

## Hats from page 1C

### Asking for her

In her office at Weir Manuel, Snyder & Ranke people sometimes just ask for "the hat lady" if they don't remember her name. Now, perhaps through Buell's influence, four or five other women in the office wear hats, so customers can't always assume it's Buell when they see a woman in a hat.

"If you have a hat made, it's a lot less expensive than buying them at the store," Buell said. She estimates stores bought hats probably cost twice as much as having them made by a milliner.

Many of Buell's hats come from hat-maker Mildred Palmer of Oak Park, who also teaches millinery. "I would bring my dress in, so she could see the colors," Buell explained, showing how Palmer trimmed a wide-brimmed hot pink straw hat with fabric from "the belt, which I really didn't need," matching the dress patterned in blue, hot pink, green and white. Buell said the hat is "neat for summer weddings."

Palmer told her one day, "I'd like to make a romance hat." Buell said she had never heard of such a hat but was told they were designed for special occasions, to look very feminine. Buell's romance hat is white and black straw and has ruffled black lace gathered in the back with flowers.

When Buell buys a hat in a store, she often wears it backwards because, she says, it looks better that way. "If you love the hat but don't look good in it, try it on backwards," she advised. For her, the difference may be "in height and contour on my face."

Buell also has hats from Kay McClure, who owns the Lisbeth Shop in Birmingham. "That's where I first started to buy hats years ago, back in the late '60s. I did some modeling for Kay. She designs and makes hats," Buell said.

Recently Buell bought several silk taffeta accessories McClure makes and calls "frou-frou things." McClure said these have been used on clothes and purses but that Buell came up with a new idea by putting them on hats.

### Adds frou-frou

Buell invigorates a black wide-brimmed hat by using a frou-frou in red with black polka dots, to adorn the side of the hat. She adds a white ruffle to

a navy straw. The ruffles also may be added to her felt hats. McClure is making a purple frou-frou, which Buell wants for a particular hat.

"She wears hats beautifully," McClure declared. "She's very smart. Everything she wears, she has a hat that goes with it."

A hatbox holds what Buell refers to as "my bag of tricks" accessories that she uses to trim hats, or to change the look of a hat she owns. Included are scarves, ribbons, flowers, feathers and decorative pins.

An imposing 5 feet 9, Buell has the stature for large hats. She believes small women can look good in hats. "If they wear the little pillboxes."

A woman in a hat is likely to attract attention. "I have never gone anywhere without someone commenting about the toad look, and it's mostly men," Buell said. When it comes to hats, "Women make a grave error by not wearing them. They definitely are an asset to the outfit. My mother and my stepmother about wore hats."

Buell and husband Webster, who has been a builder for 45 years, are parents of six grown children — three sons and three daughters — and have 11 grandchildren.

### Once a teacher

"I'm a teacher by trade," said Buell, who taught elementary school in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills. "I have done modeling and commenting. I love commenting more than modeling because I love to talk," she emphasized. Buell also was manager for a while at the Claire Pearson shop, which was at Somerset Mall in Troy. Her activities include fundraising for Children's Hospital, and this year she is chairwoman for the Gold Heart Ball, to be given by Variety — The Children's Charity, Friday, May 14, at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn.

Off the Cuff is an occasional feature that focuses on ordinary people with extraordinary flair for fashion. If you know an Observer & Expositor area resident — man, woman or child — with a distinctive clothing sense, be it classic, trendy, homespun or outrageous, give us a call at 644-1100, Ext. 243.

## Americare from page 1C

of CPAs and management consultants in Southfield, where Americare operates a child care center for employees' children. The center is open only on Saturdays, during the heavy tax season.

"January through April is our busiest time of the year. This helps them out with their worklife and their family life," said Barbara Fornasiero, personnel coordinator. Originally, Plante & Moran ran the child care center on its own, but for the last three years has been with Americare.

"We were spending so much of our time internally administering it. It's most cost-efficient to have outside consultants take care of it," Fornasiero said.

The center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and can handle 34 children, between the ages of six months and 12 years. "We have some single parents who use the care. A goodly sum are children of fathers who work here, whose wives work here during the week," she said. The program is free to workers, who must sign up during the week for the following Saturday.

A storyteller comes into the center, but mainly the program is play-based, with some educational activities. "We don't want an academic program," Fornasiero said. The children bring their lunch, and working parents can join them at lunchtime.

Bue Perlin, a CPA on the professional staff, uses the child care center for her two daughters, Lauren, 5, and Allison, 2. "I think Americare is doing a great job," she said. "I do give my children a



GUY WARREN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

choice on Saturday. They could stay at home with their father (Larry), but they want to come with me. They really seem to enjoy themselves."

She joins her kids in the center at lunchtime. "I spend a half hour to 45 minutes. You can stay as long as you want," Perlin said. She likes the center's program, which is "an appropriate amount of organized activities as well as free time."

