

# Variety Club heads to Southfield

## Drummer from page 13A

BY SHIRLEE ROSE IDEN  
STAFF WRITER

Variety Club is best known as the show biz charity, but its members say the organization's main focus is children.

The Club's Detroit-area organization is moving its headquarters to Southfield next month.

With some 350 members in the metro area, who are show biz performers, close to show biz or just show biz wanna-bes, club members say they celebrate the chance to help kids in need.

Terminology dates from the showbiz days. Local clubs are called "tents" — Southfield's is Tent 5. Club presidents, meanwhile, are known as "chief barkers."

The club is moving its office headquarters from Farmington Hills to larger quarters in the Cranbrook Center in Southfield. "We had to expand," said Rob Allen. "We need room for the gold hearts, for volunteers and for new storage. And we're happy about going to Southfield."

Allen, a resident of Bloomfield Hills, is the "money man" presently, who is in charge of Variety's new gold hearts fund raising project.

**■ 'We had to expand. We need room for the gold hearts, for volunteers and for new storage.'**

Rob Allen

"The gold heart project started three years ago in England. The first gold heart was on a little doll and from that grew a major project for us. They are worn on the left shoulder close to the heart and many wear them in multiples."

Allen said, without a blink, that Tent 5's quota is to sell 200,000 at \$2 each.

First involved in Variety in Los Angeles, he picked it up when he moved to Des Moines, and then to Bloomfield Hills five years ago. He is a Chicago native with a son, Ryan.

Variety Club is directed to children with problems. It supports the Electronic Limb Center at the Detroit Institute for Children, helping some special children have a chance at reaching their potential by providing myoelectric (muscle operated) limbs powered by small battery-operated motors.

"Small sensors pick up impulses from the muscle triggering the hand to open or close," explained Jerry Walter, a Southfield resident who is the present Chief Barker and self-proclaimed "Variety Club junkie."

Another project is the Children's Hospital of Michigan where Tent 5 has provided ECKMO, a heart-lung machine to keep newborns breathing.

Variety Club sponsors Bowling for Kids and the popular Handicapped Riding Program which gives kids both a physical and emotional high along with the thrill of learning to horseback ride.

Variety works at bringing the most entertaining community service programs to this area. Even fund raising is done in a spirit of fun.

"We try to plan ahead and have just arranged to honor former State Supreme Court Justice Dennis Archer at our Gala Ball, May 14 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel," Walters said.

"Kathie Lee Gifford, who has already donated \$100,000 to Variety Club nationally will make an appearance."

Tent 5 opens its flaps for both afternoon and evening meetings which Allen said "keep the volunteers bonded and entertained."

According to club legend, Variety's service began more than 50 years ago in Pittsburgh when a heartbroken mother abandoned her infant near a theater with a note praying that her child would be cared for because show business people "have great hearts."

With that the organization began and grew into the largest children's charity in the world.

Anyone with heart interested in joining or in helping Variety Club can reach them at Cranbrook Center, 30161 Southfield Road, suite 301, Mt. 48076. Telephone 313-258-5511.

### Had to be a cop

Despite his love of music and a stint at traveling around the country when he was younger as a musician, McKenzie says he just had to be a police officer. "There's another aspect of my life I wanted to lead. Living out of a suitcase isn't what I really wanted to do," McKenzie said, referring to a full-time career as a musician.

When McKenzie was three, his mom took him to the old Fox Theatre where he saw Gene Krupka. "I said to my mother, 'that's what I want to do. I want to play the drums.'"

That experience did it. He was hooked and has never let go. And his drums aren't the kind of avocation or vocation that he dreads after a long day at the police department. "It's just plain simple. I enjoy it. God gave me some talent to play the drums and I've got to use it."

Somehow McKenzie finds enough hours in the day to do the things he loves, including giving just about everyone he walks by a

ribbing of some sort. Plainly, he loves people.

"I got the best of two worlds," he said. "I have a multitude of friends in police work and a multitude of friends in my music."

