

'Sprouts'

Book helps awaken senses of children

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

The frog on the cover of a new book, "Sprouts," holds a picture of a tadpole. And that says a lot about what's inside.

This new paperback from Good Apple Publishing Co., subtitled "Projects for Creative Growth in Children," is the work of Harriet Hope Green and Sue Gillespie Martin. Green, a Southfield resident and elementary teacher in the Birmingham district, presently at Meadow Lake school, is a specialist in creative dramatics.

Dr. Martin, now on sabbatical as associate professor at University of Windsor's school of dramatic art, has written extensively on childhood creativity.

Together the women designed this workbook-size publication to encourage a positive self-image in children roughly ages 5 through junior high. The 84 projects or lessons are divided into six units, each with an underlying theme — developing sensory awareness, movement and mime, art awareness, storytelling and storyplaying, creative writing and creative thinking.

IN ESSENCE, ALL of these pleasant, imaginative projects will help a young person enjoy his own mind and body and experiment with his own abilities in a atmosphere without threat or pressure.

Each of the projects, which requires little more than what's available through a library, a leader and some children, is carefully documented as to objective, materials and procedure.

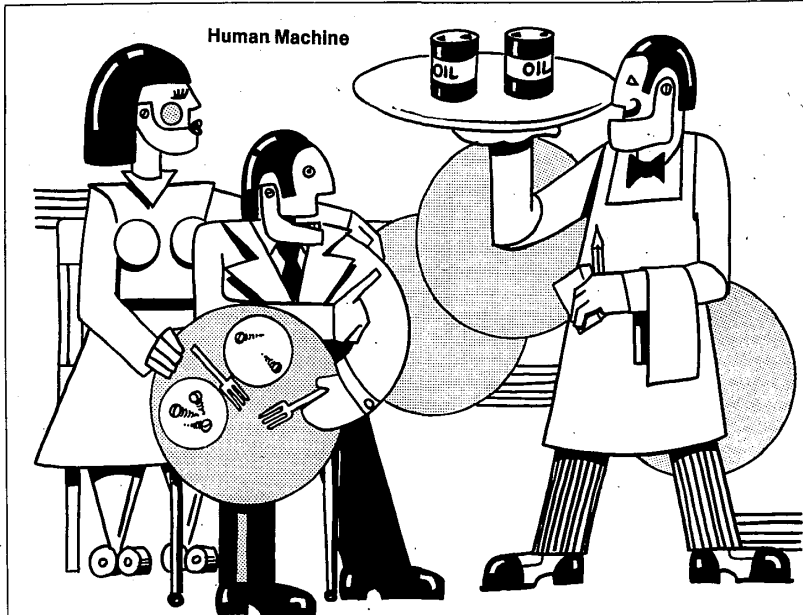
Along with the projects are attrac-

tive illustrations by Gerald Melton, art teacher in the Birmingham schools. If many of his full page black and white drawings seem somehow inspired by some of the world's great paintings, that's because they are — or were.

In the early stages of their two years of planning and writing, Green and Martin had hoped to use reproductions of fine art such as Peter Bruegel's painting of children at play or Edward Hicks' "Peaceable Kingdom." When that proved too expensive, they passed their ideas on to Melton and he completed with drawings which children and adults alike will find captivating.

HIS ILLUSTRATION for the Noah's Ark project is delightful, as are all of his others. Most all contain a splash of humor that encourages the youngster to smile about himself as well as those around him. That's why the frog holding the picture of the tadpole is so engaging. He belongs to the project titled, "Phizog," taken from the poem of the same name by Carl Sandburg. This poem, as well as some others by popular writers, is in the book. Anyway, in the "Phizog" project, the idea is to develop an awareness of self. Youngsters are asked to show baby pictures of themselves. And the message in the Sandburg poem is so appropriate — that of accepting the face that was handed to you.

Melton's full page drawings will delight both children and adults for they are realistic with a healthy outlook on both fact and fiction. His drawing for the Noah's Ark project, for instance, shows stereo equipment and an outdoor grill packed in with the unusual assemblage of characters. There's a little



Gerald Melton's illustration is from a section called 'Changes, Changes' in which the objective is to start with one movement and let it transform to another movement idea. Melton teaches art in the Birmingham schools.

face peeking out of the window which some small person is immediately going to empathize with.

And the book is certainly not all mush and pap. There are some truly challenging projects, particularly in the creative writing section where thinking up a "Hugable Claquein" in blank verse demands thought as well as imagination. But, even here, it is suggested that for those too young to write, a tape recorder could be used.

THE AUTHORS NEVER talk down to their audience, but at the same time, they give an easy step-by-step process. The link to the visual or performing arts, poetry, literature, classical music and drama is apparent in almost every project. But the real world of sports figures and TV heroes is never far away.

