Ida Spitzizen of Florida and her son, Neil of Southfield reminisce about past events in his life at a suprise 45th birthday party his wife Marlene recently masterminded.

Old teammates huddle to cheer 'Spitfire's' 45th

BY JACKIE KLEIN

In 1949 Joe DiMaggio slugged 23 home runs, Stan Musial led the National League batting title and Joe Louis came through with the expected knockout.

Would this same time Neil Spitzizen now a resident of Southfield was making Central High School sports headlines in Detroit as "Spitfire" and racking up athletic honors in his blue and white school sweater.

Spitzizen wore that same sweater at his 45th surprise birthday party Oct. 15 at Tam O' Shanter Country Club. The event turned into a reunion when a busload of high school teammates arrived to join the celebration.

It took nine months to get everybody together and I can't even count how many hours I spent on the phone," an exhausted Mrs. Neil (Marlene) Spitzizen revealed after the party. "It felt like an inspiration."

MRS. SPITZIZEN pulled off the surprise by making her husband and herself a birthday invitation and pretending the party was being given by another couple for someone's anniversary.

"When we got to the party, my husband still didn't realize what was going on," Mrs. Spitzizen said. "Nobody sang 'happy birthday' because they were waiting for the bus. The next problem was getting Neil outside to meet the other guests and that's when he really flipped."

The first one off the bus was Spitzizen's mother Ida, who came sweat socks and tennis shoes. Next came the Central High School graduating class of 1950 and baseball star Norman Cash.

Most of the fellows had played football or baseball with Neil in high school and weekends at Bagley Junior High School in Detroit," Mrs. Spitzizen said. "The country club was decorated with blue and white Central High School banners were in our teens. We even served the same food.

WHEN THE initial excitement of the party finally diminished and Spitzizen realized what was going on, the celebration became a "roast Spitfire," Mrs. Spitzizen said. About 140 guests were there and many had interesting stories to tell about "the good old 1940s and 1950s" and the honoree.

Among the guests was an old army buddy of Spitzizen's who came in a Ben Franklin uniform. To add to the nostalgia everyone jitterbugged to the music of the 40s and 50s.

The Spitzizens, who have known each other since their teens, have been married 22 years and have two children, Shelley, 19 and Kevin, 13. Spitzizen, a builder, doesn't play baseball or football anymore but he still golfs and skis.

For days after his party, Spitzizen was still in shock, according to his wife who is already planning another party. She invited everyone to see the movies that were taken of the event and to hear recordings of the "roasts, toasts and speeches."

The next party won't be a surprise, but it will be another opportunity for old friends to get together and reminisce.

Mrs. Spitzizen is especially proud that "Spitfire" still fits into his high school sweater.

Remembering 'Papa'

Ernest Hemingway is portrayed at four periods of his life by (from left) Perry King, Alexander Scourby, Mitch Ryan and Tim Matheson in the critically-acclaimed "The Hemingway Play." The special will be shown at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, on Channel 56, WTVS-TV.

Newswomen will model Israeli fashion designs

Three television personalities will join professional models in showing the latest creations of the Israeli fashion industry Thursday at the All-Israel Fashion Show at Shaarey Zedek in Southfield.

Marilyn Turner, Linda Wright-Avery and Robbie Timmons will serve as volunteer guest models at the noon event.

Originally from Windsor, where she attended the University of Western Ontario and worked in television, Marilyn Turner has been weather forecaster at Channel 7 since 1972. Ms. Turner modelled in the 1975 Israel Bond Fashion Show.

Linda Wright-Avery joined the Channel 7 team this past spring, after working as a reporter for KING-TV in Seattle.

Ms. Avery earned a master's degree in journalism at New York's Columbia University.

Robbie Timmons, Channel 2 News's co-anchor, is also new to Detroit. She is from Columbus, Ohio, where she attended Ohio State University. She's been on the other side of the TV camera as a camerawoman as well as a reporter for a small station.

Coordinator of the fashion show is Claire Pearone of Somerset, Troy.

Special highlight of the afternoon will be a tribute to Goldie Adler of Southfield, a long-time leader in the Israel Bond Program and a past participant in many Israel Bond fashion festivals.

