

Jaycees bring back championship rodeo

The Farmington Area Jaycees bring back the "World Championship Rodeo" to the southwest corner of Twelve Mile and Farmington Road during Founders Festival activities on Friday and Saturday, July 25-26.

The bill features harchback bronc riding, brahma bull riding, calf roping, cowgirls' barrel racing, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling and four specialty acts.

In addition, local cowhands, or would-be cowhands, are invited to ride 2,000 pounds of living beef jerky or try their hand against a high flying horse.

The International Rodeo Association, which is sanctioning the events, is opening the contests up to any person living within 25 miles of the rodeo site. The contestant does not have to be a member of the association. He must pay the entry fee, the same as that of the professional cowboy contestant, and he must sign the same waiver of liability that is required of regular members.

CAROLE KELLER, spokes-

man for the Jaycee Auxiliary which is cosponsoring the event, stated, "This is not the old carnival thing where a husky young guy is invited to take on a professional wrestler."

"In rodeo, the score is determined impartially by professional who are on the sanctioned judges list. Disqualification (for a novice) would come at the discretion of the stock contractor if the contractor thought the safety of his animals would be endangered."

"But in the local rodeo, the stock contractor is Jim Zinner, of J Bar J Rodeo Co., Inc. in Clare, who says his animals are able to hold their own against any riders, professional or amateur."

The rodeo secretary can be contacted by calling the rodeo headquarters at 1-517-386-3749 on Monday, July 23, between 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Contestants are asked to be ready to win the event in which they wish to enter at that time.

"THE JUDGES may like your style," Mrs. Keller said, "and you will get full billing so that your friends and neighbors can root for

you before and during your trip through space."

Specialty acts on the bill will be The Rowes; Justin and His Flying White Charges, said to be one of the finest Roman-riding displays in the country; Lenore and El Capitan, in a dressage exhibition; and Mr. Mighty Bee, the shetland pony that jumps over horses.

Ticket sales at the gate are more expensive than those sold in advance.

Tickets at \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children are available by mailing a check or money order, payable to the Farmington Area Jaycees, to the Jaycees, P. O. Box 33, Farmington 48024. This offer is good through July 17.

They will be available through July 24 at Blakeney's Ranch House, 28333 Grand River; at Coca's Wine Shop & Deli, Twelve Mile and Orchard Lake Roads; the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, 23715 Farmington Road; and T & L Printing, 34741 Grand River.

Show time on Friday is 8 p.m. On Saturday there will be shows at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.



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LUCILLE LENZ



RUTH KROEPFEL



ANN EWASZKO



PAULA METHOD

Keeping alive the art of storytelling

By LORRAINE McCLISH

A Farmington woman has been elected president of the Detroit Story League, a group that celebrated its golden anniversary this year, dedicated to those who love to tell a story and those who love to listen.

Ruth Kroepfel, of 36633 Vicary Lane, described the aim of the league as "encouraging the creation and the appreciation of the good and the beautiful in life and in literature through the art of storytelling."

Mrs. Kroepfel's vice president will be Ann Ewaszko of Southfield for the coming term and her membership chairman will be Paula Method of Beverly Hills.

Lucille Lenz, the group's historian who holds a record for most stories told to date, said of her art, "In each generation that small company of people called storytellers have known that deeply hidden in every good book there is a good story just waiting for the oral storyteller to take and pass on to others."

"It has been going on throughout the ages and it has shed light, understanding and joy."

THE WOMEN (membership stands at about 25 now) tell stories to school and church groups, in children's and old folks' homes, hospitals, playgrounds, libraries, camps, "just about wherever and whenever we're asked," Ms. Method said.

They do no advertising and don't seek publicity, so most of the invitations they receive comes by word of mouth.

Ms. Method volunteers her services to fourth graders in Parker School in Oak Park one day a week where she teaches expression, the art of story telling and creative writing.

Ms. Lenz is kept busy for the most part as a guest at women's club meetings.

Mrs. Kroepfel does a lot of storytelling and some training with the youth in her church, though some unusual requests can come to the women. This spring Mrs. Kroepfel re-

"Encouraging the creation and the appreciation of the good and the beautiful in life and in literature through the art of storytelling."

cited a Shakespearean sonnet as part of a wedding ceremony.

Ms. Ewaszko, who has been a member of the group for only two years, had some qualms about being able to tell a story before a group, "but took to it immediately."

