

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1992

FARMINGTON
NOTES

Spooky Story Time

The Little Professor Book Center in the Grand River/Halsted Shopping Center will present a children's "Spooky Halloween Story Time" from 11-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. The theme for this year's program is "Ooh, That's Scary!"

Children between the ages of 3 and 7 are invited to hear stories about ghosts and goblins. After the stories, store personnel will pull out a costume trunk and have fun dressing up in scary and goofy costumes. Children can come dressed for the outing or pick a costume from the trunk. Last month, bookstore owners Paula and Rich Herstein has a storytime where children listened to "Caps for Sale" by Esphyr Slobodkina, and then learned how to make pirate hats out of newspapers.

The Hersteins hold bi-monthly storytimes.

A living memory

The memory of Charles Marino, a longtime friend and benefactor of Livonia's Madonna University, was recently honored on the campus when a maple tree, donated and planted after his death in 1986, was dedicated in his name.

Vince and Audrey Marino, son and wife of Charles and owners of Exotic Rubber and Plastic in Farmington Hills, were on hand at the ceremony, which commemorated the life and growth of both the tree and the friendship between the Marino family and Madonna University, which celebrates its 45th anniversary this year.

He directs alumni

Roger Avie, a Farmington Hills resident, has been elected to a three-year term as director of Lawrence Technological University's National Alumni Association. He will represent the interests of nearly 20,000 Lawrence Tech graduates around the world.

Avie is president of Speciality Products, Inc., and Visual Speciality Television Products, as well as being chairman and president of Southfield Tri-parish Credit Union. He also maintains a financial consulting company.



The beat goes on for Jerry McKenzie, the Farmington Hills police detective who's not bad with a set of drums. He performed at the opening of the George Burns theater in Livonia.

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

No doubt about it. Jerry McKenzie has the best of two worlds. "People are surprised that there's another side to Jerry McKenzie," said the veteran Farmington Hills detective.

The other side to McKenzie is music — the drums to be exact. And it's not amateur stuff, either. McKenzie was there the first weekend in October when the George Burns Center for Performing Arts in Livonia opened with headliner George Burns himself.

McKenzie the drummer — not the detective — was there as a contract musician for the star entertainer. "He (George Burns) is an absolute sweetheart, just a delight, a real gentleman."

As for many entertainers, the orchestra for George Burns' show was hired from Detroit. That's how McKenzie found himself playing for Burns, or how he will be playing for Harry Blackstone, Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca in December.

Or there are the numerous times he's played for Rosemary Clooney, whom McKenzie describes as "a great lady. She gets nervous just like all of us do."

Local musicians needed

Many stars who travel around the country rely on local musicians. Contractors contact musicians like McKenzie.

"Sometimes it can be frustrating. Sometime rehearsals are long. Sometimes the music is hard," McKenzie said. Musicians aren't given music in

advance. When they get there is when they get the music.

But there's yet another side to the West Bloomfield resident. He's got his own band — "Jerry McKenzie's Sound Crew" — which plays Bar Mitzvah's, weddings and other events. Of course, that's not to mention playing in the Montreux Jazz Festival and Pine Knob with all its participating stars.

From 1958-62 and later in 1972, McKenzie played with the Stan Kenton Orchestra and recorded with the band on the Capitol and Creative World Jazz labels.

It's undoubtedly the nice performers he's met over the years that have captured his attention and respect. But along the way there have been a few that have shocked McKenzie to the point that he'd prefer not to say anything than to say something negative.

Just as his own band can play any type of function, McKenzie can play any type of music. But he has his personal preferences.

"I can play funk, fusion rock. But it's not my bag. I went through the Big Band era." He also has a love of contemporary jazz.

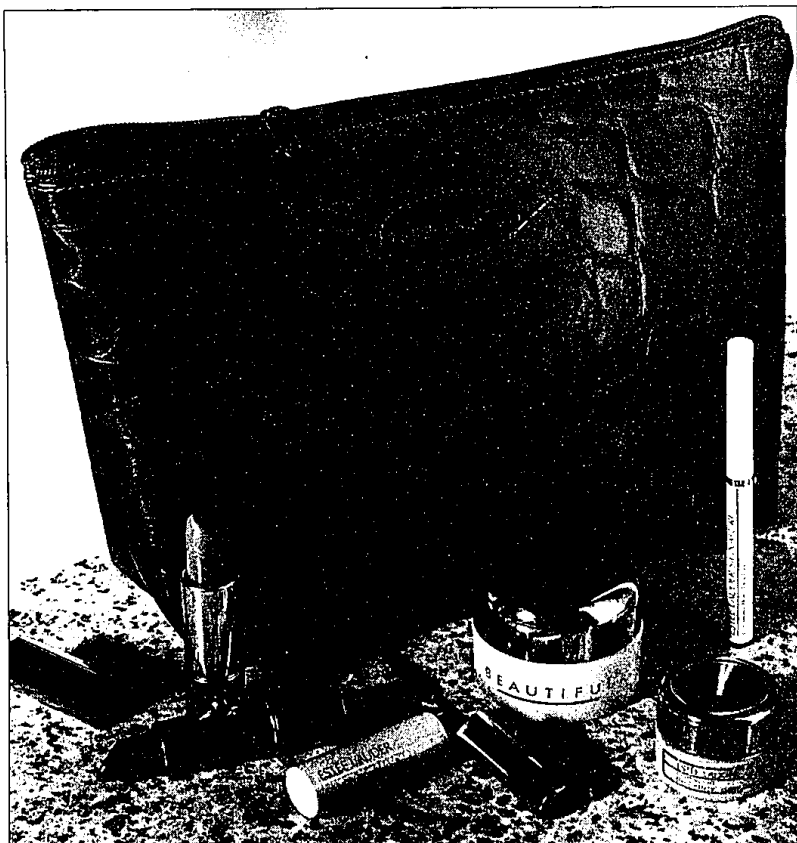
There's still another side to McKenzie, the father of three grown sons. The other side is a police officer, a longtime police officer. He's been at the Farmington Hills department for 23 years and other departments before that.

See DRUMMER, 15A



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tappin' a tune: Farmington Hills police detective Jerry McKenzie has another side: music. He was caught here in an intense moment while practicing for the opening of the George Burns Center for Performing Arts, Livonia.



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