

Mike and Barbara Smith on stage at The Raven, Southfield

Nervousness remains with folksinging duo

By DEBORAH PERLBERG By DEBORAH PERLBÉRG
Mike and Barbara Smith settle
into the hard, worn chairs in The
Raven's dressing room and begin
to relax. Their first set hadn't gone
very well, and while the second set
had been better, the audience was
only slightly more responsive.
Soon, in maybe 20 minutes,
they'd be back on the stage for a
third (unscheduled) set — perhaps
on the theory that you should keep
trying till you get it right.

THE SMITHS have been performing together for more than seven years. Their low-key approach should have been replaced with developing confidence long ago but hasn't.

Something has developed, though, and developed well. That's Mike's writing ability. He and Bar-

AT LEAST THREE nostagic tunes in the second set took place, in the mythical town of Spoon River. Mike explained that they had been written for an unrealized performance of "Spoon River Anthology," once slated for Phil Essey's "Dinner Theatre of Detroit."

The Smith's performances are marked by strong theatrical overtones, and many of Mike's monopue-type songs are done with a cabaret-style delivery.

But, both he and and Barbara disclaim this aspect of their work. "We don't want to be more theatrical." Mike insists. "In fact, we'd like to play it down in the future." AT LEAST THREE nostalgic

Mike's writing ability. He and Barbara work together on their arrangements, but Mike is the songwriter of the team.

Most of the music they do is Mike's. His songs are melancholy stories, and the best — like "The Dutchman" which Chuck Mitchell also does — are poetle and moving. Over thirty himself, Mike wirtes stories and they missed the writers and moving out the song the mover of the mover of the move a lot about young men growing old more intense and excited, as they

in faraway places. Even his funny songs have a twinge of wistfulness to them.

discuss the album and their future. Mike talks of using more back-up musicians in their act and Barbara, strumming her guitar, enthusiastically agrees.

She had been playing quietly all along, but now she and Mike begin singing spatches of their next set. "We don't practice as much as we should," she apologizes.

begins Monday Flowers and music will harmonize at the Women's National Farm and Garden Association Flower Show Monday through Saturday, Sept. 21 at The Pontiae Mall Shopping Center, Waterford Township, Nine months of planning, committee work, gardening and flower arranging will produce the judged flower show, which is the largest WAF &GA show in the United States.

Flower exhibit

Hower show, which is the largest WNF &GA show in the United States.

More than 200 flower and horticulture arrangements will portray the flower show's musical theme: "There's A Song In The Air." Taking a stroll through the show, one will encounter flower arrangements interpreting the nostalgic strains of "Oklahoma," "Little Brown Jug." "Take Me Out To The Ball Game." "Blowin' In The Wind" and many others. Arrangements by junior flower arrangers (sponsored by a WNF&GA member) will reflect the tunes of Walt Unisney like "When I Wish Upon A Star."

Twenty-six branches of the

Disney like "When I Wish Upon A Star."

Twenty-six branches of the WNP&GA Michigan Division, will present the annual flower show at The Pontiac Mall, with a two-fold purpose of gaining financial support for the Drayton Plains Nature Center and bringing beauty and grace to the community.

beauty and grace to the community.

General show chairman, Mrs.
Arthur Stiller of Holly, announces
the following participating
branches: Berkley, Berkshire,
Bloomfield West, Bloomfield Hills,
Clarkston, Colony Green, County
Downs, Pranklin, Glen Willows,
Heritage, Hickory Grove, Holiday
Farms, Holly, Kirkwood, Lake
Angelus, Lorraine Manor, Maplebrook, Osage, Pine Lake, Pontiac,
Rochester, Shelby Gardeners, Sylyan Lake, Vernor, Waterford and
Wing Lake.
Participating branches are responsible for committee work, providing entires for the show and the
actual execution of the show at
The Pontiac Mall. Committee work

includes organizing the show's schedule, staging, entries, special exhibits, daily demonstrations, judges, juniors, horticulture and several others.

several others.

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE
Mrs. James Scott, Mrs. Earl Weston and Mrs. L. E. Carter of Birmingham, Mrs. Richard Simmöns
of West Bloomfield, Mrs. Bernard
Spiro, Mrs. Doris Stefansky, Mrs.
Fred Trickey and Mrs. Charles
Fazio of Bloomfield Hills, Mrs.
Emmet Moynihan and Mrs. Herman Klix of Rochester, and Mrs.
Frank Cartee of Farmington.
Special exhibits set among the
judged flower arrangements will
be presented by the Four Sussons,
Bonsai Club of Oakland County,
Men's Garden Club of Oakland
County, Oakland Audubon Society, and Michigan Orchid Society, and Michigan Orchid Society, and Michigan Orchid Society and Michigan Orchid So-

Daily educational demonstrations covering numerous flower attions covering numerous flower attanging and craft topics will bepresented Monday thru Saturday
at 2 p.m. Everything from orchids
to constructing wreaths for the
holidays will be presented.
The flower show, in it's ninth
the flower show, in i







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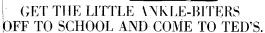


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