

Liberated DAR Award goes to male good citizen

By MARGARET MILLER

Now it's liberation for the young men. For the first time, they can become DAR Good Citizens.

For years the Daughters of the American Revolution have been bestowing the coveted award on the outstanding female member of the senior class at each high school participating.

The Good Citizen award—envying pin and certificate and the opportunity to go on to state and national honor—has been given on the basis of dependability, leadership, service and patriotism.

The DAR Continental Congress meeting last April in Washington decreed that liberation in a two-way street, and the girls-only condition for the award had to go.

For the first time, schools that select a winner for the honor were told it could go



Mrs. James F. Rogers pins a Good Citizen emblem on the lapel of Dave Griffin of Redford High School of Detroit, one of the first young men to receive the award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Watching, from left, are Bill Graham, Bishop

op Burgess, Joe Soncrant, Thurston Megan Manguth, Redford and Anne Stewart, Clarenceville. (Staff photos by Art Emanuel)

to enter a boy or girl in the senior class.

IN THIS AREA, the John Sackett DAR chapter was the first to announce young men as winners. Five of its 16 honorees, including Willard John, Graham of Bishop Burgess High and Joseph Soncrant of Thurston High, are males.

The chapter gave out pins and certificates at a luncheon meeting in the Redford Township home of Mrs. Clayton Sackler.

Redford residents Bill Graham and Joe Soncrant and their mothers were present along with other area winners: St. Agatha's Kathleen Kelly, also of Redford and Ann Stewart of Farmington Hills, a senior at Clarenceville High School.

The other male who received an award at the luncheon was Dave Griffin of Redford High School in Detroit. Young men from Menominee and Republic also re-

ceived two of the awards—the John Sackett chapter presents to outside areas.

MRS. JAMES F. ROGERS of Farmington Hills, the chapter's awards chairman, said that traditionally the selection of the winner in each school is up to the school administration and students and the DAR chapter has nothing to do with it.

But I'm very pleased at the change that lets boys win too, she added. I have two sons, and I feel there was discrimination for too long. It's about time for a change.

Her, it's about time words were rephrased by Joe Soncrant, who said he was really pleased and honored by the award.

Soncrant, active in Redford Township community projects as well as town at school, also has a part-time job with a

Dearborn travel agency and wants to go to Schoolcraft College next year, aiming for a career in hotel management or tourism.

At Thurston High, he's editor of the student newspaper, senior class president and a member of the student council and the National Honor Society.

He also serves as Ecology Club president, and that interest carries over into community activity, because he's corresponding secretary of the Redford Township Beautification Commission, the more recent involves the township's beautification committee. His second vice-chairman.

BILL GRAHAM confessed to being a little surprised at first when he learned he was winner of the DAR award.

I guess I had thought of the DAR as a ladies organization, he added. But I'm

Is Castro worth waiting for?

By ROCHELLE REAGAN

O to be a Canadian citizen instead of the two inch thick folder of papers called CUBA. I would have given my hand a valid Canadian passport and by now would be re-counting to my associates how I spent my splendid Christmas vacation basking in the Caribbean sun on Veranda Beach and wining and dining my nubs away at the Tropiana nightclub in Havana.

Since Canada and Cuba never broke diplomatic and trade relations, tourism between the two countries is a booming business. In a Toronto-based tour company called Un tours Ltd. offering a choice of seven Un tours Cuba Holidays. The 21-page travel book entitled, The Un tours Book of Cuba, was impressive with descriptive passages such as the following:

"Cuba is a country. It's almost as large as Canada. It has a population of 8,000,000. And unlike most countries in the Caribbean, tourism is not its bread and butter. Cuba is also a country with an exciting life to give the people of Cuba the pride of citizenship you will find in Canada. Swedes, Americans, Frenchmen etc. The Cubans are justly proud of their accomplishments in the short time since the revolution."

OF THE SEVEN packages all of which are extremely economical and very popular with Canadians during the winter months I chose the Cuban Explorer which consists of four nights at the beach on the Isle of Pines and three nights in Havana at the famous Nacional Hotel.

This was the easy part. After in-

vestigating my other options, I decided that Detroit to Havana via Toronto was the way to go. Flying straight commercial from Detroit to Kingston, Jamaica then Kingston to Havana would have cost me \$445 in air fare alone.

Although Un tours was fairly heavily booked through the end of March, I managed to obtain a departure date of March 12 with the option of canceling if my visa was not granted. The particulars of the \$450 one-week tour amazed me. Inflation infected mud. Included in the price were:

1. Roundtrip charter Air Canada flight between Toronto and Havana.
2. Roundtrip flight via Cubana Airline between Havana and Nueva Gerona on the Isle of Pines.
3. Private bath accommodations for seven nights.
4. Three full meals per day commingled by beer and wine.
5. Access to a Un tours representative throughout the one week holiday.

If I wanted to do nothing more than eat, drink and be on the beach, I wouldn't have to bother exchanging dollars for pesos at all.

