

95-year-old marks her un-birthday

Belle Jamieson Lawson is having another un-birthday this year some- where between Feb. 28 and March 1. She was born Feb. 29, 1896, and will have lived 95 years by March 1, 1991, even though her birthdays only add up to 23. There was no Leap Year day in 1900 so she was 8 years old before her first Feb. 29 birthday arrived.

Lawson was born on Trumbull Avenue in Detroit. When she was about 3 years old, her family went home- steading in Northwestern Canada, where they lived in a sod-house on the prairie. Later they moved to the thumb area of Michigan and her school years were spent in Owens- dale.

As a young woman she moved back to Detroit during World War I to find work. After the war she met

and married Merwin Lawson, a re- turning soldier, on Christmas Eve, 1921. They had two children.

The couple lived in Highland Park until his retirement from Bell Tele- phone. Their retirement was spent in Florida and Brooklyn, Mich.

Her husband died in 1966 and soon after she moved to an apartment in Detroit Baptist Manor. In 1990, she moved to the Hawthorn Center in the same complex and is living there to- day.

Her son Ronald lives in Southfield, and her daughter June lives in Howell.

She has four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren all in Michigan. She will celebrate her 95th birth- day at a family dinner and again with cake and ice cream in Hawthorn Center.



Hard act to follow

North Farmington High School students who will be trying out for the Raider Marching Band Flag Corps April 29 are going to have a hard act to follow. The corps placed first for performance at the Fred J. Miller Clinics in Midland, and Kiersten Krause (front row left), who is co-captain of the corps, took the trophy for "Most Outstanding Flag." With her in front is Nancy Srinivas. In the back from left are Juli Wilson, Paula Dyna, April McConnell, Anjalee Dosh- pande who is captain of the corps, Tarisa Jones, Andrea Smith, Chrissy Jacobs and Lisa Stone.

Donations to prevent child abuse sought

Child abuse spares no group. Many cases go unreported because of lack of awareness of the problem. There is something to do to prevent child abuse; donate to the Children's Trust Fund, the check-off box on the Michigan Income Tax return for pro- grams aimed at prevention of child abuse.

The check-off box has changed for the 1990 Michigan Income Tax forms. The letters "CTF" have been replaced by a stop sign with the words "Help Stop Child Abuse" in- side to indicate that donations go toward preventing child abuse.

In Oakland County, CTF dollars

are funding two latch key programs in Pontiac sponsored by the YMCA of North Oakland County. CTF is also funding the Child Abuse and Neglect Council, County of Oakland.

One half of the monies received from the check-off are used to fund prevention programs throughout the state; the remaining half goes in a trust which will become self-perpetuating when the amount raised reaches \$20 million. If every Michi- gan taxpayer donated \$5 to CTF when they complete their 1990 Michi- gan income Tax form, the goal would be reached.

Madrigal Chorale got its start in 1914

The Madrigal Chorale originated in 1914 as the all-woman Madrigal Club of Detroit. The Madrigal Club performed for 64 continuous sea- sons, offering its audiences the finest in women's classical choral music.

In 1978, a new choir was formed which combined male and female voices. The chorale maintained the classic tradition of its predecessors,

yet broadened its repertoire to in- clude more 20th century music, popu- lar music, jazz and Hebrew music. Recent concerts include perfor- mance of Kodaly's Missa Brevis, Rutter's Requiem, Handel's Messiah, Poulenc's Gloria, Saint Saen's Christmas Oratorio, Mozart's Vespers and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms.

In 1988, the Chorale was one of a select group of choirs invited to per- form at the American Chorale Di- rectors Association (ACDA) Central Division North Coast Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The Madrigal Cho- rale celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1989. In 1990 the Madrigal Cho- rale of Southfield was invited to sing in Washington, D.C. at a White

House holiday function.

The Madrigal Chorale of South- field is a non-profit organization con- sisting of 50 select voices represent- ing Southeastern Michigan. Mem- bers volunteer their time and talent, work to achieve vocal excellence, and promote vocal education through a scholarship program.

club circuit

WESTSIDE SINGLES meet for a dance party 8 p.m. Friday in Roma's of Livonia. Schoolcraft Service Drive west of Inkster. Admission re- quested at the door. The singles' hot line is 562-8160.

VOYAGERS, a group for singles 45 years and older, meet 7:30 p.m. Friday in St. Paul Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Speaker for the evening is Mary Ellen Rogacki, manager for AAA travel agency, who will talk about a variety of things that add up to quality travel.

At 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, the group will car pool from the church parking lot for lunch and then a tour of the Masonic Temple in Detroit. The charge is \$9.25.

All inquiries will be taken by Ann

Anderson, 591-1350.

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS will meet 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 25 for a visit to Showbiz Pizza in Canton. Inquiries will be taken by Antioch Lutheran Church office, 626-7906.

