

We're looking for unsung heroes

Nominations for the Farmington Observer's "Unsung Hero Award" will continue to be received through Tuesday, Feb. 15.

The search for the area's unsung heroes and heroines is the first of what we plan as an annual event giving these people public recognition.

Nominations for our heroes can be those who have performed a one-time good deed, or those who quietly and steadily give of themselves to make

life better for others without fanfare. We look forward to meeting these people and sharing their stories with our readers.

All nominees for the Unsung Hero Award must live or work in Farmington or Farmington Hills. That is the only requirement for nomination.

If you know an unsung hero, someone you believe deserves recognition and appreciation, tell us about him or her by filling out the accompanying entry blank.

Waiting for our winner is a gift certificate, good for two of the best seats in the house for his or her choice of any show at the Fisher Theater through 1980.

Entries should be returned, by Feb. 15, to: "Unsung Hero," Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

Staff members will act as judges and their decision will be made known the first week in March.

Unsung Hero Award Nomination

My nominee for the Unsung Hero Award is _____

Address _____ Phone _____

He/She is nominated by _____

Address _____ Phone _____

I believe my nominee is the best candidate for the Unsung Hero

Award because _____

(feel free to write on a separate sheet of paper)

Farmington Observer

Suburban Life

Monday, January 28, 1980

Farmington Players

Countdown to opening night

Editors note: Pat Bordman continues her series telling the story of community theater by following the Farmington Players on stage and off through their production of "Angel Street."

By PAT BORDMAN

The script has been chosen, the actors selected, rehearsals begin. In Farmington Players Barn the Victorian melodrama, "Angel Street," is readying for its Feb. 22 opening.

Though rehearsals have started, the actors are not on stage. Instead a mock-up, a pretend stage, is used. The real stage is also in rehearsal, so to speak.

Each time a new play is presented, decisions have to be made regarding the size of the stage area and the placement of important elements of the play. These decisions have an impact on the acting of the play.

Though the writer has given precise and exacting directions for the play's staging, the theater group makes alterations to suit their particular situation.

The players adhere as closely as possible to the restrictions set by the playwright. In this case, the stage in the Players Barn is slightly smaller than

called for by the play and must be built anew.

THE LOWER LEVEL of the Players Barn becomes the staging area. It is here that meetings are held and where props and costumes are stored.

There is a small kitchen off to one side, overstuffed chairs, tables piled high with costumes from another play. It is familiar, friendly, cozy, slightly reminiscent of a basement recreation room.

The actual stage dimensions for the play are outlined on the tile floor with masking tape. This is the job of Don Briggs, who also constructs the flats, or stage walls.

He carefully measures the area and applies the tape to the floor giving the actors the precise angles of the walls, placement of windows and doors, location of entrances and exits.

Impromptu furnishings are used in place of the real stage props. As the actors walk through their parts, called

blocking, the furnishings are more specifically placed. Their actions are tested, their reactions are tried.

Each motion, each movement is recorded by assistant director Sandra Sutherland in a large binder which contains each page of the play pasted to a separate piece of paper. The binder becomes a bible and is the ongoing record of the play's progress.

THE ACTORS imagine the dimensions and limitations of walls that are not there while at the same time work around support poles that are there. Furnishings that will be placed in an exact location must be approximated. Movements that should flow smoothly from one portion of the stage to another, have to take detours. Sometimes the view of another actor can be obscured by the poles.

Director Ellie Jorgensen guides the players through these problems, keeps them on track, creates the proper mood and sets the tone.

"The director brings them through the scene so they look like the person they're supposed to be, feel like him, think like him," she said.

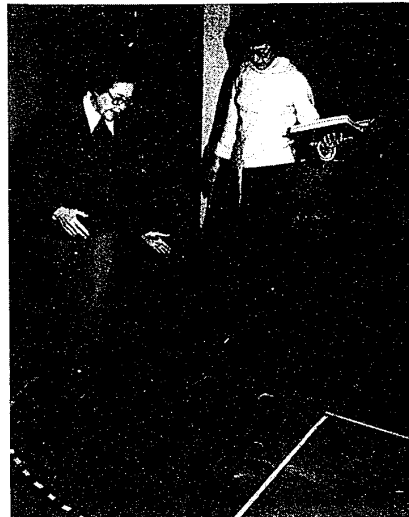
Ms. Jorgensen qualifies for the part with a strong sense of drama and her technical skills in the theater arts. She is quiet and in control, pleasant, thoughtful.

She is a bowler, gardener, bridge player and a civic volunteer whose store of life experience is necessary to the interpretation of another's words and ideas.

Though the producer sees to it that things run smoothly and on schedule with the theater group as a whole, the director has strict charge of the players and the play. The director decides where the actors stand, when they walk, how they gesture, talk and project.

THE DIRECTOR also makes recommendations as to scenery, props and makeup so that they all mesh with her concept of the tone and stance of the play.

"If you see the same play by two different directors," Ms. Jorgensen said, "the interpretations of the characters



The taped floor is used by Ellie Jorgensen who walks through a scene while her assistant, Sandra Sutherland, jots down every move. (Photo by Pat Bordman)

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She doles out just desserts



Local gourmet cook Barbara Dermody, who believes everyone is entitled to their just desserts, will share her baking techniques in a two-hour workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Friday.

"Just Desserts" is the second in a series of nine "Fabulous Fridays" given in Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Rd.

Mrs. Dermody, who has been teaching the culinary arts in adult education classes for seven years, will demonstrate how to prepare and serve "Sachertorte." The elegant chocolate cake is named after the Hotel Sacher in Vienna.

"I'll give step-by-step instructions to Fabulous Friday-goers, who will be able to follow the demonstration from their own detailed recipe sheets," she said. "No one should have any problem duplicating the cake at home."

She adds, "The secret to the mouth-watering frosting on Sachertorte is all in the beating."

Second of the "Just Desserts" to be demonstrated is a strawberry cream roll that can be offered to the family for a very special Valentine's Day treat.

"It's really a jelly roll," she says of the strawberry concoction, "and I promise to dispel all rumours that jelly rolls are hard to master."

MRS. DERMODY is a long-time volunteer for Farmington Community Center, prominent at many of the center's events where food was the subject at hand.

"If there is any mystique that surrounds the successful cook it is because that cook learned proper techniques in preparing food and took the time to learn the proper procedures called for," she said.

Reservations for all classes or events in the center that concern food or cooking must be made at least five days prior to the event.

Fee for "Just Desserts" is \$5. Reservations will be taken by calling the center at 477-8404.

The Fabulous Fridays series continues on Feb. 8, with Diane Solomon, president of Fashion Institute of America, who comes with a show-and-tell program called "Achieving Fashion Success for Less."

That session will be followed by "The Cuisine of Greece," headed by Toulia Patsalis, owner of Kitch-en Glamour.

Storing energy

Here's an important thought: No food is produced without the use of energy.

So if you eat too much you are contributing to the overall energy shortage. It also means that you are storing too much fat and creating your own energy crisis within your body.

Keep yourself trim and you won't overuse or overstore energy.

Another interesting food fact. It's a fallacy that oysters, raw eggs, lean meat and olives increase sexual potency. The fact is these foods as well as others contribute to health and well-being.

But they don't have any special properties that increase sexual vigor. No one food possesses that ability.

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Gourmet confections are turned out with ease by Barbara Dermody who will show how its done in a two-hour session called "Just Desserts." The event is the second Fabulous Friday in the Farmington Community Center winter series. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)