

# Met opener drags

By Mary Jane Doerr  
special writer

"When the great Wagnerian soprano Kirsten Flagstad was asked what advice she had for singing Wagner she said 'get a sensible pair of shoes.'"

"The Metropolitan Opera's opening night performance of 'Lohengrin' last Monday was more than long, it was — endless."

"The 4½-hour opera included singing that rarely topped the orchestra, ensembles that meshed too well with the chorus and staging that didn't enhance the forgettable sets."

"This eight-year-old production is traditional — while retaining the semblance of the blue-silver motif in blue-greens and whites the distinction between the Brabantines and the Saxons was unnoticeable."

"The swan and the dove were created with lighting. Oddly placed rushes gave the impression of water and a silhouette had any need for a boat."

"The Swan-Knight, Lohengrin (Edward Souter), is the son of Parsifal, protector of the Holy Grail. He arrives to rescue Elsa (Teresa Kubiak) from her distress caused by Ortrud (Mignon Dunn) and Telramund (Donald McIntyre)."

"They marry with the understanding that she must never ask him who he is or where he came from — a common theme in mythology that mortals cannot know of the nature of the gods and to know one's name is to own him."

"As Lohengrin, Souter took on the style of a Wagnerian — he moved slowly and was slow to warm up his voice. Not until Act III did we hear some phrases that came to close to the hidden tenor quality needed for the role."

"Kubiak was so inadequate she isn't worth mentioning."

"Mignon Dunn as Ortrud was the best singer of the evening coming closer to the brassiness required."

"Donald McIntyre as Telramund was strong and sang in comprehensible German. Brent Ellis and

John Macurdy were two of the better singers of the evening."

"The real star was the orchestra, although with only 60 of the Met's orchestra members (that is all that can fit into the pit at Masonic Temple) the orchestra was thinner than usual for Wagner."

"When Wagner composed 'Lohengrin' he left out the swan song in the Act III. For this final week for the Metropolitan Opera Company in Detroit they, too, could have left this swan song out of their program."

"Fortunately the final curtain doesn't go down until Saturday evening after superstar Sherrill Milnes and the dynamic newcomer Aprile Millo have sung 'Simon Boccanegra' Thursday evening, Carol Vaness has appeared in 'Cosi fan tutte' on Friday evening, and Judith Blegen and Dano Raffanti have sung 'Rigoletto' on Saturday evening."

## Pier show draws well

cause artistic standards are upheld by a panel that determines which dealers may exhibit."

The art, the lake, the cityscape, the businesses that support and promote the fair, all contribute to the exhilarating experience."

But the sport of people watching also has its place in such an event, especially when 40,000 turn out. This is, after all, an art show and yet the select crowd comprises the full spectrum, from connoisseurs, artists, serious collectors, museum curators to the high school and college student, the "yuppy," the beginning and budget-minded collector and the "gawker."

DETROITERS spotted were the DIA professionals, Ellen Sharpe, Helen Shannon and Janet Landay. Also seen milling their way through the art and crowd were Jean and Joe Hudson, Alan and Marianne Schwartz, of the Schwartz Graphic Arts Gallery at the DIA; Gere Baskin, director of Detroit Focus; Barrie Werba, director of Michigan Founda-

tion for the Arts, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes Potliver, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Stone, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Cooley. Artists seen were Mary Clark and Gary Zych. Former Detroit artist Michael Lark was represented at the Oscarson Hood Gallery."

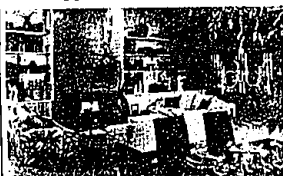
One can stretch a point and say that Michigan is at the heart of the Expo since the idea was originated by Flint's John Wilson."

Of the six year old Expo, Wilson claims, "My main interest is developing the Navy Pier. What greater service than to provide a cultural show place in the most exciting city in the world?"

WILSON BELIEVED in what others felt to be a white elephant. And as a member of Mayor Harold Washington's task force to come up with development plans for Navy Pier, Wilson, who views culture as a service industry, envisioned the Pier as a cultural show place. Thus, what began as a practical business venture turned into an artistic phenomenon."

