

Spotlight on Women

1970 Look At Tradition Of Pilgrims

"Three-hundred and fifty years ago, 102 men, women and children sailed the wild Atlantic in a tiny ship called the Mayflower."

"They settled on the edge of a dark and unknown forest. Their days and nights were a constant battle against the dangers of nature, disease and sin. Half their number made it through the first winter."

Were the Pilgrims who celebrated this nation's first Thanksgiving dull and proper types or folks whose experiences have a lot to say to today's world?

A group of fifth and sixth grade girls in a Livonia church decided to find out and in doing so became experts in an important epoch of American history.

But they did their research with an eye to enjoyment and then set it to music. Before they were finished, they appeared on local television in a program that took them and their audience to the heart of the Thanksgiving tradition.

THE GIRLS are members of a class Mrs. John Burgess of Livonia teaches in Mt. Hope Congregational Church. "I decided at Thanksgiving

time last year we should study some of the Pilgrim heritage, since the Congregational church grew out of the tradition," she said.

Her class, whom she described as "exceptionally talented girls," took to the idea and her plan to set the whole thing to fun music.

They traced the Puritan movement from John Wycliffe, through Henry VIII and his break with the Pope and finally to William Brewster and the voyage of the Mayflower.

The scenes and characterizations were set to show tunes and original music, and the girls sang the whole script, accompanied by Jane Trudgeon on the guitar and other girls on other instruments.

Lisa Barry, Heidi Hunter, Vickie Blackmar, Sherry Siefman, Gina Nott and Sharon Rooney of Livonia, Gail Rupert of Westland, Denise Ruttenberg of Plymouth and Patty Shand and Janet Finn of Dearborn Heights all took part in the singing characterizations.

THE GIRLS worked all year on various parts of the



ON THE MAYFLOWER—Heidi Hunter, (right) plays the part of Pilgrim leader William Brewster in a Thanksgiving drama her church school class researched and enacted on local television. Others are (from left) Gina Nott, Sherry Siefman, Lisa Barry,

Richard Campbell agreed to help the girls' search for understanding and, at a meeting at Olivet College.

They taped it for a half-hour show that was telecast last Sunday, and then, after watching themselves on television, headed for the First Congregational Church of Jackson to put on the show once again.

Mrs. Burgess and the Rev.

Janet Finn, Gail Hupert, Vickie Blackmar, Sharon Rooney, Patty Shand, and Denise Ruttenberg. Mrs. John Burgess, the class teacher, is standing and Jane Trudgeon is playing the guitar. (Evert photo)

where for a solution, to the right, to the left, all around.

"Why does he not look up?"

"The Pilgrims had a problem and they looked up in declaring their independence on the part of English life they felt they must reject, they declared their dependence on God and moral law."

"They were a praying people. But the greatest prayer they offered was the way they lived each day."

"When man has a problem his restless soul looks every-

Gardeners All

5 Clubs Join For Yule Mart

Plans are in the making for a Christmas Berry Market, sponsored by five area garden clubs including Plymouth and Lake Pointe chapters.

Workshops for the market, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 in Plymouth's Grange

Hall, are well under way in homes of club members.

Decoupage eggs are being carefully coated by the deft hands of patient Plymouth club craftsmen who are also making foil boxes, magnetic ovals, bird cages and boutique

items such as key chains and paperweights.

The local club is also busy preparing assorted jams, jellies and relishes for eating as well as attractive displays at the market.

Lake Pointe branch of the National Farm and Garden

Club is planning a candy kitchen complete with recipe books, three varieties of candy men, candy dishes and felt novelties with candy canes.

The group also expects to sell ceramic dishes and can-

dle holders to accompany the homemade goodies.

NORTHEAST CLUB donations will run the gamut from holiday breads to fresh green wreaths, rain hats, plaques, scarves, and toy clowns.

Christmas decorations, baked goods and knitted items such as children's toys are the craftworks which Livonia's Rosedale Gardens chapter is readying for the December display.

Green Acres chapter in Livonia is making felt cookie covers, leaded glass items, ceramic ash trays, angels and candle holders, framed swags, "Freddie the Frog" toys and simulated bird nests.

Prices for the holiday art goods will range from 35 cents to \$10.

Members of Plymouth Grange 389 are scheduled to serve luncheon at the marketplace located in Grange Hall, 273 Union St.

Society Plans Finnish Day

The Finnish American Historical Society, Inc., is sponsoring a Finnish Independence Day commemorative program Nov. 29 at 3 p.m. in the Southfield High School auditorium. The program will include a speaker, musical and choral numbers. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program.

First Child

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rice Smith, 222 Batavia Court, Westland, announce the birth of their first child, Kenneth Eugene Smith, on Oct. 30 in Ridgewood Hospital, Garden City.



FIVE-CLUB PROJECT—A quintet of garden clubs are represented here, along with the wares which is contributing to the Christmas Berry Market in Plymouth's Grange Hall Saturday, Dec. 12. From left are Mrs. James O'Day of the Mayflower Garden Club, Plymouth; Mrs. Donald McClean Sr. of the Rosedale Gardens Club, Livonia; Mrs. Max Sommer-

ville of the Lake Pointe Club, Plymouth; Mrs. Charles Kirk of the Green Acres Club, Livonia; and Mrs. George Miller of the Northville Club. Egg ornaments, pine cone decorations and felt and crocheted items are among those displayed. (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

m. m. memos

The time for taking Christmas card pictures came again to our home, and one shot we tried for variety showed four heads of blonde hair being brushed.

As it turned out, that was the best picture of the girls, expressionwise and composition-wise, and it probably will go out to the world.

But I'm glad to have it for an entirely different reason -- it's my proof positive that in our household there are at least four hairbrushes.

How they happened to get rounded up at that moment is something I'll have to ascribe to a Christmas miracle. Because at any other given moment finding even one is a chore of amazing proportions.

Actually, we have more than four brushes, though I'd find that statement hard to prove and no amount would ever be enough. We also have numerous combs, several bottles of spray conditioner to out-smart the snarls and assorted elastic bands and barrettes.

But assembling what's required for a given hair-do job -- always needed five minutes ago -- is a project often beyond us.

I once tried to keep hairbrushes in the bathrooms by writing on them warnings that they would explode if removed. They were sneaked out rather gingerly, I remember, but nothing booming happened, and I lost both face and hairbrush.

Now I put hairbrush boxes in each bathroom. They usually are empty.

So while the continuous roundup goes on, I'll keep that picture of four brushes in mind. That way, my faith doesn't get the brush-off.

--Margaret Miller

Chairmen Are Named

Carl E. Licht of River Rouge has been named general chairman for the 1971 Easter Seal campaign on behalf of crippled children and adults in Western Wayne County.

Licht, the immediate past president of the Easter Seal Society of Western Wayne County, will coordinate the efforts of local chairmen.

Among the latter are the Rev. Leonard Koening of the Plymouth Rotary Club, Arthur Butler and Walter Russell of Redford Township's Lola Valley Kiwanis, John L. Flesher of the Redford Township Rotary Club, and Edwin H. K. Erdmann of the Garden City Rotary Club.

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11-2x14-0	Black & Brown Nylon Tweed	59¢
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