

By George Maskin observing sports

The world is more dog conscious than ever... and maybe there's something true in the statement:

"We're going to the dogs."
Would you know it that when dog owners go on vacation and leave their pets at a kennel, some have been known to send back a Christmas or Easter or birthday card to the dog?

Or that some folks get on the phone in Florida or California, call the dog kennel and not only inquire about how their dog is doing, but ask that the dog be brought to the phone so that they can say hello?

Yep, it happens, all the time.
Just ask a man like Livonia's George Burmeister, who by profession works for the Michigan Bell Telephone Co., but whose big hobby in life is handling dogs.

He was among many from the Livonia-Plymouth-Farmington-Redford Township area who competed in last Sunday's Detroit Kennel Show which attracted more than 2,900 into Cobo Hall.

The entry exceeded the field which vied in the recent Westminster Dog Show in New York, the premier meet in the country each year.

"I SUPPOSE THE GREAT increase in dog shows in recent years stems from our more affluent society," Burmeister said.

"We have more time for recreation and more time for pleasure."

"Most of us have a liking for pets, and by parading them in shows, well, we sure have a chance to do a lot more with our dogs."

"Going to the shows also affords a chance to build up associations with other people who have similar interests. And we also get a chance to travel... from Detroit to Chicago, New York, etc."

Burmeister himself owns eight dogs. Six of them live in his home in the Seven Mile Road area. The other two are kept outside in the kennel.

He displayed not only his own, but also handled dogs owned by others in Sunday's show.

His personal entries will include German short-haired, Weimaraners and Old English sheep dogs.

Over the years, Burmeister has displayed seven dogs which have won championships.

BUT THE QUEEN OF LIVONIA dog handlers is Mrs. Ralph West. She specializes in breeding French bulldogs, and for 16 straight years she has turned out the champ in this breed in the Westminster show held at New York's Madison Square Garden.

It may surprise many to know that the large dog has bounced into greater popularity these days.

Not too long ago, most folks preferred the smaller ones, like the toys and miniatures.

But consider the entry at Sunday's show. There were no less than 160 German shepherds listed, 124 Russian wolfhounds, 115 collies, 64 St. Bernards and more than 70 Great Danes.

One official of the Detroit show declared: "I think more people figure they need extra protection these days. That's why they are buying more and more bigger dogs."

The Livonia Kennel Club will hold its own show in April. It's always one of the big features of the spring sports program hereabouts!

Schoolcraft Honors Cage, Swim Squads

Varsity letters were awarded to nine basketball players and nine swimmers at the annual winter sports awards banquet at Schoolcraft College.

Basketball Coach Tom Roncoli presented letters to Bill Evans, Plymouth; Karl Gulbrodson, Livonia; Al Joss, Livonia; Mike Kenyon, Detroit; Nate Lubrand, Plymouth; Mike McCauley, Livonia; Steve Moore, Farmington; Fred Nell, Livonia; and Duane Stoner, Livonia.

Swimming Coach Jack Washka presented awards to Larry Barrs, Livonia; Roy Cartwright Jr., Westland; Walt Cockfield, Detroit; Les Ferguson, Livonia; Don Goertle, Ipsandale; Dane Tremblay, Livonia; Jim Vaselenak, Detroit; Bob Wellman, Plymouth; and Roger Zygnowicz, Garden City.

MOORE, WHO LED the Schoolcraft scorers on the basketball court during the 1967-68 season, was elected team captain and named most valuable player. The former

Meiji Restoration
In 13 Volumes

The Japanese Imperial Household Agency announced it will publish commercially "The Chronicle of Emperor Meiji" in about 13 volumes based on the pre-World War II privately published version to tell the story of the ruler largely responsible for the modernization of Japan.

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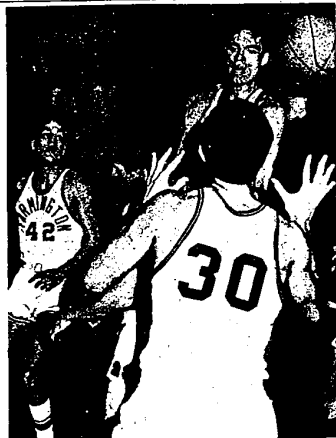
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ARNE'S

FINNISH SAUNAS



DOUG HAMILTON, of Farmington, drops a pass from teammate Mark Lynott (30) during time out in state tournament game against Walled Lake. The Falcons gained the finals of the regional tourney with a 71-51 victory.

It's Kickoff Time For Play In NCAA, NIT Meets

This is the week... When the NCAA and NIT basketball tournaments blossom into full swing.

The biggest names will be in the NCAA with No. 1 ranked Houston and No. 2 rated UCLA the co-favorites.

Houston didn't lose in 28 starts, UCLA dropped only one game—that to Houston.

Houston has suffered a tough blow for the tourney, George Reynolds, a star guard, has been ruled ineligible because of the lack of sufficient credits.

The NCAA regionals take place next weekend with the four winners advancing to the semifinals and finals at Los Angeles on March 22-23.

Sixteen teams make up the NIT field with the entire meet taking place at New York's Madison Square Garden.

ROUND ONE of the big hockey trade between the Red Wings and Toronto was won by the Leafs.

Toronto downed Philadelphia, 5-1, as Norm Ullman, Paul Henderson and Floyd Smith—

the trio obtained from Detroit—each scored a goal. Ullman, a Livonia resident, also picked out of five with back-to-back wins over Chicago, 121-119, and San Diego, 140-118.

The Wings, meantime, were routed by New York, 6-1, with their new faces contributing nothing to the scoring.

The Wings and Leafs were to meet head-on in Toronto Saturday night, before the Wings move on for a Sunday night clash in Boston.

The Wings also find themselves deeper in the cellar, seven points behind fifth-place Toronto.

THE BIG TEN basketball race winds up Saturday with the big one finding Michigan at Iowa. A victory would spell an undisputed championship for the Hawkeyes. Otherwise, they'll share.

The crews with Ohio State, which already has ended its loop slate with a 10-4 mark.

In a Tuesday game, Purdue ran wild over Michigan State, 93-75, as Rick Mount tossed in 34 points for the Boilermakers.

THE PISTONS came to life, again this past week. They won three straight and made it four out of five with back-to-back wins over Chicago, 121-119, and San Diego, 140-118.

But, the Pistons still were in fourth place as they faced Cincinnati at Cincinnati Friday night in perhaps the biggest home game of the season for the Pistons.

The Pistons play at St. Louis Sunday, then end their home season Tuesday against Seattle. Thereafter, the Pistons face five straight games on the road, starting at San Francisco Friday night.

EASTERN MICHIGAN University will carry the state's hopes into the 32-team NAA tournament at Kansas City starting Monday.

Eastern won the state title by routing Michigan Lutheran, 104-88, as Earl Higgins led the way with 34 points. Eastern takes an 18-5 record to Kansas City.

Big 8 Stars Receive Top Billing

Athletes from the Big Eight conference in America's midlands have far outdistanced their rivals from elsewhere in the national collegiate indoor track and field victories during the first three years of the meet.

Going into the 1968 NCAA championships, which will be held in Detroit's Cobo Arena March 15 and 16, the Big Eight boasts 16 previous appearances on the victory stand, with seven different universities contributing to the total.

This doubles the product of their closest conference competitors, the Pacific Coast conference. However, the University of Southern California leads all individual schools with five firsts.

BIG EIGHT SCHOOLS which have shared in that league's laurels in the 1955, 1960 and 1967 meets include Oklahoma State, Kansas State, Nebraska and Oklahoma, with three victories each; Kansas, two; and Iowa State and Missouri, one each.

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