

New Ms. Michigan Wheelchair crowned

By ARLENE VANDERLEUN
After a busy year of speeches, television appearances and top-level Washington conferences, Canton's Margaret Chmielewski relinquished her Ms. Wheelchair Michigan crown to Gisele Thornton of Detroit.

Courage, excitement and determination filled the Madonna College auditorium Saturday night during the fifth annual Ms. Wheelchair Michigan pageant, co-sponsored by the Livonia Jaycees and Mobility Awareness

Team, Inc., to highlight the achievements of wheelchair-bound young women and to promote awareness of the problems of all handicapped persons.

"I plan to go into public relations and hope to address the problems of the handicapped," said Ms. Thornton. Her prizes include a \$100 cash scholarship, gift certificates and a trophy. She will represent Michigan in the Ms. Wheelchair America pageant. Ms. Thornton is a student at Wayne

State University, where she has her own radio show. She was the first woman in a wheelchair to become a Cotillion Debutante, an annual event sponsored by black civic and business leaders. Ms. Thornton also was voted Miss Congeniality by the other contestants.

RUNNERS-UP were Sue Odgers, a free-lance writer and student from Sterling Heights, and Yvonne Duffly, of Ann Arbor, a student services assistant at the University of Michigan.

Several local women were among the nine contestants. Renae Thompson, of Westland, found it "interesting to meet other people with handicaps and see what they have done with their lives to be accepted as fellow human beings."

Mrs. Thompson, who has a year-old daughter, has been active in the Easter Seal Telethon and has a keen interest in swimming and sailing. She received a physical fitness award at the pageant.

"Other people have to adjust to us and we have to adjust to them," said Mrs. Thompson.

Marilyn Hodges, a Farmington contestant, found her participation "exciting." She is an Avon representative and has been active in the annual Wheelchair Games, bowling and table tennis. She was cited by pageant officials for her personal growth and achievement.

DURING HER REIGN as Ms. Wheelchair Michigan, Mrs. Chmielewski, a wife, mother and teacher, spoke in behalf of the needs and contributions of the handicapped.

"It has been a wonderful year," she smiled. "There's so much more to be done and these women can carry on," said Ms. Chmielewski. "A major problem is people's attitudes toward the handicapped."

But progress is being made, she pointed out, and added:

"Six years ago when I went to Washington I couldn't visit the monuments because they weren't accessible to my wheelchair. This past time I could see a big difference. There were more ramps and more handicapped parking."

In September, Mrs. Chmielewski will become an instructor in psychology at Madonna College.

The Mobility Awareness Team, Inc. is a non-profit corporation made up of individuals who work to promote an awareness of the needs of the physically handicapped and actively sup-

port legislation to provide greater mobility for physically limited persons through more accessible public transportation, handicapped parking, wider doorways and ramps.

"Handicapped people need mobility in order to lead productive lives," said Angie Corrieri, the 1974 Ms. Wheelchair Michigan and Michigan president of Mobility Awareness Team. Madonna College was selected as the pageant site because its facilities are highly accessible to the physically limited.

"This pageant is important," said Ms. Corrieri, "and we are grateful to the Livonia Jaycees for their support and cooperation."

THE ENERGETIC Ms. Corrieri, of Canton, has been in a wheelchair six years as a result of an auto accident and leads an active, independent life in spite of physical limitations. She is a computer programmer with General Motors and is currently on educational leave.

During her recovery and rehabilitation she was depressed and fearful about the future. But she was also determined to advance. She had been a keypunch operator at the time of her accident and decided to become a computer programmer. She began her training and later the company installed a "stair glide" device, which allowed her to go up and down stairs. "GM has been terrific to me," she said.

Ms. Corrieri lives alone and drives her own car with hand controls. "I scrub floors, wash and cook, and get by with a little help from my friends."

SPECIAL PAGEANT guests included civic leader Dolle Cole, Rep. Jelt Sietsma, R-Grand Rapids, who has been instrumental in passing legislation providing mobility to the handicapped, and Beverly Barry Chapman, of Orlando, Miss Wheelchair America 1977.

"We have a message to deliver and gifts to share," declared Ms. Chapman. "We have talents to contribute to society."

