

Farmington Girl Flies High as an Aerialist

By JERRY WENDT

The former Shirley Boone (Bunny Dowd) of 21306 Whittington, Farmington, is more often up in the air than on the ground. When she isn't doing her aerial act for the Shrine Circus or Fair, she will prob-

ably be flying to another engagement. Bunny Dowd (her professional name) was home for a few days before leaving to fill a six months engagement at the New York World's Fair. She had a chance to interview her about her unusual (to say the least) occupation. Bunny is an aerialist and has been one for eleven years. She works on a high wire, alone, at a distance between 20 to 90 feet from the ground.

Circus performers usually come in families but there is no record of any other performer in the Boone family. When attending Clarenceville High School, Bunny was outstanding in gymnastics and acrobatics. She was in a few amateur and school performances.

Offered a six weeks engagement to replace a friend who had been killed on a high wire, Bunny accepted. From that time on, she has been a performer, full time.

A striking brunette, Bunny is every inch a "pro" about her job, viewing it with calm detachment. "Are you nervous?" we asked.

"Of course," she said. "I am jittery before every performance, but I just tell myself, 'You mean.' She never uses a net."

"How is circus life different

from life in Farmington with your family?" was the next inquiry.

"Rigid discipline," she admitted. "You can eat only once a day, after the show, usually at midnight." She admits that she suffers from hunger pangs, but realizes

what would happen if she suddenly became ill at ninety feet in the air.

"Family life is the same," she explained. "As you know circus people are very clannish, and my own family are closely knit. I don't know what I would have done without my show business

friends after my husband died last summer. She is still very lonely for her husband, who was the bossman of her act and the top rigger. He suffered a tragic early death in the center ring."

Mrs. Boone is delighted to have her daughter home. She is at last used to seeing her twirl about in the air but confessed that for a long time she refused to see her act. The gorgeous scarlet and emerald velvet costumes sparkling with sequins that Bunny wears are designed by her and sewn by her mother.

She has to keep up four or five hours of practice a day and she practices by attaching her rings and bars to a tree in the back yard. The neighborhood children gather in a circle, fascinated, and watch her silently as they know they must be quiet when she is working.



Bunny Dowd



KAREN MCGEEHEN will receive her diploma in the commencement exercises Friday night in the Hackham building. Karen, a 1962 graduate of Plymouth High, plans a short vacation trip to New York City and then will resume studies in nursing at Wayne State University.

Around Plymouth With Ellie

GL 3-0038

(Call Ellie to report social events in your family, neighborhood)



The Robert Spaythies entertained recently at their summer home at Maxfield Lake. The order of the evening was a pot luck dinner, swimming, water skiing and just plain fun. Members of the Mayflower Garden Club and their husbands were guests for the evening.

JOYCE EVELYN Appleton was honored at a bridal shower at the home of Mrs. Gary Appleton recently. Mrs. Seymour Forbush was co-hostess of the party. Twenty-eight guests were on hand.

Carolyn Carpenter of Corbin St. was met at the dock in New York by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carmen Carpenter, when she returned from a two month tour of Europe about the Queen Mary recently. She visited London, Rome, Switzerland and Germany, during her travels.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., was the highlight of a recent motor trip taken by Mrs. Florence Lathers. During her stay in the oldest city in the country, an outstanding musical performance was held in an outdoor amphitheater, commemorating its 400th anniversary.

THREE PLYMOUTH teens, Pam McAllister, Harriet McCully and Diane Arnold have been chosen by the J. L. Hudson Co. to serve as Fashionettes at Westland for the coming year. The three were chosen over some 100 other teens after being recommended by the Plymouth High Home Economics Department.

Meets Sept. 23

The 19th District Republican Party's executive board will meet Thursday Sept. 23, at 8:30 p.m. at the West Bloomfield Township Hall, Orchard Lake Rd. near 15 Mile Rd.

All local Republicans from Redford Township, Livonia and Farmington are welcome to attend.

'Suburbs Need Representation on Circuit Bench'

(Editor's note: Between now and the Sept. 14 election, The Observer is publishing press releases issued by candidates for Wayne County Circuit Court.)

Need for a man of experienced, judicial background to represent the growing out-county area on the Wayne County Circuit Court is being stressed by Judge Richard D. Dunn in his campaign for promotion to the Circuit Court in the coming Sept. 14 primary.

Judge Dunn points out that at the present time there is only one out-county judge on the Circuit Court bench out of a total of 20. And with that bench being increased now to 24, it becomes more important than ever, Judge Dunn adds, that the growing suburban population around the City of Detroit gain additional representation in our county courts.

It becomes equally important, he adds, that the voters place a man of solid judicial experience and knowledge of the entire metropolitan complex on the Circuit Court bench.

The Dearborn Heights Municipal Judge has practiced law in Wayne County since 1951 and has served as township attorney for Dearborn Township for seven years. It was under his guidance that the City of Dearborn Heights was formed and he helped guide its early months as first corporation counsel. He has been municipal judge of that city of 75,000 for over two years.

His practice in the county courts and his record on the Dearborn Heights bench has been marked by a record for fairness and unbiased judgment.

Judge Dunn received his education right in this area, attending Wayne State University and taking his law degree at Detroit College of Law. Judge Dunn is an avowed veteran of World War II with three and a half years' service, mostly in the European Theatre of Operations.

He is recognized professionally throughout Wayne County for his working knowledge of municipal law and is a member of the Detroit and Dearborn Bar Associations and the Michigan State Bar Association.

A promotion to one of the newly-created vacancies in the Wayne County Circuit Court for Judge Dunn would assure the out-county area sincere, devoted, experienced representation on that court, his supporters point out.

KRESGE'S

Boys and Girls! Learn Your ABC's of SCHOOL DISCOUNTS and you may WIN THIS DE LUXE BICYCLE

From this ad, select and list 26 words, each starting with a different letter of the alphabet. Attach list to entry blank. Bring or mail to Kresge's. No purchase necessary. Contest, open to ages 17 and under, closes Saturday 10 a.m., September 11. Winner will be selected from all correct entries by a drawing in the store Saturday, September 11, at 11:00 A.M. You need not be present to win.

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