

They film outdoors

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vision show, "Pinale" was the Sarver's first sound film. It involved filming a colony of choras frogs uprooted from their natural habitats when basements were dug in their subdivision.

Five subsequent Sarver films were then shown on "Michigan Sportsman." That not only demonstrated Bob's and Norma's skills in filmmaking, but their love of adventure. It made whatever they happened to be the right place and time for a filmmaking event.

ONE OF these five television-aired films, "Sharpshooting Grouse," was the result of positioning camouflaged sleeping bags at the edge of a sharpshooting area. The Sarvers then filmed the birds at dawn from their hidden posts.

"Filmmaking has helped us get more directly involved with the world around us," Bob said. "If we weren't making a film (about them), we wouldn't get to know gamebirds or moose or whatever our subject so well."

During those almost 20 years of filmmaking, the Sarvers have produced a series of 15 films. They've logged film equipment on burros in the California Sierra Mountains, on horses in Montana, and even on rafts on the choppy white waters of the Colorado River. And, as might be expected, these adventures didn't escape being challenged by danger and harrowing experiences. "In the summer of 1982," Bob said, "we followed the Colorado River for 1,400 miles from snow-topped mountains through the Grand Canyon. The river was unusually high that summer, and we thought we were going to drown when we got caught in Crystal Rapids. A horrendous wave stood our raft almost completely on end."

Danger aside, the Sarvers enjoy all phases of filmmaking and feel that it has given them an opportunity to fully appreciate their experiences, even when it doesn't work out.

"AT THE beginning of the bicentennial observance," Bob said, "I drove all the way to Massachusetts to film the reconstruction of the Battle of Lexington. I don't realize that the battle would take place at 5 a.m., just as it did 200 years ago. It was much too dark to film, and I didn't get a single shot."

For the Sarvers, filmmaking has also been a method of promoting family togetherness. Their children — Gail, Reed and Heidi, now grown — have played a large part in these adventure films, from handling canoes to controlling animals to appearing in the films.

Gail played a significant role in a film shot in the Florida Keys and Everglades. Reed, a major part in a ski camping film shot in the Colorado Rockies, and Heidi as "guide" through one of the Sarvers' favorite sound films, "Indian Summer."

This particular film was shot over a two-year period, from visits to the Taos Pueblo in Arizona, a Navajo Indian dwelling. It focuses on the "pueblos" — homes dug from caves and canyon walls where the Indians live, with Heidi seemingly leading a crew of tourists, in and around the pueblos.

OTHER INTERESTING images captured on film are Navajo women building mud ovens and a young Navajo boy performing a hoop dance. The film also encompasses a visit to a pow wow that was held in a stadium in Flagstaff, Ariz., and an all-Indian rodeo.

Particularly noteworthy were the beautiful full-color, authentic costumes of the squaws and braves, set against the backdrop of the "white man's civilization." An added accent is a sequence of a squaw performing an ancient dance, which tightens into a suspenseful close-up shot focusing on her expressionless face nonchalantly chewing gum.

The Sarvers finished the film with a professional narrator who read Bob's script throughout the film, educating the viewer as to the places and events seen on film.

The "natural" sounds of the events captured on film were recorded at the moment they occurred, on cassette recorded, then later added to the film along with a pre-recorded musical score that punctuated the rodeo's bull riding sequence.

During the filming of the Taos Pueblo, the couple were in good company. National Geographic magazine was also on hand to do a story on the Taos Pueblo. They stood side by side with the Sarvers as they watched the Navajo's build a wall around the village.

THE MAGAZINE reporters had previously been denied permission

to take pictures of the Indians building the wall, but the Sarvers managed to capture a minute or two of the event on film.

"It's being in the right place and the right time, but we really have to work hard at making it so," Bob said.

The Sarvers have visited 48 of the United States and their national parks in their vacation/filmmaking expeditions. They have made 13 30-minute films that include the vastest places they've visited. They've also made two 90-minute "travelog"-type films that were shot in Europe. They even have footage of the Royal Wedding of Diana and Charles.

Their only regret about some of the places they've visited and filmed is that they are becoming too civilized.

