

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1992

THE SCENE



GRETCHEN MITCH

Exhibit draws art smart crowd

To enlighten Social Eyes with information on upcoming events involving Greater West Bloomfield/Lakes, Farmington and Southfield area residents, call 412-2339 or mail information to Denise Lucas at The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, Mich. 48009.

The first week of August was a week of non-stop social happenings. With the Neiman Marcus grand opening gala, Fashion Bash and Adolfo, other VIP social happenings had to wait a week for their Social Eyes coverage.

Meadow Brook Art Exhibit

At the 11th annual invitational art exhibit, Southfield businessman Richard Kughn and wife Linda displayed approximately 40 of their Lantique hood ornaments made in the 1930s. The collecting couple own more than 100 (valued at \$2 million) and are the only people in the world with a complete collection.

Farmington Hills resident and artist Tom Hale received the Vision & Creativity in Automotive Art Collection award sponsored by the Raymond E. Holland Automotive Art Collection.

See SOCIAL EYES, 3C

Her statement speaks of grace

Whether it's her clothes, hats or jewelry, Rochester Hills resident Martha Liddle-Lametti knows how to turn heads. Such fashion savvy, though, is tempered by personable warmth and caring.

By ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Making a statement is what Rochester Hills resident Martha Liddle-Lametti's way of dressing is all about.

The word "statement" cropped up in separate conversations with Liddle-Lametti; with her friend Sue Barge, who works at Charlotte's Boutique in Rochester, where she buys some of her interesting clothes; and with Anna Marie Kleckner, president of the Rochester Symphony Guild, to which she belongs.

"Definitely, when 'Martie' walks in any place she makes a statement," Barge said. "She has a lot of confidence. Her styling — the knitting — is beautiful on the things (she makes) for herself. She's an artist, and has a good eye for color and coordination."

Although Liddle-Lametti is fashion savvy, she is not a shallow person, Barge stressed. "She's a warm person, a

OFF THE CUFF

wise woman beyond her years. She's very caring. When she's projecting herself it means something.

Anna Marie Kleckner, who knows Liddle-Lametti through the symphony guild, said, "She definitely has a style of her own. A lot of the things she makes herself. She makes a definite statement."

Designs jewelry

The pert redheaded Liddle-Lametti, mother of two small children, designs clothes, but more recently has turned to jewelry. "I've been in merchandising since I was 16," she said. "I worked for different companies. I went to California. I've been in every end of the merchandising business."

Asked to define her fashion sense, she replied, "Fashion is in my blood. I look at it as an expression of art. It should be a statement of who you are."

See OFF THE CUFF, 2C



By ROBERT O'PHOTOGRAPHY

Her own look: Martha Liddle-Lametti of Rochester Hills has a style of her own, which includes hand-knitted sweaters, capes and hats. She has designed and sold her own knits, and currently makes and sells her own jewelry.

Author finds his niche writing about kids stuff

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

In the book "They're Torturing Teachers in Room 104," the head of the class exacts revenge against an unruly bunch of sixth graders who've already sent five frazzled educators packing.

It's a whirlwind journey, one where spitballs suddenly backfire and bubble gum bubbles expand into hot air balloon proportions. Ms. Merriweather even introduces a magical door named Sydhey, which opens to engulf the children into a careening and sometimes of a frightful experience.

As Jerry Piasecki of Farmington Hills reveals the premise of his first-published work, an ever-present cynosure wide grin continues to expand to belie his 42 years of age. The creative director of an advertising agency admits he becomes as young as the audience to that he writes.

"You're tapping into something that is fun and magical," Piasecki said.

"I don't know what's going to happen. These characters come alive to me. I know what I'm going to tomorrow in my real life, but really don't know when I'm

writing."

The creative adventure for Piasecki has lasted seven years, spanning five books and audio cassette series for children. He has struck publishing paydirt, though, with "They're Torturing Teachers in Room 104" when Bantam Skylark decided to print and distribute the book.

Set in an elementary school, the 134-page work is aimed for the 8-12 age group. The story is a conglomeration of teachers and characters amassed through his own experiences and those of his daughter Amanda.

Piasecki said he was a class clown in school, but added "I never went as far as these students."

Piasecki hasn't been a sixth grader for 30 years, but his daughter Amanda, 13, was there not to long ago at Woodcreek Elementary in Farmington Hills. He would often visit the school to relive the atmosphere of his school days.

His daughter, who attends Warner Middle School, provided inspiration and a host of technical advice for the book, especially in the way of latest classroom vernacular.

"The same motivation for young people is still there," he said. "You may use 'chill' instead of 'cool,' but the basic thing that drives people — that same sparkle is still there."

Piasecki wrote his book with that in mind. Though there may be a subtle message in "They're Torturing Teachers in Room 104," he wanted the book to be entertaining for young readers.

After all, Piasecki is trying to reach an audience that studies show is increasingly reading less today. "I hate young people's books that preach," he said. "You're an adult preaching down to the children. I don't like that."

"If you give them something enjoyable, they'll read it." That is if they publish it, of course. A children's writer's trek is hardly kid's stuff in the competitive publishing world.

Piasecki recalls receiving all types of rejection, from having a publisher go out of business to countless generic formletters. "One of the weirdest was one time when the envelope came empty," he said.

Once Bantam Skylark took a liking to his work, Piasecki has been off and writing. He's already working on his next two books, including a sequel to "They're Torturing Teachers..." — following the path of some of the students from Room 104.

Piasecki writes fast. He credits working as a news director in radio for 12 years — including at WDRQ-FM and WCXI-AM in Detroit — before entering the advertising field.

As creative director at Sepanek-Leder in Farmington Hills, Piasecki's imagination gets a daily workout. But it's not the same as writing children's books.

"This is the real fun," he said. "Advertising work is fun and creative. Book writing comes from the soul."



STAFF WRITER

Childlike experience: Author Jerry Piasecki of Farmington Hills finds tapping into the imagination of a child to be an exhilarating experience.

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