

Reliving old-time radio shows

Hills' Max Davey singers back in the saddle

By Elizabeth Roach
staff writer

Longtime followers of the Max Davey Singers may remember the group's annual Christmas and spring concerts at Ford Auditorium, the last of which was in 1978.

"The 26 singers now are preparing for action on a smaller scale.

"I think the days of being able to do a show like that are over," said Margaret Davey, the group's business manager.

"My husband and I personally underwrote a lot of it. When the economy picks up, hopefully we can do it again."

The singers offer a repertoire of secular and religious music and make up what Mrs. Davey terms a lush-sounding, Norman Luboff-style group.

The group stopped performing in 1978 for about two years, Mrs. Davey said. What with maintaining a full schedule from 1974-1976, including tak-

ing part in bicentennial celebrations, the singers needed a rest.

"WE WERE so tired when that was over. It just about broke everybody's back," said Mrs. Davey, who lives with her husband, Max, the group's director, in Farmington Hills.

She and her husband also must devote time to their jobs in the "real world."

Max Davey is general manager of a tool and die stamping plant in Ferndale. Mrs. Davey is a field director for six senior citizen apartment buildings in Livonia, Farmington, Detroit, Ypsilanti, New Baltimore and Mount Clemens.

However, now their rest is over. "The singers wanted to sing again, and they pressured Max. They're ready to go again," Mrs. Davey said. "We're ready and very interested in taking engagements again."

In addition to singing engagements, Max Davey is preparing a program of religious music. So far, they have sung at churches in West Bloomfield, Brighton and Wyandotte. The group is slated to appear in March at churches in Redford Township, Warren and Ferndale and in Lansing in May.

The group is looking for more singers. Max Davey will audition people after the first of the year.

EARLY THIS year, the group re-

In addition to old church hymns and gospel music, they sing newer songs such as "Day by Day," from "Godspell."

On the secular side, with the help of

Instead of a narrator, the show will have an announcer. The group, dressed in 1940s-style clothes, will sing songs such as "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Somewhere over the Rainbow," "Honey-suckle Rose" and "Lullabye of Broadway."

ALSO IN the works is a set of hit parade songs from the 1950s, which should be ready by late spring, and "The Musical Manual," a salute to Broadway shows.

All these shows will feature both singing and dancing.

Max Davey's interest in music dates back at least to Max and Margaret's days at Cooley High School in Detroit. He played trumpet in the band, and she sang in the high school chorus.

Davey started his choral group in 1962, when he was at Wayne State University studying music. That year, the group began doing the shows at Ford Auditorium, and they continued those

through 1978.

Eventually, Mrs. Davey said, the Max Davey Singers even did a television show in Toronto in 1972 with Pat Boone, Don Murray and Shari Lewis. It appeared locally on Channel 2.

THE MAX DAVEY Singers come from all walks of life. They include a labor negotiator, a couple of Ford executives, a construction worker, a chef, music teachers, university students and housewives, Mrs. Davey said.

Members of the group live in Garden City, Livonia, Southfield, Farmington, West Bloomfield, Berkley, Ferndale, Novi, Northville, Trenton and Detroit, among other places.

The common denominator is the ability to read the music and sing the part, Mrs. Davey said.

"A lot of the people have been with the group eight to 10 years," she said. One woman has been a Max Davey singer since 1964.

'Bourbon Street North' cleared by Milliken

Gov. William G. Milliken has signed Senate Bill 558, which allows the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to issue National Sporting Event Licenses for the sale of liquor for on-premises consumption.

The bill clears the way for creation of "Bourbon Street North," a five-block long pedestrian plaza in downtown Pontiac during the week of Super Bowl

XVI. Super Bowl XVI will be played in Pontiac's Silverdome Jan. 24.

Licenses can be issued subject to the following conditions:

• The applicants must already hold valid on-premises licenses.

• Premises to be licensed must be in "the central business district of a city having a population of 60,000 or more, which is an official host of a national sporting event."

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YMCA Highlights

The Farmington Area YMCA provides a variety of services for youth and adults in the community. Further information may be obtained by calling 553-4020 between 9 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. daily.

• **WINTER REGISTRATION** — Classes begin the week of Jan. 11. Ear-

ly registration takes place on Monday, Jan. 4. Members may register from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Non-members may register from 8-9:30 p.m.

• **CROSS COUNTRY SKI WORKSHOP** — If you received a new pair of skis for Christmas, learn how to use them at a workshop on Jan. 12. The

class will be held at Glen Oaks Golf Course. If you do not have skis, rentals are available. Call 553-4020 for information on the time. Members \$9, non-members \$15.

• **KIDS NIGHT OUT** — Saturday, Jan. 2, boys and girls ages 5-12 can join in on the fun and start the New Year with a bang. The time is 8 p.m.

It's YOUR Money
by Charles H. Williams, C.P.A.
A BUDGET IS ONLY A PLAN
Charles Dickens' colorful character, Micawber, pronounced the definitive statement on money management about a hundred years ago: "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen, nineteen and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds, ought and six, result misery."

The difference between happiness and misery may be just as minor a matter as that twelve pence of expenses—it's often just a small loss of control. Setting up a budget sounds strict and forbidding to many people, but actually, a budget is only a plan, to give you a chance to measure the money coming in and weigh it against what you want to do with it.

Start first with your income: what remains after income taxes, Social Security, and any other inescapable deductions. Voluntary deductions should not be considered now. Next, tackle the inescapable expenses; rent or mortgage, real estate taxes (if any), utilities, and food. Big expenses such as insurance should be included, and a portion of that expense allocated for each month.

The rest can be considered discretionary income, money that can be spent as you need or wish. Before you allocate it, review how you spent your money last year: that may offer clues to leaks in your ship of finances. Go through your checkbook and credit card statements. If you'd like to travel more this year, for instance, figure out where you can cut down.

Don't plan how you will spend it all. Contingencies will arise, from blown-out tires to dentist bills. Still, if you have a budget, however loose, you have a framework within which to remain sane and solvent—and, if Micawber is right, happy.

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