

Arts Council

Different Roads To Same End

by SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Two new councils with different approaches, but the same aims.

That's a quick summation of the Plymouth and Farmington Fine Arts Councils, both of which have been organized during the past six months.

The Farmington group is composed of member organizations with assistance from

the Oakland Community College's Community Services Division.

In Plymouth, a group has been organized under the umbrella of the Plymouth Board of Education.

BOTH GROUPS work closely with the Michigan State Council for the Arts and both strive to coordinate and sponsor cultural events in their areas.

Methods of the councils vary.

In Farmington, the council has co-sponsored programs open to the general public and have published a calendar of events for the quarter.

The programs (three to date with two more scheduled during March and April) have been concerned with the performing arts.

Plymouth's primary approach has been in the visual arts field with the sponsorship of a series of art exhibits in each of the three Plymouth Junior Highs.

After the first of the year, the council will take its art program to the district's elementary schools. The art exhibits are the first step in a five-year long-range plan adopted by the Plymouth volunteers.

After the first of the year, the Plymouth Council plans to move into the area of sponsoring cultural events for the public.

BOTH GROUPS see themselves as a general clearinghouse on information about possible activities and to help avoid conflicts in scheduling. Both have acquired office space to pursue their aims.

Farmington makes its headquarters in the Farmington Community Center, while the Plymouth Council has an office in the newly opened Esbister School.

Membership in the Farmington Council is through an organization or an individual. Membership fees are placed at \$15 a year for organizations and \$5 for individuals.

Some financial aid in paying sponsorship cost of programs comes from the Community Services Division of Oakland Community College.

The Plymouth Council received a \$500 advance from the Plymouth Board of Education to get started, but the council intends to return the advance to the school district with this spring set as the target date for repaying the loan.

In order to finance its work, the council has requested financial backing from the PTA's of the schools having programs for the students. The Plymouth group will sponsor a solicitation of Plymouth Service Clubs after the first of the year.

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These are just some of the advantages of belonging to a ski club. The above packages are being offered by several ski clubs in metropolitan Detroit and by the U.S. Ski Association.

The United States Ski Association Central Division has 15,000 members. There are 50 organized adult ski clubs representing 6,000 skiers in the Metropolitan Detroit Ski Council.

With numbers like that to draw upon, it's not too difficult to charter a \$32,000 airplane and receive 60 rates for lodging. It's common sense for a lodge owner to give your group a discount if you can guarantee filling 50 rooms.

SKI CLUBS serve other purposes as well, mainly expanding your circle of friendship and, if you're single, an opportunity to meet members of the opposite sex with similar interests.

The Livonia Park and Recreation Department sponsors two programs, one the Livonia Ski School, organized in 1966, which is primarily to encourage beginning skiers. Classes are held at Mt. Brighton on Thursday and Friday evenings at a special rate. Joe Czaplak and Norb Kopeikin have provided the leadership for the group since its inception and have seen 375 skiers take part. There are still some openings.

They have scheduled six weekend trips to northern Michigan ski areas. Bill Wert, president of Process Controls, Inc., Livonia, is trip chairman and past president of the club. They hold their meetings at the Redford J.C. Building on the first Thursday of each month.

The club is a member of the Metropolitan Detroit Ski Council and 52 of the club members will be traveling to Courcheval, France in January and February on the M.D.S.C. charter flight.

I HAD the opportunity of talking to Dave Gilles, advisor of the Franklin High School Ski Club. He informed me that his club has already had four dry-land ski lessons last month. From the sound of it, I'd say he has one of the finest high school programs in the state. How about hearing from the other high school groups in Observerian?

FLASH!!! The United States Ski Association Central Division has added a second plane leaving Detroit on March 1 to Geneva and returning March 15 for \$195. The trip is open to all eligible members.

NEXT WEEK - The Intrepid, Mt. Elliott Ski Club!

Calendar Lists Winter Events

Snow action keys events for wintertime visitors to Michigan during the months of December through March.

POPULAR winter sports activities make up the bulk of the listings, with snowmobile gatherings leading the pack. Beginning with the Olympia Snowmobile Competition, Ironwood, Dec. 12-14, and winding up with the Snowmobile Stampede Races, tentatively set for March 7-8, at East Jordan, at least one snowmobile event is scheduled each week through the winter.

Slating, skiing, dog sled races, ski jumping contests, as well as a Sports Car Ice Run, Grayling, Feb. 21-22,

add to the excitement of Michigan's wintertime fare. Ice fishing festivals, winter carnivals and a variety of shows balance off the listings.

Offerings of Christmas shows, displays and holiday events dominate the December listings in the calendar. The Christmas Carnival, Cobo Hall, Detroit, Dec. 10-24, was planned with the kids in mind.

Other Christmas oriented events include Christmas Trees Around the World, Nature Center, Kalamazoo, Dec. 8-29; The Henry Ford Museum Christmas Exhibit, Dec. 13-Jan. 4, Dearborn; and Christmas at Greenfield Village, Dec. 19-31.

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