

## m. m. memos

A snatch of radio broadcast I caught recently intrigues me.

It reported that some dignitary — presumably a lawmaker but I can't say who because I tuned in too late — has suggested that sales tax be taken off three symbols of America.

These he listed as the American flag, apple pie and aprons worn by mothers and grandmothers.

Now I'm all for making something — ANYTHING — tax free. But I do have a few reservations about this idea.

I wouldn't question the flag as an appropriate symbol. But when you think of apple pies, it gets a little stickier (the symbolism, not the pies).

Is it a whole, store-bought pie that's going to be placed on the no-tax pedestal? That would never work, because it's the home-kitchen product that is supposed to spell America. But if you include flour and sugar and shortening, you are non-taxing a whole raft of non-symbolic dishes.

My real quarrel, though, is with making those aprons into emblems. These days I wonder how many mothers, or even grandmothers, wear them very often.

Today symbols of motherhood are more like the can-opener, the thermometer, the PTA membership card, the kitchen wall papered with drawings, the baby food jar.

Or the family car, as used by chauffering mothers, and who isn't? Now THERE's a real symbol for the no-tax category. Are you listening, patriotic Washington?

— Margaret Miller



MRS. D. DWIGHT STRUTHERS

## Plymouth Women Hear Of 1st Ladies

Members of the Woman's Club of Plymouth will hear about "First Ladies of the White House" during their meeting at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5, in the Plymouth Masonic Temple.

The speaker will be Mrs. D. Dwight Struthers of Grosse Pointe Woods, who has researched wives of U.S. presidents for 15 years and will tell about their families, their personalities and how they lived in the White House.

Mrs. Struthers, who has a degree in history from Lindenwood College for Women

## Clinic's Services Expanded

Services of the Livonia Child Health Clinic are now being offered twice a month, on the first Wednesday and third Tuesday. The clinic is held in St. Paul Presbyterian Church Five Mile and Arcola.

It provides physical examinations and routine immunizations for children two months to five years. There is a charge of \$1 per person per visit, although no child is refused service if unable to pay.

The clinic is operated by the Wayne County Department of Health and an appointment should be made by calling GR 4-7358, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Monday through Friday.

The clinic is open to all residents of Livonia, Redford, Plymouth, Garden City and Westland.

Routine immunizations include polio, diphtheria, smallpox, tetanus, rubella (third measles) and rubella (German measles).

in Missouri, is a mother and grandmother and a past president of the PEO in Detroit.

Mrs. Eric E. Childs will be chairman for the day, and tea table assistants will be Mrs. Gregory Deane, Mrs. James Gilbert, Mrs. Gregory Dean, Mrs. Charles Dorr, Mrs. Harger Green, Mrs. Walter Hammond, Mrs. William Kennedy, Mrs. Brian Kidston, Mrs. Kenneth Reuther and Mrs. Austin Stecker.

Mrs. Struthers, who has a degree in history from Lindenwood College for Women



HEART OF GOLD PREVIEW — Mrs. Barbara Moore, left, a resident of Redford Township and member of the Redford Suburban League, appeared last week to talk about the Heart of Gold she received last year from the Women for the United Foundation for community service. Her appearance on Channel 7 with Morning Show host Bob Hynes and Mrs. Aaron Gershenson, was a preview for the 1971 Heart of Gold luncheon in Cobo Hall Feb. 9. Mrs. Gershenson is chairman for that occasion and syndicated columnist Ann Landers will be speaker. Mrs. Moore, who was nominated by the Suburban League last year for her work with retarded children, is decorations chairman for the RSL Moonlight and Roses Ball, scheduled Feb. 19 in Roma Hall.



## Exchange Student Back From Land Down-Under

It was hard to leave a second family and a lovely summer sun, but Maureen Brennan is glad to be back to Livonia and her senior year at Bentley High School.

Maureen flew home 10 days ago from the tropic zone of Australia, where she spent a year living with an adopted family, attending school and representing Livonia in the American Field Service program.

And she can report she found in the "land down under" some "fantastically friendly people," an educational system not as satisfying as Livonia's, distances far greater than this country's and definitely too much steak.

"I never would have believed I'd get tired of steak," she laughed, "but we ate it several times a week."

MAUREEN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Brennan, lived with the family of Graham Thomson, in the town of Charters Towers in North Queensland.

Her Australian father is headmaster of Blackheath College, an all-girl boarding school for the third through 12th grades, and the family included Wendy, 15, Ross, 12, Penny and David, 11-year-old twins, and Ian, nine.

"So I had brothers for the first time," said Maureen, whose Livonia family includes four sisters.

IN FAMILY LIVING, education and social systems, Maureen found some mighty differences between the American and Australian ways of life.

"My family here is very close," she said, "but I found that there the school ties tend to be greater. Most schools are boarding schools—the distances are so great that they have to be so in many ways you are closer to school friends than to members of the family."

The fact that schools were not co-educational made for other differences, she said. "You made a lot more

close friends among the girls," she explained, "and with only 155 students in the school, you got to know everyone well. We all had our favorites among the little girls, too."

Without boys on the campus, there's little dating during the school year, Maureen said.

"But when the kids do get out into mixed groups, they really go wild," she added. Socially, she noted that drinking among teens is far more prevalent and accepted in Australia, but there was little evidence of drug use "except in the big cities."

IN THE EDUCATIONAL system, Maureen noticed perhaps the greatest difference.

"There's far more memorization," she said, "and you just recite answers. You don't question things the way we do here."

The general conservatism is so great, she added, that one headmaster of an Australian school was ousted after he spoke out against the Vietnam war.

There's little dissent among the students, she reported.

"Australian kids seem less mature, maybe because they've spent their whole lives in boarding school and don't ever think about working until they finish school," she explained.

"They don't think like American kids—in fact, I heard the comment that American students are too serious."

MAUREEN brought back some stuffed Australian animals—a miniature kangaroo and a koala bear—and a souvenir boomerang.

"I couldn't bring a real boomerang—it's against the law to give one to a white person," she said.

She also brought along memories of a happy family and many close friends—and a zest for getting back to the business of being an American high school senior.



MAUREEN BRENNAN (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

## Children's Movies Shown At College

The Faculty Wives at Schoolcraft College will present their children's movie series on three consecutive Fridays beginning Feb. 5. The programs will begin at 7 p.m. in Room B-300, Liberal Arts Building, Schoolcraft College, 18500 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

The first week "The Legend of Johnny Applesseed," "The Little Engine that Could," and "The Country Mouse and the City Mouse" will be featured.

Feb. 12, the movies "The Smallest Elephant in the World," "Little Mariner" and "Baby Animals" will be shown.

The movies planned for Feb. 19 are "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Lassie's Litter Bit" and "Millions of Cats." Children from ages three to 10 are the suggested age

group. Parents are invited to browse through the college and have coffee while waiting for the children.

There will be prizes for the children and parents are urged to bring along neighbor children as well as their own. The movies are free.

## VFW Group Offers Flags

The Livonia Ladies' Auxiliary to Post 3941 VFW, 27555 Grandland, Livonia, is offering an American flag to any youth group, library, classroom or other organization which needs one.

Those interested should call the president, Judith Broadway, 464-3558 or write to the Post.

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