More than 1,000 dealers were turned down this year, Wilson said while the cost per booth tripled from \$800 in 1980 to \$2,400 this year."

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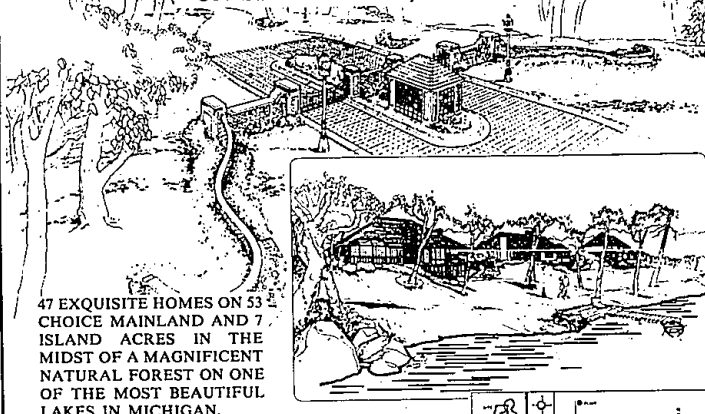
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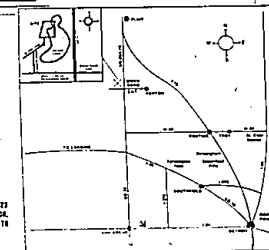
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CRANBROOK VILLAGE - Great family area! 3 bedrooms, 1½ bath home has a country kitchen overlooking the family room with brick wall fireplace and glass doors to treed lot. \$73,900. (H-68540)



BIRMINGHAM - Ideal ranch home has 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, fireplace in living room and family room, spacious kitchen with eating space, extra large laundry room and oversized inground heated pool. \$199,000. (H-82089)



JUST REDUCED! HOLLY HILLS FARM - Contemporary bi-level with cathedral ceilings has hardwood floors in the living room with balcony, sewing room. Huge new patio off the family room, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Private treed lot! Easy to maintain. \$118,500. (H-88446)



### FRANKLIN VILLAGE

Contemporary gem has been built to enjoy the lovely landscaped grounds inside and out. Foyer has an exquisite powder room and walk-in closet and the living room is accented by a fireplace. The library has curved windows, built-in sofa and built-in bookcases, 5 bedrooms, 4½ baths, gourmet kitchen, maid's room and a lower level handball court. \$549,000. (H-57604)



### JUST REDUCED!

California Contemporary in BIRMINGHAM has vaulted ceilings and stone/stone floor in foyer, 10' ceilings in living room plus built-in and bar, white formica kitchen cabinets and oak floors, library, finished rec room, central air and pool. 3-4 bedrooms and 4½ baths. \$375,000. (H-83231)



### PINE LAKE FRONTAGE

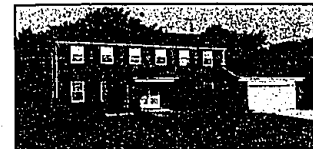
Connecticut farmhouse has been extensively updated. 4 bedrooms (master has walk-in closet, private bath and additional storage), 3 full and 2 half baths, living room with fireplace, family face lake with walkout to deck, and a game room has a separate entry from lake. Many extras! \$595,000. (H-88173)



BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOLS - One of a kind colonial on 3.5 acres of a natural private park has 5 bedrooms, 2½ baths, family room with fieldstone fireplace, library and 2 patios for great entertaining. \$219,000. (H-83378)



Luxurious condo is close to all the main arteries! Double entry doors open to this light, open unit with 2-3 bedrooms, 2 baths (whirlpool), laundry room in unit and glass doors lead to balconies off living room, dining room, kitchen and master bedroom. \$159,000. (H-86684)



JUST REDUCED! Troy - Largest model in subdivision! Located on a cul-de-sac is this 4 bedroom, 2½ bath colonial with family room (has fireplace), library, basement and extra insulation. \$132,900. (H-80104)



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