



m.m. memos

Margaret Miller

Once upon a Sleeping Bear

A recent mini-vacation took us for a few hours to the Canadian shore of Lake Huron, and there was a miniature sand dune to traverse before we could attain the beach and the lake.

No big deal — just enough huffing and puffing to convince me I could be in better shape and should make more time for a little exercise.

But the small exertion with sand in the sneakers had predictable effect on me. As I mentioned then to the man of our house, it brought back memories of another sand dune and another vacation in an era that now seems almost ancient history.

WE WERE VISITING the famed Sleeping Bear, with our girls, then ranging about 11 down to about 4, and a couple of friends of the two older ones.

The kids, of course, were ready to head for the top of the dunes. Their dad had had his fill of dune-climbing in previous visits, and I decided I'd rather watch than scramble.

Our youngest was deemed too little for the hard climb, so she sat down to play in the nearby sand while the five others started up.

We watched with some amusement as they went. The hot, sliding sands were quickly separating the wiry from the less athletic, but all were making progress. Soon the two better climbers among

our charges had disappeared over the first crest of sand. The others were strung out along its reaches. We relaxed and talked about where we would make our next stop.

Then I looked up. Way up the slope was someone in a mighty familiar pink sunsuit. I took a quick look to confirm my suspicions that no one was playing in the sand next to us any more, then ran to the bottom of the dune to shout to the wearer of the sunsuit.

No response, of course. No time to go back to get her dad, no way to get word to the big sisters disappearing over the top of the dune.

I took off on the dune climb that still sticks in memory.

"YOU MADE IT all right," the man of our house commented as we laughed about the incident on our recent trip.

"I had to," I remembered. "There was that little pink sunsuit way up ahead."

That small climber is in Alaska now, and this month plans to go part way up Mt. McKinley in the company of a sister, who way back then was far ahead of her on the dune.

And my big project in the weeks ahead is making a wedding dress for the one who wore that pink sunsuit.

But I can still feel the hot sand and short breath of that afternoon on Sleeping Bear.

community calendar

● ONE WOMAN SHOW Monday, Aug. 9: Margie Matovina shows her work in a one-woman art show in Farmington Community Library, State and Liberty Streets through Aug. 31.

● MONTESSORI Wednesday, Aug. 11: Seven Farms Montessori School of Livonia introduces the private school with a slide show presentation at 7 p.m., in the school on Seven Mile Road, west of Farmington Road. No charge.

● BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE Thursday, Aug. 12: Farmington Beautification Committee regular monthly meeting at 8 p.m. in Farmington City Hall, Liberty Street and Grand River. Open to all interested persons.

● IMMUNIZATION CLINIC Thursday, Aug. 12: Free immunizations offered to those under 18 years of age from 9 a.m. to noon in William Grace Elementary School, 29040

Shilwassee Road. Clinic sponsored by Oakland County Health Division. Appointments are not necessary.

● SUPERRIFFIC SATURDAY Saturday, Aug. 14: "Superrific Saturday," offers crafts, puppet shows, refreshments and Bible stories to preschoolers through those in sixth grade from 9:30 a.m.-noon in First Church of God, Power Road, between 10 and 11 Mile roads. No charge.

● FARMERS MARKET Saturday, Aug. 14: Farmers Market runs from 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday through Sept. 4 in the Sanctuary Shops parking lot behind Lucy's Oldies and Goodies, 34631 Grand River.

● OPEN HOUSE Tuesday, Aug. 17: Open house sponsored by Seven Farms Montessori School of Livonia begins at 7 p.m. in the school on Seven Mile Road, west of Farmington Road.

Cancer programs available

The American Cancer Society offers a program of lifesaving information free to clubs and business groups.

"Straight Talk" is a presentation that is a sensitive yet straightforward message concentrating on what individuals can do to protect their health in general and prevent needless cancer deaths.

Farmington and Farmington Hills speakers are available to give presentations on breast-uterine, colorectal, lung and skin cancers.

Inquiries are taken by Liz Bauer in the American Cancer Society office, 557-5353.

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