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# Clarenceville Series Enriches Suburbs With Bands, Ballet

## Dems State Committee Will Meet At OCC

The 19th Congressional District Democratic Committee will host a meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee Saturday, May 22

at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington.

District Democratic Chairman Aldo Vagnozzi said it was appropriate that the state Democrats should choose a college campus to hold a meeting at which two officers are to be added from among the 18-20 year old group.

The youth officer positions were approved at the party's February convention. The positions will be filled from among a number of candidates by a vote of the party's state central committee members.

"A highlight of the meeting," according to Vagnozzi, "will be two panel discussions on no-fault auto insurance and federal revenue sharing." The party is expected to take a position on both issues after the discussions. The meeting, which will be chaired by James McNeeley, is open to the public.

By BETTY MASSON  
Do your family and friends laugh at you when you come up with a kind of way-out idea?

Do your kids look blank when you mention Harry James?

Do you hate to drive downtown?

And does the budget balk at stretching far enough to include a real-live play for the children?

If you have these problems, you'll find a receptive ear Wednesday morning, because the Clarenceville Entertainment Series committee is looking for new faces and new ideas.

It will hold a coffee May 26, beginning at 10:30 a.m., in the Board of Education office, 28830 W. Eight Mile.

JUST WHAT is this group? It's a growing organization which is making significant contributions to suburban life and doing some pioneering in the process.

The pioneering is in the realm of bringing culture to the suburbs and in closing the generation gap a little, particularly about Harry James.

In the fall of 1969, a then new member, Mrs. Henry (Midge) Ellis, had an idea... why not bring some big bands into Clarenceville's Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium?

MRS. ELLIS had had some experience in this area when she helped book bands for a



MRS. HENRY ELLIS

country club to which she belonged in Jackson, Miss. She contacted a friend in a booking agency, with the result that the Buddy Rich Orchestra came to Clarenceville in December, 1970. He was followed by Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Stan Kenton and a "sold-out" Harry James last Monday.

The committee, whose chief assets are a group of hard-working women, enthusiasm and flexibility, is able to bring the bands in at a cost they can afford when they are either in or passing through the area anyway.

Unlike the large commercial auditoriums, this group can arrange a concert at the drop of a baton. But this may not be necessary in the future, because the bands like the auditorium, the acoustics, the new fans they acquire in suburban teenagers, and the sandwiches the committee makes and serves during intermission.

"Buddy Rich is impressed and wants to come back," reports Mrs. Ellis. So does Stan Kenton. So does Harry James.

All of this means that the committee, which had no money when it started and spent \$5,000 in 1969-70, has a budget of \$14,000 this year.

"They gave Harry James a standing ovation Monday night and he loved it. He wants to come back next year. So do Stan Kenton and Buddy Rich."

Mrs. Ellis

The committee was begun in 1968 when Clarenceville School District opened its new auditorium.

Appointed by the school board, the two leaders were, and are, Mrs. Robert Erickson and Mrs. Jack Rowens.

They began in the summer of 1968 with a film festival and that winter concentrated on finding and bringing in quality programs for children, with help from the Livonia Entertainment Guild and the Michigan Fine Arts Council.

They are still thinking of children and this year's presentations included "Young Mark Twain" by the Performing Arts Repertory Theatre of New York, "Rumpelstiltskin" by the Philip Molby Marionettes; "The Electric Playground" by the Festival Dancers of Detroit; "Help! Help! The Globolinks!" by the Overture to Opera, and "Coppelia" by the Severo Ballet Company and Plymouth Symphony.

THE LAST TWO are good examples of the committee's amazing flexibility. Because Overture to Opera was able to rehearse "Globolinks" in the Clarenceville auditorium, the

committee was able to have a pre-Detroit performance at a reduced rate.

In most cases, children's tickets have been held down to 50 cents. But an event like "Coppelia," costs more, and so the prices were raised to \$1. still less than it costs many children to get into a movie.

And this is part of the committee's strength... each performance has to pay for itself. If a little profit is made, it's spent on the next performance.

Program chairmen, such as Mrs. Bonnie Garrison, Mrs. Shirley Wood, Mrs. Jan Slatin, Mrs. Estelle Dolinka and Mrs. Janet Gaffie work as the nucleus of the organization and call on volunteers as needed. Among their volunteers are high school and junior high school students who assist with stage management and ushering.

Just now, the committee's chief need is for volunteers to man the box office at Clarenceville before each performance.

But you can be sure it will

also welcome ideas. And it's a good bet that the auditorium will get even more use next season.

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Mrs. Ruth Barak of Detroit will demonstrate the Paper Toile, the old English art of delicate cutting to produce three-dimensional pictures. She is one of the few practitioners of the long-dormant art form.  
Antique scrolling on glass, wire sculpture, the hand carving of ceramics and handwrought copper craft will also be demonstrated.  
Demonstrations of leathercraft, flower arranging, candle making, woodcraft, and handmade jewelry will also be included at the shopping center.  
Other attractions include a glass blower, creating woven Swiss straw and raffia flowers, and natural rock and mineral formations.

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