WOMEN'S DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP meet 7 a.m. Monday, Feb. 26 in Lower Waterman Campus Center conference room on Schoolcraft College Campus, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

Speaker for the evening is ther-apist Betty Younger. Her topic is "Co- dependency."

Registration is not required. All inquiries are taken by the group's sponsor, the college's Women's Re- source Center, 462-4443.

LIVONIA JEWISH CONGREGA- TION SISTERHOOD meets 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26 in the synagogue, 31840 Seven Mile Road.

Speaker for the evening is Howard Wallace who will talk on "Civil and 1st Amendment Rights and Religion in the Public Schools."

No charge.

FARMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27 in Farmington Branch Li- brary, State and Liberty streets.

John Willard who will talk on the historical restoration of his state registered home. He will show slides as he gives his narration.

The meeting is open to all inter- ested persons without charge.

All club news and announce- ments for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farm- ington Observer, 21809 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

Mark Twain on tour stops for show at OCC

Mark Twain is alive and well and coming to Farmington Hills. Televi- sion personality Ken Riechers will bring his one-man show "Mark Twain On Tour" to Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community Col- lege at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 12.

The production, which began its yearly national tour in August with a series of performances in Canada and the U.S. Virgin Islands, has been presented 600 times in the past 12 seasons. The production will go to Europe for a number of lectures and performances in June.

Born Samuel Langhorne Clemens

in Hannibal, Mo. in 1835, the cele- brated humorist spent his 75-year life in a variety of jobs including steamboat pilot (the call "mark twain") signaled channel depth on the Mississippi River), reporter, editor, publisher and traveling lecturer.

He kept a leish-manson in Hart- ford, Conn. but fought bankruptcy triggered by bad investments in 1893.

A number of network television shows. Some of Riechers' credits in- clude "The Dawn of Summer," "Happy Days," "Search for Tomor- row," and "Johnny We Hardly Knew Ye" for NBC Television.

He has appeared as Mark Twain for AT&T, on the Public Broadcas- ting System, the BBC in England, be-

fore members of the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C., and most recently as spokesman for United Technol- ogies and the World Trade Center As- sociation.

Tickets for this performance are limited; available by calling The Smith Theatre box office, 471-7700 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

8th graders send tapes to troops

The Eighth Grade Choir at East Middle School and their director, Candice Wallace, have been taping a musical message to our troops in- volved in Operation Desert Storm. Several of their songs and well wish- es from the choir members are in- cluded on the tapes.

Tapes will be sent to the family and friends of anyone at East Middle School with someone in the military service, along with a picture of themselves.

He has performed in films and on

"It could possibly be shown by facts and figures that there is no dis- tinctly native criminal class in the United States . . . except for Con- gress."

"In the first place, God made id- iots. This was for practice. Then he made school boards."

RIECHERS has been touring with this one-man production for the past 12 years, after nearly three years of research into Mark Twain's public and private life. The actor is in his early 30s and spends nearly three hours in make-up application to complete the transformation to the elderly Twain.

Youth perform concert

The Metropolitan Youth Sympho- ny, consisting of 250 young people in three orchestras led by prominent music educators, will present its winter concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, in Orchestra Hall, Detroit.

The musicians ranging from grades 5-12 come from 50 communi- ties in the 17th County area.

The String Orchestra will be con- ducted by Jacqueline Coleman, de- partment head and director of the Middle School Music Program at De- troit Country Day School.

Her group will perform selections from "Hopak" by Moussorgsky/ Alshin, "Hunger Dance #5" by Brahms/ Isaac, "Send in the Clowns" from "A Little Night Music" by Son- deheim/ Forsblad and "Allegra in C

Major" from "Quartet #4" by Moz- art/ Isaac.

Richard Phippo, conductor of the Concert Orchestra, is a cellist as well as teacher and conductor at Wayne State University. His musci- ans will play the "Symphony #8 in G Major," opus 88 by Dvorak from the original score.

Alan McNale is concertmaster and assistant conductor of the Rochester Symphony and orchestra director at Troy High School. His Symphony Or- chestra which was selected as this year's "Orchestra of the Year" for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, will play the entire "Symphony #5 in E Minor" by Tchaikovsky.

Tickets for the concert are from \$8 to \$15 available at the Orchestra Hall box office.

Divine right of kings end

The work of 55 men in Philadel- phia in 1787 marked the beginning of the end of the concept of the divine right of kings.

In place of the absolutism of monarchy, the freedoms flowing from this document created a land of opportunities. Ever since, discour- aged and oppressed people from every part of the world have reached our shores.

The first 10 amendments known as the "Bill of Rights" were ratified and declared in force on Dec. 15, 1791. They guaranteed the rights and liberties of the citizens.

The Quakerston Chapter, Daugh- ters of the American Revolution hon- ors the 200th anniversary of the American Bill of Rights.

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