

Mrs. Hoitenga Heads RT Music Society

Margaret Hoitenga is serving her second term as president of the Redford Township Music Society, planning its Christmas concert Dec. 7.

The Redford Civic Orchestra and the General Motors Chorus, directed by Frank Murch, will be featured in the 4 p.m. concert in Redford Union High School.



MARGARET HOITENGA



Tea tables for the afterglow to follow the Dec. 7 concert will be sponsored by the Melody Mums of Redford Union Schools and the Lola Valley Business and Professional Women's Club.

Another table with punch and cookies for children will be sponsored by the Music Society.

Supper Set
The St. Mary's Guild of Marycrest Manor in Livonia will sponsor a traditional Polish Wigilia (Christmas eve supper) in the activities building of St. Barbara Catholic parish, Dearborn, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4.



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Women on the Go

This Lover Of Ballet Brings Her Art To Area

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

"You have to think ballet-love the art in this area what she means when her Severo Ballet Co. puts on Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker' at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, in the Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium at Clarenceville High School.

MRS. SEVERO will show lovers the same ballet in Muskegon this Sunday and in Kalamazoo the following week, and also has three January dates and a couple in April. "And I hope that may be all the performances for a little while," said the lady who serves as once as director, teacher and choreographer for the well-disciplined group that has won national fame.

"It has been a very busy year. I moved to Livonia this summer and still haven't finished setting here."

SANDRA SEVERO and her huge troupe of dancers—a real German shepherd brought here from Germany when she was five weeks old—manage to be quiet in spite of the demands of a very full schedule of classes and rehearsals.

"Cretchen goes with me to the school," Sandra said. "She has to be a very special dog to take care of all of us there, and she is."

In the Highland Park studio, about 100 students of the Severo Ballet School range in age from eight to 24.

"The beginning students have lessons once a week," Miss Severo said. "They're on pro-

gram for six months—I need to be sure how they will work out."

Later the students take twice-a-week lessons, and members of the ballet company have six lessons and two rehearsals a week besides maintaining at least B averages in school.

"I START A beginners' class every year of so," the teacher said, "and I keep the classes together—the whole class waits until everyone is ready to advance."

"Then they appear together in the ballets. In 'The Nutcracker,' we have a class of nine-year-olds who will be nice, and the next class up will be sugar plum attendants. There's always a waiting list. One future student was placed on it at the advanced age of two weeks."

"And after 25 years of teaching," Miss Severo said, "I've watched many students grow up and how I'm teaching the daughters of a few of them."

MRS. SEVERO always has a particular pleasure in presenting this ballet.

"It's a Christmas story that children everywhere enjoy," she said.

"I remember the first time that we performed it with the Detroit Symphony. The orchestra was still performing in the St. Dominic Temple then, and the house seldom was filled. 'The day we were there they sold standing room tickets, and the first people back in the dressing rooms to see me were the usherettes.'"

"They told me how marvelous it was that the children didn't get up and run around as they so often did in family concerts."

SD DANCERS from the Observer area will be performing with the 61-member cast Dec. 14.

They are Lisabeth and Jeffrey Bailey, and Holly Day of Livonia, Carol Valleskey of Li-



SANDRA SEVERO and GRETCHEN (Event photo)

via and Carol Cotter and Maxina White of Redford Township.

Sandra Severo, a native Detroit who has called the Moor City home all her life, had studied ballet as long as she can remember. The teacher who had the most influence, she said, is Dimitri Romanoff of the American Ballet Theater.

"It was six months in residence with the company," she related, "and I am the only one he taught beyond the regular rehearsal time. He taught me what ballet is about and a lot of the lessons were just talking—to get better understanding."

She also has studied under Brjenslava Nijinska, Alicia Markova, Anton Dolin, Edward Clifton and Ted Shawn, but feels that training from Romanoff is the most important to her way of teaching and directing.

"MY TEACHING must be effective," she added, "because there are 30 professional dancers who are former students."

Among these is Barbara Remington, who was with the American Ballet Co. and the Royal Ballet and now is a member of the Robert Jeffrey Dancers, a young and experi-

mental group that is making headlines in dance circles in New York.

Another Severo student, Lisa Braden who is playing the Snow Queen in "Nutcracker," will leave in June for a year's study with the Stuttgart Ballet School in Germany.

One addition Miss Severo likes to make to her school is frequent study exchanges with teachers and performers from all over the world.

"The dance world really is very small," she said. "So we want to know each other and help each other."

One recent exchange with a teacher from chilly Denmark concerned developing exercises to warm up cold feet in a hurry.

The Severo company has costumes for 49 ballets, designed by Wilmer Welles, former Detroit now a New York department store executive.

"He's done the designing for us just because he loves doing it," Sandra said. "He'll be doing new costumes for 'The Nutcracker' next summer, and my niece will come from California to make them."

"That's a monumental job. The costumes currently in use for the ballet take up all the space in a big station wagon. Costumes full of color, young dancers full of enthusiasm and the full effort of a very dedicated lady all will be on view in the Clarenceville performance Dec. 14. Tickets for \$1 may be obtained by calling Mrs. John Slatin, 474-5459.

