will be on display.

Santa Claus parades in Winter Fantasy

The Winter Fantasy Holiday Parade will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, in Livonia.

Although Santa is the highlight of the extravaganza he will have plenty of company. More than 60 units will join to welcome him. Colorful floats are sponsored by Charley's Restaurant, Michigan National Bank, Schoolcraft College, Livonia Chamber of Commerce, Italian American

Club, Trebor Construction, Miss Jean's School of Dance, ERA First Federal Realty, Livonia Mall and local Girl Scouts.

Horses, antique fire trucks, clowns, costumed characters, Indian Guides and hundreds of Brownies dressed as Christmas Carol won't march in silence. They'll move to the music of marching bands from Clarenceville High, Churchill High,

Farmington High, Stevenson High, Franklin High, Redford Union High and the Celtic Pipes & Drums.

The parade will begin at Six Mile and Middlebelt Roads and proceed north to Seven Mile, before traveling west to the reviewing stands in front of the Livonia Mall. Families are urged to find viewing area along both sides of Seven Mile and Middlebelt before the 9 a.m. starting time.

Participants and spectators are invited to complimentary hot chocolate and Coca Cola, which will be available in the mall following the parade.

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