



CHARLES YERKES of Plymouth is shown with his winning painting, "Opus in Black and Red No. 12." An electrician, Yerkes decided to enter the contest sponsored by the Three Cities Art Club as part of Plymouth's Artrain activities, while wiring the train, and was "kind of flabbergasted" with the result, a first in the painting division. Yerkes studied fine arts at Eastern Michigan University, but until the contest, has confined his art efforts to cartooning. His painting is on display at Famous Men's Wear in Plymouth. (Observer photo)



THE OPENING ACT of the Neil Simon comedy "Plaza Suite" is about a marriage that has gone stale. For the Livonia-Redford Theater Guild's production, Alice Fitzpatrick, (right), who plays the wife, looks on as her husband (Charles Noel) and his secretary (Carol Lasso) confer. "Plaza Suite" is scheduled for six performances, April 28-30 and May 5-7. For tickets, call Mrs. Angus Wrigley, 23404 Five Mile, Redford Township, or Mrs. John D. Pierson, 15583 Sussex, Livonia.



THE LAST ACT of "Plaza Suite" is also the nuttiest. Appearing in the Livonia-Redford Theater Guild's version of the conflict between a reluctant bride and her long-suffering parents are (left) Norm Smith, Jan McCulloch and Jeanette Burke. "Plaza Suite" opens this Friday evening at 8:30 for six performances in the LRTG clubhouse, on Beech Daly south of Five Mile, Redford Township.

4 Contemporary Artists Headline Folk Series

ROCHESTER Four contemporary folk artists will headline a series of Wednesday night concerts at Meadow Brook Music Festival this summer.

The four concerts will be given by Buffy Sainte-Marie, Arlo Guthrie, Mary Travers and John Denver.

The Folk Series, which was initiated last year at Meadow Brook has become one of its most successful events, drawing thousands of enthusiasts to the natural wooded setting of Baldwin Pavilion on the Oakland University campus.

BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE will open the series on July 12. A philosophy graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Buffy, who is of Cree Indian heritage, has for 10 years been singing her own songs of protest against war, and expressing her concern for justice.

Arlo Guthrie will take the Meadow Brook stage on July 19. Arlo, a folk troubadour whose performance of "Alice's Restaurant" was one of the highlights of the 1967 Newport Folk Festival, appeared in the movie of the same name, and also was featured in "Woodstock." His albums include "Running Down the Road" and "Washington County."

Mary Travers will perform in concert on July 26. Mary was for ten years the feminine member of the successful trio Peter, Paul and Mary, appearing before over seven million people. Now a solo performer, Miss Travers has released her first LP record as a single, "Mary."

THE LAST FOLK artist to appear at Meadow Brook will be John Denver, who will be featured the night of Aug. 2. Singer, guitarist, and composer, John Denver has emerged as one of the most popular artists on the college concert circuit.

A former member of The Mitchell Trio, one of his compositions, "Leaving on a Jet Plane" became a million-selling record. His two albums, "Rhymes and Reasons" and "Take Me To Tomorrow" which include many of his original compositions, form the basis of his concert repertoire.

Tickets for the series will be \$3.50 per concert for all seats, pavilion and lawn. All seating will be unreserved, and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Artrain Is A Beginning

By BETTY MASSON

Going through Artrain will take you less than an hour, but it may leave an impression that will last a lifetime.

An amazing amount of information about art is contained in the five-car touring art experience now at the C&O depot on Starkweather Street in Plymouth, but maybe what isn't there is just as important.

THE TRAIN serves to pique your curiosity and sends you home to any books about art you happen to have around the house.

And also, hopefully, to create some works of art of your own, or maybe to put mirrors to work as creatively as Artrain has done.

Artrain, sponsored by the Michigan Council for the Arts, and "on the road" since last May, will be in Plymouth until May 6. It is open Monday through Friday, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, from noon to 8 p.m.

I admired "our very first conceptual work" by students from Allen School. It's an innovative work itself, composed of almost everything imaginable - bottle tops, crayons, seeds, bits of wool and a bunch of other stuff which the unimaginative would throw out.

I also like the charming primitive work by Gallimore School's second graders and admire the healthy egos of Smith School's fourth graders. Their poster was composed of self-portraits.

particularly enjoy the section on environmental art, and those who are painting today will want to spend extra time in the car which is devoted to contemporary art. Here variety is definitely the word.

"MAN CREATES," the introductory film is an eight-minute history of art.

"Man is driven to create by his dissatisfaction with that which is," claims the commentary. And "art alone has been the consistent factor by which civilizations have been measured."

