



# On the fun side . . .

## Take time to enjoy season's special events

**A** MAGNIFICENT Christmas feast, floral guided tours, breakfast with Santa, music of the Michigan Bach choir, Santa's workshop, yuletide cheer, Christmas gifts and post-holiday tours highlight the varied Christmas celebrations planned this year at the Henry Ford Estate-Fair Lane.

Now is the perfect time to make plans to spend a part of the holiday season at the estate, located on the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Traditional Christmas Dinner, beginning with mulled cider in the gathering room, includes music throughout the evening and a memento for each guest. Three dinners, beginning at 7 p.m. Dec. 12, 13 and 14, are being offered. A charge of \$30 per person includes tax and gratuity, and reservations are necessary.

TEN AREA FLORISTS worked and decorated the entire estate,

each room with the personal touch of an individual floral artist. Guided tours showcase these creations from 1-4:30 p.m. on Sundays in December and 10, 10:30, 11 a.m., 2, 2:30 and 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday, Dec. 8-23. Tours, at \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors and children, begin in the Visitor Center.

THE FAIR LANE Gift Shop is filled with a fine array of traditional Christmas delights, including old fashioned toys and gifts. The shop on the lower level is open Monday through Saturday, Dec. 8-23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays in December from 2-5 p.m.

Throughout the holiday season, Fair Lane offers group breakfasts, lunches and dinners, accommodations for group parties and regular Pool Restaurant luncheons amid the Christmas decorations. Additionally, post-Christmas tours of the historic buildings and grounds run from 1-4:30 p.m., Dec. 28 through Jan. 4, 1987 (except for New Year's Day).

The dinners, concerts, workshops and breakfast with Santa are always popular and require advance reservations. For the other activities, visitors may just plan on arriving at the scheduled times. Further details and reservation forms are available from Fair Lane, at 593-5590.

The Henry Ford Estate-Fair Lane at the University of Michigan-Dearborn is located on Evergreen Road, across from the Fairlane Town Center, in Dearborn.

MEANWHILE, ACROSS town,

"Christmas Past" is being observed in Greenfield Village where traditional customs and trimmings of yesteryear are brought into the present as visitors stroll the holiday-dressed streets of the village.

Inside nearly two dozen historic sites, visitors can see handmade decorations and gifts, enjoy traditional holiday music, or savor the aroma of delectable meals and confections prepared over open hearths and cookstoves.

There is no additional charge beyond regular admission.

## Hanukkah

Jewish observance begins Dec. 26

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**I**T HAPPENED more than 2,000 years ago, but Jews around the world still celebrate the event every year, usually some time in December.

This year, Hanukkah begins the night of Dec. 26.

It was in the year 165 B.C. that Judah Maccabee and his followers defeated three Syrian generals and recaptured and rededicated the temple at Jerusalem.

The Jews had been ruled by Syrian invaders under King Antiochus IV, who commanded them to worship "foreign" gods and burn a sacrifice to Zeus on a Jewish altar in Jerusalem.

Instead, Mattathias Maccabee, a Jewish priest, fled to the mountains with his five sons and led a three-year rebellion that eventually overthrew the Syrians. The Maccabees ruled until 37 B.C.

SYMBOL OF THE holiday, known as the Feast of Lights or Feast of Dedication, is the menorah, a candelabrum with branches for nine candles, lighted in increasing numbers during the eight days of Hanukkah.

The menorah symbolizes the story, as related in the Apocrypha, that after cleaning the temple of Syrian idols, the Jews found only one small cruse of oil with which to light their holy lamps. But somehow, the cruse provided oil for eight days.

The holiday is also marked by frying food in oil, with the "latke," a pancake made with grated potatoes and onions, a popular delicacy. It is also traditional for the children to receive little gifts each day of the holiday and for contributions to be made to the poor.

Children spin dreidels, four-sided tops that contain the acronym for the Hebrew words for "a great miracle happened here."



## Holiday elegance

"Home for the Holidays" is the theme at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores as staff member Don Snodgrass adds the finishing touches to this 15-foot tree in the home's spacious gallery. Visitors to the home can view the 60-room mansion and experience a style of living unique to Detroit's automotive pioneers. Public tours are offered Wednesday through Sunday, with extended hours during the holiday season. For additional information, call 884-3400; for group tours, call 884-4222.