

Questors give boost to Greenmead historical site

By MARGARET MILLER

Two of the early homes in the Livonia area, one already moved to its new site in the Greenmead historical village and the other scheduled to find its way there later, are closer to restoration because of grants from a national society, the Questers, Inc.

Different local chapters of the Questers have taken special interest in the Shaw House, which was restored and moved to Quaker Acres and now is ticketed for another move, and the Kingsley House, which this winter traveled from its location on Farmington Road north of Five Mile to the new Greenmead site.

In both cases, local Questers' donations for restoration projects were matched by funds from the national organization.

"The national grant is part of a special program inaugurated during the bicentennial year," said Margaret Walker, a resident of Farmington and Questers national grants chairwoman.

"This program already has dispersed nearly \$20,000 toward projects being supported by local chapters across the country, and its purpose is to demonstrate our national dedication toward the study of antiques and the restoration of historical landmarks."

THE SAUK TRAIL chapter of the Questers, made up largely of Livonia area members, has taken a particular interest in the last few years in Shaw House.

That structure, home of a family that came to this area from England in the mid-1800s, was located on Six Mile Road and was considered one of the finest in the area. It had fallen into

disrepair and a dilapidated state when members of the Livonia Historical Commission were able to effect a move to the Quaker Acres site that was to have been the historical community.

Louise Hayburn, a member of the Sauk Hill Questers chapter, visited Quaker Acres soon after the move.

"I was so impressed by the work of the volunteers in the physical restoration process there that I thought it would be a good project for our chapter," she said.

Mrs. Hayburn and Eleanor Lyon headed the project that included donation of a spirit lamp, candlesticks and several other pieces of furnishings. Recently the value of the several gifts was matched by a \$402 gift from the national organization under its bicentennial program.

THE KINGSLEY HOUSE drew the attention of several other Quester chapters after it was acquired by the city of Livonia for moving to the historical site.

These chapters, the DeTrotte, Madame Cadillac, Old Post Road, Poncebarran, Quakerstown and Sand Hill, put together a donation of \$25 for furnishing the parlor of Kingsley House, and the national grant added \$300.

Checks from the Questors to be used for both old houses were presented to Sue Daniel, restoration chairwoman for the Livonia Historical Commission.

"Our national membership," said Mrs. Walker, "now exceeds 12,000 and will continue to be interested in Greenmead and particularly in the parlor of Kingsley House."



Margaret Walker (right) of Farmington and Sally Leonetti (left) view Kingsley House shortly before its move to Greenmead. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

Cross country skiing fans combine beauty, fitness

By SHERRY KAHAN

Cross country skiing means gliding through a quiet winter scene, at one with the cold weather rather than fighting it. It means stretching muscles that never before had let you know they were there and focusing eyes on snowy vistas you had forgotten existed.

To cross country skiers, winter's something to look forward to.

Erin Hutton of Livonia and Chuck Spriggs of Farmington are two young men who are eager to remind you of what you are missing when you spend the winter curled up near the heating vents.

That, you may say, is only because they are co-owners of two stores called Benchmark located in Farmington and Rochester which feature cross country

skiing equipment.

But the two men, both graduates of Franklin High School in Livonia, have long been open to put on boots and skis and swing out on a trail somewhere.

This month they will be discussing cross country skiing equipment in classes at YMCAs in Livonia, Farmington and Rochester and will offer their students a chance for some feet-on learning on the trail.

AT THE LIVONIA FAMILY Y, 1255 Stark, the two-week, cross country clinic will start Thursday, Jan. 18. Youngsters will attend from 4:15-5:15 p.m. and adults have a choice of sessions from 7:30-11 a.m. or 7-8:30 p.m.

WHEN HUTTON and Spriggs build up crossing country skiing as a sport, they are not putting down the fast, dramatic downhill skiers. They do

both kinds of skiing, but feel cross country skiing has special advantages.