She had just had an original story she wrote about her mother rejected from a publisher. So when she was asked to tell a story at one of the league meetings, "I told them that one, spontaneously, and I knew my work was not for naught. Someone enjoyed it."

STORYTELLING is a part of every monthly meeting of the league; the group has never brought in outside talent. Members also work toward creating original stories to tell orally, and also write original stories.

District and national competitions are held every year for creative writing and original stories are passed among the members through a regularly published bulletin.

As to their public appearances, each member is on her own for choosing a story appropriate for the time and place. Some stories may be complemented with a background of

music. Some storytellers may wear a costume appropriate for the story. Ms. Lenz tells one story where she incorporates some harmonica playing to better tell the tale.

Each keeps her own repertoire to be ready for the next engagement and there are no cue cards allowed.

The women are of two minds as to how to go about creating the art. The advocates of memorizing a story theorize that the author spent long hours finding just the right language to use and it behooves the storyteller to use that language.

The other method involves just knowing the story well, loving it, and relating it with that love so it flows easily and freely. The advocates of this method argue that it is too easy "to suddenly go blank and then you have to start all over again."

BUT TO A WOMAN, they are always on the lookout for another good story. Mrs. Kroepfel said "none of the members read a thing without the thought going through their minds

that it might be something we can save or use to pass on."

For the first time that any of the women can recall the Detroit League is opening up a membership drive "with a limit of 40-set because we meet in one another's homes," Mrs. Kroepfel said.

A good many of the members are "librarians, English teachers or the like," but the women stressed that no educational background or experience was necessary to become a good storyteller.

"My background is one of an avid reader," Ms. Ewaszko said.

"We have an active social afternoon," Ms. Method said, "but we are not there to socialize. We want members there, active members, who are interested in learning and wanting to tell stories. Our purpose is to keep alive the art of storytelling."

The league furnishes workshops to all of its members on both storytelling and story writing. It also sponsors a junior league for those not yet out of college.

Meadow Brook Hall starts summer hours

Summer hours begin at Meadow Brook Hall Tuesday.

During July and August the 100-room mansion on the campus of Oakland University will be open for tours every day of the week: Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.; Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The former home of the Alfred G. Wilson (she was the widow of auto pioneer John Dodge), Meadow Brook Hall is part of the Wilson bequest to the people of Michigan for the purpose of founding Oak-

land University. More than 186,000 visitors have toured Meadow Brook Hall since it was first opened to the public in 1971.

All proceeds from tours, conferences and programs at the Hall are used for the preservation of this historic home, which receives no tax support. Reflecting a lifestyle that flourished briefly in the age of auto barons and oil tycoons, Meadow Brook Hall now stands as a monument to that flamboyant age.

Complete with original furnishings and art works, Meadow Brook

Hall contains walls of hand-carved paneling that rises from stone and parquet floors. Secret doorways and panels reveal hidden staircases and rooms concealed within the walls themselves. Crystal chandeliers, handmade hardware, gold faucets, marble fireplaces (24 fireplaces in all), silk-covered walls and antique furniture all give evidence of the opulence of another era.

Began in 1926 and completed in 1929, Meadow Brook Hall cost approximately \$3,500,000 to build.

Its dollar value has multiplied many times since then, but its true worth lies in the priceless and irreplaceable examples of building artistry found in abundance throughout the home.

Guests may also tour the grounds surrounding the Hall. Designed to present beauty from any view, the estate contains carefully-trimmed formal gardens surrounding soothing sounds of a fountain splashing in the sunlight.

Beyond this hedged oasis lies a garden containing hundreds of fra-

grant roses. Around the house, tourists will find tables and benches beneath overhanging shade trees and blooming shrubs, places to overlook the distant landscape.

A walk by the rock garden and through the gazebo leads guests to the wooded path to Knole Cottage, a playhouse built in 1926 at the cost of \$10,000 for Frances Dodge's 12th birthday. The six-room mansion contains nearly life-size furnishings and fully-operational kitchen equipment built to the

scale of a 12-year-old. Dolls, dishes, carriages and bassinets stand, as they did in 1926, waiting for someone to visit them.

Full dinners are available for guests touring the Hall Sundays. Limited luncheon selections are available on week days. Meadow Brook Hall is located on Adams Road, one-third mile south of Walton Boulevard. Take I-75 to Oakland University exit about 25 miles north of Detroit. Follow signs to Hall entrance. For further information, call 1-41313-377-3140.