

# Truck Dispenses Goodies, Wins Friends



M. W.'S SNACK HAVEN makes a stop on its Garden City rounds. From left are Elaine Pera, Mrs. Mary Wilkinson, Mrs. Kathy Colias and

two young customers. (Observer photos by Bob Woodring)

By MARGARET MILLER  
Women's Editor

Mrs. Mary Wilkinson of Garden City decided she was too young to retire. So instead she bought an ice cream truck, and now she and her helpers have a whole host of new friends and stories by the mile to relate.

Mrs. Wilkinson, her daughter, Elaine Pera, and her neighbor, Mrs. Theodore Colias, are spending an interesting summer dispensing popcorn and hot dogs as well as all kinds of frozen goodies to the kids up and down the streets that M.W.'s Snack Haven travels.

"I DRIVE down Merriman making popcorn," said Kathy Colias. "I never did THAT before."

"You have to make it while driving between the subdivisions," Mrs. Wilkinson

explained. "Otherwise you run out."

The three women drive in shifts, along with Mary's husband, James, who had planned to retire but didn't, so he now adds the ice cream truck to his Ford Motor Co. schedule.

They all find they need lots of popcorn. "A bag of it costs 25 cents," Mary Wilkinson said, "and the ice cream items are 15 cents. But sometimes the kids come out with only a nickel or a few cents."

"We know that that may be all the mother had to spare that day—I remember how that was."

"So we give him as much popcorn as his money will buy."

MRS. WILKINSON purchased her truck from a Livonian in May and, after clearing up problems of

transferring license plates, was able to start off with a bang at a school fair.

"None of us knew anything about running any of the equipment," she recalls. "We learned a lot that weekend. Then came some problems with the truck's generator."

"For a while we could run just one machine at a time," Mrs. Colias said. "And I got stuck in a sandpile one afternoon." Elaine added, "I thought no one would ever come to rescue me."

DRIVING their route, the women have learned to make adjustments to suit the different neighborhoods they travel.

"There's one mother who asked us not to play loud music when driving past her house early in the afternoon because it wakes her baby," Mrs. Wilkinson said.

"So we turn down the music

there. But there's another street where several deaf children live. There we turn up the volume."

Mrs. Wilkinson figures the business takes in \$70 to \$80 on a good afternoon and evening. After supper the truck usually heads for the site of a Little League game, and Mrs. Wilkinson plans to be on hand at football games with hot dogs and popcorn this fall.

"Buying the truck was typical of Mary," said Kathy Colias of her neighbor.

"After she took a beauty course, she bought a shop. Now, going into this business, she just buys the truck."

Mrs. Colias added that several other neighbors on Block street have pitched in to lend a hand in the new business. "My brother has been painting signs on the truck," she said, "and others

have helped with repairs."

"But it's been wonderful for the neighborhood. It used to be

sort of dull here—then in came this big carnival truck. People started smiling."



MARY WILKINSON in her truck.

## Spotlight on Women m. m. memos

The awe-inspiring events of Apollo 15 leave me continually amazed at man's progress.

They also make me feel that the moon really isn't too far from home.

It's not just the clear television depiction that brings moon exploration right into our living room—it's also those conversations between astronauts and Houston control.

"Can't we consolidate these two bags into one?" David Scott and James Irwin pondered as they packed their Falcon to depart from the moon.

"Good idea," said Houston, adding instructions on where to stow everything in the LEM.

(Sounded for all the world like our family trying to find room in the car for all the things we wanted to bring home from vacation.)

Then there was the matter of sweeping dust off the window of their vehicle. The astronauts found they had to go over the job a second time.

("Get that room REALLY clean," I could hear myself saying.)

There were two reminders to put the dust-brush back in the LEM.

("And when you finish, be sure to put the vacuum cleaner away.")

The more visitors to the moon, the closer it seems to get.

—MARGARET MILLER

## Local Family Has Reunion Last Session Set For Kiddie Kamp

Sixty members of the Wagenschutz family, many of them residents of this area, gathered recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wagenschutz of Livonia for the clan's 43rd annual reunion.

They ranged in age from small Jennifer Doble, who is a year and a half, to 90-year-old Mrs. Elizabeth Wagenschutz Marsh, who lives in Chelsea.

The family has been a part of the area's history since 1876 when Carl and Minnie Wagenschutz came from

Germany and settled on a farm in Livonia Township.

Later the family lived in Farmington and Plymouth Townships.

Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Emma Partridge of Tecumseh are the two remaining among 10 children in that family. Mrs. Partridge also was present at the reunion.

The gathering featured a pot-luck dinner, with each lady in the clan bringing her favorite dish, a swim for the young in one of Livonia's

municipal pools, games and conversation.

The large family scrapbooks, kept since the first reunion in 1928, were much in demand as usual.

Dr. and Mrs. Honorato Barrios and their four daughters, who home is in Hancock, on the shores of Lake Superior, traveled the longest distance to attend.

Numerous members of the Wagenschutz family have been active in the growth of Observant communities over the years.

The final session of Kiddie Kamp, a day camp program for pre-schoolers offered by the Livonia Family Y, will begin Aug. 9.

Registrations are being accepted at the Y, 14255 Stark, Livonia.

Camp meets from 9 a.m. to 12 noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The program for four and five-year-olds features

creative play and physical activities designed to prepare them for kindergarten.

Diane Michaelson, a Wayne State University student, is director of the program. Mrs. Michaelson, an education major, has been active in YWCA youth activities for three years.

She is assisted by Mike Heilmann, a student at Michigan Technical University.

## Real Life Scenario

# Young Livonia Couple Stars



"It was just like a movie," sighed a young friend of dark-haired Cathy McEvoy.

And indeed, a Hollywood scenario writer might well have wanted to put on celluloid the events that took place last week when the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Bell of Livonia became engaged to Vietnam-bound Donald McMillan Jr.

The film could start with scenes at Stevenson High School, where Cathy and Don, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald McMillan Sr., also of Livonia, first became acquainted.

MOVE ON to Don's being called into the U.S. Army and his basic training and helicopter school days.

Then a 17-day furlough back home, when he and Cathy had plenty of time to enjoy the present and think a bit about the future before Don had to take off again, this time for a 10 month stint in Vietnam.

Next scene to depict is a telephone booth somewhere between Michigan and the West Coast. Don has decided to propose to Cathy.

Cut to Livonia. Cathy accepts.

The two families give their approval and decide to have a get-acquainted dinner.

NOW COMES the big scene. You can't very well send an engagement ring via

telephone, but the young soldier's father, Donald McMillan Sr., is prepared for that emergency.

He remembers the four rings left him by his mother, Mrs. Katherine McMillan, when she died some years ago. One of them, an heirloom ring at least 100 years old, will be a perfect engagement ring for Cathy, father and son decide.

So, in our movie, Cathy's prospective father-in-law steps to her side when the families are together.

"I have something to tell you, Cathy," he says.

Cathy registers momentary panic. Has someone had a change of mind—or heart?

DELIGHT REPLACES apprehension when Don McMillan Sr. takes from his pocket a gold circlet set with three sapphires and two diamonds and places it on Cathy's third finger, left hand.

And, to make everything complete, an Observer Newspapers photographer suddenly appears on the scene to record the event for posterity.

Young Don has 10 months ahead in Vietnam and Cathy is going into her senior year at Stevenson. Then they'll decide the wedding date.

Meanwhile, her friend assures all, "Cathy's very happy!"

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