

Suburban Life

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Thursday, February 10, 1987 O&E

(F)18

A sampler

Lives of historical Michigan women told through song

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

WOMEN IN MICHIGAN's history come to life when Candace Anderson puts on her one-woman show.

It is almost misleading to say that Anderson performs. It is better said that she becomes Jenny Justine Jokala or Josephine Casey or Madeline Stockwell Turner.

If the names are unfamiliar, it is because Anderson is celebrating the lives of women in Michigan who were little known, yet remarkable people of the past.

Anderson's "A Sampler of Michigan Women," is a program of vignettes featuring musical tales

based on the lives of nine Michigan women and their contributions to history.

She will appear after a noon lunch Saturday, March 7, on Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College in observance of Michigan's Sesquicentennial and Women's History Week. Her appearance is sponsored by Farmington Chapter Older Women's League and made possible by a grant from Michigan Council for the Humanities.

Tickets are \$10, which includes lunch. Reservations must be made on or before Feb. 28 with Dorothy Diskin, 532-5044.

A RESIDENT of Kalamazoo, Anderson is a singer, songwriter and

performer who has worked with country, bluegrass, jazz, folk and rock and roll bands. She has given concerts at universities, folk festivals and music societies. She has won folk and gospel contests in Tennessee and Michigan.

Anderson's one-woman show began after she read a story in the Kalamazoo Gazette about a woman who took over the operations of the farm by herself while her husband was fighting for the Union Army during the Civil War.

The story turned into Anderson's first ballad, called "A Diary of Mary Wallace," based on a journal Wallace kept while working the farm in Calhoun County.

All of the subsequent ballads that comprise the show are based on extensive research from diaries, journals, letters, and news articles. Together they bring a program of history, of politics of love and courage that spans 200 years.

The songs are sung in first person while Anderson accompanies herself on either guitar or dulcimer. She wears exquisite and elaborate costumes, researched as intensively as she researched the material for her ballads.

Her audiences have been known to blink back the tears or smile in unison and sometimes laugh aloud during her portrayals.

SOJOURNER TRUTH is undoubtedly the best known name in Anderson's repertoire of ballads. The impassioned crusader against slavery was born in New York but came to Battle Creek in 1856 where she carried on the anti-slavery struggle for black Americans until her death. She was buried in Battle Creek's Oak Hill Cemetery in 1883.

Anderson sings about Jenny Justine Jokala who used to get up every morning at 3:30 a.m. to cook for the loggers in Michigan's lumber camps.

Pamela Brown Thomas was the first public schoolteacher in Kalamazoo County and turned her home into a stop on the Underground Railroad from 1844-60. It is estimated that she helped 1,500 escaping slaves on the road to freedom.

Josephine Casey was a labor organizer in a strike against the Kalamazoo Corset Co. in 1912. Hers was one of the first sexual harassment disputes on record in the United States.

Madeline La Framboise could neither read nor write. Nonetheless she became a major competitor to



*'I gathered wood and done the chores, getting ready to turn the ground
Turned Harrison's pigs from the cornfield, fixed the fences all around
And watched my young son run and play as the sun was going down
Oh, but the long war rages on.'*

— 'A Diary of Mary Wallace'
Words and music by Candace Anderson



Folk singer Candace Anderson wears elaborate and authentic dress for her portrayal of nine women who helped build the state in her appearances for "A Sampler of Michigan Women — Their Lives Through Song."

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Hams stand ready — just in case

By Richard Leach
staff writer

HAMMING IT up during an emergency might seem to be in bad taste. But Botsford General Hospital will be only too glad to have its hams around should an emergency situation arise.

The Farmington Hills hospital apparently is the only one in the state to sponsor its own amateur radio club.

The seven volunteers in the club stand ready to provide vital communications — just in case.

Club members have equipped themselves with handy-talkies, sophisticated versions of walky-talkies that require a ham radio license to operate.

"In the event of a communications breakdown, like the telephone system going out, we would step in and start relaying information to key locations such as the emergency room, surgery and possibly the floors," said club president Dave Taillard of Westland, who is employed at the hospital as CAT-scan technician.

DURING A DISASTER such as a tornado, flood or airplane crash, the radio club also would be there to provide on-scene communications.

"We can station amateurs at the site of the accident and here at the hospital so we have communications," Taillard said.

Normally these kinds of emergency communications are provided by security guards, Taillard said. But during a crisis situation the guards have plenty of other things to worry about. The club members would be there to focus specifically on communications.

"We see all kind of potential in it," said Russell J.J. Tuttle, the hospital's director of community relations. "God forbid there would be something big, but if there is these

people are in a position to be a lot of assistance."

THE KEY during an emergency would be to provide accurate information, Taillard said.

"We'd have to work very closely with medical personnel because we are not, most of us, in that field," he said.

Taillard formed the club a year and a half ago with his longtime friend and fellow Livonia Stevenson High School graduate Randy Carr. They patterned the club after similar

clubs operating in other states.

The club regularly meets at 7 p.m. the first Sunday of the month. New members are welcome, and they don't have to know anything about amateur radio or own any equipment, Taillard said.

The club also is offering a 10-week introductory radio class at Mercy Center in Farmington.

For more information, call Taillard at 471-8474 (at the hospital, evenings) or 525-6498 (at home, days).



Dave Taillard, employed at Botsford as a CAT-scan technician, is president of the amateur radio club.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Botsford Amateur Radio Club members Randy Carr (left) and Brian Johnston test their walky-talkies outside of the hospital. Members keep themselves ready so that are able to handle communications during any emergency.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer