



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Five-month-old Katie Ann Caroon isn't eligible for the beautiful baby contest because her mother Marlene is a member of the Farmington Jaycettes.

Katie Ann is promoting the contest as one of the babies who have found contentment traveling in her Love Seat since birth.

BUBs

Beautiful babies called for Jaycette's contest

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

The annual spring search for the Farmington area's most beautiful baby is under way.

The Farmington Jaycette's launched its first "Beautiful Baby Contest" four years ago in conjunction with its BUBs (Buckle Up Babies) program. BUBs was inaugurated some time before that when it became known that more children are hurt or killed from auto crashes than from any disease or any other kind of accident.

The contest helped spread the word about the importance of cradling young passengers with a car seat or restraint. And the contest also helped spread the word that GM Love Seats were available for a low-cost rental by the local Jaycette members.

This year the contest is launched as Michigan's Public Act 117, known as the Child Restraint Law, goes into effect.

The law states that each child under the age of 4 transported in any motor vehicle must be in some kind of child restraint seat, and all those under the age of 1 year must be buckled.

Failure to comply is a civil infraction.

The new act comes on the heels of studies which have proven that an unharmed child in a car that is involved in an accident can become a

projectile; and that 3,350 children under 4 riding unprotected were killed or seriously injured in 1980.

RESIDENTS in Farmington Nursing Home have been appointed judges for this year's Beautiful Baby Contest, open to all area babies from newborn to 9 months of age.

Entries are taken by submitting one photo, no larger than 3 by 5 inches, with the baby's name and birth date, the parents' name, address and phone number written on the back. Photos will not be returned.

Entries should be sent to: Baby Beautiful Contest, 20903 Birchwood, Farmington, 48034, and must be postmarked by April 30.

There is no charge. Winners and their prizes will be announced in the Farmington Observer in mid-May.

Mary Ellen Vigna is chairman of the contest this year. Barb Wikowski is chairman of BUBs this year, and with that job oversees the GM Love Seat rentals.

The Farmington Area Jaycettes purchased its first order of GM Love Seats in 1974 and have held to having about 40 of them out in circulation at any one given time since.

Some have gone back for repair, some have been replaced during that time, but members feel now that another order is mandatory with the advent

of the new law.

THE JAYCETTES started its rental program because to buy the seat, an item that would be used for so short a period of time, might be very expensive for some parents.

Rental is \$8 for a nine-month period, plus a \$7 deposit. The chapter rents only the GM Love Seats, those that babies can use until they are about 20 pounds, or about nine months, though the manufacturer carries Child Seats for use as the child grows older.

Members chose to purchase the GM product because of the extensive tests and research that went into building the restraints. They are flame resistant, lightweight, easily carried and handily stored when not in use.

Rental inquiries will be taken by calling Wikowski at 474-7669. Rentals are not restricted to area residents. The seats are loaned to person in other communities where the BUBs program is not in effect.

The Jaycettes began its rental program with the idea of breaking even but have found themselves with a profit from time to time.

One year, profits from the rentals went to buy bubble tops for cribs in Boston Hospital. The bubble top allowed the hospitalized children to stand up in a crib without hurting themselves and without being restrained.

Vickie Najjar Teichner

Her poetry is passing the tests

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Children who attend area library programs this spring will be providing a test market for a string of original poems written by the woman who gave the 8-12-year-old set a new science fiction book less than two years ago.

"My poems are passing the test," said Vickie Najjar Teichner. "The children we've read to so far have been very attentive, but best of all they are keeping us for about 30 minutes after the program to ask questions. And good questions, too."

The 36 Ms. Teichner speaks of includes her daughter Marla, a 14-year-old who attends Farmington High School and spends her weekends either reciting with her mother or getting ready for the next performance.

There are now 22 poems in the collection that have passed the test.

The author's intention is to keep writing and keep testing in libraries or classes or to children in hospitals throughout the summer until the collection is ready to be sent to the publisher.

"THE CHILDREN laughed at the fun poems, but you could have heard a pin drop when I read, 'Don't Talk to Strangers.' They understood it was a lesson poem," Ms. Teichner said after a February program she headed up in the Farmington Hills Library.

"Don't Talk to Strangers" is the only poem in the collection that has been printed for distribution.

Several parents asked for a copy at the end of the first program where it was read. Then copies were distributed to Oakland County PTA presidents during a seminar L. Brooks Patterson, the county's prosecuting attorney, gave on child safety.

Ms. Teichner's first attempt at writing, "The Easlipop Adventure," tells the tale of two reporters sent to inspect the Easlipop Works on Moon Luna 10. It is based somewhat, the author said, on the antics of her daughter and son, Eric, now 12, who attends East Middle School.

Many of her poems stem from Eric's behavior as a young child that "seem to be universally understood by children," the author said.

The poem she calls "Taking a Bath" is one such example and one she said is always a favorite.

Scrubbing my back,

Taking a bath,

What the heck?

Can't get out of it

No matter how I try

Seems I'm getting wet

Soon I'm dry

And oh, the work

My arms are long as movie aisles

My legs stretch out for miles and miles.

