

The Distaff Side...

By Jerry Wendt, Women's Editor

They were three sisters, and they stood waiting on the dusty platform in the railroad station in Parma, Italy, where they were born. Their talented, industrious mother had taught them everything she knew, and now they must go out in the world to seek their fortune.

Superstitious, they mused among themselves. Then one spoke, "Let's take the first train that comes, then whatever its destination, we'll follow and build there," one suggested. The others agreed. The train pulled in and the conductor announced the fateful name, "Rome." The three sisters climbed aboard, and thus was born the famous Salons of Fontana. Located past the Spanish steps along the Piazza di Spagna in Rome, it is a legendary place.

The story of this salon and of the great of royalty, film stars, and society was told to an audience at the Livonia Town Hall open meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 19.

The Board of Livonia Town Hall made an excellent choice in Signiora Fontana. Volatile, and gifted, she made her world live for all her listeners.

The three sisters who comprise Sorelle Fontana are recognized as being among the world's foremost fashion designers. Micol Fontana was the speaker. Intensely feminine, she dislikes pants suits. In order to be attractive in a pants suit she says, "You have to wear pants at the right place, at the right moment, and have the right figure."

"How many women have that exact description?" she shrugs expressively.

Neither does she like the short skirts. "We designers realize and have for a long time that the knee is not the loveliest part of a woman's figure,"

Her prices are not exorbitant, not in the ready to wear at least, which the Salons of Fontana now imports.

Maria Theresa, her model, displayed some creations for contemporary wear, and some from the new film, "The Bible," which brought oohs and aahs from the audience.

Later, over an excellent luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel in Plymouth, she discussed further details of her life.

Fontana is an absolute devotee of the dress and jackets. "You can always remove the jacket, and you are perfectly dressed," said Fontana, proving her point by removing her own jacket and displaying a perfectly fitting dress. She believes that there is no occasion when a dress and jacket do not answer the clothing problem perfectly.

Fontana is her own best illustration of what a topnotch designer can do for you. She is petite. Dressed in a dress and jacket of Parma violet and shades of purple, the lines made her appear taller and more slender. She is famous for sewing all her clothes by hand.

"It is not always necessary," she smiled, "but it is a wonderful thing to do."

All her clothes are lined and the detailing is elegant. We felt as if we were sitting in a potato sack at every inspection of the courturier clothes.

The Fontanas have been courturiers for over 200 years and their business is still a family affair. Before every collection, or important event, the three sisters design something and then put them all together and decide.

"Of course, she smiled, "we all think ours is the best."

And in remembrance of "Mama" every collection contains the Fontana trademark, at least one dress in a shade of Parma violet, that delicate flower that grows in profusion in the country of their birth.

Fontana does not advocate buying quantities of clothes. "Buy more seldom, and buy better clothes," she said.

The audience liked her and she proved very human, when the pumpkin pie with whipped cream was served, she sighed, "I know I shouldn't, but I love your American pie so," and proceeded to enjoy it.

Some of the famous people who have come to the Salons of Fontana are Princess Maria Pia di Savoia, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, Margaret Truman Daniel (she made her wedding dress), and actresses Elizabeth Taylor and Ava Gardner.

It all proved the truth of what Mama Fontana told her daughters long ago, "you can have success in life, if you will find the work you love and give that work the best of yourself."

Editorial note: There are still a few season tickets available for \$6.50 if you will contact—Mrs. Douglas Thomas, GA 1-8742.



SANDRA MARY BENSON

Mr. and Mrs. William Leon Benson announce the engagement of their daughter, Sandra Mary to Timothy Michael Ellis, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ellis of Livonia. Miss Benson is a 1964 graduate of Forest Park High School, Atlanta, Ga., and is presently employed by Delta Air Lines. Ellis is a 1963 graduate of Farmington High School and is now serving aboard the U.S.S. McCallery. A late fall wedding is planned.

Farmington Girl In Talent Contest

Proud are Farmingtonites of Paula Pendergrass, age 17, that are taught in school. Read up on current events. Know what is going on, not just in your own backyard but a little beyond.

Paula doesn't stay "just in her own backyard" for three years ago when a Freshman contestants down to 800, a written test further narrowed the list down to sixty. The talent presentation determined winners on Oct. 19.

Miss Pendergrass attends Marian High School in Birmingham and music is one of her studies. As her talent presentation, Paula played the piano, sang and did a skit with choreography. A medalion and certificate was awarded to the ten finalists.

Paula is still vibrating with "the most exciting thing that ever happened to me." She said that it was quite an experience for the competition was tough and she really had to be on her toes. Her words of wisdom or advice are to learn the subjects that are taught in school.

Lake, Marlene Gardner of Clawson and Jean Radley of Bloomfield. One night a week they get together to practice and Paula does the lead singing.

Last May, the Barber Shop Quartet was in a talent contest. It came in first place and each of the young ladies received a watch.

Hootenannies and school programs have been their extent of exhibition but their dream or goal is to be in the Sweet Adeline competitions.

CUSTOM REUPHOLSTERING

All Styles, Largest Fabric Selection in Area. LIVONIA INTERIORS Reupholstering, Upholstery, 4399 Plymouth Road, Corner State, 323-4760



BEAUTIFUL Marie Theresa modeled Fontana's latest creations for the Town Hall audience, Wednesday, Oct. 19.



GAY LEE KALMBACH

Mr. and Mrs. Joan E. Stout, 510 Jene St., Plymouth, announce the engagement of their daughter, Gay Lee Kalmbach to Craig Allen Newton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Newton, 309 Auburn St., Plymouth. Both are 1963 graduates of Plymouth High School. Miss Kalmbach attended Eastern Michigan University and is employed at Detroit Diesel Engine Division. Newton attended Michigan State University and is presently a SVCS in the U.S. Coast Guard, stationed at Groton, Conn. A June 1967 wedding is planned.



MARILYN BURCKHARDT

The engagement of Marilyn Burckhardt to Colin Ward Wren is announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Burckhardt of Baton Rouge, La., formerly of Grosse Ile, Mich. The bride-elect is a graduate of Western Michigan University and currently is employed by the South Redford school system. Her fiance, son of Dr. and Mrs. Hugh M. Wren of Redford Township, also graduated from Western Michigan and is employed by the J. L. Hudson Co. while working toward a master's degree in business management at Wayne State University. The couple plans to be married in June.

Let your child hold an egg-timer while taking his temperature. As he watches the sand in the timer, his temperature will be taken before he realizes and without fuss.

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY YOUR CHOICE OF 3 STYLES SHOWN LIMITED TIME ONLY!

LA-Z-BOY RECLINA-ROCKER®

A Selection of Fine Reclining Chairs from the CHARTER GROUP featuring the Comfort Selector®

provides 3-position leg rest comfort with or without reclining the chair



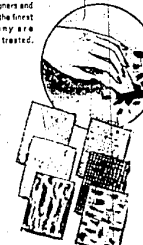
Style 721

Specially Priced at... \$169

fabrics galore...

with Scotchgard STAIN REPELLER

After you decide on the La-Z-Boy Style that best complements the decor of your home, we'll show you hundreds of colorful decorator fabrics for your selection. These fabrics were created by the country's leading designers and are made in the finest mills. Many are Scotchgard treated.



Style 713



Style 702

AUTHORIZED LA-Z-BOY DEALER



W.L. GATES of Wayne
Furniture Company
32449 Michigan Ave. in Wayne
Just West of Merriman Rd.
PA 1-1610 Open Eves. till 9 P.M. PA 2-0316

CREDIT TERMS Available



GETTING READY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS after the celebrity luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel in Plymouth Fontana of Rome receives assistance from Livonia Town Hall members. Left to right: Fontana's public relations representative, Mrs. Jeanne Ostunt, Fontana of Rome, Mrs. G. King (chairman of Livonia Town Hall) and Mrs. Ruth McClelland, Publicity chairman. Fontana of Rome was introduced to the Town Hall audience by Mrs. Myra Chandler, editor-in-chief of the Observer newspapers.

G.C. Jaycee Auxiliary To Receive Charter Nov. 5

The newly-formed Garden City Jaycee Auxiliary will receive its charter from State Auxiliary President Mrs. Ronald Lance at a banquet scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, in the Thundarbird Inn, Plymouth. A tabernacle of liquid starch added to a quart of warm water is fine for rinsing nylon hose. It does not make them stiff and shiny yet makes them more resistant.

Starke Those Stockings. The Charter Night chairman Mrs. James F. Drum said that Garden City Mayor Edwin J. Freeh, Jr., has been invited to the event. Officers of the new group