

Spotlight on Women



MIKE WHORF

Mike Whorf Visits March Town Hall

Mike Whorf, host of the award-winning radio program "Kaleidoscope," will be speaker for the Northville Town Hall program at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 11, in Northville High School, Eight Mile and Sheldon.

The well-known WJR broadcaster will headline the third program in the Town Hall's 10th anniversary series.

Single tickets will be on sale for \$5, and those wishing to reserve them should call Mrs. William Tucker, Northville.

WHORF ALSO will be guest of honor at a celebrity luncheon scheduled after the talk in Lofy's Restaurant, Ann Arbor Road at Lilly, Plymouth.

Club To Celebrate 78th Anniversary

"The Pursuit of Happiness" is the topic chosen by Earl J. Hill for an address to the Woman's Club of Plymouth. The club will celebrate its 78th anniversary Friday, March 5, at 1 p.m. in the Plymouth Masonic Temple.

Hill is public relations representative for Consumers Power Company, Jackson.

The anniversary meeting is for members only.

Past presidents will be honored guests. They are Mrs. George Burr, Mrs. Robert Willoughby, Mrs. F.R. Hohesl, Mrs. John Henderson, Mrs. Milton R. Laible, Mrs. Kenneth Hulsing, Mrs. Leslie Daniel, Mrs. David Wood, Mrs. George T. Bauer, Mrs. Richard Jones, Mrs. Marshall North, Mrs. Ray Barber, Mrs. Lawrence Becker and Mrs. Roswell Tanager.

Mrs. Eric E. Childs will be chairman for the day. Mrs. Jerry Williams, Mrs.



EARL J. HILL

Course Is For Sitters

The Westland Jaycees Auxiliary is looking for local girls to enroll in its Babysitting Clinic. The classes will be held for six consecutive weeks beginning March 4, and continuing to April 8.

The course will be given in the auditorium of Westland Shopping Center, Wayne and Cowan Roads, from 7 until 8:30 p.m.

The program is for girls 16 and under, and there is no charge for the course.

'Landscaping' Topic Of Meet

The Livonia Garden Club, No. 286, will hold its monthly meeting Wednesday, March 3, at 8 p.m., in the United

Methodist Church, 3090 Six Mile, Livonia. "Landscaping Your Home" will be discussed by Mrs. Nancy Jones.

Old Home Ties Fall Before Expressway

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Two homes used to stand side-by-side on the south side of Schoolcraft Road in Livonia. House numbers 31901 and 31911.

For more than a decade, they embraced the activities of two families, saw five young people grow to adulthood, watched the changing scene along an ever-busier traffic route.

The houses no longer are next-door neighbors, although both are still Livonians. There's an expressway coming through the old neighborhood soon.

So August Gaubis, a widowed painter, has moved his ranch home, built in 1951, a little less than a mile north to 14734 Bainbridge.

And Mr. and Mrs. Dawson Gilmore have taken their two-story home, vintage 1937, a mile south to 11415 Denne.

BESIDES PARTING with neighbors of years' standing when they moved out to make way for the coming Jeffries Freeway, they left behind well-landscaped front yards and acreage stretching into woodland from their back doors.

But the Gaubis and Gilmore houses are keeping home ties better than many of the erstwhile Schoolcraft buildings.

Many of their neighbors have been sold to the state, then to building movers. These have taken longer trips, averaging six miles, to new lots. One was moved 70 miles away.

As many more houses have felt the crushing blows of the bulldozer. For many owners displaced by the Jeffries, razing the old home seemed the best solution.

AFTER GOING through the throes of moving a house, Gaubis and Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore aren't quite sure these others weren't right.

Sentiment certainly entered into both decisions to move the homes. The Gilmore had built their comfortable home; Gaubis supervised the building of his and did a lot of the interior work.

"You don't really make a quick decision to move the house," said Gaubis' son, Ted, who is helping his father get the house in shape in its new quarters.

"We'd known for several years the move would have to come. And the state gave us plenty of notice. Then there was the negotiation over the price, and then finally we heard about more houses being moved and decided to do it."

In the Gilmore's case, the decision to move came largely because they felt the state's price was too low for the value of the house.

TO COMPLY with Livonia law, both Gaubis and the Gilmore had to post a \$5,000 bond that will be forfeited if the house in its new surroundings can't pass final inspection a year from the day of the move.

"That's going to be a little rough," said Mrs. Gilmore as she surveyed the water and mud surrounding the home. "We did all the work ourselves when we first built the house, but we had to contract it this time to make the time limit. And now with all the rain..."

New basements are constructed for houses that are moved, and then the buildings are slid onto the supporting steel beams.

GAUBIS HAD TO LEAVE his breezeway behind, but



TWO HOUSES on Schoolcraft sit rather forlornly on blocks, awaiting a move to an area that won't be torn up for an expressway. (Observer photo by Maurie Walker)



TED AND AUGUST GAUBIS are glad their home has found a new home. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

instead has an improved room between house and garage. A fireplace of rough stone was added there.

"It's been a challenge to make it a better house," said the widower.

The Gilmore, on the other hand, can't help regretting the loss of the recreation room they had before the move. As the house was originally, the ground sloped down in back, so the basement could have large windows. In its new location, the ground is level so that arrangement is no longer possible.

Both August and Ted Gaubis had high praise for Livonia regulations and the inspectors who enforce them.

"The rules are for the benefit of the house," the son said.

MOVING COMPANIES, such as Norwest Building Movers operated on a similar system in clearing buildings away from the south side of Schoolcraft to make room for the new expressway.

"We buy them from the state by the bidding system," said G. Russell, administrator for the firm.

"Sometimes the bid is for a large group of houses, sometimes for two or three we particularly want."

Russell said the firm has moved between 150 and 200 houses along Schoolcraft and demolished about the same number in the 3 1/2 years that the vacating of land has been in progress.

"We have properties we use as new sites for the houses we buy," Russell said. "We try not to go too far, because wherever we have to go under wires it costs money."

"And we'll sell a house at any stage, or else refinish it until it's ready for FHA approval."

BUT THOUGH the moving companies have handled more homes, the urge is still

there to keep the old home, even if its setting has to change.

"We had some neighbors who are in their 80s," Mrs. Gilmore said. "They were planning last summer to move their house, and de-

cided it would be too much for them."

"But they never did sell it, and the last I heard they were planning to have a contractor do the work this summer. They just hate to leave the old house."

m.m.memos

It isn't that we take these church seasons lightly, but "What are you giving up for Lent?" always brings on quite a discussion at our house.

This year was no exception. One of our pianists thought it might be nice to give up practicing for Lent. Her sister then suggested giving up school.

"But Mother probably won't let us," they agreed.

They were right. And when the question was put to me, I thought maybe I could give up blowing bubble gum bubbles or water skiing or motorcycle-racing.

One of the girls and I finally settled on a real one. We'd give up sweets and snacks.

The man of our house put it another way. "I'm going to give up 10 pounds," he announced.

But then he had another idea. "What I'd really like to do," he said, "is give up working."

"In that case," rejoined his daughter, "what I'd better give up is eating."

We'll have to take both those possibilities under consideration.

—Margaret Miller

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