



## Meet the deer by the side of the road

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON HILLS—A herd of white deer is not a common sight in Farmington Hills, certainly not the sort of thing one would expect to see every day.

Yet they're there. For the people who know where to look, they're there to look at, and to feed.

But you have to look carefully and know what you're doing, or you could drive around town all day and never realize you came within a few feet of a real Asian deer.

Most people driving by the corner of Ten Mile and Inkster probably never even see the deer or the gaggle of geese which share their playground.

They live in a deep ravine which follows a small river, and only come to the fence in view of the road when somebody offers them food.

The people who do know about them have been going there for years. On a Sunday, as many as 100 people will pull to the side of the road and take a little time to feed the deer.

THE DEER and the geese are only a small part of the menagerie which was started 17 years ago by the late Louis Waack.

People stopping to see the deer never have the chance to see the family of peacocks with the newest addition, a baby peacock which lives in a pen near the house.

They also miss the common animals, like the dogs and the rabbit, and the cats, kittens and horses.

Waack began the menagerie when the owner of a local motel asked him to take some deer which he had been keeping as an attraction at the motel.

The geese came to the ravine in a less direct manner.

People who had bought the geese as pets when they were small found they couldn't keep them after they began to grow. The people dropped them over the fence.

"The deer would never hurt anybody," Waack's widow, Lorraine, said. "They're afraid of most people. Now I can walk right up to them and feed them, and my little girl can walk in among them, but that is because they know us."

"They've been with us since they were babies. They recognize our smell. They're afraid of people they do not know. But even when they are afraid they will not attack or bite. They always run away from danger, not toward it."

"THAT IS why I don't worry when the children come to feed the deer. Now, they're not afraid then, because they can sense that the fence is there protecting them."

She said the ravine where the deer live has been kept in its natural state so the deer can feel at home.

Although she does keep feed for them, she said they could live off the land if they had to.

"They're still at home in nature," she said. "They're our warning if there is going to be a lot of rain and the river is going to overflow."

"Even before it begins to rain, they will all come up the hill and stay near the fence. They know if the river floods over and they are trapped there will be food for them here."

The deer, she said, are also very protective of their young.

Whenever they hear a sound that may frighten them, the deer will immediately surround the baby.

"See how the baby is never alone. They never leave her unguarded when there is danger. Someone is always there to protect her, no matter where the mother is."

SHE AND Lyle Greene, her second husband, have been maintaining the menagerie, Deer Acres, they call it, since her first husband's death.

Both love horses and the stables at Deer Acres are full.

This weekend they intend to enter some of their Morgans in the Grand National at the State Fair grounds.

In order to enter that show the horses must have taken first, second or third place in an "A" horse show.

This weekend they will be competing among horses from all over the United States.



Photographed  
by Harry Mauthe