Many of our favorite camping/filming spots have changed drastically over the years. Sixteen years ago, we filmed sea horses just off the mangroves on Key Largo (Florida). A few years later, when we returned, a trailer park had been built there, and the mangroves have been replaced by condominiums. The sea horses may still be there, but we'll never know. We can't get near the water."

WHAT'S NEXT for the film company of Sarver and Sarver? Bob and Norma would like professional recognition of their work, with their hopes set for another television airing of their films on either a local show, or perhaps, a spot on national public television.

As the cost of making a 30-minute film can run into thousands of dollars, the Sarvers would like a commercial, buying market for their finished products. They want to be able to continue their "serious hobby" as they both move toward retirement from careers as educators and, hopefully, turn their skills as filmmakers into a new vocation.

For now, they've planned to follow the trail of Buck Flan down the Mississippi, chart the inside passage to Alaska, command a sailboat through the Bahamas, and rediscovers Michigan via the original settlers' trails. And, of course, the Boles will be star-boarder.

Barbara Cussani is an area free-lance writer who has a master's degree in film studies.

DDA executive director is sought

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Deadman said he expected between 15 and 30 applicants to apply in Farmington.

In addition to coordinating the physical renovation, the new executive director will perform a variety of duties, according to the job description.

SOME INCLUDE developing a familiarity with the downtown district and an appreciation of downtown history, working on promotion, and marketing with merchants, develop-

ing cooperative efforts with city staff, working as liaison with other agencies that can provide services, representing the downtown at professional, community and local groups, maintaining all appropriate records, and coordinating all DDA meetings.

"It's kind of a you-name-it-we-do-it type of situation," Hahler added. "The person selected will have skills in communications, management, negotiations and will understand issues facing small business districts such as Farmington's. The position would last at least

seven years — the DDA is in place for that period of time, Schultz added.

Plans for physical renovations for the Farmington downtown show five phases. An additional two phases will be used for continued maintenance and to complete the financial payback part of the project.

Phase 1 is scheduled for this summer. It involves improvements to both sides of Grand River and Farmington Road within the district. New sidewalks, pedestrian lighting and additional trees and landscaping are planned.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police and fire calls received during the past week.

APARTMENT THEFT

Cash and personal items valued at \$6,000 were reported stolen from an apartment at Chatham Hills March 5.

A leather suitcase, a television, jewelry, a telephone and a movie camera were reported stolen.

A bag of the stolen items estimated at \$700 was recovered when the owner returned home from work at about 8:30 p.m. to find two people leaving his apartment building. As the owner chased one of the men, the man dropped a bag containing some of the stolen items, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

CAR RECOVERED

A 1985 Pontiac Firebird reported stolen from Botsford General Hospital, 28050 Grand River, March 4-5 was recovered in Redford Township, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$500 during the attempted theft of a 1987 Chrysler Fifth Avenue from Farmington Hills Chrysler Plymouth, 29301 Grand River, March 2.

Damage was estimated at \$80 when a blue spruce tree in front of a house on Fredricksburg was driven over March 4.

Damage was estimated at \$200 during a break-in at a house on Woodstream March 4.

Damage was estimated at \$50 during a break-in at a house on Sutters

Hill Court March 4.

Damage was estimated at \$500 when a rock was thrown through an apartment picture window at Kensington Manor March 4-5.

Damage was estimated at \$300 when a rock was thrown through a window at Computerland, 34435 Grand River, March 6.

THEFTS REPORTED

A CB radio valued at \$155 was reported stolen from a car at Botsford General Hospital, 28050 Grand River, March 5.

A radar detector valued at \$150 was reported stolen from a car at the Holiday Inn of Farmington Hills, 38123 10 Mile, March 2-3.

A 1987 GMC pickup truck valued at \$13,000 was reported stolen from Country Ridge Apartments March 2-3.

A bicycle valued at \$139 was reported stolen from a garage on

Rhodeswood March 3-4.

An outdoor motor, a gas tank, a fishing box and gear, and motor oil — together valued at \$3,015 were reported stolen from inside Farmington Hills Tech Center between Oct. 25 and March 4.

Jewelry valued at \$1,500 was reported stolen from a house on Fox Grove March 4.

