

They tell history of the horn

May 9, 1974 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC (F) 3-C

"They're really a lot of fun," says Prof. Louis J. Stout of his programs and clinics tracing the history of the French horn.

Prof. Stout, who has taught the past 14 years in the University of Michigan's School of Music and who has a private collection of horns numbering 40, was referring to the program which he and his student, Deborah Tomchak of Farmington, present to various schools and musical groups across the nation.

Miss Tomchak, a U-M sophomore, has been a student of Stout's the past four years and teaches French horn herself.

At present the two are giving a number of lecture-demonstration clinics around the United States and Canada tracing the history of the horn to the present.

THE PROGRAM schedule just seems to grow as more and more requests are made of them to present the horn musically along with the lecture. The two will appear in Farmington Hills on May 15.

They have been asked to perform at Harrison High Schools Band Booster Concert.

Plans also are being formulated for a nationwide tour with their program they call "The Horn, from the Forest to the Concert Hall."

In addition to their Farmington Hills engagement, Stout and Miss Tomchak, in the next few months, will appear at Grand Valley College in Chicago; at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee; the University of Minnesota; in Canada, and in Seattle. Appearances at Howell and Jackson are also in the offing.

STOUT HAS made dozens of recordings with the Chicago Symphony together with commercial recordings for television. He has made several TV appearances for educational television.

In addition to teaching at U-M, Stout has taught at the Chicago School of Music, Kansas City Con-



DEBORAH TOMCHAK AND LOUIS STOUT

servatory, Western Carolina College, Ithaca College and for 20 years at the New England Music Camp. He is author of a book, "Special Fingerings for Horn."

His students now are playing in orchestras including the Chicago Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, and Toronto and Philadelphia Symphony Orchestras.

Stout graduated from Ithaca College and has played solo horn with the Chicago Symphony, Kansas City Philharmonic, New Orleans Symphony, Radio City Music Hall, Sigmund Romberg Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony and Virginia Symphony.

Miss Tomchak, who began to play horn at age 11, has won scholarships and awards to help her at-

tend summer sessions at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, All State at Interlochen, and the New England Music Camp, and last summer studied in Switzerland.

m.m.memos

You hear a lot about how empty the house seems when someone goes off to college.

And so it did at our address last September. But does anyone ever talk about how full it gets at the end of the school year?

We were bulging at the seams with the contents of a dormitory room even before our student made her official return for the summer.

BECAUSE OF the energy crisis her belongings preceded her.

The university, with a planning I've come to regard as typical, closed its dorms a few days ahead of the concert in which our student was participating. The shortage and price of gasoline made it impractical for her to commute back and forth for the last few rehearsals.

So she packed things up last week and we loaded two cars with suitcases, boxes, bags, instruments, typewriter, stereo and even a refrigerator. (She kept with her the eight gerbils in their cage).

BY THE TIME we had everything lugged into the house, we wondered where the rest of us were supposed to find room to operate.

With her return, I know that somehow things will get put away and maybe a few will make their departure from the scene. (Like the young gerbils, before the cat discovers their whereabouts.) Our student assures me she'll do a lot of eliminating.

But I'm ready to bet that by next fall the pile that goes back to campus will be just as great, and then somehow it will grow again before it comes home once more.

We're delighted as always to have our student home, but oh, that mountain that travels with her.

—Margaret Miller

Flower flat sale coming

The Hill and Dale Garden Club of Farmington will hold its annual flower flat sale Sunday, May 14, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the home of Dottie Vickland, 29866 Mullane Dr., in Canterbury Commons subdivision, Farmington.

The flats contain 72 plants and will sell for \$4.25.

Pre-sale telephone orders for

persons wishing to reserve a flat of a specific kind will be accepted by calling 626-9194 or 478-9878. Some vegetables will also be available.

Proceeds from the sale will support the club's Garden Therapy program in the Farmington School System's special education department. The club provides a craft project for children in special education classes bi-monthly.

Practicing teaches the art of listening

By LINDA ASHLEY

"It's really hard to talk," said Pat Jones, the designated speaker. The other members of her group were learning that it was even harder to listen in a class they are taking called "The Art of Listening" at St. Bede's Catholic Church in Southfield.

A Southfield mother of six children, Pat said she welcomed the opportunity to learn to listen.

"Many of us never have been listened to," she chuckled, "and we know what it feels like."

THE CLASS of 80 was split into experimental groups of 8 to 10 peo-

ple each. One person was to act as the time keeper, one as speaker, one as the designated listener and the rest attentive observers for special five-minute exercises.

It was the speaker's responsibility to just talk but not make a speech. The listener was to show by a continuous flow of short interrupting responses that he was understanding what the speaker was saying.

"I don't feel listened to," Pat concluded after her try as speaker.

The next speaker, Oscar Pung of Lathrup Village, also complained that he wasn't being listened to.

"I DIDN'T think you were really responding to my meaning but adding to it," he said to his designated listener, adding, "but it was a good first try."

During the exercises there were no questions allowed, just signals of understanding.

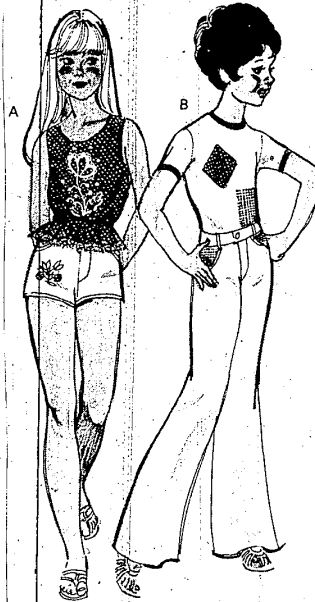
"You can't be a questioner and a listener at the same time," explained the Rev. Dennis J. Bagley who conducts the series of five classes.

He said that a questioner becomes so involved in the question he wants to ask that he no longer is listening.

"A QUESTION is put this way," said Fr. Bagley. "I think what you meant was or I heard you say." But it isn't important what you think was said. What is important is what was really said.

"I want to train you to understand what people really mean without injecting your own meaning to their statement," he told the class.

"Listening means getting into a relationship with someone," Fr. Bagley continued.



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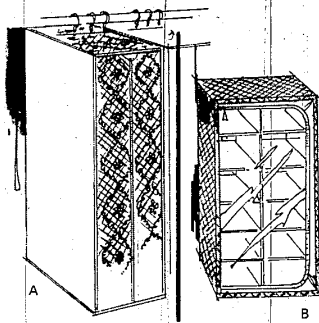
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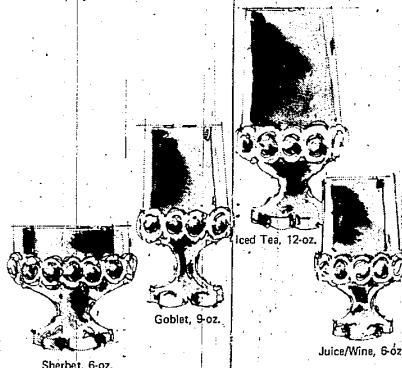
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