The Name's Familiar" By Laura Lee (Pelican Pub. Co., 1999, \$9.95)

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makes fascinating book

Origin of familiar names

ural garb that does not hide your best features."

And William Russell Frisbee originally made fruit pies, not flying saucer toys. His bakery became popular with students at Yale University when they discovered the serodynamic properties of his pie tins.

First manufactured by Wham-O Toy Company as the Pluter changed to "Frisbee" when a company oxecutive heard about the game played at fluir is checkfully and the serodynamic properties of the product the game played at fluir is checkfully the serodynamic series of the serodynamic properties of people who gave their manedata, fundied minibiographies of people who gave their fluir products we use everyday. There are the more well known stories of Singer, Kollogg, Hoover, and Heins but some less famous names are included as well: Adolphe Sar (saxophono). Sylvester Graham (crackers), and Maximilian Berlitz (language schools). Henry Heins, by the way, succeeded in producing 1,100 different products, but as Lee explains, "he liked the sound of the number 57. So 57 varieties became a fixture in his advertising."

In addition to product names, the book also traces the origin of eponymous jazgon. Why, for example, do we call a heavy drinker a "lush?" (Tho word originates from the name of the esteemed but often inebriated Dr. Thomas Lushington, a choplain who later lent his name to a London pub.) How did a muscle cramp come to be called a "charley horse?" (After a real Ever wonder where were ilke Jacuzi, Lectard, and Frisbee come from?

The sy're eponyma, words derived from people's names. According to journalist and former radio announcer Laura Lee, there are hundreds of them, and their study provides both faccinating trivia and unique glimpees into our nation's post.

Consider Mr. Candido Jacuzzi, an Italian immigrant who, along with his brother, designed a propeller known as the "Jacuzzi toothpick" for World War Iplanes. Whom Mr. Jacuzzi's eon suffered from rheumatoid arthritis, he used his technical knowhow to create a hot-water hydromassage. Thus, the het tub was born.

Then there was Jules Lectard,

masses. Thus, the het tub was been the there was Jules Lectard, a French trapers artist in the 1850s, the first to turn a somersault in midair and the inspiration for the song "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze."

Lectard would have been proud that the pants he wore during performances eventually caught on, albeit in a more subdued environment. He once urged men to "put on a more nat-

horse who limped while pulling a roller in the Chicago White Sox ball park.) And why does quis-ling mean traitor? (Norwegian Vidkun Quisling helped the Ger-mans invade his own country and was later tried for treason.) The book by the one-time Farmington Hills resident con-

The book by the one-time Farmington Hills resident contains many more entries, such as 16th century Elizabeth Foater Goote, who created rhymes to entertain her 10 stepchildren, and Gabriel Fallopius, who wanted to become a priest but ended up studying the female reproductive system instead.

But if you want to know the origin of Barbie and Ken, or who the client heir monikers to Eleanor Righy, James Bond, and Charlie Brown, you'll have to read the book yourself. The Name's Familiar' is a concise read, sometimes witty and often inspiring.

The men and women who created the goods and services we take for granted today didn't wave a magic wand. Their success was built on hard work and the ability to bounce back after numerous failures.

Besides being a handy etymnological resource, Laura Lee's book is a tribute to their perseverance and accomplishments.

The Name's Familiar' is available at Border's Books.

Esther Littmann is a resident

Esther Littmann is a resident of Bloomfield Township and a tutor in English. You can leave her a message on a touch-tone phone at (734) 953-2047. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

## Mort Crim's book uses good news to uplift spirits

If you ever heard the Apollo 11 moon landing reported on the ABC Radio Network, then you heard Mort Crim. For 35 years his warm style of illustrating the news with poignant stories have made sisteners think twice.

"Good News for a Changel" gives readers a positive, motivating view of everyday events, through true stories that have great lessons. In these 84 short messages, Crim applies a positive view to contemporary con-

With all the negative and had news reported, it is time to read Good News for a Change!
Crim is creator and host of the award-winning radio series, Second Thoughts, now airing nover 800 stations nationavide. From 1978-1997, Mort was painted the award-winning radio series, series of the series of

## BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features events at suburban bookstores, libraries and literary gatherings. Send news leads to Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 38261 Schooleraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to kwygonik@oe. homecomm.net

USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Southfield Public Library will hold their semi-annual used book sale Oct. 20-24 annual used book sale Oct. 20-24 in the Marcotte Room of the Library. 26000 Evergreen Road. To open the sale, the Friends will host a treditional preview night Wednesday, Oct. 20, from 6-8:30 p.m. The admission fee of \$5 entitles however to proving the p.m. The admission fee of \$5 anti-ties browsers to proview the books for sale and enjoy compli-mentary refreshments. Admission to the sale Thursday through Sunday is free, Hours are 9:30 a.m.43:0 p.m. Oct. 22 and 23; and 14:30 p.m. Oct. 24. Gall (246) 948-0451 for Information. BUSMESS & RPOUP Borders Fermington Hills hosts its monthly Business Book Group from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wadnesday, Oct. 20, at the store located at 30995 Orchard Lake Road. Hosted by Dee Dee Sung of

Road. Hosted by Dee Dee Sung of Golden Mortgage and facilitated by Robert Del Valle, the book to by Robert Der Volle, the book to be discussed is "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People," by Stephen Cover, Sung is a local business development and litera-ture expert with a proven track record of helping others promote their businesses and learn public soeaking.

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MEET THE AUTHOR

Author Sendre Brewer will sign and discuss her new book,

"Murder for Beitene," a story about a vampire novellat who tries to solve the Brennen County, Miloh., murders. Brewer will appear at Borders Books & Music in Dearborn, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 19. Call (313) 271-4441 for information. 4441 for Information.
Marian Edwards of Livonia will sign copies of her latest romance novel "Heaven's Reward" 5-7 p.m. Friday, Cot 22, at the Books Connection of Livonia, Middlebelt and Saven Mile in the Mich Plaza. Edwards' first book appeared in 1994; you can obtain signed copies of her book prior to or after the signing event by going to the store or calling toll-free (277) 268-3397. This is Edwards' fifth book according to store owner Patricla Franks.

Edwards fifth book according to store owner Patricle Franks, SHAMAN PRUSH JORGY SMITH visits Shaman Drum In Ann Arbor to read from "Where the Roots Reach for Water: A Personal and Naturel History of Metanchoila." Metanchoila, the classical term for what we call adpression, has ancient links to spirituality, sexuality, art and philosophy, and especially to our relationship with landscapes. In his work, Smith explores melanchoila in what is pert memoir, pert natural history and pert cultural study. This program is set tural study. This program is sat for 8-10 p.m. Wednesday, Oct.

20. Statistal of units located at 313 S. State in Ann Anor.

SPOOKY STUFF
Virgline Balley Parker, the author of "Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton," will share some of her anecdotes at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. Her stories of apparitions, phantoms sounds, objects moving on their own and ceric lights are set in some of Canton's Victorian farmhouses. Her research turned up tales of childhood pranks, historic tragedies and other paranomal happenings. Call (734) 453O750 for Information.

SONGERS SOCIAL AND BILLIES.
Just In time for Hallowsen, 313 S. State in Ann Arbor.

20. Shaman Drum is located at

Just in time for Halloween, Borders Books and Music in Dearborn presents Helen Mamalakis' "Dearborn's Eerle

Tales ... and Then Some." Great for members of the whole family, this third edition of non-threaten-ing ghost stories will have you on the edge of your seet. Hear the bizarre tales at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, at the store located on Ford Road near Greenfield. Call (313) 271-4441 for Information.

We dare you! LIBRARY PROGRAMS

IMPRAY PROGRAMS

The Michigan Humanities Council and the Friends of the Livonia Public Library present Literary Outsiders: Contemporary Voices. This series at the Carl Sandburg Library Let June 19 Library in Liverila offers a collection of stories of love, betraval,

tion of stories of love, betrayal, mystery and madness, stories that lay bare the terrible lies of love and madness that bind us all. Programs take place the following Tuesdays:

B Oct. 26: Beans of Egypt, Maine The Southfield Public Library persons suston Dr. Ray Kamop In a discussion of his book "Ancient and Madear Charles with the control of the discussion of his book "Ancient and Modern Chaldean History: A Comprehensive Bibliography of Sources." This book by the Southfield resident and Chaldean history expert will be a valuable addition to local reference materials – the metro-Detroit area contains a very large Chaldean community. Dr. Kennoo Will appear from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, at the library, cortect at 19, et the library, located at 26000 Southfield Road, Call (1-

800) 462-6420.

Famington Observer reporter and Livopia resident Tim Smith will sign copies of his new book, "Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Bables – Little Thumbs

Upt; ■ Thursday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. Borders, Auburn Hills, n Sęturdey, Oct. 30, 2 p.m., Walsanbooks, Lakeside Mall, Stefling Heights. Smith can be contacted directly at (248) 477-5450.