Dolores Gordon of Franklin is fashion show chairwoman. She will serve as commentator.

Mideastern dancing by Rusty Serour of Oak Park and music by Eric Rosenow and his Continentals will also be featured.

Admission to the show is by the 1978 purchase of $500 or more in Israel Bonds.

Israel Bonds are responsible for a major share of Israel's fashion industry growth, providing loan funds for the development, expansion and promotion of Israel's number three export, after diamonds and food.

Hostesses for the fashion afternoon include: Mrs. Norman Allan, Mrs. Saul Amsel, Mrs. Victor Axelroad, Mrs. Joseph Berman, Mrs. Frank Friedman, Mrs. Seymour Garsoff, Mrs. William Hordes, Mrs. Norman Hudosh, Mrs. Ben Jones, Mrs. Maxwell Jospey, Mrs. Jules Kraft and Mrs. Charles Lapides.

Also Mrs. William Levin, Mrs. Sidney Z. Leib, Mrs. Louis Levine, Mrs. Meyer Lipman, Mrs. Max Pines, Mrs. Albert Posen, Mrs. Victor Ross, Mrs. Harold Sarko, Mrs. David Schachter, Mrs. Morris Schaver, Mrs. Milton Simmons, Mrs. Phillip Slomovitz, Mrs. Jack Stattman, Mrs. Charles Taylor and Mrs. Fred Walters.

For information and reservations, call the Israel Bond office at 968-0200.

ROBBIE TIMMONS

Restaurant requests go to planners

'Tis the season for restaurant development requests in the city. Southfield Planning Commissioners Wednesday will make recommendations on two more.

John Kanakis, representing Clock Restaurant chain, will request a special use for an eating establishment in an office-service zone on the north side of Twelve Mile between Evergreen and Mainmoor. Proposed seating capacity is 149.

Another special use request in a two-story office district will be presented by Sambo's of Michigan for a restaurant on the east side of Southfield Road between Mount Vernon and Louise.

A NUMBER of other bids to develop dining spots from fast-food to liquor-serving establishments have been triggered by an ordinance encouraging restaurants and other special services in Southfield's glutted low-rise office districts. The purpose is to hopefully lure tenants to vacant office structures dotting the mile roads.

In other action, planning commissioners will make a recommendation on the petition of Lionel E. Spoon to rezone 1.37 acres on the south side of Eleven Mile between Fairfield and Greenfield from residential to a low-rise apartment classification.

Spoon plans to provide 16 units, half one-bedroom and half two-bedroom dwellings on the site.

PLANNERS WILL also review the site plan of Harry Spoon, representing the GM Building Co. for a 2.15-acre, 26-unit low-rise apartment development on the south side of Twelve Mile between Lahser and Ivanhoe Lane.

A public hearing on the rezoning request of New York Carpet World to expand its operation on the north side of Eight Mile between Telegraph and Sherman is on the planning commission agenda Wednesday night. The petition is for a switch in zoning from single-family residential and general business to industrial and parking classifications on a 5.4-acre parcel.

Planning commissioners will consider a council initiated ordinance amendment providing that site plans or traffic engineering plans for developments shall remain valid for 18 months from the date of approval unless petitioners request extensions in writing.

Men charged with robbery

Two men charged with armed robbery of a Southfield gas station, will be arraigned Monday in 46th District Court.

The pair entered the Clark station on Southfield Road near Ten Mile about 11:30 p.m. Oct. 21 according to a police spokesman.

The driver of the car, a lime green Duster, asked the station attendant for a package of cigarettes, police said.

When the attendant returned, the driver stuck a paper bag out of the car window, indicating there was a gun inside. The attendant turned over $85 to the men who sped south on Southfield Road, according to police.

About an hour later, Detroit police officers spotted a car on Schaefer Road which matched the description of the one broadcast on the police radio. The men were apprehended and taken to Southfield Police Department.

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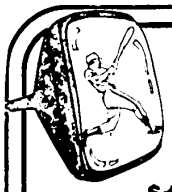

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