

Gala Close To Home

'Dimes' Ball Will Welcome 1972



m.m. memos

Of course I wasn't really glad Christmas was over, I assured one of the girls on Dec. 26.

And I meant it. No matter how rushed the season, it never fails to excite me.

But because the rush may have communicated itself as strongly as the excitement, I'll make a few resolved before we pack Christmas away in cardboard boxes for another year.

One is that I'll write down now some of the things I thought of too late. And do them while there's still time next year.

I'll cut down a bit on plans, so we all can enjoy more the activities of the season.

Although I object to carols in the stores early in the shopping season, I'll get our own records into full view by Dec. 1. Then I won't be listening to my favorites for the first time on Christmas Day.

I'll be more a stickler for tradition, rather than giving in to expediency, realizing how much our time-honored ways of doing things mean to all of us.

Mainly, I'll try to keep in mind that Christmas is just one of 365—oops, 366—days on the 1972 calendar. I'll try to make the rest of them count, too.

—Margaret Miller

Tickets are the same price for all attending, she added, advising all couples to arrive in time for dinner.

An auction of some of the donated gift items will be one of the features of the evening. Others will be awarded as prizes.

Mrs. Norene Ferrari is co-chairman of the event. The ball committee urged advance purchase of tickets, which are available at D.D. Hair Fashions on Main Street in Plymouth, Pick of the Wick in the Plymouth Mini-Mall and Minerva's-Dunning's, or by calling Mrs. Robert Olson, 1464 Hartsough, Plymouth, or Mrs. Vincent Ferrari, 47840 Ford Road, Plymouth.

A limited number of tickets may be available at the door.

"Have fun for charity; bring the whole crowd," is the theme of the first annual March of Dimes New Year's Eve dance.

"We hope we're starting a tradition," Mrs. Olson said.



A NEW YEAR HAT for the Plymouth March of Dimes New Year's Eve Ball gets a try-on, with Mrs. Joyce Merchant doing the honors for Bob Olson. Bob and George Merchant (right) will serve as doormen for the charity dance at the Mayflower Meeting House. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

For St. Michael Parish

Holidays Now Mean Sharing

For members of St. Michael Catholic Parish in Livonia, Christmas and other holidays become each year a time for a little more sharing.

From children in the parish school, located at Plymouth and Hubbard, to women in the altar guild circles, the St. Michael outreach keeps widening.

Now included are several inner-city parochial schools, a lot of Detroit families, children who are patients in St. Mary hospital, and several Observer-area nursing homes.

"The holidays mean more when we think beyond ourselves," said Sister Mary de Sales, principal of the St. Michael school. "And it's been a parish-wide effort — now some of our families keep up year-round contact with families in the inner city."

ACTIVITIES earlier this year have included taking about 600 candy-filled Easter baskets to three Detroit parishes — St. Leo, St. Anne and Most Holy Trinity — and distributing baskets of groceries to families in the inner-city at Thanksgiving.

Then at Christmas more baskets were delivered — to different families — and the children of the school brought gifts for distribution to the children in the downtown parishes.

"Each child picked out a new toy — one he would like to receive," said Sr. de Sales. "Then we wrapped and sorted the gifts according to age and sex, and some of the sisters from the school and women from the parish delivered them just before Christmas."

SEVENTH GRADE children at the school made caroling in nearby convalescent homes their special Christmas project, Sr. de Sales said.

"We were so pleased at how much the older people in the homes enjoyed having the children there," she added. "They wanted to touch them, and many told us the carols we sang were their favorites."

China Painters Go Chinese

The Northville Spring China Decorators will hold their first meeting of the new year at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 6, in the Plymouth Credit Union.

Goldie Latchford will continue her workshop on decorating jars in oriental style. Members who have prepared the background finish to the jars will apply Chinese designs and gold filigree. Their completed containers will be similar to those likely to be seen in stores to foretell President Richard Nixon's visit to China in February.

has spread through the parish. "Whole families get involved," she said. "Many families in our parish have adopted families with children of similar ages that we met through our school visits."

"One bachelor asked what

he could do this Christmas and I gave him the name of a family badly in need of sleepers for the children. He went out and bought them himself."

"A family in our parish that is moving to Arizona decided to give up part of its own

Christmas and supplied boots for a Detroit family.

"Our catechism classes have provided food for the baskets. A sewing group of older women meets each Tuesday and makes lap robes and slippers for patients at the nursing homes. One circle in

the women's guild picks up the heating bill for a needy family each month."

"It's really mushroomed," said Sr. de Sales, and she and Mrs. Weinburger agreed that the activity is of great benefit to St. Michael giver as well as inner-city receiver.



REPRESENTATIVES of the children of St. Michael Catholic school in Livonia are shown with some of the gifts brought for inner-city children. From left are David West, Kathleen

Murphy, Mary Kay Skender and Peggy Kennedy. With them is Sister Mary de Sales, school principal. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

GOP Unit Picks Slate

Norma Henderson was re-elected president at the last meeting of the Republican Women's Organization of Farmington.

Other officers are Mary Rairigh, first vice president; Elsa Harms, second vice president; Annabel Gabel, recording secretary; Pat

Hamlin, corresponding secretary; and William Northway, treasurer.

Plans for fund-raising events such as card parties and a fashion show will be made at the January board meeting.

Born Dec. 16

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Trombley of South Lyon announce the birth of their first son, Kurt Franklin, Dec. 16, in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. Kurt's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Norris White and Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Trombley, all of Plymouth.



GIFTS WERE PLACED on the desks of children in Holy Trinity Catholic school in Detroit.

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