

# Spotlight on Women

## 'Tis The Season To Be Wary

Bigger and bigger Christmas crowds.

Increasingly harried shoppers.

A faster living pace as the buying time before the big day slips away.

It all adds up to a need for redoubled caution to avoid being the victim of petty thievery while on Christmas shopping sprees.

"THERE'S NO QUESTION that with increased crowds comes an increase in the thieves who prey on shoppers," said Robert Foris, manager at the Livonia Mall shopping center.

"The difference in the last few years seems to be an increase in what I'd call excessive nerve."

"The idea of picking up a

purse from a counter with lots of people around or grabbing one from under a restroom door used to be unheard of. But not any more."

**PORIS AND FRED PEASE**, head of security for the Wonderland shopping center, agreed that the best protection against purse thievery is a secure grip on the purse at all times during a shopping trip and especially at this time of year.

"Women should carry bags with straps and then hold on to them as well," Pease said. "A purse laid down on a counter is an open invitation."

Poris added that shoppers should be especially careful with credit cards when stores are crowded.

"It's so easy for them to drop out of a change purse or wallet," he added.

**THE SPOKESMEN** for the two centers also agreed that currently the biggest theft problem is packages taken from cars.

Shoppers who return to their cars with several purchases and then go back to buy more should always lock their cars, Poris and Pease said. Or it's even better to put packages into the trunk.

It's too easy to break into a car when inviting packages are on the seat, the officials said.

"And lots of times," Pease added, "a driver thinks he has locked a car but the vent window is left open a crack."

Then, of course, it's no problem to open the window and get in.

Poris said the Livonia Mall's assorted lockers should offer shoppers an opportunity to store packages without leaving them in plain view in a car.

**SHOPPING WITH CHILDREN** can be difficult, Pease added, but they should never be left alone in the car even for a minute.

"And we've had some problems with youngsters wandering off when not watched closely in the stores," he said. "Sometimes we find them two or three stores away from the spot where their parents are shopping."

He said Wonderland adds to the security of shoppers and employs by regular checkups in the restrooms and uniformed guards in the parking lots.

Crowds are running about the same as recent years despite inflation and strikes, Foris said.

"We're even ahead of last year in the matter of orders for pictures of children with Santa Claus," he added. "I'm anticipating a good Christmas."

And when our fourth-grader responds that yes, she remembers HER first homework, ages ago when she was in the third grade.

"As the man of our house put it: 'You know you're getting old when your kids start getting nostalgic.'"

—Margaret Miller

## Through All 95 Years, Grandma Enjoys Living

By MARGARET MILLER

Women's Editor

Mrs. Annie Heichman, one of Livonia's most senior citizens, had lunch last month in a restaurant at Hubbard Lake, Mich.

"Come back soon," smiled the waitress as she and her daughter-in-law were leaving.

"I don't know whether I will or not," answered the lady who many Livonians know as Grandma Heichman, and added, by way of explanation:

"I'm 95 years old, and I don't travel as well as I used to."

THAT MAY BE, but in her agile mind Mrs. Heichman can do a lot of journeying through the area that she has seen through changes of nearly a century.

She celebrated her 95th birthday Nov. 27 in her home at 19020 Wooding, Livonia, and decided there had been quite a few changes since the day 41 years back when she and her husband, Albert, moved out to the Seven Mile-Farmington Road area "so the city won't bother us."

Visitors were fewer than on the occasion of her 90th birthday party attended by "a lot of good friends."

But she did enjoy the company of her daughter, Mrs. Tillie Burger, who makes her home with her grandchildren Elmer Burger, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Covey, of Detroit, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Burger of Livonia, Mrs. Marjorie Eberle of Northville, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Heichman of Livonia, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Houghton of Livonia and great-grandchildren Cheryl and Jeffrey Heichman. There also is one great-grandchild.

She also had a telephone call that day from her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Elmer Heichman of Hubbard Lake, widow of the son who died last summer.

**GRANDMA HEICHMAN** was born in Royal Oak and as a young child moved with her family to the Six Mile and Southfield area.

"We lived in a log house at first," she remembers, "and then my father bought a big frame house and had it moved across the road."

While growing up on her father's farm, she remembers she walked a mile and a half to a white frame one-room school at Grand River and Mill. "That's what they



"GRANDMA" ANNIE HEICHMAN (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

used to call Southfield because there was a big mill there," she explained.

At the age of 19, Annie Parrot was married to Albert Heichman. She made her own wedding dress, "changeable silk in pink and blue with tucks down the front," and she still has that dress to show to visitors.

**THE YOUNG** couple went to live on a farm on Seven Mile between Greenfield and Southfield.

"We had 20 cows, and one night I milked nearly all of them while the men were all out threshing," she remembers. She also did plenty of service in the big vegetable garden "and I could pick up to 100 bushels of potatoes—the big ones, you know—in a day."

Mrs. Heichman did a lot of the driving of produce to the Western Market in the days when Grand River was "a plank road on one side and

dirt on the other," and there was a memorable day when a neighbor with a team of pacers suggested a race and she left him far behind.

All this, of course, was in addition to cooking and caring for a household that included two children, her father, her father-in-law and mother-in-law and "we always had a hired man."

"I baked five loaves of bread three times a week," she said, "and it would take me all day to do the wash."

**IT WAS IN 1929** that the Heichmans moved out to the present home. There were no farm chores in the home on Wooding, but Albert Heichman took care of the grounds in the 10 years he had there before his death, and had a big garden and his wife became increasingly active in church work.

They belonged to the West-pointe Community Church

near their home, and Annie Heichman did great quantities of missionary sewing.

"I used to buy chicken feed bags—you could get them for 10 cents—and make little girls dresses and aprons," she recalled.

She turned out 64 aprons one winter, and there also were lots of baby kimonos and rag rugs.

Mrs. Heichman now is a regular attendee of the Northwest Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Farmington and has served with the women there, though failing eyesight has stilled her needle.

"I miss being able to do it," she says. But Grandma Heichman still finds plenty of "puttering" time in her memory-filled days, and she wants it known that she can still reach down and touch her toes. She'll be glad to demonstrate if you visit.

## Hitts Will Hold Open House

An open house will mark the 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Ira O. Hitt, Plymouth residents since 1926.

The couple will receive friends at their home at 1335 Sheridan, where they have lived for 28 years, from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13.

Ira and Nellie Hitt were married in Byran, Ohio, on Dec. 11, 1910. Mr. Hitt taught school and farmed in Ohio

before coming to Plymouth, and was employed in the John MacLaren ice plant and by Allen Industries here.

The couple has four children, Odene Hitt of Decatur, Ga., Terrence Hitt of Houston, Texas, Mrs. Kathryn Day of Douglas Lake, Mich., and Mrs. Shirley Clark of East Detroit.

There are 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



MR. AND MRS. IRA O. HITT

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(Partial List)

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33 yds. Gold 501 Nylon	129¢
32 yds. Olive Gold 501 Nylon	129¢
28 yds. Mocha 501 Nylon	139¢
25 yds. Berge Textured Wool	149¢
26 yds. Avocado Kodel	139¢
26 yds. Gold Textured Acrylic	149¢
30 yds. Tuone Past 501 Nylon	119¢
25 yds. Applique Kodel	109¢
29 yds. Berge 501 Nylon	119¢
23 yds. Brown & Black Nylon Tweed	89¢
33 yds. Sandwood 501 Nylon	139¢

(Partial List)

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