

Livonia couple realizes dream

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view. With that in mind, their designer suggested a treatment that simply frames the window.

A MOIRE fabric in a cream, rose and seaford stripe is twisted and swagged over wide poles and draped on the floor to create "puddling." Pleated shades are installed underneath for light control.

The spacious family room is more casually decorated with a cream-colored, leather sectional sofa and a seaford clay lamp, giving the room a Southwestern look. Colors highlight the colored stones used in the floor-to-ceiling fieldstone fireplace.

A third bedroom, which Rich converted to a study, includes built-in shelves and a handsome desk. Generous wall space accommodates his travel collections and plaques honoring his work as president of Livonia Spree.

THE COUPLE selected a classic,

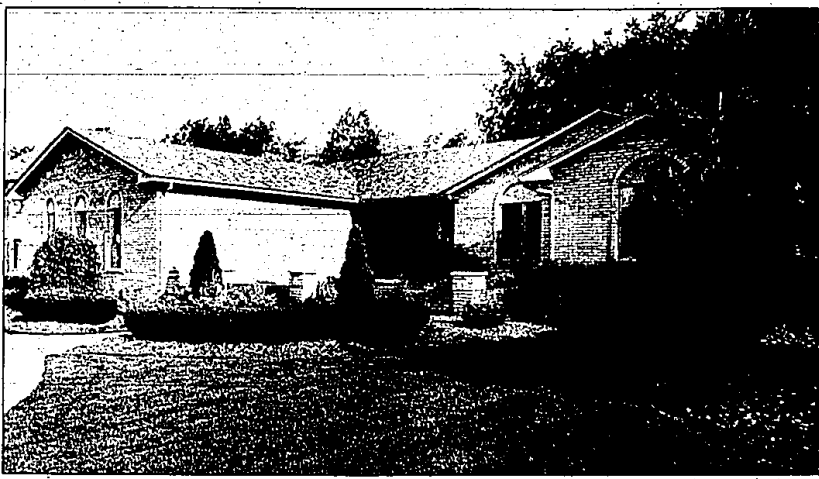
campaign-style bedroom set in pecan wood. The master suite, overlooking a heavily treed area of the yard, includes his-and-hers walk-in closets and a large bath with a whirlpool tub.

Would the Skaggs change anything about their dream house? You can't design the perfect house, but you can work well with what you have, Stephanie said.

Sure, she'd like the kitchen eating area to overlook the back yard, "but there's only so much space available," she said.

Stephanie is still accessorizing the house, a luxury she didn't have time for while raising two children. She has selected several decorative plates to fill the china cabinet and particularly likes a colorful, Oriental tea set from the Franklin Mint.

"We enjoy the house for its beauty and, of course, I appreciate our furnishings," Stephanie said. "But it's the yard, the trees and plants that I'm attached to; everything else can be replaced."



The Skaggs worked closely with their architect to design their 2,800-square-foot, ranch-style house. The house includes expansive windows overlooking a heavily treed yard.

Redford author unveils newest children's novel

Redford Township author Jessica Hatchigan manages to stay busy.

"Dinosaurs Aren't Forever," her fourth book in six years and second novel for readers 8-12, is out this month from Aven Camelot.

A previous novel for intermediate readers, "Count Dracula, Me and Norma D.," was published four years ago. Fans will be glad to hear "Dinosaurs Aren't Forever" marks the return of the inimitable Molly Harter, the resourceful heroine of that highly popular story.

Before writing novels for readers 8-12, Hatchigan established her popularity with young adult readers with the 1985 publication of "Meadow Wind," a Silhouette teen romance partially set on the grounds of Henry Ford's Fair Lane estate. A year later, Silhouette brought out "Free Spirit" and "A Dash of Pepper."

"Girls need to read books that show girls achieving," says the soft-spoken mother of two teen-agers.

In today's world, the challenges facing women are still more complex and difficult than the challenges facing men. I know from my own life what it's like to juggle concerns



book break
Victoria Diaz



Jessica Hatchigan author

about family and career . . . and there don't seem to be many knights in shining armor around anymore."

Hatchigan began her writing career as a free-lancer, contributing feature articles to such area publications as the Observer & Eccentric, the Detroit News, the Detroit Free Press, Metropolitan Detroit, and others.

IN HER spare time, she worked on putting together her memoirs, which she tentatively titled "A Nice Catholic Girl," and which she mailed off one day to an agent in New York, after hearing the agent speak at an area writers' conference.

"There's no market for biography, unless you're famous," the agent candidly informed Hatchigan, after

reading the manuscript. "But teen romances are popular."

With that information in mind and encouraged by the fact that she'd placed second in the 1981 Free Press Short Story Contest, Hatchigan decided to try her hand at fiction writing. "Meadow Wind," inspired by research she'd done on the Ford estate

for a Detroit News article, sold the first time out to Silhouette.

