



Sweet and sassy

Brother and sister Heidi and Eric Novack sparkled in sweet and sassy sophistication during Fairlane Town Center's "Holiday Fashion Show." The Farmington Hills residents, who are two of the youngest members of Fairlane's Fashion Panel, modeled clothes for the young sophisticate from Saks Fifth Avenue and President Tuxedo.

Popcorn-ucopia

Continued from Page 1

corn's cooks first mix the flavoring, a solution of sugar, salt, artificial flavor and color and other ingredients, Esper said. The solution is heated in a cauldron to 300 degrees, then poured on the popcorn.

That red-hot coated popcorn is poured into an 11-foot-long, 42-inch-wide, rotating cooling tunnel. Metal fingers inside the drum break up the corn so it doesn't stick together. The corn comes out more than 200 degrees cooler and ready to be packed.

A separate machine is used to coat corn with the powdery flavors, Esper said. The corn goes through a small rotating tunnel that coats the corn with the powders, which do not have to be heated.

It takes from 12 to 15 minutes to make five nine-pound bags of the cummy corn, Esper said. But the powdered flavors can be cranked out at the rate of 400 pounds an hour. The flavors fully settle in the corn 48 hours later, he said.

The company also sells popcorn wholesale, as its main business is keeping movie theater's supplied with popcorn, Esper said.

THE CORN POPPER pops all its corn in the popping machine at its original store in Southfield. Dean, her husband, Harold, and their two partners have the Michigan franchise for the Dallas-based Corn Popper company, which has more than 100 stores nationwide.

The Deans first heard about the firm several years ago while munching

through bowl after bowl of popcorn at a lounge in Florida.

"My husband and I happen to be popcorn nuts from way back," Dean said.

The lounge's bartender suggested they might be interested in visiting the local Corn Popper store. The Deans were fascinated, investigated the company, and decided it had the best product for their entry into the popcorn business.

They opened the Southfield store in November 1983. The Livonia store is their second, and more are planned.

And there's an added bonus to running a multi-flavor popcorn store for a popcorn fan such as Rosalie Dean.

"I can go into a tin and try a different flavor, and I never really get tired of popcorn."

community calendar

● **SANTA SITTER SERVICE**
Saturday, 22: Santa Sitter Service for children 3-9 years of age from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day in Mercy Center, includes lunch with Santa, swimming, crafts, movies and games. Fee is \$15 per child, and \$10 for each additional child in the family, with advance reservations only by calling the center, 476-8010.

● **HOLIDAY PARTY**
Saturday, Dec. 22: Holiday party for 3-9-year-olds includes visit with Santa, movie, games, stories, from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Mercy Center. Fee of \$5

required, with advance reservations made in the center on 11 Mile, east of Middlebelt Road.

● **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**
Sunday, 23: Holiday Open House 1-5 p.m. each day in Farmington Historical Museum, 33805 Grand River. Admission is \$1.

● **CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**
Monday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services begin at 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. in Faith Covenant Church, 35415 14 Mile.

● **HOLIDAY CAMP**
Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 26-28: Holiday camp offers supervised activities for youth 3-12 years in Mercy Center, 11 Mile, east of Middlebelt. Registration information given by calling the center, 476-8010.

● **ULTIMA TEAM**
Friday and Saturday, Dec. 28-29: The Ultima II Team gives individual consultation for skin care from noon to 5 p.m. in Hudson's 12 Oaks Altes of Beauty. Fee is \$7.50 redeemable toward an Ultima II purchase. Reservations are necessary by calling the store, 348-3232.

● **NEW YEAR'S EVE OVERNIGHT**
Monday, Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Overnight," from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. for 5-13-year-olds includes celebration at midnight, swimming, mov-

ies, games, snacks and breakfast in Mercy Center. Fee is \$20 or child; \$17 for each additional child in the family. Advance reservations or necessary and may be made in the center, 28809 11 Mile.

● **PRENATAL-POSTNATAL**
Monday, Jan. 7: Prenatal fitness classes begin at 6 p.m. and postnatal fitness classes begin at 7 p.m. for twice-a-week sessions in Botsford Hospital's Education Center, 28050 Grand River. Registrations, \$ 430 for six-week series, taken by calling the hospital, 471-8090.

● **SMOKELESS SYSTEM**
Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 7-8: Free lecture introduces the Smokeless System at 7:30 p.m. each night in Botsford Hospital's Education Center, 28050 Grand River. Charge for the program is \$140.



retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Waves from the pass

A year ago now, man and nature combined efforts to change the contours of the Florida key that is our retirement home. There seems to be general agreement that these forces should join to change it back.

What happened was that Midnight Pass, a swift, ever-changing ocean current that separated our key from the one just south, was threatening to undercut two luxury homes. In a most controversial decision, the county commission gave owners of the homes permission to fill in the pass and dredge a new one, with the stipulation that they be responsible for keeping it open for two years.

Impossible dreamers, these home-owners and commissioners. The old pass was filled and the homes were saved, but the new pass wouldn't stay open for days, let alone two years. Half a dozen excavations failed; the owners said their funds were gone. One since has died. The commissioners backed away from enforcing their decree, and everybody had a theory as to what should have been done.

And the sea just keeps lapping at the shore of one long island that used to be two.

IN THE YEAR that has passed since the pass closed, there has been a great deal of talk — charging, counter-charging, studying, investigating, hypothesizing, reporting. But nothing you could call action.

As beach-walkers, we don't mind at all being able to wander farther south. But, as maybe-sometime-boat-owners, we sympathize fully with those who have to travel long miles to get to an-

other pass and thus move from bay to gulf.

And the closing has had other widespread reverberations. Commercial fishermen spend more time and fuel for a diminished catch. Other boating areas are becoming more crowded.

Most important, there are biologists' reports that the closing of the pass and the resultant interchange of salt and fresh water is playing havoc with the chain of marine life in our corner of the world.

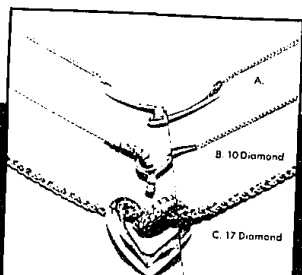
THE CONSENSUS is that the pass should be brought back, and the only means of doing it is cutting a new channel. It would have to be planned better, dug deeper and dredged wider and longer well into gulf and bay. The expense for such digging would be far greater, prohibitive for individuals, and that's where the argument lies now.

A knowledgeable longtime resident has suggested in our community newspaper that the matter needs to get before financial planners, not only at county level but also those of state and federal governments. The latter has to be involved because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is actual manager of intercoastal waterways and thus of the pass (or impasse).

That's a lot of preening out from our small keys. And a lot of people are learning it's not good to try to fool Mother Nature.

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for Overver Newspapers for 16 years. She and her husband Joe have retired to Florida, where she writes Retirement Memos.

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