

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Southfield Polo draws admirers

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On a picture perfect Saturday afternoon, Southfield Gold Cup Polo drew 3,500 people to Southfield's old world setting of Duns Scotus for polo in the heart of the city. A prettier setting — with the Franciscan church in the background and rolling green acres — for the sport of kings would be hard to find.

The fifth annual Gold Cup Polo match sponsored by the city of Southfield and Northwest Airlines, in conjunction with dozens of area corporations and businesses, made a unique afternoon on the Duns Scotus 115-acre site on Nine Mile and Evergreen roads.

Nimrod Rosenthal, director of community relations for the city of Southfield, who brought polo to Southfield in 1988, revealed in the success achieved. "Our first polo game in five years when it hasn't rained," he said.

The celebrity polo player on the Southfield team, Monkee Mickey Dolenz, turned out to be a good player, scoring second highest in the afternoon's six chukkers.

Before the match began, fans of the 1960s Monkees rock group flocked around Dolenz and the polo ponies he would ride, which were borrowed from Merrill Jenkins of the Detroit Polo Team.

The polo field, 300 yards by 160 yards, is roughly the size of nine football fields. The 2,500-year-old sport began 600 B.C. in Persia (now Iran) as training for military Persian mounted troops. The British discovered polo in India in the mid-1800s, and it was brought to America in 1870.

Spotted lurching under the city of Southfield tent were Southfield Mayor Donald Francasi and his wife Karen, Don Schmutz, a member of the Duns Scotus board, Arthur and Lorraine Schultz, Ford dealer Irma Eldor, her son Tony, Patricia Warner, Frank and Stephanie Germack, Lynne Eichinger and her daughter Pamela of West Bloomfield, Howard Kait, Jim and Rosemary Bannan, Julie Hakim, Dick Puritan's colleague Colleen Buresac, Southfield councilwoman Vicki Goldbaum and a host of other Southfield officials.

Tollgate Polo
Tollgate Challenge Cup III, a benefit for Tollgate Educational Center's Exceptional Equestrian program, was postponed and now will take place Aug. 15 at the Detroit Polo Club in Milford.

Chairwoman Danielle McCluskey-Schink noted that the Aug. 15 date turned out to be better for everyone. Supporters include Farmington-based Mitsubishi Electronics, Birmingham plastic surgeon Dr. William Vasiloff and Southfield's Plante Moran.

One auction item is a three-day jaunt to Hollywood with VIP audience seats for localite Tim Allen's "Home Improvement" taping. Allen is a hometown hero living in Beverly Hills.

Committee woman Sandra Knight hopes to raise \$50,000 for the exceptional riding program, which provides therapeutic and recreational horseback riding for more than 400 area children and adults with handicaps.

Tickets are \$50 for champagne buffet, the match and auction. Honorary chairpersons are Richard and Dobbie Haller, Florine Mark Ross, Ralph Nichols, Mary Hepler, and at the bidding of Robert Geake and Jack Foxon. Call 345-3868 for more information.

Hats and More Hats
The lobby of the Townsend Hotel where tea is served amid a shower of exotic flowers was swash in picture hats Thursday. The occasion was a fantastic 50th birthday party for Juliette Jonna arranged by her daughters, Michelle and Monica.

See THE SCENE, 3C



GRETCHEN HITCH

Polo Ponies: Stephanie Germack, Colleen Buresac and Irma Eldor at the Gold Cup Polo Competition in Southfield.

Southwestern style

That's the way to dress casually

■ Southwestern food and home fashions are popular around the country. A Farmington Hills woman, Diane Carson, dresses this way and likes the casual life it helps her lead.

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

When Diane Carson of Farmington Hills moves to Arizona later this year, she won't have to change her style of dress. She already has the perfect wardrobe of laid-back Southwestern style clothes and Indian jewelry.

"I wear mostly very casual clothes. It is very casual out there," she said. "Nobody gets dressed up." She has always loved the colors associated with the landscape of the Southwest. "I like turquoise, terra cotta, beiges and cream clothes in my wardrobe, and I like white."

Glancing in her well-organized closet, Carson says she has a predilection for these colors in her many separates and the accessories that complement them. She keeps the Southwestern jewelry she collects in an antique dental cabinet.

Carson first went to Arizona four years ago for the national convention of the Quakers, a club for antique collectors. She belongs to the Quaker-town Quakers, whose members are mostly from Farmington Hills.

"I went there with my two best friends. I liked it so well I wanted to stay," she said. Now she and her husband Gary have bought a home in Sedona, in Northern Arizona and will



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHANNY LEZIMON

Southwestern colors: Diane Carson relaxes outside her Farmington Hills home wearing separates including a rosy terra cotta sweater-vest with turquoise-color beads, over a natural-color silk blouse, with a long skirt in sand-washed silk terra cotta.

OFF THE CUFF

move there as soon as they sell their Farmington Hills house. By coincidence, the woman they bought the house from in Arizona was a Farmington school teacher.

Ready to move

Last fall, in preparation for the move, Carson quit her job in the business office of a Farmington Hills counseling center where she had worked for the last 11 years. Her husband, who owns a medical/dental college company and sells dental practices, will be semi-retired when they move.