And he marvels at other people's talents, including those with musical talent. He recalled a night he was playing in an orchestra for Perry Como at Pine Knob. "When he walked on stage, you could hear a pin drop. He was just a neat musical experience. He's a wonderful person."

You might think that all this association with stars might have gone to McKenzie's head. Not on your life. With every word about his music he makes it clear he admires others and has learned from others. And he'll give credit where it's due.

He has nothing but compliments for the new George Burns theatre in Livonia, as well as owner Stuart Gorklick. "He was visible the whole time, making sure everything and everyone was all right."

## Grand River • Halsted Plaza Farmington

Feature Store of the Week:

**Express your own sense of style - for 15% OFF**

Choose from a beautiful selection of the latest fashions. Bring in this coupon and receive 15% OFF one item. Our compliments.

bringing fashion to life  
**winkelman's**

K-mart • Winkelman's • Perry Drugs • Card & Gift Center • Diamond Boutique  
• Little Professor Book Center • Grand Palace Chinese Restaurant  
• Bo Rics Family Haircare • Heritage Cleaners • Kiddie Land • Koney Island Inn

## IS RADIAL KERATOTOMY RIGHT FOR YOU?



Robert T. Clark M.D. & Amy B. Eston M.D.

cordially invite you to a free seminar to discuss radial keratotomy (surgical correction for nearsightedness)

Maple Park Office Center  
6010 W. Maple Suite 200

West Bloomfield

October 27th

7:00 pm

For more information call 737-6955

Bring your current glasses and questions!

Refreshments served

**WONDERLAND MALL**

*Halloween Happenings*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 -**  
**PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST**  
2 pm - Food Court

The first 100 children, ages 4-12 years, can show their creativity of Pumpkin decorating, than take that pumpkin home. Co-sponsored by Livonia Parks & Recreation and Blake's Orchard.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 -**  
**"NIGHTMARE CASTLE" MAGIC SHOWS**  
10:30 am, 2:30 pm & 4:30 pm

Ghouls, Ghosts and things that go bump in the night are all part of the Haunted Happenings in this illusion show set in a haunted castle.

**FREE MAGIC TRICKS** to be given away at each show, while supplies last.

**TRICK OR TREAT**  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**FREE TRICK OR TREAT BAGS** will be available at the information booth, while supplies last.

**CREATE YOUR OWN HALLOWEEN CRAFT**  
11:00 am - Food Court

Children of all ages can create their own Halloween craft to take home and display. Co-sponsored by Livonia Parks & Recreation.

Located at the corner of Plymouth & Middlebelt Roads

**SCHOSTAK**  
RESTAURANT & COMPANY

"I've never been to a doctor before who listened to me so well. This is someone I can stay with."

"Everything was very professional, yet comfortable. I didn't feel rushed."

"Finally... a place that is sympathetic to the needs of women."

Many women appreciate the special attention they receive at the Institute for Women's Medicine. Here they find the kind of health care they want and deserve. Doctors who take time to listen to your concerns and answer questions. Support staffs who treat you with respect and understanding. Scheduling policies that recognize your time is valuable, too.

The Institute was created by The Detroit Medical Center's Hutzel Hospital and the Medical School of Wayne State University. So if the need arises, you have direct access to renowned medical specialists. For your convenience, the Institute has offices in four locations: Livonia, Detroit, Southfield, and St. Clair Shores.

To schedule an appointment, call 745-7500.

17197 N. Laurel Park Drive  
Livonia, Michigan 48152

**INSTITUTE FOR Women's MEDICINE**

Detroit Medical Center • Children's Hospital of Michigan • Detroit Receiving Hospital and University Health Center  
Grace Hospital • Harper Hospital • Huron Valley Hospital • Hutzel Hospital • Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan  
DMC Heart Care Centers • DMC Occupational Health Services • © 1992 Detroit Medical Center

Wayne State University  
**DMC Hutzel Hospital**