At first, it was assumed this was going to be a book for teachers and group leaders, but parents have been

very receptive since it appeared just a short time ago. There's lots in "Sprouts" to make a parent more comfortable with reading along with storytelling and role-playing, problem-solving dramatics. It will certainly aid a parent in becoming more proficient in the language of "childpeak" and "childthink." Each project and all the materials suggested have been used over and over by these two veteran teacher/writers. They've done each one often enough to have long ago worked out the bugs, unless of course like the conniving spider, they're part of the action.

Several area bookstores are carrying it, \$9.95. The Children's Book Shop in the Applegate Center, Southfield, will host an autograph party for the authors on Sept. 26. Birmingham Bookstore will have a workshop followed by an autograph party on Oct. 11. Workshop seating is limited so call for reservations.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Sue Gillespie Martin (left) a professor at University of Windsor, and Harriet Hope Green of Southfield, will sign autographs for their book "Sprouts" at the Children's Bookstore in Applegate Center on Sept. 26. On Oct. 11 at the Birmingham bookstore, a workshop and autograph party are planned.

Home health care session set

By Shirlee Iden
staff writer

If you've always had questions about home health care but didn't know just whom to ask, help is at hand.

A seminar to answer a variety of questions consumers have on home health care is offered free of charge at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Southfield Civic Center, Rooms 221 and 222.

Pro-Care One, a Southfield agency for home health care, is sponsoring the event which will feature a panel of experts.

"People are just not aware they can go support financially and emotionally from social workers, therapists, occupational therapists, nurses and skilled nurses aids," said Alice Sheehan, director of nursing at the agency.

"Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross policies and HMOs have home care riders. They don't usually cover 24 hour care. That extra care costs the consumer. But most consumers don't even know it's there."

Director of the "What you Always Wanted to Know about Home Health Care" program is Bonnie Korn, now finishing a master's degree in nursing at Wayne State University.

A NATIVE of Kentucky, she married a Detroit and has one son, 18 months old.

Mrs. Korn says the last time the agency held a similar seminar one elderly couple expressed great concern.

"They had experienced medical problems in their family that weren't addressed and they were concerned about taking care of one another," Mrs. Korn relates.

"Their questions were personal but the answers were quite valuable to the audience."

Special needs such as for senior baby sitters, and to relieve someone caring for a chronically ill person are being

met, and professionally, said Mrs. Sheehan.

A native Detroit, she holds an RN degree from Mercy College, is married and the mother of six children.

"In the past, chronically ill persons were taken to nursing homes but sometimes the patients didn't enjoy being away from the family and the families felt guilt," Mrs. Sheehan said.

"Knowing that outside help is available makes the whole difference. Also, it's vital to have someone who can recognize an emergency coming up."

SHE SAID often accident victims require home care and mothers coming out of a hospital may not be able to care for their families.

"Apnea sitters are becoming much more common. They are trained to relieve parents whose babies' respiratory problems make them candidates for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)," she explains.

"These infants are on monitors and their must be a skilled individual at home at all times. Parents are trained to watch the situation, but they need relief."

Members of the Sept. 17 will include a home care coordinator from an area hospital; a social worker from a home health agency; a representative from a medical equipment company and possibly a representative from the Southeastern Michigan Hospice.

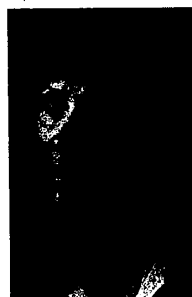
"There's a home care coordinator in every hospital in the city and most people don't know they're there," Mrs. Sheehan says adding that often even physicians don't know the service.

With the growing cost of hospitals and institutions, people are forced to go home from hospitals earlier and take more responsibility for their own health care.

With the medical cost care crunch as severe as it is, the seminar is intended to make available valuable information for health care consumers.



Alice Sheehan



Bonnie Korn

6 days only!

Specially priced decorator chairs

Bamboo inspired

Traditional

French Provincial

Our Decorator Chairs combine cane-accented nutmeg pecan finish frames with long-wearing nylon velvet covers in your choice of colors. (All 3 styles are available with all-cane backs and nylon velvet seats at same price!) Attractive... comfortable... a design for every decor. Come see them now in our Harman Gallery.

MIX OR MATCH YOUR CHOICES AND SAVE! At these prices, you will want a pair (or 3 or 4)! Feel free to mix or match your favorite styles and enjoy the savings!

Your Choice Mix or Match:
2 for \$279
\$149 each • 3 for \$399

MEMBER OF THE INTERIOR DESIGN SOCIETY

Wiggs

open Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 'til 9
Visa, Master Card or Wiggs Charge

Telegraph at Long Lake Rd. (18 Mile)
Bloomfield Hills • 644-7370