Haunts from page 1B

Jim and Bruce — have allocated 7,000 square feet of space for the haunt that is basically stored intact there all year.

"We have 24 different rooms of horror," said Jeff White. "If you don't run through, you could be in there 12 to 15 minutes."

While there are many who absolutely relish the horrendous habitats, there may be just as many who prefer to avoid them. Some of that group are even associated with the dire domains.

Cindy Richards of the Novi Jaycees requires the help of some fearless younger veterans to journey through the haunted barn her organization sponsors.

"I think people are nuts," said Richards. "I don't like haunted things. Last year, about two days before the thing ended, I finally went through, and I had to have my 8-year-old niece and nephew hold my hand because I didn't want to go."

It is, however, all in good fun, and for some very good causes.

The YMCA in Westland has traditionally recruited kids from the surrounding neighborhood to build the haunted house on the Y's property. Some, now in their teens and 20s, have been helping with the project for for more than 10 years.

"We've had a wealth of kids this year, and they've been just wonderful," said Sharon Arthur. This is the sixth year she and her husband, Fred, are supervising the project. "The proceeds are for Y projects — and the YMCA has been interested in family values and helping families way before it was popular," Arthur said. "Way before it was politically correct."

Part of the proceeds from Farmington's Haunted Winery are donated to the Farmington Historical Commission.

All of the proceeds from the Haunted Theatre in downtown Wayne will be used to restore the historic theater.

This is the first year that Bordine's Farm on Ford Road in Canton will be hosting a Haunted Green House (Grun Haus) which will be out in the woods on the property. Hay rides for families and adults only will also be offered. This year they are working with Eastern Michigan University, Schoolcraft College and local high schools. Each school supplies 25 people to help out, and Bordines gives them $350.

"Basically, we're trying to gain enough profit to make it bigger next year," said Mindy LaGrow. "This is like phase one of what we want to do. We really want to expand so that maybe next year we can get even more organizations in."

The Jaycees put a lot of haunted house proceeds back into their respective communities. The Plymouth/Canton group plans to donate some of the proceeds to the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps.

Proceeds from the Redford Jaycees Friendly Monster Day for children on Saturday, Oct. 22 will be donated to Juvenile Diabetes, according to club president Jane Vallet. Some of the other proceeds will go toward a Christmas shopping tour for under-privileged children in the Redford Public Schools.

Farmington is making an all-day festival of activities on Saturday, Oct. 29. John Virley and Association are planning the Halloween fest for the Farmington Downtown Development Authority. There will be free pony rides, costume contests and trick-or-treating at downtown stores.

The Detroit Zoo's "Zoo Boo" is a great alternative to traditional Halloween activities with children, armed with a zoo-loaned flashlight, traveling a trail lined with animal and farily tale characters to eight treat stations along the way. A non-scary magic show also awaints the participants.

The Garden City Jaycees sponsor a free Halloween party for Garden City children with lots of activities and snacks.

The Hallelujah Harvest Festival is an event sponsored by The Garden City Christian Center for the last 12 years.

"The whole idea is an alternative to Halloween," said Pastor Don Mullett of the Oct. 31 activity.

Kids can come dressed up as along as the costumes have nothing to do with ghosts, witches, devils etc. Games, activities and lots of candy will be the order of the day. There will also be a Christian puppet show and they will close in prayer.

United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth Township offers free hayrides and bonfires to church and Sunday school groups. There are many biblical structures at the gardens, including a full-scale replica of the Old Testament Tabernacle which will be lit up for the hay rides.

ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In costume: *Farmington Community Band members (standing left to right) Tom Machowski, Howard Goldman, and Jan Roller and (sitting left to right) Mike Wiese, Susanne Authement, and Tammy King, get into the spirit of Halloween.*

Spooktacular from page 1B

see Boogah & Hoogah's Goofy Goblin Revue beginning at 6 p.m. Boogah and Hoogah, everybody's favorite goblins, tell stories, recite funny poems, and sing a few tunes about the holiday. Following the show, the stores will treat children in costume to treats 6:30-8:30 p.m.

At area malls

At the Livonia Mall, (Seven Mile and Middlebelt) kids ages 1-12 can enter a Costume Contest on Saturday, Oct. 29 beginning at 11 a.m. Registration is required by calling the mall management office (810) 476-1160. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded by age groups 1-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12. All participants will receive treats from the Merchants Association and World Book Encyclopedia.

