

Farmington LIFE

MAY 29, 1973

Farmington Community Center opens Gateways To The World



By LORAIN McCLISH
Memorial Day parade watchers got a preview of things to come at the Farmington Community Center when a float took its place, with ethnic groups in costume to herald "Gateways To The World," the center's first effort in bringing together persons of 22 nations.

Ethnic groups from the entire metropolitan area will gather at the center on Saturday and Sunday, May 31-June 1, to display their heritage, in arts, foods and entertainment.

Persons who missed the parade may have seen the display in the Farmington Hills Library, another preview of costumes and artifacts from all over the world.

FESTIVAL HOURS are from 12 noon-9 p.m. each day, though the event will officially open at 1 p.m. Saturday, with a roster of local dignitaries and representatives from the Italian, French and Finnish Consulates.

Final details, which concerned electrical outlets, illumination, booth positions, health inspection, security, traffic, public address systems and decorations, were all worked up this week by about 100 committee persons, getting ready for an estimated 5,000 guests who will be in the center and on the grounds.

Their talk ran from Swedish pancakes to Italian organ grinders. Groups, choruses, combos and soloists will occupy the center's

band shell continuously through the festival hours.

On the bill are Bulgarian Solo Dancers, Croatian Kalo Zagreb, Tarja Lehtola from Finland, Maids of Athens, and the Irish bring their Celtic Band. Finnish and Swedish male choruses will sing. Dancers Hungary, German Youth Dancers, East Indian Dancers, the Israeli Folk Dancers, Belly Dancers from Lebanon, Silaine Dancers from Lithuania, Portuguese Dancers, and Solo dancers from Russia and the Ukraine, will all twirl in their own special costume to their own special music.

The Scots bring the Highland Fling, and there are soloists with native song and instruments from

aly and Norway.

INTERNATIONAL IMPORTS will come from a dozen countries, and there will be demonstrations of the arts and crafts from a dozen more stretching from German woodcutting to Japanese origami. Lithuanians will demonstrate lace making and Swedes will demonstrate straw craft. Ukrainians will show their egg decorating, Koreans their ink drawings and Bulgarians their wool spinning. And guests will learn how Indian women wrap a sari.

Some crafts will be for sale. Artifacts, such as ancient costumes, or a scaled model of the Eiffel Tower, will be on display. The Farmington Artist Club has

provided signs for each booth, written in the native language of 19 nations, which read "Turkish spoken here," or "Chinese spoken here."

THE LIST OF FOODS is close to endless. Booths on the grounds will offer samples, snacks and complete meals of beef sukiyaki from Japan, Italian pasta, grape leaves the Bulgarian way, and pancakes the Lithuanian way.

There will be baklava from Turkey, meat balls from Sweden, and Finnish coffee bread. Norwegians offer smogbrod, Koreans, man doo chap-chai, Croatians, stuffed cabbage, and Arabians, their meat pies. Chinese egg rolls will be there as well as Ukrainian krusty.

For on the spot or take home snacks, there will be an International Bakery with Greeks, Germans, Poles and Mexicans all adding to the fare.

Bob Amori is chairing the center's first time venture.

SIGNS WILL DIRECT guests into the parking lot on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College where free shuttle bus service will be waiting to carry festival goers to the center's gate. Admission is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children; or \$3 for an entire family.

Others may choose to park in the lot of Ten Mile Elementary School, on Ten Mile Road, east of Farmington, and walk to the festival.



A scaled model of the Eiffel Tower will be on display, brought by R. Howard Porter who completed the construction with fireplace matches, kitchen matches, safety matches and toothpicks.



Helping to put it all together are from left, Arlean Mistor, Frank Mistor, Mary Andrews and Annie Louisa Stultz.



"Silaine," a Lithuanian dance group, weaves dance steps simulating the weaving of their exquisite fabrics. Members who will appear at the ethnic festival are from left, Vida Skiaity, Rita Skrebutenas, Karole Vesetka and Regina Marchukaitis. The troupe also brings its own special music, instruments and star performers to dance the Jonkels.