

# Former mayor to give speech on first ladies

Jean Fox, local historian and former mayor of Farmington Hills, will deliver an address entitled "From First Ladies to Ladies First" at a dinner at the Visitor's Center in Heritage Park at 6 p.m. Monday, March 1.

The dinner, hosted by the Farmington Chapter of the Older Women's League (OWL) in honor of Women's History Month, will be catered by gourmet chef Judy Antishin.

Tickets are \$15, and reservations may be made by sending a check in that amount to Farmington OWL, Jean McAllister, 7163 Brookridge, West Bloomfield 48322. Deadline is Feb. 21.

Fox's research into the subject

of first ladies began when she attended a conference in Washington on "The White House - Two Hundred Years" to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the laying of the White House cornerstone.

The only Michigander among 450 history buffs invited to the four-day conference, Fox was greeted by President and Mrs. Bush, drank tea with Barbara Bush in the Rose Garden, and viewed the White House art and antiques while listening to a lecture by a representative from the renowned art house, Sotheby's.

The October conference was sponsored by the White House Historical Association and the



Joan Fox

National Park Service, and attracted dignitaries from all over the United States and abroad.

Fox bubbles with enthusiasm as she discusses her four-day Washington experience, and the March 1 dinner promises to be an exciting event as it kicks off the annual celebration of Women's History Month.

For further information about the OWL function or membership in the Older Women's League, call 474-3094 or 626-5324.

## Century from page 1A

Some of his biggest battles were later fought on the homefront. Whear settled in the Detroit area, working as a job setter at the Ford Rouge Plant.

Parts of two fingers are missing off his left hand, the result of an industrial accident.

Whear was sent to the doctor and docked half a day's pay. Unions hadn't arrived yet, he said.

"Before the union, you couldn't speak to your partner," Whear said. "If you laughed, they would want to know why you were laughing."

The workers went on an eight-week strike in 1930, during the onset of the Depression. They wanted to better their \$3-a-day pay. They relented and went back to work. Their wage was cut to \$4 a day, Whear said.

Whear was a Ford employee for 35 years, working later in Sterling Heights. He's been retired as long as he's worked.

His favorite story, though, is how he met his wife of 69 years.

**'Before the union, you couldn't speak to your partner . . . If you laughed, they would want to know why you were laughing.'**

William Whear

Whear was on vacation in Cornwall when he ran into Florrie at a Sunday school picnic. It was love at first sight. "I told her, 'Can I take you home?'"

They raised one daughter, Joyce Jones, and have two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Whear visits his wife, who is 97, regularly at White Hall Nursing Home in Novi.

Only today Whear needs a lift. He quit driving when he was 95.

"My wife was nervous," he said.

Whear's a hospice patient, treated regularly by a visiting nurse at Baptist Manor, where he's lived since 1976.

"He's a delightful gentleman," said Elaine Englehart, a registered nurse with the Hospice of Southeastern Michigan.

Several friends and family turned out for a party honoring Whear at Nardin Park United Methodist Church. (He's a proud United Methodist). He received a Tigers jersey with the number 100 on the back.

Whear also has letters of congratulations from Gov. John Engler as well as from Harold P. Ing, chairman of Ford Motor Co.

Boy, could he tell them a story or two.

## Diversity from page 1A

although language is the main obstacle for many groups, there are cultural differences regarding marriage, religious practice and political philosophy that must be understood.

"For example, there are people in the Islamic community who really don't understand the (U.S.) presidency," Karoub said.

And if Americans with roots in the Middle East have problems adapting to western culture, the bias in some school texts, the political process, and social attitudes also present problems.

"We are insular," he said. "We figure the Pacific is on the left and the Atlantic is on our right. We don't have much understanding of other cultures."

Those are issues the committee is trying to address, Costick said.

**'In the mid-80s there were problems in some of the area schools . . . Parent groups and multicultural groups were formed. The problem waned and that was the end of the meetings. We now want to address these issues before they become problems.'**

Bill Costick  
Farmington Hills City Manager

"In the mid-80s there were problems in some of the area schools," he said. "Parent groups and multicultural groups were formed. The problem waned and that was the end of the meetings. We now want to address these issues before they become problems."

Mayors and city managers from both cities joined with educators and clergy to form the committee four years ago.

White said that while many people work and live apart from other cultural groups, their children cannot remain isolated.

"We teach our females that

they can do anything," White said. "But in different cultures there are other expectations. So we know that for many students there's a conflict."

White said the idea is to avoid value judgments while encouraging students to excel in any endeavor. And part of the committee's charge is to prepare for a community that reflects a global society.

"If you're naive enough to think that you live in a little white, middle-class community, then you've made a mistake," she said. "It's not."

The workshop is scheduled from 1-4 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River. Anyone interested may call the Farmington Hills City Manager's office at 473-9501.



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