"It has a broader appeal as far as age is concerned," said Spriggs. "My three-year-old daughter goes cross country skiing. We've had people in their 70s come in the store for equipment. They may not go as fast as a 25-year-old, but in this sport there is no race. The idea is to go out and enjoy yourself and get a little exercise."

He added that he hadn't heard of a Benchmark customer being hurt while skiing across the countryside. "They don't get the dislocated knees and broken ankles the fast downhill skiers get," added Hutton. "They go out and find a place where they can ski at their own level."

Where is that?

BOTH MEN began to speak eloquently about the beauties of cross

country skiing areas, most of which are less than half an hour away.

For some there is Edward Hines Park or Mayberry State Park west of Northville. Others may want to drop in on Whispering Willows or Idylwild golf courses in Livonia for weekend skiing.

The two men also mentioned the Highland Recreation Area near Pontiac, Kensington Metro Park and the Pinckney Recreation Area. In the Rochester area, they recalled cross country skiing was possible on trails at Oakland University, Stony Creek Metro Park, Macomb County College and Independence Oaks.

"The list is almost limitless, they said."

"So many of them are within 10-15 minutes from the house," that it is often possible to go skiing just for a couple of hours rather than devote a

whole day to driving and skiing at a downhill area," noted Spriggs.

"I think the downhill fans will become cross country skiers during the week when they can't get to the slopes."

THE FIRST THING the students will find out in the clinic is that outfitting themselves for the trail is far less costly than outfitting themselves for the hills.

Cross country skis, boots, poles and bindings can be purchased for \$90 to \$145. Skis alone for downhill types cost from \$50-\$200 they say, while boots range \$60-\$200.

The cross country skis are narrow and the boot is anchored only at the toe, whereas downhill boots are fastened to the skis as both toe and heel.

Hutton says that since cross country skiers burn up so many calories and

use so many muscles, they should dress in layers. Clothing can be removed while the sun is hot and the activity level high, but can be donned again when the temperature drops.

Spriggs said he has skied in everything from a tee shirt (once) in Canada to a full down jacket, with various other outfits for in between weather.

Those who sign up for the clinics must bring their own clothing, but the men will drive up in a van hauling a trailer containing 50 pairs of skis. In other words, they supply the skis, boots and poles. The same equipment can be rented at their stores for \$7 a day or \$15 for a weekend.

One further point thrown out by Spriggs after he mentioned the calories the sport burns up. "Take an orange," he suggested. "You'll get thirsty."

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Middle school is topic of hearing

Farmington School District's task force studying alternative school structures, including middle schools (grades six, seven and eight), is ready for more public comment on the subject.

A two-session public hearing is scheduled from 3-5 p.m. and from 7-9 p.m., Jan. 23 in the board room of the administrative office located at 32500 Shawwassee.

The public hearing is one of the last steps the seven-member task force on School Organizational Structure (SOS) will take before submitting its final recommendations to the district at the March 7 meeting of the board of education.

"The purpose of the hearing is to answer questions about the work of the task force and to receive comments, concerns or suggestions from parents, students, teachers and administrators," says Earl Baumunk, chairman of the group.

The public hearing is a second attempt to probe how the school community views middle schools, as well as other alternative structures.

The task force recently completed

the compilation of an extensive survey of students, staff and parents connected with junior highs. The results of the survey have not yet been finalized.

SINCE its appointment one year ago, the task force has visited several school districts which have recently changed to a 6-7-8 middle school structure, placing ninth graders in high schools; realigned projected enrollments in view of increased single family dwelling construction and increased birth rate; and interviewed Farmington teachers and administrators.

Members of the task force have consulted with professionals who are advocates of the middle school concept, and have researched the concepts through current literature on the subject.

The task force was appointed last January on the recommendation of the task force on declining enrollment. Alternative school structures may be one answer to coping with smaller numbers of students for the next decade or so, the declining enrollment task force suggested.

Cross country skiing is becoming more popular as a means of getting much-needed winter exercise.