According to Dr. Kruger, the plan "would enable widows to improve their economic status through education and training" and would alleviate the so-called "widow's gap"—the time during which a widow

Tots, Student Mothers Both Can Attend WSU

Only a few blocks on the Wayne State University campus will separate many of Wayne's married students from their children when winter classes begin in January.

"The children will be in school too," explains Mrs. Franklin Kot, president of Women of Wayne Alumni Association, which operates a child-care center in the shadow of their parents' imposing classroom structures.

The program at the center includes stories, music, art and a variety of other learning experiences for the pre-school age child.

THE CENTER follows the University calendar, and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, for the first 10 weeks of the fall, winter, and spring quarters. Children may be enrolled one to five days a week for a minimum of two number is 577-2167.

hours and a maximum of four hours on any one day.

A registration fee of \$5 per quarter is payable at the time of application. Hourly tuition fees of 75 cents an hour are payable in advance, in full or in installments at the time the child is registered.

"WE OPENED the Women of Wayne Child Care Center primarily as a service to students," says Mrs. Kot, "however children of University staff members or others in the neighborhood will be accepted if there are vacancies at the close of the final registration period in January."

Enclosures containing further details regarding registration procedures are available through the business office of the Center at Alumni House, 441 W. Ferry on the University campus. The telephone number is 577-2167.

Hoods Mark 50th

Thanksgiving Day marked the 50th wedding anniversary celebration for Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hood, 615 Jener, Plymouth.

Their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Nelson of Plymouth, hosted a family dinner in Loy's Restaurant.

Guests present from Plymouth, Dearborn, West Branch, Mich., and Columbus and Cambridge, O., included two members of the original wedding party, Mrs. Hood's brother, Rex Bachelder, and her sister, Georgia Bachelder.

The Hoods were married Nov. 25, 1919, in Ulica, Ohio, in the home of the bride's parents. They had three children, Plymouth, since 1960, when Mr. Hood retired after 40 years with General Foods Corp.

50 For Kersteins

A Thanksgiving Day service in Grace Lutheran Church, Redford Township, and a family dinner in the Mayflower Hotel in Plymouth marked the Golden Wedding celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kerstein, 14050 Salem, Redford Township.

The couple was married Nov. 29, 1919.

They have two sons and two daughters and 17 grandchildren. Mr. Kerstein is retired chief of the general motors Corp. Terrestri division

MSU Professor Has Plan To Aid Widow Mothers

Widowed mothers would be the key beneficiaries of a new social security program proposed by a Michigan State University professor.

Called "Widows Education Benefits," the program could give some 400,000 women with children under 18 years of age a new start in life, according to Dr. Daniel H. Kruger, MSU professor of industrial relations.

"Widows under 59 years of age should be given the opportunity to improve their employability through education and training," he told the House Ways and Means Committee in testimony presented earlier this month.

"HIS PLAN asks that widows under 49 years of age (more than 70% of those now receiving social security benefits) be provided educational benefits, up to \$1,000 annually for a maximum of four years. For those 50 to 59 years of age, educational benefits would be available up to a maximum of two years.

According to Dr. Kruger, the plan "would enable widows to improve their economic status through education and training" and would alleviate the so-called "widow's gap"—the time during which a widow receives no survivorship benefits.

Dr. Kruger told the committee that such a program is needed because widowed families have much less income than other families. In a national survey conducted by the Social Security Committee, one-fourth of the widowed families had incomes below the poverty level and two-fifths had incomes below the low-income level.

ALTHOUGH WIDOWS with children are twice as likely to work as mothers with husbands, most working widows are employed in low-skill and part-time jobs, he said.

"Many tried to get jobs and could not," he told the committee. "The widows unemployment rate was about three times as high as that of other widows."

During 1962, the last year for which data are available, average earnings for employed widows were only \$110 monthly.

ANOTHER REASON why such a program is needed, he said, is that no widow receives survivorship benefits after her youngest entitled child becomes 18. Between this time and the date she reaches age 62 there is a "widow's gap," he explained.

Although the widowed mother might reasonably be expected to support herself during the period when she no longer has entitled children in her care, many of those women are poorly prepared vocationally to do so," Dr. Kruger said.

Limited day care services and career counseling would also have to be provided in addition to the education benefits, according to the author of the new program.

"No additional taxes would be required to pay for the program," says Dr. Kruger. "The Widows Education Benefit" program could be financed out of the interest on the Social Security Trust Fund.

KDs Schedule Yule Dinner
The annual Christmas dinner of the West Side-Suburban Alumnae chapter of Kappa Delta sorority will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, in the home of Mrs. Kenneth Stevenson of Birmingham.

The sisters will collect gifts for patients at the Northville State Home

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DAR Will Get Hints On Trees

John Miller of the Green Ridge Nursery will speak at a maximum of Christmas trees for the general meeting of the Sarah Ann Cochrane chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at 12 noon Monday, Dec. 15, in the home of Mrs. William Bake, 341 W. Main, Northville.

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