

CHAT ROOM



Sheila Maltz

Garden Party is great fun for a super cause

When I was asked to write a story about The Capital Grille's perspective on The Garden Party, which takes place Sunday, June 7, and why we participate, I thought "no problem." I could tell you that it's because it's such a wonderful event, but after several years you already know that. I could tell you what a great cause St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center is, that you already know, too.

So why do we participate in this event and sponsor a dinner the night prior? Because The Capital Grille believes in helping the community raise funds and awareness for the abused children of the center.

When The Capital Grille opened in Troy in August 1996, we were too late for that year's event, but knew 1997 was only a year away. Through our relationship with Judy Dunn of Decanter Imports, we became involved with the 10th annual "La Fete au Jardin" (Garden Party) and also cooked dinner for an intimate group of 63 at Judy's home. What we didn't expect was the admiration the community has for the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center.

A win-win proposition

You also have to consider what the restaurateur receives from The Garden Party. For the Capital Grille, we saw our name in at least three local newspapers, heard it publicized on WOMC and saw our name on invitations, posters, etc. You can't put a price on that kind of public relations. We definitely felt it was a win-win situation for all with the charity receiving the biggest rewards.

Now let's take a look back at Garden Party 1997. We need to begin with the dinner party at Judy Dunn's, which we were told was the prelude to

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Undertaking still under way in downtown



By RUTH MOSELMAN
SPECIAL
WRITER

The way Farmington buried their deceased changed dramatically in 1857 when a local carpenter became Farmington's first undertaker.

Sergius P. Lyon was a man of many interests and numerous professions. He was born in New York in 1805, the son of millwright Eli Lyon.

Children in the 19th century usually attended school for the basics: reading, writing and arithmetic. Young Sergius was no exception. His formal education ended when he reached 13.

He had an aptitude for tools and became a mechanic. He worked as a joiner, which was a carpenter. He also did brass work and clock work.

He married an Englishwoman, Lucinda Davis, when he was 28 years old. They lived in East Bloomfield, N.Y., where his family had been pioneer settlers.

In 1837, when Michigan became a state, Sergius and Lucinda came to Farmington. Other relatives were already living in Michigan.

Lucinda's aunt, Hannah Simmons, lived in Livonia.

Hannah's husband, Joshua Simmons, was an early settler of Livonia. "The 1877 History of Oakland County" records that Joshua Simmons had come in 1826 and stepped on his way

to Livonia at the Power settlement.

Arthur Power, a 1824 settler, the first in Farmington, already had a log house where he welcomed other pioneers.

By the time Sergius and Lucinda came to Farmington, the community had resources like saw milled lumber. Sergius Lyon designed and built a mansion for Joshua Simmons. It is still standing at Greenmead in Livonia, which was the original Simmons property.

Other buildings that Sergius Lyon designed and built included houses for Joshua Simmons' three sons.

An outstanding example of his design is the Lawrence Simmons house on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. This Gothic Revival building has outstanding examples of Gothic style trim.

This house is on the Michigan Register of Historic Places, and is part of a Farmington Hills Historic District. It is now used as a law office.

Lyon built numerous houses and barns and then went into the business of ready-made coffins and self-regulating stoves. From 1844 to 1857, the stoves were all "handmade of sheet iron."

In 1857, Lyon became an undertaker. Before that, the deceased were laid out in the parlor at home. Once profes-

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Above: Undertakers Walter Sundquist and Mark Ziegler stand in front of the Historic Plaque which marks the spot of the first funeral home in town. They currently operate the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home at that site. At left, the grave marker of Sergius P. Lyon, Farmington's first undertaker, who is buried at Oakwood Cemetery on Grand River.



Be chatty

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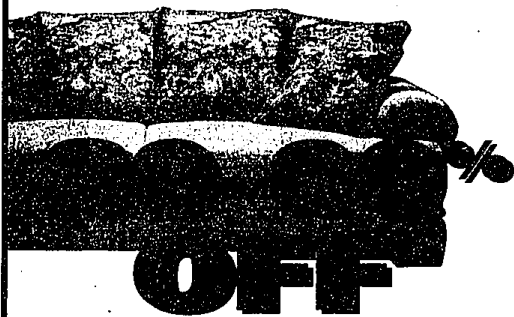
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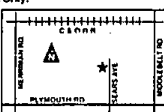
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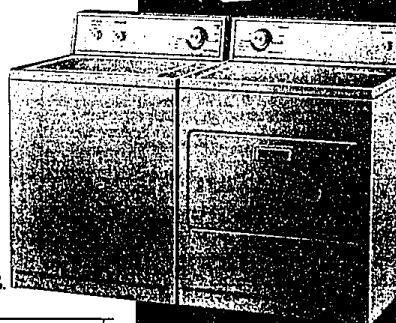
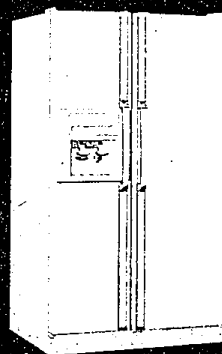
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