THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1995

COMMUNITY LIFE

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Revisiting the bard's work

hough I spent most of my formative years in California, I also spent a lot of time visiting other people and places as well. In Yarmouth and London I wandered the streets with a boy, named David, who knew people with strange names like Feçotty. At Oxford, a professor, who secretly called himself Lewis, introduced me to Alice. In Yorkshire, friends helped me plant a secret garden, and I frequently boated on English contains with Rattly and Mole. Once, on the English contails with Rattly and Mole. Once, on the English coast, I even caught the smell of rum and stale ale at a place called the Admiral Benbow Inn.

You've probably guessed by now that the transportation to these locations was my imagination.

nation.

Like other children who read, I lived in many places — a good portion of which were in England. So, I feel very furturate to have taken part, earlier this month, in a program that took me, physically, to a place I had visited many times in

spirit.

Under the auspices of the English Department of the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College, I was part of a group of students who went to Great Britain, to take a course titled "Shakespeare in Performance." This was the first of a recently formed exchange program between OCC and Solihull College in England—a program that had its genesis in dialogues between OCC's English Department

See ERGLAND, 14A

Vet sails back to war days

ly just that, memories. That's not true for Farm ington Hills resident Culver "Mac" McCoy who was able to relive those days by taking a trip on a refurbished flat-bottom support ship, like the one he served on during World War II.

BY AILEEN WINGBLAD BPKCIAL WRITER



Some 50 years separated Culver - Mac McCoy's final days as a World War II serviceman and his recent voyage along the Pacific const aboard a restored Navy yease).

vessel.

McCoy, a longtime Farmington area resident and retired businessman, was among a handful of former WWII seamen chosen as crew members a couple of menths ago for a trip on a refurbished flat-bottom support ship known as an "LCI"—or Landing Craft Infantry — owned by Dr. Relab Dayls a California.

or Landing Craft Infantry — owned by Dr. Ralph Davis, a California dentist.

Last spring, Davis and his hand-picked craw, who ranged in ago from 68 to 73, sailed the ship from his home off the California coast to a San Diego reunion for hundreds of seamen who served on LCIs during the war.

seamen who served on LCIs during the war.

McCoy, who was ranked machinist first class, was one of 20 servicemen selected from about 240 applicants to man the LCI for the reunion. He credits the fact that ho's a a lovable guy.

"I called up Dr. Davis when I heard he was looking for crow members and I told him, 'If you line up all the '3-y-ear-old guys, I'll be in the top 10 percent.' That seemed to just



Set sall into past: Culver and Frances McCoy look at a replica of an LCI. McCoy sailed on the real thing during World War II.

about do it," McCoy said.

about too it, arccoy sand.

The men were separated into two
crews: nine took the boat down to
San Diego and the remaining 11,
one being McCoy, were on the return tell.

one being McCoy, were on the return trip.
Once aboard the LC1, 50 years after last setting foot on such a vessel, McCoy discovered one thing was just as he remembered it to be from the 1940s; pulling the "12 to 4 watch." It was a duty he knew well during the war.

The world will change, the Navy will change but the 12 to 4 watch will stay the same forever," McCoy said. "It's a long, tiring watch and always will be.

Still, McCoy said, he enjoyed the

trip "probably more than anyone clase," staying up in the ship's tower whenever he could, reliving his Navy days.

"The trip was absolutely great. I just loved it. Being back on the LCI really gave me the same feeling I had during the war. We were going into 10 to 12 foot waves, averaging about eight knots. We had perpoises running with us and all.

"And it was kind of funny, too," he said. "Out of the 11 of us who were on the trip back, there were three men who were hearing aids. The rest of us should have — every order was passed down three times," McCoy mused.

With an unmistakable zest for

life, a sense of adventure and an enthusiasm that seem to belie his age,
McCoy is making the most of the
new-found freedom that retirement
has brought.

In January, he sold the last of his
business, McCoy Inc., a supplier of
exercise equiyment. McCoy started
out in Southfield and eventually established stores in Cleveland and
Columbus, Ohio, as well as Novi.
The Novi store was the last to go.
"I worked hard to get to this position and now I want to capitalize on
it," he said noting that he and one of
his three grown children explored
Ireland earlier this year along with

See SHIP, 14A

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