



Keren Starke sits at her loom. Knitted inserts complement her designs.

## Tips for a good marriage revealed through survey

The ability to laugh and have fun together is the number one reason for getting married, according to a recent survey of Family Service America and Parade magazine. Other grounds include "strong sexual-physical attraction," "ability to share thoughts and feelings," "the many things we had in common," and "desire for emotional security."

The survey was distributed through Family Service America's network of counseling agencies by Parade magazine. Of the 799 people answering the confidential four-page questionnaire, 70 percent of the husbands and wives report they are happily married.

In addition to reporting on incentives for marriage, the survey reveals how people stay together.

Almost everyone said, "keep romance and excitement alive." This does not necessarily mean sex, however, which fell below each of these separate factors: "communicating, mutual respect," and "doing things as a couple."

Very few felt that marriage is easy. Ninety-eight percent of respondents stated "a marriage is a process constantly changing," and "you have to really work at it."

Family Service America is a national association of 280 family service agencies throughout the United States.

## Nursery has openings

Nardin Park Community Nursery School has several openings for fall 1985-86 registration. Interested persons may call the director, Mada Briggs, at 476-3439 or 478-8860.

## Voter guide available

As a service to the public, the League of Women Voters (LWV) of West Bloomfield-Farmington Area has prepared Voter Guides in the candidates for the school board election June 10. Copies may be picked up in Farmington Hills Branch Library or Farmington Branch Library.

The LWV is a non-partisan citizens' organization which neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates. Membership is open to all men and women age 18 or over.

## Auction set

Re-Sell-It Estate Sales auction begins at 7 p.m. Friday, June 14, at 34769 Grand River, Farmington.

Among the items for sale will be fine Italian antique furniture from Genoa, Italy. These pieces date from the 17th century to the early 1900s. The availability of Italian antiques from this period is unique to the Midwest.

Both furniture and decorative accessory selections are functional. Frank Boes, noted auctioneer, will preside.

Preview time is from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, and from 2 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, June 12-13.

and Canada working to enhance the quality of life for more than three and a half million individuals annually.

It is represented locally by Catholic Social Services of Oakland County, a United Way agency offering counseling and other services to prevent and treat family and individual problems.

Accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Catholic Social Services of Oakland County offers programs such as Remarriage and Blending Families, Substance Abuse Education and Counseling and a variety of services to older adults.

By Marie McGee  
staff writer

**T**HEY STARTED out as waitresses at West Bloomfield's trendy Max and Irma's restaurant.

Now Bethmarie Barr of Livonia and Keren Starke of Westland are partners in a custom design clothing business they call Inspired Works, featuring Starke's artistic talents and Barr's "mouth" coupled with her All-American girl good looks and modeling ability.

The "mouth" is a reference to Barr's outgoingness in acting as the fledgling firm's public relations person promoting the unique fashions that are born in Starke's Westland studio.

The two met while both worked at the restaurant out of necessity. Starke was drawn to Barr because of her bubbly and unconstrained personality. Barr, on the other hand, was attracted to Starke because of the "neat way she dresses" — very avant garde.

"At Max and Irma's you could dress that way," recalls Barr. "The basic uniform was a jeans skirt and white blouse. But Karen always added something — knee socks, a head band or junk jewelry. Whatever the touch, she always looked better."

**LOGISTICS** ALSO drew them together. They were both from this area while the other waitresses were from the West Bloomfield area. They began to talk fashions — something they were both interested in.

Starke, who has a degree in fashion merchandising from Central Michigan University, asked Barr if she would be interested in promoting the designer originals she made but was unable to market.

"I had confidence in my design ability," Starke said, "but I didn't have the personality to market my work. You have to be bold. Beth had that ability."

Both women left the restaurant to open the business.

# Inspired Works

## Talents merge to create custom-designed fashions

"I've had a lot of jobs," Barr said. "but I couldn't find my niche. I always loved clothes so when Keren proposed this, it was like I finally found what I wanted to do. I love it."

