

# 'Quest' judges had hard choices

Among the projects designed to encourage talented young musicians "Quest for the Best" is one of the most distinguished. This program, sponsored by the Meebees Mutual Life Insurance Co., has been going for three years.

There are 13 preliminary rounds in which a winner is chosen from five candidates to participate in the final competition. In the finals held this month at Orchestra Hall, 15 were competing for three prizes of \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$5,000 to be used toward a musical education.

There is no misprint here — the 13 preliminary rounds did yield 15 finalists, due to a couple of ties. After listening to these exceptionally talented finalists, one could wonder that there were so few ties.

None of the past "Quests" presented such a difficult task for the judges as this one. All of the talents were so pronounced and the difference between the most and least outstanding, by any criteria, was minimal.

MOST OF these not fortunate enough to win a prize were just that — less fortunate than the winners. This is not meant to contest the choice of the judges, who made the best decision humanly possible under the circumstances.

The first, second and third place winners are: cellist Winona Zelenka, cellist Mark Votapek and violinist Cathy Cho.

Zelenka performed some of Tchaikovsky's variations on a rococo theme. Her ability to contrast the deep expressions of the minor-key variation with the dazzling quality of the subsequent one was impressive.

Votapek presented a very clean performance of a technically demanding arrangement by Poppo of a Hungarian rhapsody.

Cho played the famous Campanella from Paganini's second violin concerto, coping admirably even with the most difficult phrases.

Besides the talent there were several unusual aspects to this contest. There wasn't a pianist among the 15 contestants. The accompanying pianists, most of whom are known in

this area from regular chamber appearances, filled this talent gap, even though they were ineligible to win any prizes.

This competition included partici-

pants from Ontario, Canada, which was added for the first time this year.

It took the judges a long time to reach a decision, indicating that it

was a difficult choice.

All the contestants deserves encouragement, financial and otherwise, to help their musical careers. We offer them all our best wishes.



Avigdor Zaromp

## Enjoy holiday traditions with family



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

There are many holiday traditions that families celebrate at this date. There are some traditions which have come down through the ages that you might like to be a part of.

Luminarias, fat candles placed in sand in brown paper sacks, are now used to line driveways and walks to welcome visitors to your home. They are symbolic of the shepherds' fires near Bethlehem the night Christ was born.

Christmas Eve is a time to share with friends and neighbors who may be alone. Invite them to your home to share in the festivities. For those who can't come to your home, it is a chance to ring a doorbell and bring some joy by presenting a plate of Christmas cookies and candy.

Many families like to sit around

and remember a Christmas past. Have each person present participate in this activity. Sing favorite songs of the season. A toast given by each person expressing heartfelt feelings for those not in this intimate circle, and even those who are, will establish a closeness in the group.

As a family, it would be fun to

walk in the downtown streets to see the festive windows and holiday lighting. A drive through the residential streets to enjoy the home lighting would be an additional bonus to the celebration of Christmas Eve.

There is still time to enjoy the holiday at Greenfield Village. It is possible to take a horse and buggy

around the grounds and you can go inside a specific home to savor the flavor of an "old time" Christmas.

If you and your guests have unfilled hours during the holidays, plan a mystery trip to visit the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Historical Museum, the Children's Museum or the nearby Detroit Science Center.

Many guests have never visited another country and you can take them to Canada by bridge or tunnel and have a delightful evening seeing Detroit illuminated in all its glory across the Detroit River. There are many interesting places to eat in Windsor, so enjoy.

Merry Christmas to all of you. May the spirit of the season "capture" your hearts. All of you have captured mine.



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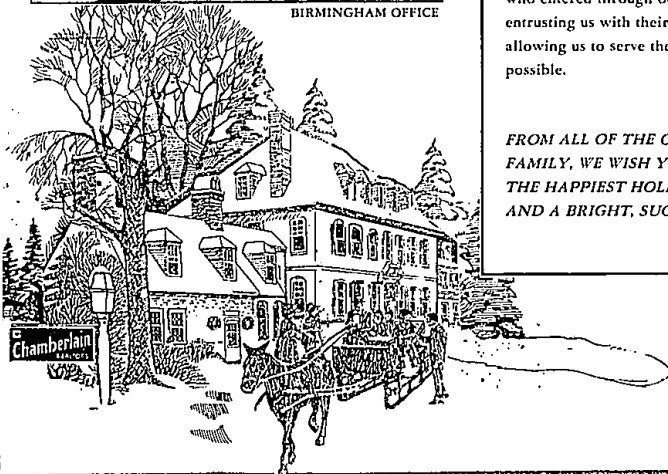
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