Barn from page 1C

In a change from traditional Christmas fare, she is thinking of providing a Tex-Mex chili — and is looking for a good recipe. She may serve it with combread con-taining peppers in festive red and green.

For the last 29 years, Ginny has decorated an entire Christmas tree with ornaments pertaining to music. The tree goes in the living room, next to the Steinway piano.

Ornaments include such things as musical notes, and little angels playing musical instruments. She tries to find unusual ornaments when she travels.

A former interior designer, Gin-y also has a musical back-ound, She and her husband first ground. She and her nusuum met when she was singing with a chorus and he was a soloist for the concert, in New York.

They moved to his family's

home in Southfield, where she raised the children. "I do a lot of volunteer work with the Detroit Symphony," she said. She was chairwoman of the Christmas Walk in 1984, and last year and the year before headed Prelude West, a DSO concert series. A DSO Musicl Feast dinner was held in the barn in 1991. She also less volunteered at Cranbrook and was on the committee for the Guy was on the committee for the Guy Fawkes.Ball this year.





Gingerbread house: On a table in the family dining room is an edible concoction, sur-rounded by nutcracker figures and "candy-cane" candlesticks in holders.

Decor from page 1C

rounded by nutcracker figures. fireplace on a walnut-paneled the saked to buy it. "We just had fireplace wall. A long bar on anhim restored," she said. For years, houses I've seen. I've never seen any that quality," said Suzanne, who mentioned the gingerbread houses are carried at their stores. The third room to get holiday treatment is the game room. Suzanne said she first saw the horse inside the Grand Hotel where a plastic mallard duck is set against real pheasant feathers on a wreath above the limestone.

SELECT is private Medigap



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to get any information about this plan in Michigan.

"A. Medicare SELECT is a new health insurance that will be systlable in Michigan, Alabama Arizona, California, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. 'It is a private Medigap insurance that will be offered by insurance that will be offered by insurance organizations (HMOs).

While similiar to standard Medigap insurance, the main difference is that Medicare SELECT benefits may be restricted to certain providers and the policy may pay reduced benefits for services that are not received from these providers. The health care professionals, called "preferred providers," will be chosen by the insurers. Each organization offering Medicare SELECT will have its

own network of preferred provid-

own network of preferred providers.

If you are a Medicare SELECT policy holder and receive covered services from a preferred provider, Medicare will pay for its share of approved charges. The Medicare SELECT insurer will pay some or all of the rest of the bill, depending on the limits of the policy. In the case of emergency health care, Medicare SELECT policis must also pay supplemental benefits that can be furnished by providers not considered the preferred provider. Medicare SELECT policies will not pay, either in full or at all, if the policyholder uses a provider outside the network for non-emergency service.

Authorized under Federal law, Medicare SELECT will be evaluated, for three years, to decide whether or not it should be made available in other states. Companies selling the policy, however, are required to provide continued coverage even if the program is not continued. If you buy the Medicare SELECT policy and the program is halted, you will have the option to buy any traditional Medigap policy that the insuring company provides and which includes the same or lesser benefits than those offered by the SELECT policy.

At this time, neither Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan nor ony Michigan health maintenance organizations have elected to participate in the Medicare SELECT, please call the Michimer of the program is posterior only Michigan health maintenance organizations have elected to participate in the Medicare SELECT, please call the Michimer of the program is a selected to participate in the Medicare SELECT, please call the Michimer of the program is a selected to make the michimer of the michimer

gan Insurance Bureau in Lansing at 517-335-2053. The office is open Monday-Fridey from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m.

Rence Mahler is a gerontologist and the director of communica-tions and admission at a Roches-ter Hills nursing facility. She is a former member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to

State Commission on the Aging To leave a message for Mahler, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1869. Send your questions to her at the Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingang

Phone hotline to help seniors

Here's a list of toll-free num-bers that may be of help and in-terest to older adults and their families. These toll-free hotlines may be able to assist the callers in finding the information they require.

require.
Social Security Assistance
1-800-772-1213
Hospice
1-800-331-1620
Energy Assistance
1-800-292-5650

Cancer Information Center 1-800-422-6237 Arthritis Foundation 1-800-283-7800 Taxpayers Information (Feder-

nl) 1-800-829-1040

L-800-829-1040
Taxpayers Assistance (State)
1.800-487-7000
American Council for the Blind
1.800-424-8666
American Dlabetes Association
1.800-232-3472

American Paralysis Associa-American Paralysis Associa-tion
1-800-225-0292
American Parkinson's Disease
Association
1-800-223-2732
Auto Repair Complaints
1-800-224-2494
Alzhelmer's & Related Disorders Center
1-800-272-3800
Citizens for Better Care

Helpful agencies giving their toll-free numbers

A number of agencies and government departments offer free information or advice on a wide variety of subjects of interest and service to older adults and their families. Pollowing is a list of tollifee numbers. Operators will be happy to answer your questions or direct you to other proper information sources.

AT&T Special Needs Center 800-233-1222 Alzheimer's & Related Disor-ders Center 800-621-0379 American Cancer Society 800-ACS-2345

ACS-2345
American Council for the Blind
800-424-8666
American Diabetes Association
800-232-4372
American Parkinson's Disease
Association 800-223-2732
Arthritis Foundation 800-283-7800

Auto Repairs Complaints 800-292-4204 Cancer Information Center 800-422-6237

Center for Independent Living 800-482-0222

Energy Assistance 800-292-5650 Hospice 800-331-1620 Housing Discrimination, HUD 800-424-8590 Lawyer Referal 800-968-0738 Legal Hotline for Sentors 800-347-LAWS

Again routine for Sentors 800-347-LAWS Medicaid Information (Social Services) 800-638-6414 Medicare Appeals 800-365-5899 Medicare Inquiry (Part B) 800-482-4045

482-4045 Medicare Inquiry/Part A (Hospital) 800-872-2566 Michigan Bell Special Needs Centor 800-482-8254 Nursing Homo/Long Term Caro 800-292-7852 Care 800-292-7852
Physically Impaired Association of Michigan 800-274-7426
Prescription Drug Credit (form)
800-367-6263

Social Security 800-772-1213

Social Security 800-772-1213
Taxpayers Assistance (State)
800-487-7000
Taxpayers Information (Federal) 800-829-1040
Utilities (Public Service Commission) 800-292-9555
Veterans Information and Assistance 800-482-0740

Off the Cuff wants your suggestions

Got a suggestion for an individ-ual The Eccentric can highlight in Off the Cuff, an occasional fea-ture that focuses on ordinary peo-le with extraordinary flairs for fashion? If you know an Observer

& Eccentric area resident — man, woman or child — with a distinc-tive clothing sense, be it classic, trendy, homespun or outrageous, give us a call at 644-1100, Ext. 243.

