

Local Family Attends Shakespearean Festival

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Annette and daughter Barbara and Alice attended the Shakespearean Festival at Stratford, Ontario, on July 16 and 17.

Besides "Measure for Measure" and "The Taming of the Shrew," both very well done, the Festival this year is doing Oedipus Rex by Sophocles. Under the talented direction of Tyrone Guthrie with all players mixed as was the custom in the ancient Greek theatres, Oedipus Rex is very impressive.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Willoughby are planning to see the plays during the first week of August.

Spoiled Hay Helpful For Fruit Trees, Expert Says

Hay that was spoiled by too much rain at the wrong time may be a blessing in disguise for fruit farmers.

Although unfit for livestock feed, the stuff makes good mulch for the orchard. Dr. H. B. Tukey, head of the Michigan State College horticulture department, says that more and more fruit farmers are finding that mulching pays off.

He asserts that the spoiled hay will add organic matter and improve the orchard soil. It also will prevent moisture run-off and will ready plant food so it can be used by the trees.

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Standardized Schools, Improving Township Government Discussed

Standardized school buildings and township problems received attention of the ninth annual Forum in State and Local Government at Michigan State College.

Standardized school buildings would fit 90 per cent of the requirements of Michigan public schools and save the taxpayers money, according to Louis H. Schimmel, director of the Municipal Advisory Council.

Schimmel argued that public school districts are not getting their money's worth in building new schools because they hire attorneys who do not understand school building procedures and architects who often "have never built anything more than a gas station before."

He said school construction costs are ranging from \$12,000 to \$20,000 a room. Opposition to school standardization comes mainly from "local pride and the architects," Schimmel said.

Dr. Clyde M. Campbell of the MSC department of educational administration said that standardized building might lead to standardized school systems.

More equal representation and better cooperation were cited as needs by panel members to improve fringe problems in Michigan townships. Other needs are better laws to succeed "antique" measures still in effect, and better public relations between citizens and public office holders.

William T. Farn, MSC sociologist, said that fringe areas are continuing to grow in size and are becoming more city-like.

Harry DeLaso, Battle Creek township supervisor, pointed out "Some cities are too crowded. People have to move someplace and the logical place is fringe areas. Problems that have come up haven't been problems that can't be licked. But you've got to have cooperation between the city and the outlying area."

Mid-City Manager Ray Fry said that the need for organized government is based on the basic reasoning "that you can do things together in a group that you can't do individually."

Report of an area study at Flint was given by Homer E. Dowdy.

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BIRTHSTONES FOR AUGUST SYMBOLIZE MARITAL HAPPINESS

The birthstone for August is either the peridot or the sardonyx ... both symbolizing the hope and promise of married happiness.

According to legend as reported by the Jewelry Industry Council, the peridot was supposed to have come from the Serpent Isle in the Red Sea, guarded by zealous watchers whose duty it was to put to death any unauthorized persons who appeared. Not even those who had a right to seek the gem could find the peridot by daylight. It was not until nightfall that it was revealed by its radiance. The seekers then marked the spot and gathered the stones in daylight. Legend also relates that a peridot repels the terrors of the night and, when set in gold, exerts great power over evil spirits.

The peridot, which still comes chiefly from St. John's Island, makes a fine stone for men as well as women. The most preferred shade is a soft delicate green with pale yellow undertones.

The sardonyx, alternate birthstone for August, was reputed to give courage to orators and shy lovers. Scarabs cut from sardonyx have been found in Egyptian ruins, and history tells us that the ancient Romans were the first to choose it for August's birthstone. A stone which combines the beauty of opaque red and brown tones, the sardonyx is found mainly in Brazil and Uruguay today. For men it is popular in, cameos and intaglios or when cut for crests or initials set in a ring.

Entitled to wear the August birthstones as personal good luck tokens are actress Ethel Barrymore, dancer Gene Kelly, former president Herbert Hoover, novelist Edna Ferber and humorist Ogden Nash. Composer Claude Debussy was born in the month of August, as was Napoleon Bonaparte.

Close-Up Views Of Moon Available At Cranbrook

Close-up views of the moon in its first quarter will be available free to the public Friday, July 30, through the six-inch telescope at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Dr. Robert T. Holt, director of the institute, has announced.

Since only one person at a time can look through the telescope, appointments must be made for the demonstration. They can be scheduled by calling Midwest 4-1600, extension 73, during office hours.

If skies are cloudy, a demonstration will be held with the Spitz Junior Planetarium, a small star-projector designed and priced for home use.

Recently the Institute announced plans for Michigan's first large planetarium to be available to the public. A console projector has already been obtained and construction of a special building, large enough to seat about 100 viewers at a time, is expected to begin in early autumn. Funds for the project are currently being raised by popular subscription.

MANY LOST ITEMS FOUND IN STATE PARKS UNCLAIMED

Conservation department workers annually collect several hundreds of lost valuables left in Michigan's state parks, but for some reason these items, often must remain in storage, unclaimed for by their owners.

Parks workers say the lost and found service of the state park system receives dozens of items each year.

The most common is probably the biffood or small purse. At each major park, visitors or park rangers turn in several dozen. Often, these contain currency, coins and other small valuables. All go on state storage shelves to await arrival of their owners.

Other items turn up, too. Somebody lost a set of false teeth at Medicine Park state park last year, but the owner has still failed to claim them.

Eyeglasses, too, are commonly turned in. They range from inexpensive sun glasses to the heavy-lens variety.

Persons who have lost valuables should check with park managers to see if the item has been turned in.

Mrs. Helen Erickson Wins National Quality Award

Mrs. M. Helen Erickson, of 23060 Lilac, a leading member of the New York Life Insurance Company's field force, has been named a winner this year for the fourth time of the National Quality Award given jointly by the National Association of Life Underwriters and the Life Insurance Agency Management Association. It was stated recently at the New York Life home office.

The National Quality Award is a recognition given annually to life underwriters "who conduct themselves according to the highest standards of ethics and who maintain a high standard of competence by means of continuous study and practice." To qualify for the award, an agent must have demonstrated a high degree of service to policyholders as indicated by the percentage of life insurance sold by an agent in a two-year period that is continued in force.

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