

Month honors older Americans



ON AGING
RENEE MAHLER

May is Older Americans Month. Nationally celebrated, Older Americans Month has been designated as the time to give special recognition to all citizens 60 years of age or older.

This year's theme is "Community Action Begins With You: Help Older Americans to Help Themselves." Michigan Gov. John Engler, in his Executive Declaration in Observance of Older Americans Month, states that there are 14 million older adults in our state and by the year 2030, one out of every four Americans will be 60 years or older. There will be more than 83 million people in 2030, 60 or older, approximately eight million will be at least 85 years old.

remind us of the worth and value of our elderly relatives, friends and neighbors. They are an important resource for all of us.

Q. A friend of mine told me she has to pay taxes on her Social Security benefits. I don't know if I should be paying taxes too.

A. The law states that people whose income is above a base amount, may be taxed up to half the amount of their Social Security benefits. The base amount is \$25,000 for individuals filing as single taxpayers. For married couple filing a joint return the base amount is \$32,000. Every January, Social Security beneficiaries get a statement in the mail which shows the amount of benefits they have received in the previous year. With this statement is an Internal Revenue Service worksheet. People receiving benefits should use this worksheet to find out if their benefits are subject to tax.

Q. My brother and I are having a disagreement. I hope you can help settle. Both our father and his brother, our uncle, have Alzheimer's Disease. They have the same doctor and he has advised the family that having an autopsy performed when they die is a good thing to do. My brother is very much against it. What is your opinion?

A. There are two very good reasons for requesting an autopsy for people diagnosed with Alzheimer's. First, an autopsy is the only way the diagnosis can be confirmed. Secondly, the information provided

by the autopsy is extremely important for family medical records. If other family members develop symptoms of dementia, hopefully early treatment will be available in the near future.

The word autopsy usually conjures up a very negative image. In the case of suspected Alzheimer's victims, only a small amount of brain tissue is removed. Any disfigurement is undetectable. The removed tissue can be donated to an Alzheimer's research center.

If the individual dies in a hospital, the autopsy may be able to be performed right there. If death occurs in a nursing home, other arrangements, with a pathologist, will have to be made. The request for an autopsy may legally be made by the next of kin, or guardian. In the event that the individual's spouse is deceased, the oldest child is considered the next of kin. It is, however, very important that autopsy arrangements be made before the individual is too near death.

For additional information contact your local Alzheimer's Disease office. In Metro Detroit, the number to call is 557-8277. Perhaps the data collected from the autopsy will eventually help scientists discover the cause and cure for this disease that affects more than 2.5 million older adults in our country.

Holland, Michigan will host the 13th annual Michigan Senior Olympics on June 17-20. Men and women who will be 55 years of age by June 17, 1992, or those 55 and older, are eligible to participate. There will be individual as well as team events including such categories as golf, tennis, badminton, basketball, archery, track and field, volleyball, bowling, dance and basketball. There are registration fees.

Each competitor must fill out an individual registration form, event registration form, medical information form, and the medical waiver must be signed. There will be no refunds after May 20, and a \$15 cancellation fee is in effect prior to May 20. All participants will receive a Michigan Senior Olympics T-shirt. Medals will be awarded to first, second and third place event winners. Competitors are responsible for providing all personal equipment for each competition. Equipment for bocce, shuffleboard, horseshoes, field events, frisbee accuracy, board games, volleyball, bounce volleyball and basketball free throw will be provided. No black-soled shoes are permitted on any court event.

The Holland Visitor and Convention Bureau has a list of available housing but you must make your own reservations. There will be a special discount for Olympics participants. Be sure to identify yourself, as a participant, when you call to make your reservations to make certain you get the discount.

For an application form and brochure contact the Older Persons Commission in Rochester Hills. Call 656-1403, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Renee Mahler is a gerontologist and the director of communications and admissions at a Rochester Hills nursing facility. She is a member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to the Aging. Send your questions to her at the Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

FASHION CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MAY 15

Jacques Molo

Informal modeling of suits, dresses and blouses by Jacques Molo 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Modeline, 6614 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. Also, Saturday, May 16.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

Harriet Selwyn

Informal modeling of spring/

summer 1991 collection of Harriet Selwyn 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lord & Sherman, Bloomfield Plaza, 6536 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Township.

Helga Show

Informal modeling of Helga Fall Collection Show 1992, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Designer Salon at Jacobson's, Birmingham Apparel Store, Birmingham Apparel Store, Dresses, suits and cocktail looks.

Jewel boxes in wood, silk and cashmere.

Active Sportswear

Fashion show of active sportswear and swimwear for 1992 at 1 p.m. in Sportswear at Jacobson's, Birmingham Apparel Store, Call 644-6900, Ext. 058, for reservation. Informal modeling follows fashion show.

MONDAY, MAY 18

Fall collection

Karl Lagerfeld's fall collection at Linda Dresner, 299 W. Maple, Birmingham. Also, Tuesday, May 19.

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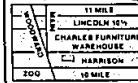
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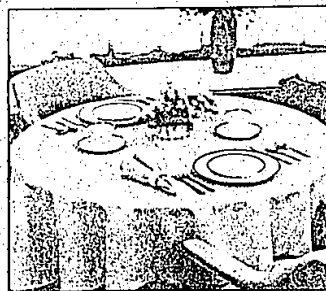
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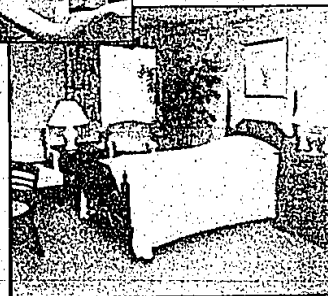
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