I BEGAN My first inquiry concerning an American traveling to Cuba eleven months ago on June 2, 1975. After reading the fine print on my passport, I deduced that special validation by the U.S. Department of State is required when traveling to North Korea, North and South Vietnam, Cambodia and Cuba.

Shortly thereafter, when the paperwork began in earnest, it dawned upon me that simply a desire for adventure would not

get me into Cuba. I fortified myself with all of the perseverance, courage, optimism, optimism and patience that I possessed to make it through the next frustrating six months.

Arming myself with a typewriter, plenty of paper and a couple of extra copies of stamps, I gradually developed an ever-growing love of filling out forms and writing business letters.

In essence, an ordinary U.S. citizen journeying to the land of Castro requires four documents:

1. A specially validated U.S. passport.
2. A visa from the Cuban government.
3. A U.S. Treasury license.
4. A U.S. Department of Commerce License.

Not in here you with government red tape. I will be brief in explaining how I obtained these vital bits of paper.

In order to receive passport validation, basically the purpose of one's trip must serve the national interest of the United States. I qualified by being a free-lance writer with a news media—The Farmington Observer & Eccentric—willing to publish a report of my trip.

A Cuban visa like the passport requires a legitimate reason for one's making the trip, and application is made through the Czechoslovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. Like the Swiss Embassy, which represents U.S. interests in Cuba, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic manages Cuba's affairs in the United States.

One must have a Treasury license in order to purchase anything in Cuba including jewelry, travel expenses, bus fares, forgotten toothbrushes and even ice cream cones. This license does not authorize you to acquire any goods for exportation other than those to be consumed by you in Cuba.

Sadly enough, for the typical American and his love of collecting mementos, all souvenirs for importation into the United States are prohibited.

A U.S. Department of Commerce License, which I did not need might be required on items other than personal baggage and occupational tools which the traveler is taking into Cuba.

WITH ALL OF THESE regulations buzzing unceasingly through my brain, I did not think that my summertime meanderings about really making the journey were abnormal. But it was too late to turn back now. Besides, had my old Russian spirit of adventure completely evaporated? Having ruled out the possibility of swimming the 90 miles from Key West to Havana, I was by October, ready to seek my Canadian look-alike, sweep papers temporarily and put an end to all of my frustrations in one fell swoop. Unfortunately, the consequences for me might be as serious as national incidents far more than the Cuban missile crisis itself.

Oct. 18 and the arrival of U.S. passport validation approval saved me from potential criminal activities. The Treasury license arrived on Dec. 22. The Cuban visa I optimistically think is still on its way.

About Rochelle Reagan

Rochelle Reagan, author of "Spirit of adventure" leads to the USSR, which told of her visit to Russia in a six-part series published recently by the Farmington Observer & Eccentric, now relates her frustrations and hopes for a forthcoming trip to Cuba.

Ms. Reagan, 31, is a resident of Farmington Hills and a professional student who has written to live, lance writing, she says, "for fun, profit, and recognition."

Her pastime is traveling. She expects to visit Cuba in March, and after that, her destination is the People's Republic of China. Overall, her travel interests dovetail with a study of the daily life of the people who reside in communist countries.

Ms. REAGAN was born and reared on a small farm near Cooperville, Mich. She graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in business from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

For eight years after her graduation, in 1968, she worked as a systems engineer for IBM Corporation.

She is an avid reader, an ice skater, snow skier, tap dancer, and a practitioner of yoga.



ROCHELLE REAGAN

Bake sale coming up

Community Living Centers will hold a bake sale in the front lobby of the Village Mall, corner of Grand River and Farmington Road, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 6.

The sale is held to raise money for the residents who live in the six family-type homes in Oakland County, all of whom have jobs in the community, work in sheltered workshops or attend rehabilitation training centers.

Community Living Centers is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the residents by providing, supervising, and maintaining a family home environment, and encouraging them to help themselves to physically and socially integrate into community life.

It was founded in 1960 by a group of concerned parents, community leaders and professional people.

The office is located at 3220 Grand River, Farmington. Mary Wagner is executive director of the organization.

Mrs. George Conover, 2304 Power Road, Farmington, is in charge of the bake sale. Her assistant is Mrs. Norman Barnes of 3819 Westleigh Road, Farmington Hills.

JACOBSON'S CLOSED TOMORROW

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

FOR INVENTORY

OPEN WEDNESDAY
AT 9:30 A.M.

Jacobson's

However, with the deluge of written communication which has been flooding freely between my Farmington Hills apartment and Washington, D.C. and New York City, I hope that my local post office is the only entity which looks askance at the peculiar addresses of my friends and pen pals. If I didn't appear to be an agent of the CIA before, I certainly do now!

AND WHILE I WAIT, I read. Already having digested 10 books on Cuba and Fidel Castro with a myriad number still on my bookshelves, I am rapidly becoming an armchair Cubanologist.

Fidel Castro, who will be 50 years old on Aug. 12 this year, has become "numero uno" on my list of favorite famous personalities. His son, Fidelito who lived with