Diane Carson's fashion flair especially has caught the attention of two members of the Briarhill Book Club, a local book club to which she belongs. Readers of the Observer & Eclectic are encouraged to submit names of subjects for the Off the Cuff features, and two women called on



Stepping out: In husband's 1966 Jaguar, she poses in blouse, skirt and scarf of hand-dyed fabric.

separate occasions to recommend Carson.

When she was told who the callers were, she said, one — Elaine Roy —

was a neighbor and that both Roy and caller Gail Perrin, also of Farmington Hills, belong to her book club.

Roy had called to comment on Carson's Southwestern clothing and said, "She has a beautiful wardrobe." Perrin said, "She has a clever way of putting Southwestern jewelry with interesting clothing."

On the screened-in porch overlooking a pond at the back of her home, Carson sat down with some of her favorite jewelry, to describe each piece. She showed a Navajo silver necklace with a Handline Bear Fetish, and also Navajo gold hoop earrings with silver, both bought at the Blue-Eyed Bear in downtown Sedona, which leans toward contemporary jewelry. Referring to the bear fetish, she said, "I don't know all the legends. I would like to learn more about them when I go out there."

"I like the more traditional — the old patterns," she explained, spreading out a Zuni, Navajo necklace of fossilized ivory animal figures with bits of coral and turquoise. "Each is a fetish. Each animal represents something to them." Carson bought the necklace at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

She's a heart lover

During trips to Arizona over the last four years, "Each time I try to buy one nice piece," she emphasized. Heart shapes appeal to her, and she has a squash blossom necklace, cuff bracelet and drop earrings, all Navajo designs with hearts on them. She has converted a Navajo belt buckle into a large silver pin. "I like to wear a lot of pins, like a bar-type pin, on a high-neck blouse," she said.

For her wardrobe, she favors separates — interesting tops, pants and casual skirts. She wears long-sleeved shirts, cotton sweaters and suede jackets. "I love jackets," Carson exclaimed. "My husband says I have a jacket phobia!"

Carson does a lot of her shopping on vacation trips. "I like to buy clothes when I travel." A matching

See SOUTHWESTERN, 2C

Roeper was a world she recalls fondly

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Roeper School days are strong in the memory of Kristin Clark Taylor, an African-American woman who remembers when she tried to straddle two cultures, during years she was growing up in Detroit.

Author of "The First to Speak — A Woman of Color Inside the White House" (Doubleday, \$22.50), Taylor has been on a book tour and visited metropolitan Detroit last week to meet with family, old friends and new.

Her manner was relaxed and easy when she was interviewed last week in her hotel suite at the new Athenium Hotel in Grosse Pointe in downtown Detroit. With a pad of paper and a pencil on the table, she explained she had just been working on remarks for that evening's event at the city's Renaissance Club for "a couple of hundred people — family and friends — a big bash."

The following night, she was going to sign books at Borders Bookshop in Southfield Township and speak to the Women in Communications group here. "What I've been doing is picking a segment of a chapter and reading from that," she said. After the reading, "The most enjoyable part is engaging in questions and answers," she acknowledged.

A favorite chapter for reading is "Never More Than You Can Handle," which deals with the religious and spiritual aspects of her life. For a change of pace, she sometimes reads from a chapter telling about Arnold Schwarzenegger in the Oval Office.

Also at Borders, before speaking to WICI, she planned to meet for a half hour with some teachers and present-day students at Roeper, where she went to school from kindergarten through 10th grade in the late 1960s.

Teacher remembers her

Prior to the interview, this reporter had contacted Roeper and asked to talk with one of the teachers who knew Taylor when she was a student there.

Norma E. Carter, who has been teaching creative dance at Roeper for the last 40 years, said, "I taught her modern dance for several years, up until she graduated. She was an excellent dancer and performed beautifully in concerts."

Asked what she thought of Taylor as a person, she described her as "very thoughtful, a little bit introverted." Carter also said, "She was considerate of others."

"This introspective quality has stood Taylor in good stead, although she hardly seems 'introverted' today, when she is a very verbal person with a ready smile."

"Is she still teaching there?" Taylor said with amazement and delight, when told of Carter's comments. "I was just talking about Norma Carter to Janet Hill (one of the executives at Doubleday), who went to Roeper. I still have warm memories of her. Bless her heart. It's great to know she's still OK and active."

Taylor's book is primarily about her White House years with President George Bush, who had chosen her to be the first black female White House director of media relations in 1987. She left in 1990 to become director of communications at BellSouth in Washington, D.C.

The open classroom

Taylor was the youngest of seven children of a middle-class family in Detroit. She was the only child in her family who went to Roeper. She said, "Roeper was one of the first schools to employ the open classroom. It really made it interesting for bright students who want to focus their energies."

At Roeper, she started dance "very early on. My mother would have to help me put my leotards on." Taylor said she originally began dance as a form of physical therapy because she had a vitamin deficiency and wore leg braces at night. She said she was in a special program at Roeper, and the stronger dancers would stay to help other dancers.



Worked for Bush: Book jacket shows Kristin Clark Taylor in a White House setting.

With the private school's emphasis on helping its carefully selected, intelligent and talented students develop their special abilities, Taylor continued to enlarge her dance skills. Meanwhile, she was

See ROEPER, 2C