How long the urge to create has been around is shown graphically in the first exhibit which features African masks, a funerary stele, Egyptian, Indian and Oriental artifacts dating back 3,000 years, plus a full suit of armor which is a highlight with the kids.

Then it's on to a section on motivation, a series of beautiful photographs of scenes. These are the motivators, man's "love of life and his desire to possess it forever."

NEXT COME the innovators. Klee, Matisse, Rouault and other 19th century impressionists, who wanted to capture more than a view.

Shown next in the train is a brief display and film on the tools men use in creating their works of art.

The ecology-minded will

THE LAST is in some ways the best, watching local craftsmen at work and admiring the works of art by Plymouth's school children which line both the covered walkway from the train and the depot itself.

TOURING THE train doesn't take long, but visiting all the Artrain activities in Plymouth could take a very long time.

Activities for the next week include the following:

April 26-At 8 p.m., Plymouth Study Club lecture by Guy Palazzo, noted Michigan artist and instructor. Plymouth High School Auditorium balcony.

April 27-At 8 p.m., Schoolcraft College Stage Band concert, Plymouth High School Auditorium.

April 28-Student Arts and Crafts Exhibition, Plymouth High School.

April 29-"Kaleidoscope: People Day." An all-day downtown Plymouth celebration with a stamp show, movies, puppets, madrigal singers, mime, theater, strolling minstrels and family fun sponsored by the Rotary Club.

May 1-"Senior Citizens' Day." Special guided tours of Artrain begin at 2 p.m.

May 2-Parade of Bands. Plymouth High School gymnasium.

Brochures are available at Artrain.



A YOUNG VISITOR admires some of the paintings found in Artrain's contemporary exhibition.



ARTRAIN'S SUIT of armor is fascinating to children, and sure proof that people are getting bigger.

amusements

Players Will Stage 'Iolanthe'

Many Southfield and Redford Township residents have roles in the upcoming production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe" by the St. Bede Players of Southfield. It will be staged in the new auditorium at Southfield-Lathrup High School, 19301 W. 12 Mile, Lathrup Village, May 11-13 and 19-20.

Curtain time will be 8 each evening. Tickets are being sold by Mrs. James McMillan, 29429 Somerset, Southfield, 48076. They are \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for students. For the latter, there will be a special opening night rate of 50 cents.

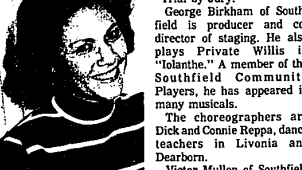
THE MUSICAL director is Joseph Gamache of Southfield, who has directed all of the group's previous productions (beginning in 1966), and sang the lead role in "Trial by Jury."

George Birkham of Southfield is producer and co-director of staging. He also plays Private Willis in "Iolanthe." A member of the Southfield Community Players, he has appeared in many musicals.

The choreographers are Dick and Connie Reppe, dance teachers in Livonia and Dearborn.

Victor Mullen of Southfield is the stage manager and set designer.

RoseMarie Kopec of Redford Township is playing the role of Phyllis. She is a member of St. Hilary Church choir and is the treasurer of the Livonia-Redford Theater Guild.



THE TITLE ROLE is being taken by Mary Drew of Detroit, and Mary Dziwka, a vocal music teacher in the Redford Union schools, plays Leila.

Another teacher, in Southfield, Robert Rogers, is playing Lord Tolliver. A member of the LRTG, he makes his home in Livonia.

Joanne Wagner, has the role of Fieta, and Dr. Ivan L. Green plays Strephon. Both are from Southfield.

Also in the cast are Joyce Uzelac of Lathrup Village, Marian Ostrowski of Oak Park, Diane Amalitano of Lathrup Village, and John Ralish of Detroit.

Last Youth Concert Is April 30

DETROIT The Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra will perform its final concert of the season at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, April 30, in Ford Auditorium.

Mischa Mischakoff, former concertmaster of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and teacher of many members of the Youth Orchestra, will be the soloist in Max Bruch's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra.

Paul Freeman will conduct the program which will include Concerto Grosso for String Orchestra by Ralph Vaughan Williams and "Roman Festivals" by Ottorino Respighi.

Admission to the concert is \$1. All proceeds go to the Youth Orchestra's scholarship fund.

Tickets are available at Ford Auditorium box office.

Last year, all John Benson saved was \$54.32.

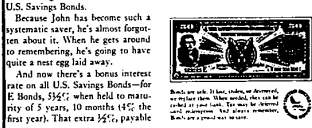
This year, he joined the Payroll Savings Plan.

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