



KNOWING HOW TO SEW and how to drive are two important requisites if you have a daughter involved in ballet. Mrs. Roy Valleskey, of Livonia, left, is the mother of Carole Valleskey, and Mrs. Raymond Doty of Plymouth is the mother of Holly Doty. Both Carole and Holly are members of the Severo Ballet Company and will be seen in "Coppelia" Sunday evening, May 21 in Clarenceville's Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

## Plans Concert, Duncel Band

The O.E. Duncel Junior High School Concert Band of Farmington will give a concert Tuesday, May 4, at 7:15 p.m., in the Livonia Mall, Seven Mile and Middle Belt. Director of the band is

Larry G. Dettler. The 63-member group recently received a first division rating at a district festival. Its performance is part of National Music Week activities sponsored by the Farmington Musicals in Farmington, Southfield and Livonia.

## Barbershop Chorus Wins

Under the direction of Gordon Limburg of Plymouth, the Wayne Wonderland Barbershop Chorus took top honors in competition in Traverse City April 24. The chorus, composed of about 50 men, many from Observerland, brought home a Pioneer (Mich.) District Chorus Champion's trophy and individual ribbons were for each member. Twelve choruses were in competition for the championship. The chorus practices Tuesday evenings in Plymouth's Central High School and Andy Alden of Westland is president of the Wayne Chapter of the SPEARSA.

In other events, two quartets, the Gentlemen's Agreement, from Monroe and Detroit, and the Vagabonds of Oakland County, were chosen to compete in the international convention this year in New Orleans.

## Ron Coden Plans Concert

Folk singer Ron Coden will appear in concert at 9 p.m., May 22, in the Aaron DeRoy Auditorium of the Jewish Community Center, 18100 Meyers. Tickets will be on sale at the door or in Room 667, University Center Building, Wayne State University. The concert is sponsored by WSU's B'nai B'rith Hillel organization.

## Ballet Mothers Busy Mothers

By BETTY MASSON

In the classic ballet movie "The Red Shoes," there's a scene where a gentleman comes backstage and finds two elderly ladies sitting and sewing. He asks them a question.

The reply is, "We don't know anything. We're just mothers."

It's a very funny line to two Observerland "ballet mothers," Mrs. Raymond Doty of Plymouth and Mrs. Roy Valleskey of Livonia.

But there's one element of truth in it. Both mothers do sew.

THERE THE RESEMBLANCE ends. It's evident that today's ballet mother has to be a championship driver, an efficiency expert, a navigator, a good mathematician and a good juggler.

And all these activities revolve around the two leading ballerinas of the Severo Ballet Company, Holly Doty, 15, and Carole Valleskey, who is 16. Both are appearing in the company's presentation of "Coppelia" Sunday evening in Clarenceville's High School Auditorium. Carole takes the role of the heroine Swanilda and Holly plays the Coppelia doll and Drava. Two weeks ago, at a performance in Livonia, the roles were switched.

For the mothers the most important thing to keep in mind is how the car pool operates, not how to execute a pas de deux. The Severo Ballet Studios are in Highland Park and lessons are required every day of the week Monday through Friday and sometimes Saturday. They begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8 or later.

The mothers take turns and fortunately there are two other Severo students, in the area, Liz Bailey of Plymouth and Carole Cotter of Redford Township. The car pool works well, but sounds like the game of "who's on first."

And when Holly and Carole first started with Sandra Severo some four or five years ago, the mothers "hadn't found each other."

Mrs. Doty, who had only recently moved to Plymouth, from Louisville, Ky., "went down with my map for ages."

THEN THERE'S the matter of juggling time. Dinners are apt to be at all hours. The Valleskeys usually eat early and the Dotys have breakfast together every morning. . . at 6:30.

Mrs. Doty sews extensively for the ballet, but Mrs. Valleskey doesn't work this into her schedule. It's understandable because she has five other children, all boys, ranging in age from 18 to 2. The Dotys have two boys, one older than Holly and one younger.

But Mrs. Valleskey often makes her and Carole's clothes. This too is an important part of the juggling process.

Although both girls have Ford Foundation Scholarships which help pay for their lessons, expenses are still high. The scholarships cover only 10 months of the year, but

the lessons go on all summer. It's then the company works on "setting" new ballets.

Then toe shoes alone are \$40 a month, and there are the costumes, tights, gossamer and out-of-town trips. The company is going to Jacob's Pillow, Pa., June 23 to 27 to take part in the Northeastern Dance Festival.

Besides saving through sewing, both Mrs. Valleskey and Mrs. Doty say they "eat a lot of ground beef and don't go out for dinner."

Both also claim that "ballet with Severo is a family affair." Sometimes it even becomes a neighborhood affair when a mother finds a car won't start and an accommodating neighbor lends hers.

BUT BOTH ARE well aware of the demands and needs of the rest of their families. With "kids who all pitch in and understanding husbands," they have time to participate in all the other activities mothers find themselves involved in, music lessons, school outings and so on.

