Suburban Life







Happy Holidays

The staff of the Farmington Observer gathered in the living room of the Grand River home of Walter Sundquist, a showplace of turn-of-the-century splendor in downtown Farmington, to

send season's greetings to our readers. We are (from left) Randy Borst, staff photographer; Cascy Hans, staff writer; Joanne Mallszowski, staff writer; Bob Sklar, community editor; Rose

Butler, receptionist; Loraine McClish, Suburban Life editor; Roy Meadows, classified account executive; Rhonda Rosser, retail account

executive; and Mike Cummings, area circula-tion manager. We wish you every happiness through the holidays and through the new year.

Houses of candy

What started as a holiday tradition is now a hobby all year long

HAT STARTED AS a hol-lday tradition for Mag-gie Miller has become a year-round hobby that would make Hansel and Gretel shout

would make Hansel and Gretel shout with glee.

The Bloomfield Hills woman has dedicated a room in her home to her gingerbread houses, or candy houses, as she prefers to call them.

"I do mine just for fon," she said.
"The real ones are made by true artists."

The hobby began 12 years ago while the Millers were living in Mexico.

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"I wanted to show the children there something traditional from an American Christmas," she said. "You'd laugh at it now if you could see it."

Maggie Miller demonstrates l

build a gingerbread house for three-year-olds Kolchi Chihara and Danny Dardian at First Impressions nursery school in West Bloomfield.

The next Christmas there were three houses, and the year after Miller made a large castle and started and scaping a village. From there it blossomed.

"My friends started looking for things for me on their travels," she said laughing. They never want to ask where I put them. It's really fon you want to make the pople come over because they all look very intently trying to see where I put their particular piece."

Maggie's husband Steve, chief financial officer for Chrysler and president of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, has helped with behondy by constructing wooden tables with detachable legs to hold the large village. That way the table tops, and village, can be removed in large sections if necessary. He also set up electrical wiring underneath the table so that his wife need only with it is the second to the second the second that has wife need only will be table to the second the second to the second the second the second to the second the second to the seco

MILLER FINDS many of her min-latures in Europe. More recent ac-quisitions are small glass figurines of orchestra members in black-tic,

each playing a different instrument. These she found in Venice and has placed under a gingerbread garebo. "My sense of design and color has gotten better," she said. "But all of this for me, is just sitting back and smilling. I think each person is a frustrated artist."

Miller said she makes three new houses every year. One goes to her housekeeper, another to her hus-band's secretary and the third to Lee

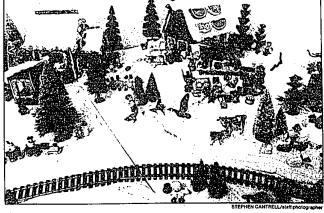
"I don't know what he (Iacocca) does with them, but I hope he enjoys them," she said. "My housekeeper's kids tried to eat the Iirst one I gave her, but I tell everybody they're just to look at. I hate to think how long some of this candy has been around.

"I wish my technique were better but I don't beat myself over the head about it," she said, smilling. "I only had bosy, you know, so this was my dollhouse."

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- Maggie Miller





Miller's gingerbread village contains outdoor vignettes as well as the traditional candy houses. She was especially impressed with the

craftsmanship on the part of the people who carved the fruits and vegetables seen in this outdoor market.