

ALL SMILES over the record year experienced by Ford Motor Company's transmission division in 1972 are John A. Manoogian (left), division general manager, and Frank A. Ritchie, manager of the division's 1.6 million-square-foot Livonia plant.

Ford Transmission Set New Records in '72

Both production and payrolls for Ford Motor Co.'s Transmission Division were at record levels in 1972, John A. Manoogian, division general manager, reported today.

The division, which has its headquarters and largest plant in Livonia, produced 3,351,699 units during the year — surpassing by more than 300,000 units the previous record established in 1969.

Annual payrolls and fringe benefit costs for the division totaled \$282 million, also an all-time high and \$68.3 million above the former record set in 1971.

NOTING FORD economists' predictions of continued growth in industry auto sales, Manoogian said he is optimistic about the division's outlook for 1973.

"New-car sales in the United States since last summer have been at an annual rate of more than 11 million units," Manoogian pointed out. "Our economists expect this sales pace to hold — or even increase — while truck volume also should continue upward, perhaps exceeding 2.8 million units."

Not only is the automotive market generally buoyant, Manoogian said, but

customers are choosing more optional equipment — a development that also bodes well for the Transmission Division.

"Of our total production in 1972, manual transmissions accounted for only six per cent, with automatics making up the remainder," he said. "As recently as 1965, manual transmissions accounted for 29 per cent of total production."

THE DIVISION produces manual transmissions and automatic units for use with the company's larger engines at the 2.6 million-square-foot facility in Livonia.

'Miser' Outfits Pose Problems

Can a 17th century play interest 1973 audiences? Michael Burden, director of Madonna College Theater's second offering of the season, Moliere's comedy, "The Miser," believes it can.

But it has posed some costume problems, and actors in the play have had to learn to walk without splitting those tight knee breeches of the 17th century, how to project the affected mannerisms and how to feel comfortable in powdered wigs and ruffled lace shirts.

Actresses must maneuver through doors and attempt to snuggle next to their boyfriends hampered by full skirts supported by unyielding whalebone.

How they've succeeded will be seen Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 22, 24 and 25, at 8 p.m., in the Madonna College Activities Center, 35500 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Tickets may be purchased at the door at \$2, \$1 for students.

Burden says he has chosen this work because it is

brilliant and funny. "If the theater students learn about human nature, that's an additional benefit, but the main purpose behind 'The Miser' is pure entertainment."

Everyone involved in the production has racked his brain for available sources of costumes. Great-aunt Hilda's wedding dress was hauled down from the dusty attic, and Salvation Army stores were sources for old dresses. Dance troupe outfits were remade and every extra bit of lace, ribbon and velvet was put to use.

Stage crews had to find old-fashioned scenery and 17th century props, including a four-foot stuffed lizard, an old mustket and a pair of pince-nez glasses. Everything that couldn't be located in basements and garages was found in pawn or novelty stores or made from scratch.

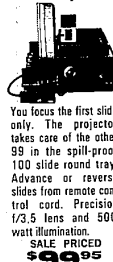


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VOLUNTEERS FROM the Northwest Inter-Faith Center for Racial Justice discuss final plans for the Detroit Metropolitan Orchestra concert to be held at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23, in the auditorium of Our Lady of Mercy High School, 11 Mile and Middle Belt, Farmington. They are (from left) Betty Wagner of Livonia, Sue Millington of Redford Township, Pat Liljestrand of Livonia and Martha McMilland of Detroit. The orchestra will perform the works of black composer, William Grant Still. Tickets are available at Hudson's and at the door.

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