Mrs. Valleskey, who once taught ballroom dancing among other classroom subjects, is anxious to go back to teaching in Livonia. She plays golf too.

In both cases, too, the brothers are very proud of their sisters.

Mrs. Valleskey says she was told when she was young that "busy hands are happy hands. . . we're sure happy" she adds with a smile.

Is it worth the effort? The girls may never become great ballerinas. They may find themselves faced, as in "The Red Shoes," to choose between marriage and a career. They may find themselves wanting time for other things.

The mothers claim it's worthwhile just the same. "The discipline they are learning will stand them in good stead the rest of their lives," say today's ballet mothers.

Tickets for the 7:30 performance of "Coppelia" will be sold at the box office or may be obtained from Mrs. John J. Slatin, 20394 Louise, Livonia.

## LRTC Plans Sale May 15

The Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild will hold a rummage sale Saturday, May 15, in the guild headquarters, 15138 Beech-Daly, Redford Township. The sale will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those wishing to make donations are asked to call Mrs. William Cowen, 7728 Lear Court, Westland.

## Alumni Club Plans Dance

The Catholic Alumni Club of Detroit will hold a May Mingles Mingle Dance Friday, May 7, from 9 p.m. to 1:15 a.m., in Stouffer's Northland Inn, 1-96 at Eight Mile Rd. All singles over 21 are invited. Music will be by the Princeton.



THIS CREW will be singing as they work. On stage, that is, at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Rd., Livonia, the evenings of May 7 and 8. Members of the Suburban Chorale they are (standing left to right) Helene Chambo of Livonia, Janet Glass of Redford Township, and Amelia Podalski of Detroit. Front row: Dee Burns

of Southfield, Gerry Zandi of Livonia and Margaret Melnick of Detroit. The song they're singing is "There's Nothing Like a Dame" from "South Pacific." Tickets are on sale at the Livonia Parks and Recreation Department and will be sold at the door at the 8 p.m. performances.

## Chorale Plans Tribute

A tribute to Richard Rodgers is the theme of the annual spring show of the Suburban Chorale this year. "Rodgers With Heart" will be presented Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8, in Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Rd., Livonia. The show will begin at 8 each evening.

TICKETS ARE available at the Livonia Parks and Recreation office, and from members of the chorale, and at the door. They are \$1.50 for adults and 50 cents for students and senior citizens. This year, children of

members will take part in the evening of songs, dances and skits. On stage will be Livonians Karen and Terry Dukatz, Lisa Fuss, Colleen Wilson, Veronica Zandi, Sandy Ellsworth and Juli Greenfield, along with Sherry Glass of Redford Township, Bernice Smith of Plymouth, Shelley Branch of Garden City and Lynn Hogarth and Debra Newby of Westland.

They will perform the "March of the Siamese Children," in a part of the program called the Oriental section. Besides "The King and I," songs from "South Pacific" and "Flower Drum Song" will be heard.

THE FIRST SECTION will be composed of excerpts from "The Sound of Music." Many other popular Rodgers melodies will be heard in the finale, labeled "State Fair." Dave Butler, baritone, will be starred again this year, singing with the 50-voice chorale. He is a teacher at

Livonia's Bryant Junior High School. The chorale, a women's singing group is sponsored by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, but includes members from many suburbs.

They rehearse every Wednesday evening in Clarenceville High School, under the direction of Carol Horning. June Ratkiewicz is the accompanist.

The organization is open to any woman interested in singing, music and fun. All interested in joining should call Mrs. Thomas Tituskin, 11330 Hillcrest, Livonia.

A group within the Chorale, known as the Purple Gang or the Choralettes, will take part in National Music Week activities by singing at the Livonia Mall Monday, May 10, at 1:30 p.m.

The Chorale will also sing in Westland Shopping Center May 20, at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m., as part of Michigan Week observances.

## amusement Hostels Set Programs

DETROIT The Metropolitan Detroit Council of American Youth Hostels has completed plans for its summer program, and calendars are now available. Those interested are urged to write or call the local office, 14355 W. McNichols, Detroit, 48235.

May 2 begins National Youth Hostel Week and the local organization has planned a hike at Kensington Park followed by a cook-in and an evening of learning ethnic dances.

The local group has also scheduled many hikes and canoeing trips for the summer. Sailing trips are also available.

The American Youth Hostels Association and its more than 55,000 members are celebrating the 37th anniversary of its founding.

## Dance Concert

DETROIT The Wayne State University Dance Workshop will hold its 42nd annual spring dance concert Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8, at 8:30 p.m., in the Community Arts Auditorium, 450 West Kirby.

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THE LITTLE PROFESSOR (1456 S. Sheldon Rd., Plymouth)

MAIL ORDERS - May 4, 1971: FURTHER INFORMATION 591-6549

S.A.B. Ticket Office  
18600 Haggerty, Livonia, Mich. 48151  
Checks or Money Orders payable to Schoolcraft College