About \$160 was reported stolen from a house on Midlane March 4.

A 1984 Pontiac Trans-Am was reported stolen from along Collingham March 4. It was recovered in Detroit.

A wallet and its contents, valued at \$40, was reported stolen from an office in the Professional Pavilion, 23133 Orchard Lake, March 4.

A radar detector valued at \$239 was reported stolen from a car parked at Farmington Racquet Club, 34200 Nine Mile, March 5.

on the agenda

Agenda details for government meetings scheduled this week follow. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council
Council chambers
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Monday, March 9

A public hearing is scheduled for road improvement on Goldsmith. Council also will consider amending the zoning ordinance and adding a new SP-5 district that would permit residential uses or centers for the elderly care and health services. The

Sisters of Mercy have requested the new district.

Council will consider an adjustment to the local portion of the 47th District Court judges' salaries, as well as the awarding of a contract for the installation of a traffic signal at Nine Mile and Gull roads.

Also to be considered is the purchase of annual Department of Public Works supplies, award of a bid for the purchase of a public works dump truck and purchase of computer software for the fire department. Fire department officials will present the annual activities report.

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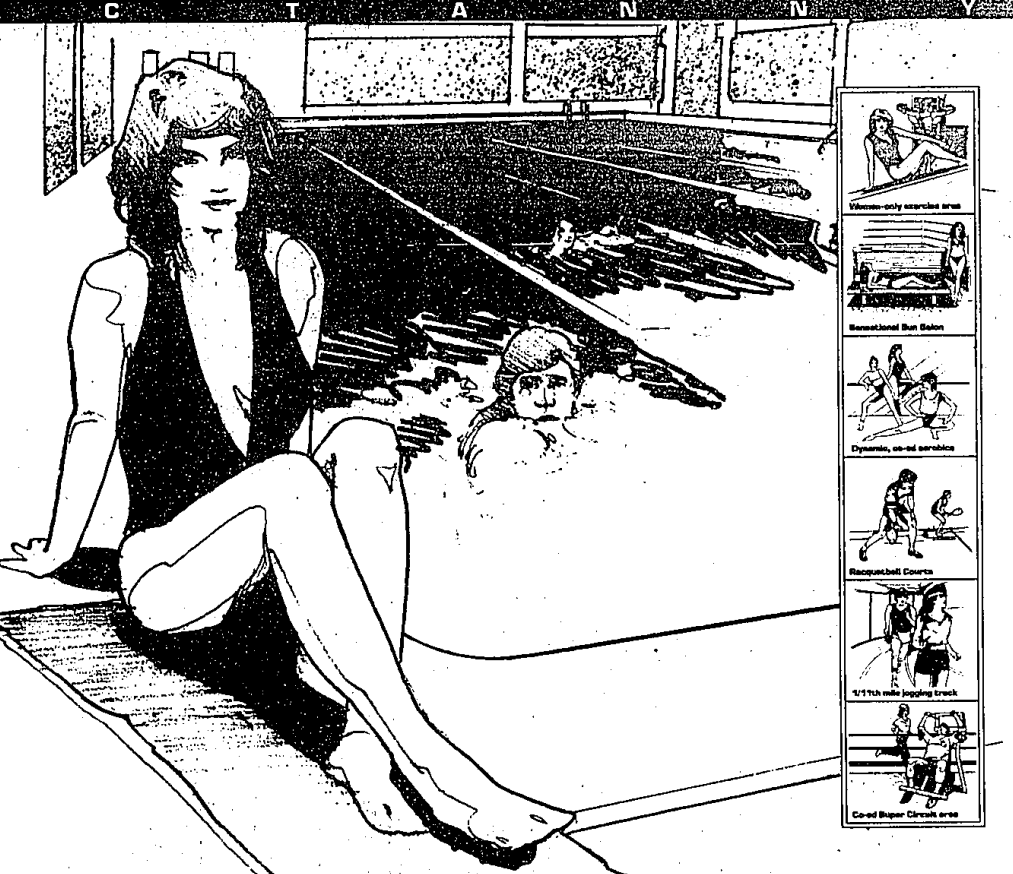
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