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After the cocktail hour, guests entered the ballroom and noshed on an antipasto plate of shrimp, prosciutto, salami, artichoke, provolone cheese and roasted peppers, as ball co-chairwoman and co-chairman Kathy and Roger Penske addressed the crowd. Dinner included veal chops stuffed with black truffle mushrooms, phyllo cup with wild rice, zucchini boat with tomato provolone, fresh asparagus, kirsch parfait with chocolate musical note and a big-screen video presentation of the new Belle Isle track.

Local residents attending the ball included GM VP Jim and Jan FitzPatrick of Orchard Lake, Ill., and Don (GM VP of Advance Engineering) Runkle. Jinny wore a black sequin off-the-shoulder dress with a short black sheer skirt. Allison Mechlignan of Commerce Township was dressed in a fabulous silver sequin dress. The svelte blond attended with husband Robert, who works at Bob Saks in Farmington Hills.

West Bloomies Linda and Frank Lopez had something to celebrate. Linda, wearing an elegant red hooded gown, will be jetting off to Hollywood to play several upcoming movie and TV parts. West Bloomies Mel Ball and his 14-piece band and four female vocalists were the high-energy entertainment for the evening, drawing weeknight parties shanking on the dance floor.

Piston giant John Sally attended the ball, sans a female companion. Sally was individually attired in a passion purple tuxedo.

Planning committee member Eleanor Breitmeyer of Farmington Hills was unable to attend because she and Armand were in New York.

General Motors executives, outnumbered the other big three, with a total of 10 tables. Ford had three tables, sans the Pollings due to illness. Chrysler executives filled one.

The gregarious gang ordered custom duds from Arizona to wear on their western adventure.

Day: The hook was the answer to his lifelong dream to spend a week on the Ponderosa.

"Some people go to baseball fantasy camps, others to space camp. My dream was to spend time on a cattle ranch," Coleman said.

Also inspired by Billy Crystal in "City Slickers," Verona rustled up a bunch of huckaroos to hit the dusty trails at the Cottonwood Cattle Ranch in Elko, Nev.

"The gregarious gang ordered custom duds from Arizona to wear on their western adventure. They will spend one week branding, cooking grubs, moving salt, rustling cattle, riding and doing chores around the ranch.

"I would give up my watch to deliver a baby calf," sighed Coleman, "and there is a good chance we may make it on time to do just that."

The "Nevada Nineteen" was corralled last Thursday evening for a complete dress rehearsal at the Radisson Hotel in Southfield. The professional posse were sportin' a rootin' tootin' western wardrobe of boots, hats, spurs, chaps, jeans and vests. The only thing missing were their horses. Even the wives, girlfriends and kids attended the Radisson Roundup in true Western spirit.

Local huckaroos hitting the dust are Southfield bus instructor Milton Dresner, Greg Goldstein and Sheldon Rosenberg of West Bloomfield, Jeff Yellen of Southfield and Farmington Hills developer and Western rider Mickey Shupiro.



Receiving awards: Dick Janes (left) presents U.S. Information Agency award to International Visitors Council founders Jim Maunders, Frank Angelo and Bob Hefty.



Dress rehearsal: A city slickers round-up at the Radisson Hotel, with "local boys" getting ready for a week of ballin' hay and rustlin' cattle.



Grand weekend: Grand Prix Ball regulars Robert and Allison Mechlignan of Commerce Township anticipate excitement of the event.



Giltz and glamour: Grand Prix Ball host committee members Luann (left) and J.T. Battenburg III rev up for an evening with friends Jinny and Don Runkle of Orchard Lake Road.



Cocktail hour: West Bloomies Frank (left) and Linda Lopez and Mr. Entertainment Mel Ball mix and mingle during the Grand Prix Ball.



Smart dressing: Discovered primping in the ladies room are Grand Prix Ball partygoers Julie Maier (left) of Union Lake and Cheryl Peash of Bloomfield, who both opt for off-the-shoulder elegance.

Cowboy lifestyle

Last year cowboy wanna-be Coleman Verona of Farmington Hills received a book on "dude ranches" from his wife Judy for Father's

Coming Up

Women's Division of Project HOPE luncheon Tuesday, June 16, at Pine Lake Country Club. Tickets \$30, patron \$50.

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