Mrs. Cole, chairman of the Easter Seal Telethon, praised the contestants for their courage. "There are no handicapped in this room," she said. "A handicapped person lacks courage."

Rep. Sietsma called for an all-out effort against barriers to the handicapped. "We all need to pitch in so the handicapped can get the things they deserve," she stated.



Gisele Thornton (above) of Detroit was crowned Ms. Michigan Wheelchair and Marilyn Hodges (right) of Farmington joined in the competition. (Photos by Fred Hopkins)

It's Christmas in July!

Just arrived!

Wallace 1977 Christmas Bell

Seventh Annual Edition

WALLACE SILVERPLATE

This popular series is always a sell-out before Christmas. Buy now, and you won't be a disappointed collector. Many of our customers give the Wallace Christmas Bell on pre-Christmas occasions as a lifetime reminder of someone who cares. When the stock is depleted, no more will be available. \$14.95, Gift-taxed.

• BABY GIFTS • ANNIVERSARIES • BRIDE/MAIDS • HOUSEWARMINGS • BIRTHDAYS

WIGGS

Since 1963

4080 TELEGRAPH RD. (at Long Lake Rd.) BLOOMFIELD HILLS • 644-7370

open Mon., Thurs. & Fri. '19

Berven of California

Wiggs offers you a seldom-seen opportunity to purchase current carpet patterns from the prestigious Berven Mills at important Summer Sale Savings. Now is the time to carpet your home with the texture...the color...the carpet of your dreams and be kind to your pocketbook, too. Come see these...and many other savings throughout our Carpet Dept.

"Better Carpet" Sale

Wiggs summer sale

KISMET
15 color moods from subdued to gem brilliance in a softly elegant Kodel® V Polyester plush texture. Sale \$895 yd.

TIARA
Seductively soft, rich plush texture of Kodel® V Polyester offered in 15 lovely colorations. Sale \$995 yd.

PROVOCATIVE
Choose from 21 subtle colorations in a plush texture of plump and slender nylon yarns. Sale \$1095 yd.

BAL MASQUE
Deeply sculptured tracery design in loop and cut premium nylon pile. 13 colors. Sale \$1195 yd.

COUNTRY CLUB
A warm, medium plush texture nylon...spiced with interesting stripe accents. Sale \$1295 yd.

STARDOM
An exquisitely deep texture of Trevira® Star Polyester yarn in 17 quasar-bright tones. Sale \$1395 yd.

open Mon., Thurs. & Fri. '19

WIGGS

4080 TELEGRAPH RD. (at Long Lake Rd.) BLOOMFIELD HILLS • 644-7370

Every moment that passes;
Each day in time gone by;
The special moments
of our wedding day
that Photographs
Bring again to life

DICK HOCKING AND ASSOCIATES
PHOTOGRAPHERS
Candid Weddings Exclusively

3155 W. Big Beaver Rd. Suite 112
Troy, Michigan 48064 649-2113

FALL 1977
OFF TO A GREAT START

BEAUTIFUL CHALLIS, MOHAIRD, SMART WOOLLEN, TARTAN, EXQUISITE CHIFFON, SILK POINT, CREEPE DE CHENE, QUILTS, CROMPTON CORDUROY, CALICO, ULTRA-SOFT, RAINWEAR, VELVET, VELVETEEN & WALL GRAPHIC & DECORATOR FABRICS.

STEWART FABRICS
275 E. MAPLE 285 N. CENTER
BIRMINGHAM OAKLAND
FALL SEWING CLASSES AVAILABLE

smile!

—today is another day!

echo park school

Pre-school
Kindergarten, 1/2 and full day
Mother-Toddler Program
Visitors Welcome
Fall Applications Now Being Accepted

646-5590
4275 Echo Park Road
Bloomfield Hills

Atlantic Drapery Shoppe

DRAPERY SALE
Labor \$4.00 per panel

Custom Spreads

Labor Special on Custom Slipcovers

Chair - \$3790 — Sofa - \$4790

360 E. Maple, Birmingham 647-2020 647-0721

Begin Your Week With Observers & Eccentrics... The Best Of Both Worlds