Barr began wearing Starke's creations at various events as a way of showing them off.

"I HAD PEOPLE want to buy them right off my back," smiled Barr, who graduated from Churchill High School. Most of Starke's work are complemented by knitted inserts.

Her number-one concern is for comfort and so most of her creations will fit almost everyone. They are simple but feminine.

She also makes sure that the design can be worn more than one way — going formally or informally — depending on the occasion.

She is inspired by color and feel of the material, Starke said. She often begins by spreading the material on the floor and dropping hanks of yarn in different colors on the material until something "hits her."

In addition to Starke, Inspired Works also represents five other designers and hopes to add more quality designers to the roster as the business expands.

The first major leg of that expansion is due hopefully in July when the two entrepreneurs, joined by Luba Goldsmith of West Bloomfield, will open a shop they have named Pieces to be located in the Bloomfield Plaza. Ironically, Goldsmith was one of Inspired Works' first customers.

**PIECES WILL CARRY** one-of-a-kind creations by Inspired Works plus interpretations of the designer-originals with the Pieces label.

They will also introduce a service they call Body Works, a perfect-fit set of patterns drafted for each woman and kept on file at the store. The basic package will include a blouse, skirt and pants with other patterns available.

"It will be theirs exclusively. That way they can select fabrics — ours or their own — in the colors and textures they want and have them made up. The custom fit will eliminate alteration costs," Barr explained.

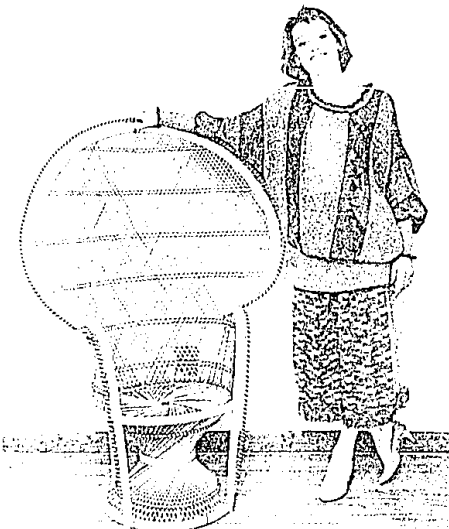
At first, the designer clothing was offered at private home showings and at selected fashion shows, including infor-

mal modeling at two restaurants, Truffles of West Bloomfield and Punchline in Birmingham.

A lot of their success has been by word of mouth, the two women said.

Guess whose.

For more information on Inspired Works, call Barr at 464-9610.



In addition to being president of Inspired Works, Bethmarie Barr of Livonia does most of the modeling of the firm's designer originals. This one is a one-of-a-kind fabric combination of suede cloth and knit over a lace skirt.

## Prize winning collage returns to Eagle School

A collage that won first prize in a sesquicentennial art composition by students who were fifth graders in Eagle Elementary School in 1974 has been returned to hang in the school. The competition was sponsored by Farmington Historical Society.

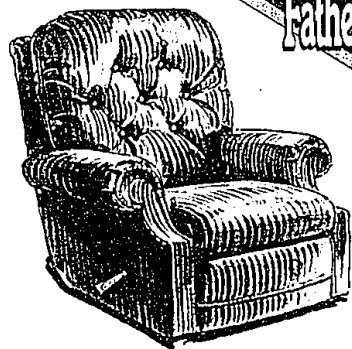
"The collage says it all. It depicts our entire history," said Kay Briggs, a member of the society who returned

the 2½ by 4-foot piece of art work this week.

A note on the back of the hanging tells that the students' art teacher was Carl Dahlstrom, and art consultant was Harvey Goldstein.

Newspellings, advertisements, photos, sheets of music, a business card, and the front page of the first newspaper printed in the Farmington area make up the piece of art.

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