

m. m. memos

I put in a couple of enjoyable hours recently watching several dozen Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts learn charm. I came away pretty well convinced I'd missed the charm boat.

A chic young lady from a local charm class came to talk to the girls and give them a quick course in such matters as graceful standing, sitting and walking.

Frankly, I thought the girls were at their most charming when they squatted on the gymnasium floor, most of them with bottoms straight up, to sign slips of paper the lady distributed.

They had fun, though, practicing proper walking and sitting.

And the grace and charm lessons got home also to the mothers who were guests for the occasion.

"Sit way back in your chair and keep your back straight," said the lady, and a row of adult slouches disappeared.

"You should never cross your knees," the girls were told. Unobtrusively as was possible, the mothers' knees uncrossed. "It doesn't look nice, and besides, it cuts off circulation."

The charm lesson went on to the most ladylike method of getting into a car. The mothers' folding chairs were uncomfortable, and the urge to cross the legs again was tremendous.

Finally one of us gave in, just before time for punch and cookies.

"I'm giving up smoking," she whispered, "but I can't give up crossing my legs."

- Margaret Miller

'Divorced Mother' Author Speaks For WSU Women

Carol Mindey, author of "The Divorced Mother," will be speaker for the annual dinner meeting of the Farmington-Livonia club of Women of Wayne Alumni.

The meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, in Hillside Inn, Plymouth.

Mindey's topic will be "A Remarried Woman Looks at Marriage and the Law."

THE SPEAKER is a former Livonian who now makes her home in Scottfield.

She has made many television and radio appearances in this area and all over the country. In Detroit, she has been interviewed by Lou Gordon and J.P. McCarthy.

She is a board member of NOW, national women's organization, and of Seven Steps, a rehabilitation group for ex-convicts.



THE FORMER MODEL and

CAROL MINDEY

THE FORMER MODEL and

Old-New Art Form

Batik 'Painter' Visits

A post-Young artist is showing some examples of her media in New York and Washington this week after a Detroit area stop and a visit in a Redford Township home.

She is Tara Vaidya of Calcutta, India, whose finely detailed batik works give strong support to her contention that this ancient Indonesian art form is just as suitable for wall hangings as dress material.

"People think you somehow cannot have pictures done this way," said Mrs. Vaidya just before she and her husband, Arun, left the home of Donald and Debrae Kory.

"They use batik for dresses, lampshades and cushion covers, but batik also makes beautiful paintings, especially if it can be displayed with a light behind it."

TARA VAIDYA had three of her batiks accepted for display in the Little Gallery of Birmingham and sold two others during her stay here.

Her batik style developed most on her own after taking a few lessons two years ago, uses both paraffin and beeswax, Indian dyes and a fine brush.

In making a batik painting, she explained, you paint hot wax on a piece of white muslin and then dye the material. The waxed portion remains white, and the wax is then removed by washing the material with hot water and soap. The process is then repeated for each color that is to be used.

Mrs. Vaidya said she uses varying combinations of paraffin and wax and has worked out a special method to control cracks that lend texture to the finished product.

"It takes about 80 hours of work for a medium sized painting," she said. "Of course I am usually working on several at once."

SHE CREATES the art work in her Calcutta home between household chores and taking care of three young daughters aged seven, five and one.

The oldest girl, Mona, "has done three little pictures," her mother said.

"But I have to be careful about letting her work at batik," Mrs. Vaidya added. "It's dangerous with all that hot wax."

It's the second visit to this area for the couple. Arun Vaidya works for a division of Phillips Industries in Calcutta and comes to this country about once every two years.

Their friendship with the Korys dates from the time Arun Vaidya and Don Kory both roomed for a time at the YMCA in Akron.

While in this area, they found time to visit two families of relatives, Suresh and Usha Mangrulkar of Westland and Harneesh and Lakha Mangrulkar of Plymouth, both studying and working in this country.



...and one of her batik paintings

Trip To Rockies Set

The Community House Travel Club has set aside 10 days in August for a picturesque trip to the Canadian Rockies.

The group will leave the Community House on Saturday, Aug. 8, for Windsor, where it will fly Air Canada to Edmonton. From Edmonton, it will take the scenic route to Jasper, staying at the Jasper Park Lodge, with a mountain at their doorstep.

