

Dan McCosh writes



# The Sounds Of Winter

There are those of us who fall into certain household chores like a kid relates to the baseball or jacks season.

Digging out the lawnmower, rake or snow shovel signals seasonal change. It reorients the body chemistry, changes the outlook, and generally prepares the psyche for the approaching change in climate.

Historically, the leaf ritual placed high among these earthy chores. The smell of a burning leaf still makes one

tuck up one's collar a bit, and urges the hands towards the coat pockets.

Splinters and blisters aside, it is easy for most of us to remember the grit inside your jacket after you jumped into a freshly-raked pile and rolled around until your old man told you to quit messing up his work.

How the fragrance of a burning leaf got mixed among the stench of burning old tires, overcooked orange

peels or the rest of the odor of burning trash, I don't know.

The government, in its justifiable crusade to clean up the atmosphere, somehow lumped in Ralph's complaints with the odor of the ol' skunk works and burning leaves. All were swept away in the general blizzard of air-pollution legislation of a couple of years ago.

Now Ron Holko, director of public safety of Farmington Hills, warns the populace it is illegal to burn just about anything outdoors. Numerous inquiries about a pile of brush or scrap lumber directed to his office receive the same cool response.

A permit is required from the state, and the state doesn't issue any permits, and that is that.

And in the smaller community to the south, the city council, led by the innovative mind of John Allen, has seen fit to purchase a giant vacuum cleaner.

This monstrosity, an ominous, whining beast capable of "sucking up cats, dogs and everything," as Councilman John Richardson said, will come rumbling through your neighborhood every fall from now on.

Leaves left within five feet or so of its hungry maw will be instantly slurped up and pulverized, en route to a soil-replenishing mulch.

And sometime in the future, our kids will hear his hungry whine when the leaves begin to fall, and they will hook their collars up around their ears, then push their hands a little deeper into their pockets, because winter is on its way.



A COFFEE CLATCH for those interested in the fund-raising Max Davey benefit concert for the Farmington Community Center was held recently in the home of Mrs. Martha Eichinger (right). The concert, featuring a program of light Christmas music performed by the Max Davey Singers, will be held Dec. 7 in Ford Auditorium. Sponsors are organizing funds to reserve some buses in advance, and other buses will be going from the center. Mrs. Eichinger talks with Mrs. Virginia Dickerman (left) and Mrs. Margaret Davey. (Evert photo)

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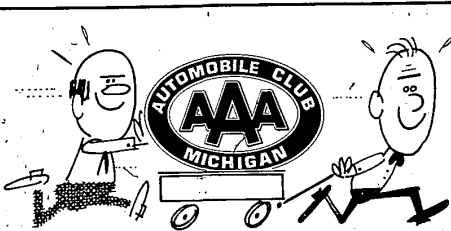
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BEAUTIFICATION AWARD—Joan Barbrick, chairman of the Farmington Beautification Commission, presents Mayor Ralph Yoder with an award given by Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc., to Farmington in recognition of the community planter program initiated by the local group. The award was one of 10 given to communities in the state. (Evert photo)

## 'Portrait of Jennie' To Play At Harrison

The Harrison High drama department will be presenting "Portrait of Jennie" Nov.

**Bruce Brown Ends Basic**

FARMINGTON Army Pvt. Bruce R. Brown has completed eight weeks of basic training at the U.S. Army Training Center at Ft. Knox, Ky. Brown, son of Robert R. Brown of Farmington, lives with his wife, Brenda, in Northville.

15-17, at 8 p.m. in Harrison's auditorium.

The drama by Robert Nathan is the story of an artist struggling in the depression era and his inspiration, Jennie Appleton.

Francine Victor, a junior, is directing the play, Laura Kleinsmith is production assistant and Lee M. Ross is stage manager.

Mrs. Barbara Dobb will be advisor and Paul Barber set coordinator. The role of Eben Adams

will be played by Pat Styles and Maureen McDevitt will portray Jennie.

Gus will be played by Doug Ellmann. Other cast members are: Ann Neville, Russ Proctor, Rachelle Ballmer, Lisa Moore, Pat Patton, and Marjorie Marks.

Casting was done by a committee including Fran Victor, Laura Kleinsmith, Lee Ross and Mrs. Patty Dworkin.

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