### In auto plants

Clients that Americare works with on a larger scale include two major automakers, which have programs for their UAW workers. "Specialists in plants work with

parents seeking child care help," said William R. Corey, UAW coordinator, Employee Support Services Program, at Ford Motor Co. in Detroit. "They're well-trained, and help parents with problems, such as if son Johnny, 5, is still wetting the bed."

Corey said the program assists first-time parents but, because the average age of the Ford plant worker is 47, parents of 5- to 13-year-olds particularly use the service. To give referrals for child care, "They do an in-depth study and find at least three places parents can go. The parents make a selection out of three," Corey said.

Kids crafts: Harriet Midgett (right) works with the children as they make Easter bunnies, in day care center at Plante & Moran. Youngsters are Adam Kunkel, 3; Brandon Heffernan, 6; Jimmy Egan, 9, and Katelyn Rocheleau, 3.

At General Motors, Americare services 300,000 UAW members nationally. Howard Erickson, communications manager for the UAW-GM Human Resource Center in Royal Oak, said Americare services 4,000 UAW-represented workers at the GM Tech Center in Warren and 12,000 such workers at BOC Buick City in Flint, as part of the UAW-GM Child Care Resource and Referral Service.

"Americare provides UAW-GM workers with a computer database of licensed child care providers in their local area. It also provides sources of information on parenting, child development and family issues," he said.

## Writer makes good use of intelligence

### GRAPHOLOGY PROFILES



LORENE GREEN

Dear Mrs. Green:

I read your column often in the Observer and have wanted to have my handwriting analyzed for some time and this was a good day to write (cold, snow, bad weather — a stay-home day!).

Hope you can fit me into your schedule in the near future. I look at a three-session class in graphology at night school some time ago, but have forgotten most of the information since then.

I enjoy reading and learning new things, hate craft-type projects and recently took a class at Schoolcraft relating to the psychology of human relations and really enjoyed it! (Got an A also.) I would be interested in what my handwriting reflects about my current life situations. Thank you in advance!

M.A., Canton

The simplifications in this handwriting reflect a woman who makes good use of her intelligence. She has an aptitude for eliminating non-essentials and moving right to the core of a situation or problem.

She can absorb ideas and translate them into functional opera-

tion. This aids creative thinking. It also facilitates both her oral and written expression.

This is a caring woman, one who has much empathy for others. She is cognizant of how it feels to be criticized because she has personally felt the sting of past personal criticism. While she is still sensitive to it, she tries to conceal the hurt. A little secrecy here cannot be missed.

Further study reveals this writer wants peace at any price. Harmony is indeed valued over discord. Unfortunately, to make this possible, she is usually the one who must compromise or acquiesce. Caution is also noted. She might find it helpful to analyze why she feels she is the one who must do all the compromising. Does her self-esteem need a little reinforcing? It is important for her to consider the fact that no one can make one feel inferior unless one allows them to.

Our writer wants to create a good first impression. This does not mean, however, that she has to have center stage.

In her interpersonal relationships she does not always feel secure of her place. When feeling insecure she thinks she has to compete for love. And when she feels threatened by someone usurping her place the little green monster may appear.

I am not surprised by her interest in psychology and her A in the course. She is a woman of intelli-

gence. When this is combined with her interest in people and self-understanding she cannot miss. These would also be valuable should she revitalize her interest in graphology.

The success she has achieved in life is mainly the result of her persistence. She has an ability to pursue what she wants and is disciplined to give up until she completes what she starts out to accomplish. This amount of persistence, however, sometimes makes for inflexibility.

Her orientation is toward the future and people. Tastes are simple and attitudes are often direct. Time is used effectively. Inclination can, however, be a problem at times.

Our writer's good mind would be an asset in any field of her choice. And a little time spent on self-understanding would add to her self-esteem and success.

If you would like to have your handwriting analyzed in this newspaper, write to Lorene Green, a certified graphologist, at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please use a full sheet of white, unlined paper, writing in the first person singular. Age, handedness and full signature are all helpful. Any objective feedback is always welcome.

## Hotlines to phone for helping seniors

Here's a list of toll-free numbers that may be of help and interest to older adults and their families. These toll-free hotlines may be able to assist the caller in finding the information they 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 (Federal)**

1-800-829-1040  
**Taxpayers Assistance (State)**  
1-800-487-7000  
**American Council for the Blind**  
1-800-424-4242  
**American Diabetes Association**  
1-800-232-3472  
**American Paralysis Association**  
1-800-225-0292  
**American Parkinson's Disease Association**  
1-800-223-2732  
**Auto Repair Complaints**  
1-800-292-4204  
**Alzheimer's & Related Disorders Center**  
1-800-272-3900  
**Citizens for Better Care**  
1-800-292-7852

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