The group will leave Jasper on Tuesday, Aug. 11, for Banff. The drive there includes a visit to Columbia Icefields and luncheon at the Chalet.

AND WHO SAYS that castles exist in Europe? From any of the guest rooms in the Banff Springs Hotel, the view is of breathtaking scenery. Sulphur Mountains to the west, a green giant of a mountain soaring beyond its fir and pine timberline, lawns, flowers and the Bow River Valley to the east.

On the morning of Aug. 14, the group will leave by chartered air-conditioned motorcoach for Lake Louise. The trip there includes visits to the Vermilion Lakes, Hole-in-the-Wall, Pilot Mountain, Mount Ball and Mount Eisenhower. The group will stay at Chateau Lake Louise, a French-style chalet.

On Saturday, Aug. 15, the travelers will depart Lake Louise for a short drive to the spiral tunnels and Kicking Horse Falls, then on to Kamloops for an overnight stay.

An Orchid Spells Success

Take a program of regular visits to Northville State Hospital with cookies and a nature-oriented craft project.

Add long hours of work to help develop a nature center at Lowell Junior High School.

Put these in a well-designed and informative yearbook.

Throw in some interesting writings on horticulture, some library contributions to further knowledge of nature and conservation and some service to aid visitors from all over the world who are interested in nature and garden club work.

IT ALL ADDS UP to an orchid. And that's the award won recently by the Livonia branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association.

The award is given by the state organization each year to the few clubs that pile up the most points in various categories of garden club activity. There are 95 clubs in Michigan that join in the competition.

The Livonia branch's distinction is even greater because it's the third consecutive time it has won an orchid award.

Mrs. Clarence C. Hoelt, who served as president of the branch for several months this year, accepted the award when the Michigan Association met in Plymouth last month.

"Our quiet little club really is doing great things," commented Mrs. Carolyn Cossin, who has just been installed as president of the 17-year-old organization.

ORCHID AWARDS are based on compiled points in assorted activities.

This year, the Livonia branch took first place in three divisions, horticulture therapy, conservation and yearbook.

The therapy committee, headed by Joan Hoelt and Mrs. Frances Van Gorp, has over a long period made regular visits to patients in the Northville State Hospital.



They serve a treat to the patients, and also take along the makings for a small project that relates in some way to growing things.

"They've done a really fine job and been very faithful," one hospital worker said.

MRS. HOELT also headed the work on the prize-winning yearbook, containing officer and membership lists and other pertinent information about club activities. In addition, she has been editor of the branch newsletter.

The conservation division work was headed by Mrs. Nell Sprinkle. In addition to work

with the junior high school nature center, a scholarship was given to one of the Lowell teachers to study at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Conservation School at Higgins Lake. The branch, through this committee, also donated several books on conservation to the Livonia public libraries.

Other divisions of the branch that helped pile up points for the orchid award were the horticulture committee headed by Mrs. Cossin, which took a second, and education under Mrs. Novella Sanford and international cooperation led by Mrs. Alma Clark, both of which took thirds.



LIVONIA GARDEN CLUB LEADERS - the picture above shows Mrs. Clarence Hoelt presenting an orchid award from Mrs. Clarence C. Hoelt, representing the Michigan Women's National Farm and Garden Association. At the left is Mrs. Howard Hoelt, newly installed president. (Observer photos)

Busy members of this branch also have a civic improvement group, which takes care of projects like planting annuals near public buildings each summer, and a craft group that makes wreaths, floral trees and decorations to sell at the annual Christmas mart and raise money for other projects.

THE GROUP recently installed new officers for the 1970-71 year. Taking office were Mrs. Cossin, who also is the new president of the Livonia City Women's Club, Mrs. Ruth Balog, first vice president; Mrs. Clark, second vice president; Mrs.

Novella Sanford, Mrs. Marjorie Hoelt, secretary and Mrs. Ed Hoelt, treasurer.

Mrs. Mildred Wieland, a past president and one of 12 charter members when the club was organized in 1952, assisted for the installation.

The group now numbers more than 40 and meets on the third Tuesday of each month in St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 1630 Hubbard. New members are always welcome, said Mrs. Cossin.

"You know the destination for a garden clubber," she added. "You are one if you love a flower you haven't bought yet."

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