

Husband, wife share partnership

By CAROL HASKIN
From Vernon and Irene Castle to Xavier Cugat and Charo, the performing arts boast a number of husband and wife teams. Connubial partnerships in the folk arts are much rarer, but can be found even in this area. The Steve and Edie of local weavers are Peter and Jeanne Braen of Orchard Lake.

textile shows, Jeanne said, "I was instrumental in getting him to places where weaving was going on." Jeanne said Peter's involvement in community affairs kept him out three nights a week until she finally suggested he take up an at-home hobby. He took up weaving.

AFTER VISITING a master weaver, he bought a loom and started in — without benefit of lessons. "My engineering background let me learn from books," said Peter,

senior engineer of peripheral products at Burroughs Corp., "because I could visualize the interlacing of threads from the diagrams." Peter began in the basement ("I took up a hobby to be with my family and they sent me to the car") but moved upstairs a year later when Jeanne got her loom. The Braens have now been weaving for six years. Nine months ago they moved to a 110-year-old farmhouse on Long Lake Road where they have constructed a weaving studio so no one has to go to the basement. Shelves stuffed with yarn line the walls, and benches are piled with examples of the Braens work.

for quite a bit from those of other local weavers.

"WE ARE functional or traditional weavers. We make things people can use rather than just look at. We find we have things many area weavers don't have." Most of the Braens work is patterned, rather than free form. Many of their patterns are taken from designs used in other folk arts such as quilting, rugmaking and tapestry.

"We like to think we are adapting traditional patterns to functional items," Jeanne said.

The Braens approach weaving as a challenge. The more intricate the pattern, the greater the challenge and the better they like it.

ies to understand this," Peter said. Most weavers in this area do not emphasize patterned work, he said.

"We definitely are filling what appears to be somewhat of a void." Peter, one of the few male weavers in the area, is also filling somewhat of a void, and at some personal sacrifice.

"THEY SAY funny things about me at work," he admitted, "but not many — I'm big."

Peter is 6 feet 6 — and who teases Rosie Grier about his needlepoint?

Examples of the Braens weaving can be viewed and purchased Thursday (March 13) Friday and Saturday at the Michigan Weavers Guild exhibit and sale at Somerset Mall, Troy.

WEAVING CAME easy to Peter. "I didn't need to use the basic technique; I could conceptualize it and go on to variations." So Jeanne felt the competition when she took up the hobby. "At first he was very threatening but not any longer. We have developed our own styles." Their styles, the Braens say, differ

"I LIKE the technical aspect of weaving," Peter said, "which is why I do tartans — the most difficult and technical patterns." Happiness for the Braens is flawlessly achieving the 45-degree diagonal stripe throughout the plaid.

"It's hard for our contemporar-



Orchard Lake residents Peter and Jeanne Braen are a husband and wife weaving team.

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Scout leaders will attend conference

Polly Monroe, executive director of Southern Oakland Girl Scouts, Inc., LaGrange Village and Virginia Detloff, president of the council's board of directors, will attend a meeting of executive directors and presidents Region IV Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. April 13 in Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. Monroe, executive director since 1967, first-year president Mrs. Detloff of Southfield will be among 140 people from seven states which comprise Girl Scout Region IV. They will be meeting to discuss options and alternatives for membership growth.

Peg Wintz, national director — Field Services, in her keynote address "A Strategy for Growth," will touch on how to attract and retain members.

Bobbi Clarke, doctoral candidate in business administration at Harvard

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