

# Blazek from page 13A

to play. And they still do.

The 1970s seemed to be the beginning of a new era for the club. The membership continued to increase by leaps and bounds. Each new administration introduced new and exciting activities which appealed to the group.

There were dinner dances, fashion shows, book reviews, a fitness group, arts and crafts, lectures to attend and a gourmet group.

As the club's membership expanded, meeting sites were selected to meet the diversified needs of the members. In 1970, because the total membership was growing rapidly, the monthly meetings were moved to the Farmington Community Center, now The Longacre House.

Two or three meetings a year were held at an outside location, such as Meadowbrook Hall, or Oakland Community College, but the Community Center was home base for most meetings and club gatherings.

In 1977, a research committee

was formed to find a larger and more suitable facility for the general monthly meetings. The place chosen was the historic Botsford Inn where Henry Ford and his wife dined and danced on numerous occasions in days gone by.

The Inn provided a spacious meeting room, adequate parking, and a lovely lunch served by a courteous staff.

In 1979, the club moved its monthly meeting site to the Glen Oaks Country Club, where the members currently meet to conduct business, and enjoy a luncheon and program.

One of the club's most popular monthly activities is the Lunch-Out Group. Originally formed to acquaint the women with restaurants of the region, it is still enjoyed today.

Bridge was, and is, one of the all-time favorite activities of the club, with tournament bridge being the top drawing card. Organized duplicate bridge playing began in 1975. Pinochle has been in

and out of favor throughout the years.

In the early years, the proceeds of the Annual Benefit Card Party and Fashion Show were donated to the Farmington Community Center and the Farmington Community Library.

The first money-making project was the publication of an hors d'oeuvres cookbook in 1972. This project yielded a grand total of \$100. The next benefit affair, a "Taste and See" luncheon with homemade dishes brought by each member, was held two years later in 1974.

A Style Show took place during the serving of lunch, with fashions provided by a local merchant. Recipes for the dishes brought to the affair were duplicated, and put into booklet form for sale to members and their friends.

In the late '70s, funds were accumulating and a decision was made to make sizable donations to two worthy recipients, the Michigan Cancer Foundation and the Farmington Community Center. This decision was the beginning of an enthusiastic change of direction for the club. The focus from here on became twofold: friendship and service to the community, through various philanthropic and social activities.

The club's philanthropic activities have grown as the Club's enduring commitment to needy organizations and groups within the community has matured. The activities reflect a wide range of charitable and philanthropic concerns.

Cancer pads have been sewn by

the members almost from the very inception of the Farmington Neighbors Club. This was done in the homes of individual members until 1984, when it moved to the Orchard United Methodist Church because of the need for more space and a place to store supplies. The church has very graciously allowed the group to use a room, rent free, since that time. The knitting of infant clothing for Botsford Hospital is another favorite on-going activity of the Club.

For many years now, donations of money and food have been collected and given to the Salvation Army in Farmington, and, in the past, when the need was greatest, to other local food distribution centers such as Duns Soots and St. Alexander Church, as well.

Each Christmas children's toys and warm knitted hats, scarves and mittens, or a monetary gift to the needy are donated by each member and brought to the December meeting.

The Rainbow Connection has been the recipient of sizable donations from the club for several years. This charity helps fulfill the wishes of at least 100 children with life-threatening illnesses

each year.

The club has also each year sent a high school girl to the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Citizenship Training Program.

As a special project one year, used eyeglasses were collected from the members and distributed to Third World people in need of them, in cooperation with the Lion's Club.

Throughout the years, a number of activity groups have been formed and a wide variety of activities have been initiated, to serve the broad and varied interests of the membership.

In addition to bridge and Lunch-Out, the members have participated in an almost endless variety of activities: an at-home dining group, bowling, golf, as well as cross country skiing, and a crafts club.

A progressive dinner went well one year as an outside event, as did a catered lobster dinner, a wiener roast at Kensington Park and a Detroit night club tour. A theater group attended the Hillberry Theater a number of times, and it proved to be a very popular event.

Some women moved to the area

when their husbands were transferred from elsewhere. Others moved here, to the suburbs, from Detroit. Some have resided in Farmington, or the surrounding area for many years. Some were born here.

But almost all of them attended their first meeting because a friend invited them to attend, and they decided to come back for more. More of what? Friendship and companionship. A number of newcomers read an announcement of meeting dates in the Farmington Observer. Looking for a place to make a social connection, they decided to attend a meeting. They weren't disappointed.

They found a place that warmly welcomed them. They found fellowship, entertainment, and education.

Connie Blazek is the mother of six, all college graduates. She was employed by U.S. Steel in public relations and by a Suburban Chicago school district as an audiovisual librarian. She has been involved in numerous church, community, and education activities. She is past-president of the Farmington Neighbors Club.

## Nurses will host fashion show

Michigan League for Nursing's fourth annual fashion show, auction and luncheon, "Signature on Style '95," is Saturday, Oct. 21. The event will be held at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

This year the honorary chairman is Denise Dador, health editor, WXYZ-TV, Channel 7. Fashions are provided courtesy of Twelve Oaks Mall and coordinated by Take Time Fashion Services.

Doors will open at 11 a.m. with a silent auction. A variety of auction items including baskets donated by the Schools of Nursing program in Michigan will be available.

Proceeds from the event will benefit MLN special projects including the student achievement scholarship awards. Ticket prices are \$30. For more information, or to buy tickets, call the MLN office at (313) 427-1900.

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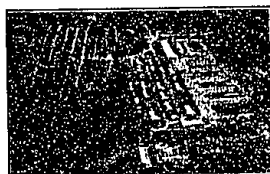
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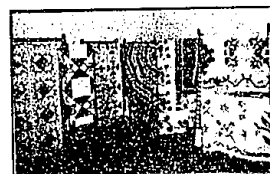
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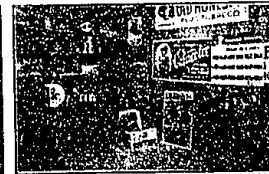
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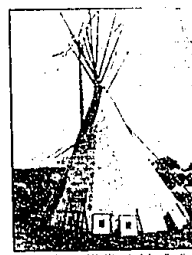
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