

Yes, Virginia, there is a reel lot goin' on

By Margaret Miller
staff writer

An exclusive gathering of maybe 40,000 people is coming to the Detroit area next June. And those who want to get in on the party had better act soon.

The word comes from four dedicated square dancers, Bob and Mary Brennan and Ed and Barbara Henson, Livonia, who are using National Square Dance Week which began Sunday to get their Westland and Livonia classes into full swing.

And the big event they are talking about is the 31st National Square Dance Convention which takes place in Detroit June 24-26.

Mrs. Brennan said the Detroit Tourist Bureau is predicting the convention "conservatively" at 40,000, basing the estimate on square dancers' track record for more than doubling attendance each time they return to a host

city. They had 18,500 in Detroit in 1981 and much greater crowds more recently in Memphis and Seattle.

And that projected figure, she pointed out, would make the gathering twice as big as the Republican National Convention last summer and four times the number of barbershoppers who convened in recent years.

But the square dance convention is exclusive, she went on, "because only trained dancers can register and participate."

"We want to get the word out now so people won't be disappointed," Mrs. Brennan said. "Anyone who begins a class this month can be out of the basics by May and ready for the convention in June."

A COUPLE of places to start learning the basics are the Mel Bailey Recreation Center in Westland, where Bob Brennan will be calling and he and

Mary will be teaching at 7:45 p.m. Tuesdays starting Sept. 22, and Perrinville School in Livonia, home base for a class called by Ed Henson and his wife, Barbara, 7:30-10 p.m. Thursdays starting Sept. 17.

Both couples charge \$3.50 per couple per lesson for their evenings of instruction. The classes at the Bailey center, Ford Road between Wayne and Newburgh, are offered through the Westland Parks and Recreation program. Those interested may call the Brennans at 421-5359.

Perrinville School is at Farmington Road and Ann Arbor Trail. The Hensons may be reached at 425-0284.

Their classes and others in this area are part of the fall reopening of square dance classes and clubs across the nation.

Dancers in Detroit will get a radio sendoff when Ted Strasser of WJR makes square dancing the theme of his

"Patterns in Music" program the morning of Sunday, Sept. 20.

And all around the country do-it-do enthusiasts will be gearing up for the convention set to jam Cobo Hall, the Cobo Arena, the Veterans Memorial Building and Hart Plaza during the last week of June.

THE MICHIGAN council of Square and Round Dance Clubs, about 200 in number, are putting on the big event. The Brennans are serving as vice chairmen of publicity.

At this point we have passed the 5,000 mark in registrations and the convention is 10 months away," said Mrs. Brennan.

It's a bargain of a convention, she noted, costing only \$10 for a registration that takes participants to exhibitions and dancing that will go on almost continuously for the three days. Costs are kept down, Mrs. Brennan

said, because all the arranging is done on a volunteer basis.

But the dancers, gathering in hotels and inns all over metropolitan Detroit and Windsor as well, are expected to be worth between \$8 million and \$9 million to area businesses.

"Square dancers are big spenders," said Mrs. Brennan. "Not so much in the bars, but they will leave plenty in the eating places. Last year some restaurants ran out of food the first day. We warned them, but they didn't believe us."

Besides filling the hotels, convention-goers will be staying in dormitories at the University of Detroit and the University of Windsor, and arrangements are being made to park some 2,000 recreational vehicles at the State Fair Grounds. Their occupants will be taken to convention doings via shuttle bus.

THE BRENNANS and Hensons are pretty typical of hundreds of dancers in this area. They tried an activity that looked like fun and soon were hooked. Now both couples give most of their spare time to square dance evenings.

For Ed and Barbara Henson, it was a matter of starting some lessons 13 years ago, "just fooling around," she said.

"Then Ed started doing some calling as a hobby, but it doesn't stay a hobby," she added.

Mary Brennan agreed. "Bob told me, 'Honey, you handle the mike and I'll do the rest,' and I've had no rest since," she said.

The Brennans call for a club at the Clay school in Livonia twice a month, and both they and the Hensons are in demand as callers for hayrides, church events and club meetings.

They first noticed square dancing



Area square dancers are looking forward to June '82 in Detroit when they will convene to consume of mass quantities of do-c-dos.

during an exhibition at the Westland Shopping Center, Mrs. Brennan said. They thought it looked like fun. The rest is history.

"And it happened I had a Girl Scout troop, and the girls wanted to get their dance badges," she added. "So we taught our troop first, and the next year 250 Scouts in the district. They put on a demonstration at Westland."

