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Yacht Club Eyes New Float Ideas

By ELINOR GRAHAM

PLYMOUTH With its belated New Years Eve party proclaimed an unqualified success, Observerland's only yacht club is heading full sail for its next major venture, a float in Plymouth's Fourth of July parade.

The parade entry will be all the floating possible for the Tonquish Creek Yacht Club, since none of its members owns a yacht.

Somewhat, there's a sense of justice in the revival of Tonquish Creek's claim to fame. The meandering little stream that rises out in Plymouth Township, flows through and under the city of Plymouth, back through the township and Westland until it joins the Middle Rouge, once played a major role in the village of Plymouth.

The following quote is from a history of the Plymouth Fire Dept.:

"TO FIGHT early fires, people banded together in bucket brigades. Water was often drawn from Tonquish Creek, which ran along Harvey Street north of Ann Arbor Trail, and then jogged south to run where Forest Ave. is now. The creek is still there but runs underground. "It is possible that the big fire of 1893 spurred the townspeople on to doing something about a fire department. Flames clawed the sky all day long in that fire, which destroyed the business district on Main St. between Ann Arbor Trail and Pennington Ave.

"A call for help was sent to the Detroit Fire Department. They obliged by putting a fire truck on a flat car and sending it out by train. By the time the assistance from Detroit got here, the people of Plymouth had dammed up Tonquish Creek.

"The Detroit crew began pumping water from the creek to fight the blaze. Unfortunately, the creek began to run dry, and sand got into the expensive Detroit equipment.

"The City of Detroit quickly dropped its good Samaritan role and sued Plymouth for the cost of the damage."

NO ONE recalls Tonquish as a raging stream 80 years ago. It is hard to imagine Indians

piloting their birch bark canoes between its narrow banks.

Yacht club members have tossed around plans for widening the creek and making it navigable as far as the St. Lawrence Seaway. Although the club has made great strides in its eight months of existence, a float in the July 4th parade is about all it can aspire to at this time.

Announcement of a contest for the design of the float was made by the commodore, Robert B. Delaney, at the March 24 New Years Eve party. For any of those 400 members and guests at the dinner dance in the Mayflower Meeting House who were unable to hear the contest rules, here they are:

A cash prize of \$25 and an honorary membership will be awarded for the best sketch for a float design, for the fourth of July parade.

All entries must be attached to one of the following items and mailed to the TCYC administrative offices, at 747 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, by June 1:

- 1) Old Arch Vallier campaign posters.
- 2) Old Herb Straley news clipping.
- 3) Old "Mango" application for remodeling.
- 4) Any old unpaid Plymouth parking tickets.
- 5) Old street closing notices.
- 6) Old obscenity ordinances.
- 7) Old bailbonds or fine receipts for selling printed material, without a Plymouth license.
- 8) An essay by a ninth grader explaining why the city was right in rejecting a plan to construct a five story luxury apartment in downtown Plymouth.
- 9) A brief make-believe story about Margaret Wilson's explanation to the city commission, why she should be permitted to show "X" rated movies.
- 10) A copy of an old Plymouth Eagle.
- 11) A Johnny Billingsley clean plate award certificate.
- 12) An imaginary conversation with Bud Schrader after a hard day's work.
- 13) A certified copy of Carl Berry's qualification questionnaire submitted to the Jaycees for the "man of the year" award.
- 14) A pair of Judge Davis's old jogging shorts.
- 15) An explanation why Frank Millington should not erect a guillotine in the township, if he is elected the supervisor.



LIBRARY PREVIEW -- The Farmington Friends of the Library were given a private preview tour of the new Farmington Public Library on 12 Mile east of Farmington Rd. on March 26. Frank Ebner, Friends board member,

watches Ricky Justice and Lisa Hane sitting at a table in the library. The table can be raised to accommodate children when reading large books. Also shown is Mrs. Helen Moorhouse. (Evert photo)

Farmington Community Center Tells Spring Activity Schedule

FARMINGTON It is tee time at the Farmington Community Center. Golf is just one of the newcomers to this spring's roster of classes to begin in mid-April and now is the time to register.

Taught by Bob Esler, a PGA member and golf pro, the classes will be available for men, women and youngsters from eight years of age. First sessions will be held in the center and ensuing ones at the Top of the Tee Golf Range.

ALSO FOR the sportsmen, Neil Travis will instruct a class in fly-tying.

Membership will be limited to 15 so plenty of individual help will be available. The instructor is a well-known naturalist, fisherman, photographer and nature writer.

"New Approaches to Interior Decoration" will be taught by Carole Caplan with much emphasis on creativity. "Your home should reflect the personality of you and your family," she tells homemakers, "and not adhere to a passing fad."

Sessions will progress through scaling and proportion, furniture styles and mixing periods; colors and fabrics; lighting, window treatments and flooring; and end with rooms that really work and why.

A BOOK REVIEW club will take shape, meeting twice a month under the guidance of Ronald Monfette.

Members will learn the techniques of reviewing but the instructor insists that it will be on a fun level.

Monfette is on sabbatical from his post as apprenticeship director at Schoolcraft Community College, Livonia, and is working on his PhD at Wayne State University. This group activity is free.

For the art enthusiast, three new offerings are on the agenda. Collage as taught by Mary Beard will challenge beginners and more serious students.

Even the novice will concoct products of unusual beauty with the many innovative ideas put to use by the instructor whose work has appeared in shows in America, Europe, and South America.

Line and design with pen and ink is a completely new medium this term. Penny Fleming will inspire the would-be newsletter illustrator to learn the skillful tricks of pen that add zip to otherwise mundane communications.

Miss Fleming has a ceramics studio in Royal Oak, has taught art in Bloomfield Hills and Livonia and for Detroit Arts and Crafts.

Rodney Landman's class in acrylic and oil painting is aimed at the complete novice and the experienced artist.

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