On Monday, Oct. 31, Livonia Mall welcomes trick or treaters 6-7:30 p.m.

At Wonderland Mall (Plymouth and Middlebelt) kids will enjoy performances of "Halloween Mischief," Monday, Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. 4 and 7 p.m. in center court. Livonia police will be passing out DARE coloring books 4:30-8:30 p.m. Also 4:30-8:30 p.m. there will be photo sessions in front of a Halloween backdrop.

At Westland Mall (Wayne and Warren Roads) there is no trick or treating, but kids can stop by the Customer Service Booth anytime Halloween weekend to receive a bag of goodies from the merchant's association. A magic show is set for Sunday, Oct. 30, times to be determined.

Downtown happenings

Celebrate Halloween Saturday, Oct. 29 in downtown Farmington at the Halloween Fest. The fun begins 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with trick or treating at downtown stores beginning at the big tent. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Other events starting at 10 a.m. include a free petting zoo and pony rides, free moonwalk, and a psychic tent, near the main tent.

Beginning at noon there will be a strolling musician — Neil Woodward, Cloggers and Western Line Dacers. A costume contest for children up to age 12 will be at 2 p.m. followed by a pumpkin pie eating contest at 4 p.m. and a pet costume contest.

Parade from page 1B

the Arts, the American Harp Association, the World Harp Congress, the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit, and the American String Teachers Assocation.

"She brings a wealth of musical background and arts managment experience to the position," said Linda Alvarado, Plymouth Symphony Society president. "Her fresh viewpoint and enthusiasm will be invaluable in developing educational programs for the community's young people."

Plymouth Symphony opens its season 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 with a concert at Plymouth Salem High School. Call (313) 451-2112 for tickets.

Keely Wygonik is editor of the Let's Go! She welcomes your calls and comments, (313) 953-2105, fax (313) 591-7279, or write: Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc. 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

SRO cast plays their cards right with 'The Gin Game'

BOB WEIBEL

You will laugh. You will smile knowingly. And before SRO's "The Gin Game" is over, you may wipe away a tear. But mostly, you will be touched by the superb performances of Kathleen Monticello and Ralph Rosati es Fonsia Dorsey and Weller Martin, respectively.

Both create energetic, true-to-life characters. Their dialogue and stage business has a natural and unrehearsed quality.

The setting is the back porch of an old folks home. As Weller says, "Everyone ends up here if you live long enough." Our two characters have just arrived. Weller invites Fonsia to a game of gin rummy.

And they play. And play. And play again. Conceptually, this would appear to be a bit confining for the stage. In the hands of our most capable performers, however, one can see why "The Gin Game" won a Pulitzer Prize for playwright D.L. Coburn.

Weller is a crusty, yet somehow lovable old man with a temper. It flares out of control as he loses game after game to a beginner. Fonsia is disarmingly charming. Yet she has collected some baggage over the years, which gives a vindictive edge to her character.

REVIEW

■ The gin game becomes a metaphor for their lives. He's obsessive about winning and maintaining control. She is upset over his temper and plays just to taunt him.

As they continue to play — and she continues to win, we learn about the dreary life around the home. And more about two seniors desperately attempting to hang on to their pride and dignity.

The gin game becomes a metaphor for their lives. He's obsessive about winning and maintaining control. She is upset over his temper and plays just to taunt him.

There is one final game — sort of a shoot-out at high noon. The game boils over into a magnificent fight, with in-your-face, four-letter put-downs.

The ending is somehow sad, yet uplifting. They really need each other. Weller and Fonsia have alienated friends and relatives to the point where neither has visitors. Flawed though they are, one hopes they will continue to search out the goodness in each other as they struggle to make their lives work.

Contributing to this fine production are the setting and technicals — together with Nancy Harrower's taut direction and fine job of balancing dramatic and comedic aspects of "The Gin Game."

Bob Weibel of Westland is a freelance writer, who has spent more than 25 years in community theater as a director, designer and performer.

ON STAGE

"The Gin Game"

▶ **THEATER:** SRO Productions, at the City of Southfield's historic part "The Burgh" on the northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road.

▶ **CURTAIN TIME:** 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays through Oct. 23.

▶ **TICKETS:** $7 general admission, $6 senior citizens and children. Call (810) 354-9362.

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