

Mickey Mouse fan keeps upbeat attitude

Continued from Page 1

Mickey Mouse isn't the only character with whom Lynch is infatuated. She's just as crazy about Teddy Bears and dolls. At home — she's probably going to move with her husband, John, to Farmington Hills soon — she has an entire room devoted to her collection of some 250 bears and 100 dolls.

"THAT'S MY getaway from stress," said the former Ford Motor Corp. employee. Lynch left Ford and an impending promotion after 13½ years to begin her travel agency. With all the changes in the auto industry, "we really felt that maybe it would be beneficial for one of us to look into another venture."

Travel was something that was always a part of Lynch's life. A travel agency was the most natural venture for Lynch who with her husband did a lot of research before buying into the Uniglobe franchise, which is geared to small and medium-sized businesses. And she's never been happier.

She still chuckles when she recalls how it all came about. A year before getting involved with Uniglobe, Lynch and a group of friends

met with a palm reader.

"When it came to my turn she said she saw a tremendous amount of travel in my life," Lynch said. "It's ironic. A year later I got involved with Uniglobe as the first start up agency in Michigan."

Early in her career she worked for the vice president of Pan American Airlines in New York City. She's from Brooklyn, Flatbush to be exact.

When she married her first husband, they moved to California where she raised her son. She arrived in Detroit when her husband was transferred with Ford Motor.

Lynch credits her first husband, who died, with teaching her not to be afraid of people. "He played a real role in my life, giving me a lot of confidence. I'm not taking away anything from my current husband. I've had two wonderful marriages. I've been very fortunate."

FORTUNATE IS a word common in Lynch's vocabulary and description of her life.

She grew up an only child adopted by Italian immigrants, whom she said encouraged her

and let them feel comfortable." And she's applied that now to her own business.

THOUGH ARMED with a marketing degree, Lynch's first job with Pan American wasn't as an executive. She was a secretary. "Things have changed for women in later years. But that's OK. When I decide to do a job, I give it my all, it doesn't matter what it is. That's just the way I work. You've got to work hard. No one gives you anything on a silver platter."

In fact, because she believes every business person owes it to themselves and their community to know what's happening, she started attending chamber of commerce meetings. Later she got a call from then-president Jon Grant, who told her there was a vacancy on the board of directors.

"Your name has come up," Grant told Lynch. "Most of the board members thought you were already a board member."

But that's not where she stops. She's a director on the board of the Oakland County Easter Seals Society.

Latch key program set at Y

Farmington YMCA's latch key program — Prime Time — focuses on drug awareness during its Friday, Oct. 25, after-school program.

Starting after the Farmington district's half-day of school, the session features film strips, tapes and a discussion about avoiding drugs. Participants will stencil Prime Time's anti-drug logo, "Say Yes to Life," on painters' hats donated by Aco Hardware and on T-shirts. The program is part of the observance of national Drug Awareness Month.

Earlier in the month, kindergarten students participated in a similar program.

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