

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1993

FARMINGTON
NOTES

Retiree honored

Edward J. Setlock, a Farmington Hills resident and president of the Detroit chapter of the State Employees Retirement Association, was given the Claude Pepper Senior Services Award Aug. 6 in Lansing.

The Senior Services Award, established by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan's board of directors as a tribute to the late U.S. Sen. Claude Pepper, is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated caring, concern and understanding of the special needs of senior citizens.

Born in Michigan, Setlock began his career with the state Employment Security Commission in 1946. Later, he was attached to the attorney general's staff and then was assigned to the Department of Labor.

Upon his retirement in 1985, he became active in the Michigan State Retired Employees Association and was elected president in 1986. He still holds the office.

On volunteerism

A workshop — "Enhancing Our Services Through Volunteerism" — will be held 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, at the Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

The purpose is to show how the many ways that volunteers can work to meet local needs. Speakers will be David Engler, executive director of Michigan's Non-Profit Forum, and Martha Martin, of the Center for Volunteers of United Community Services of Metro Detroit.

The program is sponsored by several agencies, including the Farmington Area YMCA, the Farmington Community Library, Farmington Youth Assistance and the Farmington Public Schools Community Education.

The \$15 charge includes lunch. For more information, call 553-0300.

Items for Farmington Notes may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336; dropped off at the newspaper office; or faxed to 477-9722.

Life is a big free game
to local pinball wizardBY SUP BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The cling and clang of pinball machines has always been music to Dr. Jim Schelberg's ears.

But it wasn't until Schelberg's wife, Marilyn, bought him his first pinball machine for his 40th birthday four years ago that he could enjoy the game privately.

"It was hard to find one as old as he wanted," she said. "I wanted something from the mid-'60s and early '70s, from when we were kids. It was his 40th birthday . . . you know, the proverbial second childhood."

Schelberg of Farmington Hills loves "tinking dirty, junky stuff apart and cleaning all the little parts. It takes getting into detail, like taking a couple lines off a coil to make it more powerful."

Schelberg's interest quickly grew. The podiatrist with a practice in Plymouth is now editor of the two-year-old pinGame Journal, a monthly magazine, with 900 subscribers around the world, including Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, France and Germany.

"I'm the world authority on pinball," Schelberg said. "I get calls from all over the world. There's only one magazine and I write it."

The Schelbergs have two children — David, 10, listed as the magazine's "youth adviser," and Jonathan, 4.

One game in the Schelberg basement, called "Nip It," is the same type seen at Arnold's in the "Happy Days" TV program, Schelberg said.

Mention pinball machines and Jim Schelberg's face will probably light up like one of them. The Farmington Hills resident, an authority on pinball machines, edits a monthly magazine on the subject, with subscribers around the world.

In the April/May 1993 issue, a letter that Marilyn Schelberg, a non-player, wrote to Don Messer, editor of The Smithsonian magazine, is reprinted.

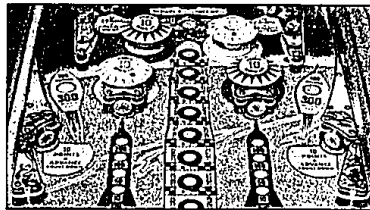
Marilyn refers to herself as a "pinball widow."

"Pinball machines are fascinating from a cultural point of view," she wrote. "Their themes and artwork tend to reflect what is currently fashionable in our society at large, from the pin-up girls and cowboys and Indians of the '30s and '40s, to the bell-bottom pants and the space program of the '60s and '70s and to the current focus and influence of television programs and the rest of the entertainment industry. Looking at the machines over the years is like taking a course in pop culture."

While she often deplores the "male orientation and female distortions," she finds many of the artists to be "highly talented."



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX



Hooked on pinball: Dr. Jim Schelberg shows off one of several pinball machines in the basement of his Farmington Hills home. "I'm the world authority on pinball," he says. "I get calls from all over the world."

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