



retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Tannenbaum among all those palms

The retirement livin' is mostly pretty easy in Florida's almost-perpetual summertime. Except when it's December and you go out to buy a Christmas tree.

Both the Christmases we have been here we've found that acquiring the symbol of the season is no simple matter.

It would be no problem, of course, if we were to follow the lead of most Floridians and go the artificial tree route. Those you see at every turn. But even if Joe and I were willing to forgo the recently cut evergreen, we're sure we'd be disowned by all four daughters if we ever did so. No, it has to be a natural tree.

But, for starters, it was a major culture shock when we started to price Christmas evergreens in this state. I was getting used to rising prices of trees in Michigan, but here they sell by the foot and even fairly small specimens are \$35 to \$40.

BUT SO FAR I've managed to beat the system.

Two years ago I went hunting just a few days before Christmas. Family visitors were not arriving until after New Year's Day, and we wanted the tree to last for a delayed Christmas. There was hardly a tree to be found. What I didn't realize is that in the warm weather they don't keep them around.

But in an almost-deserted lot I found a small forest of still-expensive trees and one specimen off by itself. How much, I asked the attendant. "That's a pretty sad tree," he noted. "Flat on one side. Ten dollars." It worked fine, since we had to put it against a wall anyway. And it held up for our late Christmas.

LAST YEAR I shopped earlier, since there would be family present on Dec. 25. I had spotted a lot where I thought maybe I could get a tree and still keep my arm and leg. But inside there was a sign that read "\$25 and UP."

I decided I'd better look around anyway, and then out came the attendant. "You're in luck," she said. "We just had

a call to clear this lot. Ten dollars for your choice." Saved again.

And last Christmas I also purchased a foot-high pine at a supermarket. It wasn't practical to save the big tree for late Christmas with our January visitors, but we set the little pine atop a pile of tinsel-wrapped boxes and noted that "the presents are under the tree."

I'VE WATERED that baby Tannenbaum faithfully all year, and now it's several inches taller and flourishing nicely.

One of these years it may be big enough to be THE tree. Even now, it's nice to know it's there as we tackle the task of finding a 1985 Christmas tree in the land of palms.

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

Free class for diabetes is offered

A series of six diabetes classes will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays, beginning Jan. 16 in Oakland County Health Division's south office, 27725 Greenfield, Southfield.

The classes are for adult diabetics and their family members. They will be taught by a public health nurse and a registered dietitian. Topics to be discussed include the nature of the disease, dietary management, medications and suggestions for coping with everyday problems.

There are no fees charged for these classes. However, pre-registration is necessary, by calling 424-7101.

World of Animals

Holiday windows in Henry Ford Museum attract the attention of Ann Jaworski and her grandson Ben LeBlanc. Stuffed animals, old and new, are spread throughout the museum and are used as decorations for the museum's Christmas tree this year in keeping with its "World of Animals" theme. Holiday festivities in the museum as well as in Greenfield Village continue through Jan. 5.



club circuit

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS ASSOCIATION (ADRA) Plymouth Support Group, meets at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the community room of Arbor Health Building. Program for the day is a discussion about the financial considerations with long-term care, presented by Allena Cary of Comerica Bank.

The event is open to all interested persons without charge. For more information, call ADRA, 540-2373.

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER'S WOMEN'S CLUB meets at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, in the center on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile.

After-luncheon speaker for the day is Stephen Lokken, a U.S. postal inspector who hold a degree in criminal justice. His topic is "Mail Fraud: How to Avoid Becoming a Victim."

Guests are welcome. Reservations are necessary and can be made by mailing a check for \$6 payable to Farmington Community Center to the center, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, 48010, before Jan. 8.

The club meets on the first Friday of each month.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK meets for breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Friday, Jan. 10, in Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile Road.

Speaker for the day is Joyce Weiss, president of Choices Unlimited — Pathways to Peak Performance. Her program will emphasize the importance of goal setting, stress management, positive imaging and effective communication for professional development.

Membership in the network is open to all professional women in the area. The group meets the second Friday of each month for breakfast, networking and a program.

Reservations, at \$5 for members or \$6 for non-members, are necessary and must be made before Jan. 9 by calling the center, 477-8404.

FARMINGTON NEIGHBORS CLUB meets at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, in Glen Oaks Country Club. Program for the day is called "Your Library." The speaker is Clara Bohrer.

Guests are welcome but must make reservations before Jan. 10 with Evelyn Phillips, 626-6443, or Gloria Butt, 478-1087.

Thinking of Selling Your Jewelry?

SEE ROBERT GALE
Fine Jewelry
in Birmingham
725 S. Adams Rd.
N. at 14th Mile
644-6650
Closed Mon.

...only one of thousands' at

Best

Woodward South of 12 Mile, Royal Oak 543-5300

Getting settled made simple.

New-town dilemmas fade after a WELCOME WAGON call.

As your hostess, it's my job to help you make the most of your new neighborhood. Our shopping areas. Community opportunities. Special attractions. Lots of facts to save you time and money. Plus a basket of gifts for your family. I'll be listening for your call.

Welcome Wagon



CALL
356-7720

ECCESTONE

extends a personal invitation to

THE ECCESTONE WINTER FINALE' SALE
BEGINNING THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 26, 1985

Eventful reductions of
30% TO 50% OFF
storewide.

We look forward to seeing you.

ECCESTONE
THE CLASSIC WOMAN

SOMERSET, TROY (313) 649-3440
MOUNT PLEASANT (313) 772-4078

HELP KNOCK OUT BIRTH DEFECTS



SERIOUS FUN

There are all kinds of tough, serious aerobic programs around. But most people drop out after a couple of sessions.

Jacki Sorensen, a fitness professional, has created a new concept. During 1986, the original aerobic dance program in 1986, the program is serious aerobic and works with all the fun you need to stick with it.

Put some Serious Fun into your life.



Classes start beginning of January

Call: 1-313-437-7405
for the time and place most convenient for you.

1985 Aerobic Dancing, Inc.

We Discount Luxury!



Designer Furniture at Warehouse Prices!
Extra Reductions on Unique Floor Sample Items - For January Only

Charles

CHARLES FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
222 E. HARRISON • ROYAL OAK • 399-8320
6 Blocks N. of 10 Mile, 1/4 block E. off Main
OPEN MON.-SAT. 10-5 • FRIDAY 'TIL 8 P.M.

Don't miss this collection of 100% natural wool fabric designs, and the assured of line it is when you wear it.

Only 20% Off Retail! Buy Now On U.S.A.

Furs by Fur
For Specialized Fur
404 Redwood
(519) 255-1234

Atlantic Drapery Shoppe

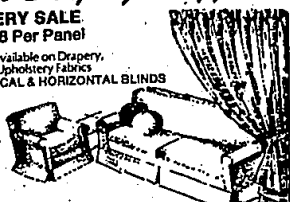
DRAPERY SALE
Labor \$8 Per Panel

Special Prices Available on Drapery, Slipcover & Upholstery Fabrics

BEST PRICES ON VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL BLINDS

Custom Spreads
Custom Slipcovers
(Labor Special)

CHAIR - \$69.90
SOFA - \$87.90



360 E. MAPLE • BIRMINGHAM • 647-2020/647-0721