



Retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Cupid never retires

It's the romantic season of the year, and you don't have to look far among retirees to realize that good St. Valentine and his cohorts like to keep busy.

In our small circle, there is plenty of evidence that Cupid's arrows know no age barrier.

I think first of my father, who married my stepmother after both had retired from long years in the working world. They knew 22 years of fulfilling matrimony.

Then I remembered the report from friends who retired several years ago and had a home built in the mountains. There were construction problems, of course, and the house wasn't ready when they were. But not to worry, there were two widows in their small retirement community who had just tied the knot, so a temporary home was available for as long as it was needed.

The church we attend had a staff change a couple of years back. The assistant minister, a retiree working part time, became a widower and then some time later contemplated marriage to a longtime friend. But she liked to spend her summers in the north and he had a year-round job. He gladly bowed to Cupid and retired again.

BUT IT IS mostly because of a new friend, Myrtle, that I find myself thinking this year about St. Valentine and the retired generation.

Myrtle is in her 70s, and her husband died 14 years ago after a long and happy marriage. She lives with a daughter in Florida and spends the summer months with a son farther north. Her activities are somewhat restricted because one leg was severely damaged in two automobile accidents, and she must use a wheelchair or a walker.

She is a most pleasant person but for a long time didn't pay a great deal of attention to her appearance.

And then I saw her the week before Christmas. She was wearing a most be-

coming rose dress and her hair, I hadn't noticed how beautifully white it is, was arranged atop her head in a lovely upswing. Her smile had a glow I hadn't seen before.

She seemed transformed, and I told her so. Someone suggested I ask about her new friend.

IT SEEMS that a gentleman she had met two years ago in the home of a relative had decided to look her up to see if she would go out with him. By amazing coincidence, she was visiting again in the home of the same relative, so they renewed their acquaintance then and there.

Myrtle was positively beaming as she told me about him. "It's the first time I've dated since my husband died," she said, and her enjoyment of the new situation was evident. "My children have their own lives," she added.

I don't know what the future holds for Myrtle and her friend. I do know that a bit of romance has already created a new woman. The young have no corner on the attentions of St. Valentine.

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for the Observer Newspaper for 18 years. She and her husband Joe have retired to Florida, where she writes Retirement Memos.

A salute to Cranbrook design style



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

unique, unexpected expressions of art, even in the doorways. Elsie Saarinen thought everything should have style whether it is a doorway, a chair, a table, a picture frame and or any other item.

WITH THAT premise, the students in the academy are encouraged in design from architecture, interior design,

furniture, metalwork, bookbinding, textiles, ceramics, sculpture and painting. Today the work of Cranbrook's graduates is used in many categories of manufacturing.

All the grounds of Cranbrook are an encyclopedia of design. The Kingswood dining room is outstanding. Academy Way used to be an archway of elms until their demise.

The brick work on the many buildings is interesting to study with one detail on one side and another detail on

the other side of the door frame. No two doors are the same size.

We are indeed proud to share with the world Cranbrook Academy of Art the work of Elsie Saarinen.

In the days of the residency of this master of design, Carl Milles became a part of the famous team and his sculpture is world renowned. Homes, parks, and civic centers throughout the world have the touch of these leaders as well as the many graduates who have studied at the Academy.

Henry Booth, the son of the founder and an artist with his own laurels, is often seen strolling along the Cranbrook grounds to his office. He remembers this quotation from his father, an early owner of the Detroit News, and Founder of the Cranbrook Educational Community, "The only thing is opportunity. The only way to keep it is to share it."

Vying for title

Laura Beattie, a junior at Farmington High School, will represent Southern Oakland County in Michigan's Miss Charm Scholarship Pageant.

The 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Beattie of Farmington Hills will vie for the state title in the Miss Teen Division of the pageant Feb. 17-18 in Walled Lake Central High School.

Laura is a member of Farmington Gymnastics' team and is active in the French Club, the Spanish Club and the Forensics Club at school.

She is employed as a Farmington Observer newscaster and also at Hardee's Restaurant.



Laura Beattie

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