These days, Hatchigan's career is taking another turn. She's decided to take a break from the children's and young adult field, and concentrate on writing a mystery novel.

Acquainting herself with a genre that's relatively new to her as a writer, she's connected up with "Sisters in Crime," an all-female, mystery writers' group in the Detroit area. She also recently dropped in on the annual Mystery Writers of America workshop in Chicago.

DON'T ASK about the plot of the new mystery novel she's writing, though. Or if you do, don't expect to get much of an answer from the author. The plot of the mystery definitely remains a mystery.

"I'm from the school that says you don't talk much about a book until it's finished," she said. End of discussion.

She's more than willing, though, to talk about "Dinosaurs Aren't Forever," a lively tale set in a fictionalized Detroit suburb, about a group of kids who hold their club meetings inside

an old, broken-down, concrete dinosaur.

The powers-that-be plan to destroy the "beast," encouraged especially by the mayor's wife, who thinks it's the ugliest thing she's ever seen anywhere, and an eager city councilman, who just happens to own a wrecking company.

But 10-year-old Molly Harter and her friends have other ideas: they believe their clubhouse/dinosaur is a historic landmark, and set about to save it from extinction.

When Hatchigan isn't writing, she spends much of her time pursuing one of her favorite activities: visiting schools, meeting and talking with kids about writing and about her books.

WHILE SHE'S accomplishing all these things, by the way, Hatchigan also holds down a full-time job as a public affairs representative for Ford Motor Credit Co., where she edits an employee newsletter, answers media calls and coordinates special events.

How does she do it all? "It's tough," she said. "I try to organize my time closely, try to make sure I leave plenty of time to spend with my family. Usually, I'll try to write for an hour either very early in the morning or very late at night, and then set aside one day on weekends for writing, if possible. "And although I've been trying to cut back, I find myself drinking a lot of coffee lately."

Craft show exhibitors wanted

Crafters are sought for "Art on the Square in Garden City" Aug. 17. Food, entertainment and art and crafts will be offered during the day-long event.

The event will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Sheridan Square on Ford Road, west of Middlebelt. Crafters can call 522-7020 for more information.

Budget cuts force Cranbrook Academy of Art to trim hours

Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum has reduced its hours. It will now be open between 1 and 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, and closed on Monday and Tuesday.

"The reduction in museum hours and review of staff positions are due to the elimination and withdrawal of state arts funding."

"The museum admissions, exhibitions, outreach and public programs are under review, dependent upon the final decision in regard to state arts funding."

"Unfortunately, the Design Michigan program already has been eliminated with great loss to the economy and environment of the state of Michigan," said Roy Slade, president of the academy and director of the Bloomfield Hills museum.

"The threatened reduction or elimination of state arts funding will have further adverse effects upon the museum's ability to serve its public and the state of Michigan."

During the summer months, Greg Wittkopp, curator of collections, will be the senior staff member, working with Slade, in reviewing and reorganizing staff responsibilities and positions.

Michelle Rowe-Shields, museum administrator, resigned, effective May 31, in order to assume the position as executive director of the Evanston Art Center in Illinois.

Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum offers temporary exhibitions focusing on contemporary trends in the visual arts. The permanent collection features work by Eliel and Eero Saarinen, Harry Bertoia, Maja Grottel, Charles Eames and

other Cranbrook artists, architects and designers.

DOCENT-GUIDED TOURS are available with advance notice. For tour information, call 645-3323.

The Museum Bookstore offers a selection of books on art, architecture and design, plus children's books, cards, posters and exhibition catalogs.

Cranbrook Academy of Art, with its contemporary art museum, is a division of Cranbrook Educational Community, which also includes Cranbrook Institute of Science and Cranbrook Schools. For further information, call 645-3312.

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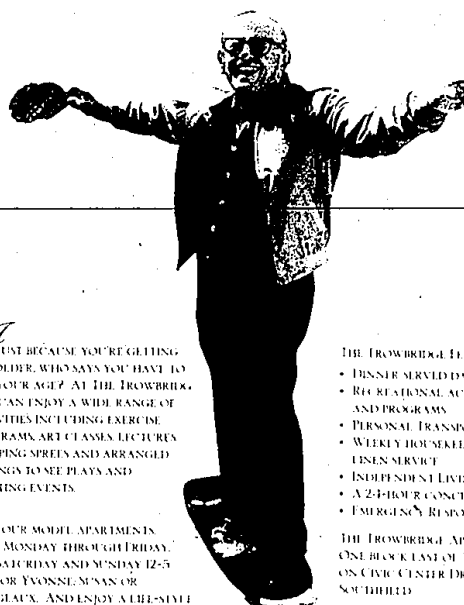
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