This could take all night.

But I'm no dope.
I don't use soap.

MS. TEICHNER works full-time in the office of Oakland County's prosecuting attorney, takes care of home and children, and is working on her master's degree in business administration.

She did her own promotion for "The Easlipop Adventure," teaches English in Troy's adult education program and for most of her adult life has been an active volunteer worker.

The volunteer work was cut short when an accident last summer forced her to spend more time at home. But because that is so much a part of her life she thinks she will be able to pick that up again with her round of poetry readings she hopes to bring to youngsters through the spring and summer.

All of her poetry is geared for those from kindergarten through sixth grade. Some of the poems are comic, some persuasive, some contain a lesson or moral.

In the fall she will read to her first school class of youngsters in Birmingham's Quarten Elementary School.

"So many children I've read to have expressed curiosity about the writing I'm meeting with a librarian this month to see about teaching a class to children on how to write poetry," she said.

"I'm certain they will instruct me as much as I do them. They have that way."

Birmingham's Baldwin Public Library and both Farmington Community Libraries carry copies of "The Easlipop Adventure."



DICK KELLEY/staff photographer

Vickie Teichner used her own two children as models for the characters in her first book, "The Easlipop Adventure." Now some of their antics as youngsters are used as material for a new collection of children's poetry.

Detroit Peace Community

Protest against the arms race

By Kathy Parrish
staff writer

LORD, MAKE ME a means of your peace," sang the group, stock-capped heads bowed in prayer outside the employees' entrance to Bendix Corp. in Southfield. "Find something constructive to do" snapped one worker. Pushing past the dozen protesters, he firmly refused a flyer challenging the firm for making parts for nuclear weapons.

But for members of the Detroit Peace Community — and a growing number of nuclear arms foes in the tri-county area — there is no more constructive use of time.

Making people aware of the dangers of nuclear war has become a top priority, taking a few of them to Bendix or the Federal Building before work or during lunch hours to protest for peace.

Others are walking neighborhoods and holding petition parties to gather signatures to put a weapons freeze question on the November ballot in Michigan.

And a greater number gather regularly in church peace and justice committees to study the morality of nuclear arms. This Lenten season, the issue has become a focus for churchgoers in unlikely places like Birmingham, Rochester and Southfield.

"I think the situation is becoming

more urgent, and people are more aware," said one mother of seven, who hands out leaflets regularly at Bendix. "Especially when they realize it is their own children's lives we're talking about. We have no choice."

"THERE'S THE idea that we can have a nuclear war," explained Mary Carry, coordinator of the 10-year-old Peace and National Priorities Center of Oakland County. The West Bloomfield center's volunteers and films are busy almost every night now.

"Before, we didn't have access to people. Now we're being invited to come and talk to them."

For some of the protesters, concern

over peace stems from the Vietnam War. When the Indochinese conflict ended, they simply shifted emphasis to nuclear arms.

Day House, the Catholic Worker community where several members of the Detroit Peace Community offer hospitality to the unemployed, has been against war since the 1930s.

"We attempt literally to live the Sermon on the Mount that Jesus gave — the part about loving your enemies," explained the Rev. Thomas Lumpkin. The Catholic priest spent Christmas in the Oakland County Jail for protesting inside Bendix Corp.

But mainstream America also has become interested in nuclear weapons. Peace protesters see a growing concern over the possibility of nuclear war — an interest which they trace to the Reagan administration's increased defense spending.

"The Reagan administration is doing our work for us — scaring people," said Mrs. Carry, a Bloomfield Township resident who became involved in peace issues through St. Hugo of the Hills Church in Bloomfield Hills.

"PEOPLE ARE beginning to realize that the folks at the Pentagon are talking about limited nuclear war. I think people despair that there is any future," added the Rev. Bill Kellerman, associate pastor of Cass United Methodist Church in Detroit.

"We felt as a country we didn't have a choice. We had to have nuclear weapons, but weren't crazy enough to use them," said Bill Carry, a Navy veteran who lectures with his wife on peace issues.

Dramatic monologue on Palm Sunday

Harriet White Pierce will present "Miriam on That Palm Sunday" at the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services Palm Sunday in Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road.

Pierce has traveled throughout the

Midwest to deliver her dramatic monologue. She is a graduate of Loyola University, a teacher and tour conductor who is listed in "Who's Who in the World's Women."

She is the widow of Robert Bruce Pierce, the former directing minister of Metropolitan United Church of Detroit, and at the time of his death was pastor of the famed skyscraper church, the Chicago Temple.

Pierce is mother of four children, all of whom are in the ordained ministry. Her many trips to the Holy Land have provided her with an in-depth understanding of life in Palestine, which forms the background of her dramatization.

Orchard Church continues its observance of the Holy Week with a play on Maundy Thursday, April 8. "The Terrible Meek," a drama by Charles Rand Kennedy, is part of the communion service, which begins at 7:45 p.m.

"The message of Holy Week and Easter cannot be told more powerfully or relevantly than through the medium of drama," said Rev. Robert L. S. Brown, pastor of the church.



Harriet White Pierce



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