



retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Icy wedding bells rings warmth

"I HOPE we don't get much more snow before the wedding," the most recent bride in our family told me on the telephone a week before the big day.

My answer was that I didn't know what she expected, getting married in the North Pole. And she said North Pole, Alaska, actually is south of Fairbanks, where she now lives, and the home of the friends who hosted the wedding and reception is right down the street from Santa's Workshop, which I suppose has some connection with the name of the community.

As things worked out, there was a 15-below temperature reading instead of more snow on Nov. 28, the day that our youngest daughter, Ann, was married to Gary Anderson of Fairbanks. And the joyous reports Joe and I heard over the telephone convinced us that no polar chill could interfere with the warmth of the happy occasion.

THE WEDDING was scheduled after the bride's parents had pretty well shot their travel budget. Besides, the prospect of temperatures in Fairbanks in November seemed bone-chilling to a pair of Florida retirees no longer conditioned even to Michigan winters.

But the family still was representative. Ann's sister, the Rev. Mary Miller, decided to take a few days off from pastoral duties in Maine to fly to Alaska and tie the knot. (She really goes to great lengths to see that her sisters are properly married —

last year it was a trip to Phoenix to preside over the nuptials of sister Kathy and Jim Siff.)

And our longtime and now-retired friend, Nell McCallum of Farmington, also was there. He's known Ann all her life and has enjoyed several visits to Alaska, so he made a spur-of-the-moment decision to take in a wedding, see a favorite state in winter and videotape the event for us to see.

ANN'S NAME may be Anderson now, but her Thanksgiving Day call to her parents proves she's still definitely a member of the crazy Miller clan that used to enjoy swimming in Lake Superior. It also proves we can welcome Gary as a true son-in-law.

For their brief honeymoon, Ann reported, they went to a "warm springs" resort spot a couple of hours' drive away. It was 20 below there, but that didn't deter them from a dip in the well-heated outdoor swimming pool.

"You had to duck your head under water sometimes to keep your hair from freezing," she said, "but Gary even went off the diving board, and we both had a great time."

And may they remain as compatible in all ways for all the years to come.

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.

club circuit

GROUP FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE HAD BREAST SURGERY meets at 6:30 p.m. Mondays and at 1 p.m. Thursdays in Northwest FWCA, 2540 Grand River. The sessions, which include discussion, floor and pool exercises, are open on a drop-in basis. Women may participate three weeks after surgery with a doctor's written approval.

Fee is \$2 for Y members or \$4 for non-members for each visit.

Inquiries are taken by calling the Y, 537-8500.

BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD-TROY SINGLES host a holiday singles dance party from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday in Somerset Inn, Big Beaver and Coolidge, Troy.

Admission is \$3 at the door. The event is open to all singles in all surrounding areas.

WESTSIDE SINGLES meet for a dance party beginning at 8 p.m. in Livonia Elks Hall, 31117 Plymouth Road.

Admission is \$4 at the door. The singles hotline is 562-3170.

DETROIT STORY LEAGUE meets for lunch at noon Saturday in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile Road.

Storytelling theme for the day is "Winter Solstice." Storytellers for the day are Barbara Schutz of Ann Arbor, Deling Sharp of Union Lake and Jean Jambas of Farmington Hills.

The event is open to guests without charge. Reservations are requested by calling Jambas at 553-0300, evenings only.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 32203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

Volunteer crew promotes art program

More elementary-age children, their teachers and parents will know about a free art appreciation program sponsored by the Detroit Institute of Arts because of a volunteer crew of advertising and television production professionals.

The crew, spearheaded by Larry Steingberg of Simons Michelson Zieve Inc., wrote and produced a 30-second public service announcement heralding the institute's "Art to the Schools" program. The spot is airing on WJBK-TV-2, WDIV-TV, WXYZ-TV and WKBD-TV.

The spot stars the 30 students in Carole Gutowsky's fifth-grade class in Troy's Hamilton Elementary School.

The students act out the experience of having the art program brought to their class.

That experience in real-life is a one-hour presentation given by the institute's volunteers, who bring slides, posters and replicas of various art works to explain a number of mediums and styles, in a hands-on teaching approach.

The 21-year-old "Art in the Schools" program already reaches thousands of area students annually. Last year 1,234 presentations were given to 30,025 students in 655 different schools. This year, as of October, 14,052 students had benefited from the program.



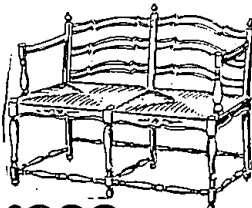
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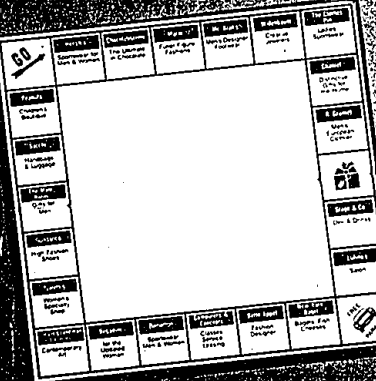
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