

# Fly-up time

## 3rd graders save last dance for dad



Nicole Carey admires the fancy footwork of her Brownie friends Karen Miles and Michelle Pribe.



Fathers and daughters take to the dance floor for Brownie Troop's last party before the third graders become Junior Girl Scouts.

They won't be Brownies much longer. Fly-up time comes at the end of the school year when all 22 of the third graders will become Junior Girl Scouts. And in the manner of Girl Scouts everywhere, they planned their own one last party as Brownies.

The event was a Father-Daughter Dance and a Do-It-Yourself Fashion Show, staged in Kenbrook Elementary School's gym turned dance floor and model's runway for the evening. "It was a super party," said Joyce Moore, who leads Troop 2160 with her co-leader, Leslie Black. "All of our Brownies have been together for the entire three years they were Brownies, and they've all met their requirements for fly-up. Some go a little faster on those requirements than others. We had a few workshops to help out keep a steady pace, but

overall they've all kept pretty much together."

The Brownies' fashion show was a show of their own clothing they wear when they are participating in their favorite pastime or special interest. It may have been a bathing suit or school clothes, a tennis dress, a camping outfit or pajamas.

Narrator for the show was Holly Ann Litchman, a neighbor of the Brownies, who was Holly Ann Schmidt when she won the Miss Farmington title in 1976 and the Miss Michigan title in 1977.

After the Brownies showed off their special interest clothes, they

changed into their party clothes for another walk down the runway. Corsets were pinned in place and fathers acted as escorts.

"That was a ruse we used to get every father and every daughter on video tape," Moore said.

"We had a few girls who were so very introverted, so very shy when we first met them. We did a lot of similar things to bring those girls get themselves out in the open, help them open up, help them learn to speak up, help them learn that that was going to be necessary when they got out in the world," she said.



Jan Ricco pins a corsage on her daughter Carrie before her parade down the runway with her father.

Staff photos by Thomas Arnett

## Mayfair alumni will gather for Miss Rachael's open house

The end of the school year brings an end of an era for Mayfair Co-op Nursery — as Rachael McCormick, known to her students and their parents alike as "Miss Rachael," retires after 23 years of teaching.

Her long tenure at Mayfair has made her something of an institution in preschool education in both the West Bloomfield and Farmington area as past Mayfair students have returned to enroll their children at Mayfair and renewed acquaintances

with Miss Rachael.

The staff at Mayfair hosts a Retirement Open House for the alumni, their parents, family and friends 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 5, in the nursery facilities in Orchard United Methodist Church, 30460 Farmington Road. As for her retirement she said she's going to miss "so much love from all these kids over the years," but adds that she is leaving her teaching duties in good hands.

Maxine Flagg, who has split the

teaching duties with her for the past 11 years, will be assuming all those duties in September.

McCormick's retirement comes after a promise to her family that she would retire at 62. She will be traveling with her husband, Norman, and perhaps return to school for lessons in computers to aid in her hobby of genealogy.

TO A VISITOR, Mayfair may leave an impression of chaos. Children move at will from hammering

nails to painting at an easel to planning an imaginary dinner party.

It's all part of McCormick's philosophy "of building their self-confidence and instilling what can be a lifelong love of learning," she said. Play is work to the preschooler. It is through their play that they learn how to live and how to get along with others.

"The multitude of activities provides much more than opportunities of choice. These children are learn-

ing decision-making skills, self discipline, socially acceptable behavior, and having successful experiences to build their self-esteem."

She is a big advocate of co-op nurseries, where parents observe firsthand how the teacher relates with the children, and calls the co-op "a wonderful place for parents to be educated as parents."

Mayfair, in operation for 33 years, is now the only operating co-op in Farmington or Farmington Hills. It has kept up with the times and working mothers by offering a Paid Parent Volunteer program to substitute for the working parent. Husbands, grandparents, baby sitters also take

the working mother's place.

McCormick's contribution to keeping up with the times was in her development of the Extra Special Program, a non-co-op class offered several times a week. This coincided with the wishes of parents who had children with late-year birthdays and wanted their youngsters to get in one more year of preschool before entering kindergarten.

McCormick describes her career at Mayfair by saying "I've had the best of all possible worlds."

"I've been able to be with my own four children and work while they were in school. They never knew I was gone."

## 'Hats Off To Dad' staged cabaret style

Farmington Community Center celebrates Father's Day with a special cabaret dinner/theater presentation entitled, "Hats Off To Dad" Sunday, June 19. A roast beef and chicken buffet dinner, catered by Blakeney's of Farmington, will begin at 8:30 p.m. and the show will immediately follow.

The cost of the event is \$23 for adults and \$20 for children. Reservations can be made at the Center,

24705 Farmington Road.

A presentation by Theatre Arts Productions (TAP), "Hats Off To Dad" is a lively new cabaret-style revue put together specifically for the community center. The night of musical entertainment is a tongue-in-cheek look at dads, fathers, pops and all that they stand for in the American tradition.

The selection of music for the Fa-

ther's Day performance runs the gamut of blues, Broadway, the 1930s and 1940s and traditional American patriotic sounds. Composers highlighted in the fanciful evening of family fun include Cole Porter, George Gershwin and the Strauss family.

Selections from "Annie," "Fiddler on the Roof," and a number from "A Chorus Line" head up some of the Broadway show tunes. As in all TAP revues, the opportunity to win free prizes in their version of "Name That Tune" and sing-along fun comprise the fast paced revue.

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