

## Patterns Computerized

The use of computerized patterns will be demonstrated this month in the Northland and Westland Centers. Jean Porter, Dritz Fashion representative, will present the patterns in the fabric department of Hudson's, Northland Aug. 20-22 at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. and in the Westland Center, Aug. 29 and 30 at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The patterns are made to exact measurements by a computer and can be adapted to a wide variety of styles. Individual measuring will follow each presentation.

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## 14 Volunteers Receive Awards

Several area teen volunteers recently received caps and service awards in the CandyStripper and American Red Cross youth programs in Providence Hospital.

Special recognition was given to Deborah Ballard, of 19151 Magnolia and Linda Palmer of 17240 Cedarcroft, both of Southfield, for earning their caps, certificates for 100 hours of service, pins for 150 hours, cap stripes for 200 and 300 hours and the gold cross symbolizing 250 hours.

Farmington residents receiving awards were Lori Lilly, 23336 Castlereigh, 100 hour certificate, 150 hour pin; Linda Sibo, 24641 Lee Baker, 100 hour certificate; Mary Lou Trompeter, 18478 Westhampton, 100 hour certificate; and Susan Wise, 27075 Selkirk, 100 hour certificate, 150 hour pin.

From Redford Township were Pam Audette, 9251 Cen-

tralia, a cap for 30 hours of service; Jane Knott, 9993 Virgil, a cap for 30 hours of service and Mary Zivanov, 9978 Virgil, 100 hour certificate, 150 hour pin.

From Southfield were Janet Bauman, 29700 Pierce, 100 hour certificate; Mary Knapp, 29718 Somerset, a cap for 30 hours of service; Anita Scheeter, 25669 Filmore Place, 100 hour certificate, 150 hour pin; Linda Sibo, 24641 Lee Baker, 100 hour certificate; Mary Lou Trompeter, 18478 Westhampton, 100 hour certificate; and Susan Wise, 27075 Selkirk, 100 hour certificate, 150 hour pin.

May Grimm, 27745 Lathrup Blvd., Lathrup Village, received a cap for 30 hours of service.

## Fordson Will Hold Reunion

Fordson High School will hold a 25-year reunion for the January and June classes of 1948 on Saturday, Oct. 6. Alumni interested in attending may call Mrs. Monica Reinhold, 3839 Academy, Dearborn.



LINDA SANDLIN

Mrs. Faye Sandlin, of Purdue Avenue, Farmington, announces the engagement of her daughter, Linda Faye, to Anthony J. Elias, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Elias of Southfield. An Aug. 25 wedding is planned.



By MARGARET MILLER  
Women's Editor

"If I were to go back to my own cultural roots, I suppose I'd find the Parthenon," says Mrs. William Stamelos, a Livonia artist of Greek descent.

"That's my heritage. But now I have a barn, and that's an important part of our culture too."

The barn that is taking over Electra Stamelos' life just now is the sturdy, well-weathered old structure that was built by Ira Wilson when his family's farm was located at Middle Belt and West Chicago, not far from the Livonia subdivision where Mrs. Stamelos and her husband live.

The barn has been slated for demolition to make way for a bank building if the Livonia City Commission decides to rezone the land from its present residential classification.

But because Mrs. Stamelos moved fast when she heard that news, a widespread move now is under way to keep the barn and turn it into an art center.

A committee she heads is reading a fund drive and some detailed architectural planning and will be set for action any time the Livonia City Commission decides against rezoning and the Detroit Federal Savings and Loan Association moves to change location.

"I think it could be a rallying point for the whole

community," she said. "Something that would pull many groups together and make them feel they all had a part in the project."

Electra Stamelos' appreciation for the old barn began when she and her husband first moved to Livonia more than a decade ago.

But her feeling for the kind of heritage it represents goes back a lot farther.

Growing up in Washington in the quieter days before World War II, she was a city child for whom libraries, concerts and museums were an integral part of life.

"I need that sort of culture in my life," she says now. "I still go at least once a month to a museum. It means a renewal of my spirit and soul."

But the Livonia to which she moved after marrying automotive engineer William Stamelos was beginning its sprawl of subdivisions and had little in the way of cultural attractions.

Mrs. Stamelos missed them sorely. But there was the peaceful old barn, and she loved to pass that corner and look at it.

"I used to think of buying it for a studio," said Mrs. Stamelos, who has earned a degree in fine arts from Wayne State University since moving to Livonia.

"The first time I inquired about the price, the figure I heard was \$20,000. The next

time it was \$50,000, and then I stopped asking."

"I'd hear rumors that it was going to be torn down, but they never materialized and I guess I always had in the back of my mind that the family had something special in mind for that property."

So it was a definite shock when she learned at a Livonia Jaycette reunion meeting early this summer that the bank was ready to buy and that the city council was being asked to rezone.

She made arrangements to meet with Livonia Mayor Edward McNamara and talked over with him her ideas of the barn as a center for art.

"I told him about a sculptor friend who had an endowment from the government but no place to display his work," she said. "I felt sure there were others like that and probably more governmental money available to a community interested in using it in that way."

After her meeting with the mayor, a story about her ideas was reported in this newspaper. "There was tremendous response," she said, and several of those interested decided to meet with her and see what could be done.

In the flurry of activity that followed, Livonia Camera Club members made photographs of the barn inside and outside. Mrs. Stamelos' architect nephew made sketches of how it could be and the Jaycettes took over a petition drive. Booths were erected in shopping centers to show the barn's possibilities.

Late in June, the city commission voted to postpone for six weeks any decision on rezoning.

Then Mrs. Stamelos was introduced to a new possibility by Hartley Thornton, naturalist at Proud Lake Recreation Area where she likes to go to paint.

He suggested she should



ELECTRA STAMELOS views the old barn she wants the city of Livonia to save and turn into a museum (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

contact the state Natural Resources Commission.

Mrs. Stamelos was able to arrange a meeting at the barn with Billy Lowery of the Commission's history division.

"He seemed interested," she said later, "and told what we still would need to do to qualify for action from the state. He also indicated that a good part of the reason for his interest was the fact that we were formulating plans for use of the barn."

Since then, the 12-member committee appointed by McNamara has had several meetings and is ready to go with a fund drive.

"I think the next move is up to the city commission," she said. "We can't do anything about looking for money until it decided that the property will not be rezoned and sold."

"After that I can't see that getting the money will be all that hard. It will be work, of course, but there are a lot of people ready to help."

And a very determined artist leading the way.

## VFW Will Hold Party

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Edward J. Bova Post 6986 in Westland will hold a card party Monday, Aug. 13, at 12 noon.

There will be a \$1.25 donation per couple.

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