"You get a real baptism by fire when you teach kids."

SQUARE DANCERS cover a wide age range, the two women pointed out. "Pre-teen to senior citizen," said Mary Brennan. But she cautioned that those interested in dancing should not wait too long to start. Conditioning is needed, she added, "so don't plan to pay for your first square dance lesson with your first Social Security check."

Their class at Bailey last year included Kim and Jeff Carter of Westland. They completed the basic course in May and their second child was born in July, Mrs. Brennan said.



SKI SALE

20 to 50% OFF
ALL REMAINING
1980/81 SKIWEAR
and EQUIPMENT

SALE PRICES THRU SEPT. 19

THE NEW 1981/82 MERCHANDISE IS
COMING DAILY. A GREAT CHANCE
TO COMPARE AND SAVE PLenty.

Bavarian Village

OPEN DAILY NOON 'TIL 9

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLOOMFIELD HILLS: 2540 WOODWARD at Square Lake Rd. • BIRMINGHAM: 101 TOWNSEND corner of Pierce • MT. CLEMENS: 1216 S. GRATIOT 1/2 mile No. of 16 Mi. • LIVONIA/REDFORD: 14211 TELEGRAPH at Jeffries Fwy. • FARMINGTON: 34789 GRAND RIVER, E. of Drake • ANN ARBOR: 3336 WASHITENAW West of U.S. 23 • FLINT: 4261 MILLER RD. across from Genesee Valley • EAST DETROIT: 22301 KELLY RD. between 8 & 9 Mi. • FARMINGTON HILLS: 27847 ORCHARD LAKE RD. at 12 Mi. 	<p>338-0803</p> <p>644-5950</p> <p>463-3620</p> <p>534-8200</p> <p>477-2528</p> <p>973-9340</p> <p>732-5560</p> <p>778-7020</p> <p>553-8585</p>
---	--

• VISA • MASTER CARD • AMERICAN EXPRESS • DINERS



STAINED GLASS

It's fun to do and so easy to learn!

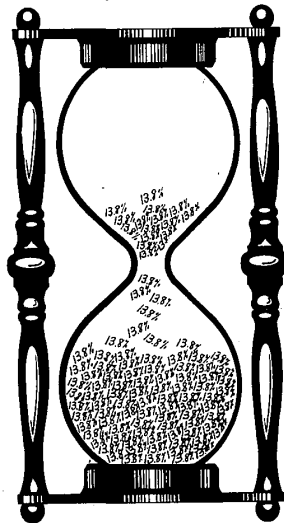
Make suncatchers, panels, and lamps for a fraction of their cost.

CLASSES STARTING SOON
STOP IN AND ASK FOR FREE DEMO
Mon thru Fri 10-6, Tues 10-9, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5

Troy 1073 E. Long Lake Long Lake Plaza 525-1887 Westland 6018 N. Wayne Rd. Westview Plaza 729-9188 Delphi Makes It Easy

DELPHI SUPPLY CENTERS

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!



GMAC's SPECIAL LOW

13.8%

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE

FINANCING RATE ENDS

SEPT. 23

Act now. September 23 is the final date you can take advantage of GMAC's special low 13.8% financing rate, and save hundreds of dollars!

Don't hesitate. Your participating GM Dealer is waiting to offer qualified buyers this remarkably low financing rate on all 1981 General Motors

cars, light-duty trucks and vans delivered through September 23—Plus the new 1982 Chevrolet Cavalier, Pontiac J2000 and Cimarrons by Cadillac.

See your GM Dealer today. Pick out that new Chevrolet, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Buick or Cadillac.

IN MICHIGAN, THIS WILL RESULT IN AN AVERAGE SAVING OF \$425*

GMAC
THE FINANCING PEOPLE
FROM GENERAL MOTORS

Based on GMAC financing data for June 1981 and the Michigan Motor Vehicle Sales Tax. Actual savings will depend on the amount financed and the length of the contract.

Enjoy the Beauty of Northern Michigan's FALL COLOR SPECTACULAR ...



SEPTEMBER
and OCTOBER
**LUNCHEON
COLOR TOURS**
LUNCH
and TOUR
Complete

\$12⁰⁰

Let us book your private parties or group outings on board Michigan's newest, liveliest, happiest

"PARTY SHIP"

LAKE CHARLEVOIX CRUISES

BAY QUEEN • SEA HAWK CRUISES

113 Bridge Street
Charlevoix, MI 49720
1-616-547-9032

Toll Free Number
1-800-632-5550

All cruises
depart from bridge
in Charlevoix