

# Family milestones bring children back to nest

When Jack and Loretta Andree of Farmington jointly celebrate their milestone birthdays this Sunday, all 12 of their children and most of their 20 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren from Arizona to New Jersey and all points in between will be there.

**■ There are only two lasting things we can give our children - one is roots, the other wings.**

*Loretta Andree  
—mother of 12 children*

Jack turned 80 on July 8. Loretta turned 76 on March 27. It's been five years since the Andree clan gathered. That was for oldest son John's 25th anniversary as a Roman Catholic priest in the Redemptorist order. Prior to that, the family assembled for the Andrees' 50th wedding anniversary. But that was eight years and many grandchildren ago.

and the family was living in a large Detroit home near St. Mary's of Redford Church, he would sometimes be at a loss for the correct name.

"If a couple of the boys were acting up, I'd say 'You two over there, cut it out.'"

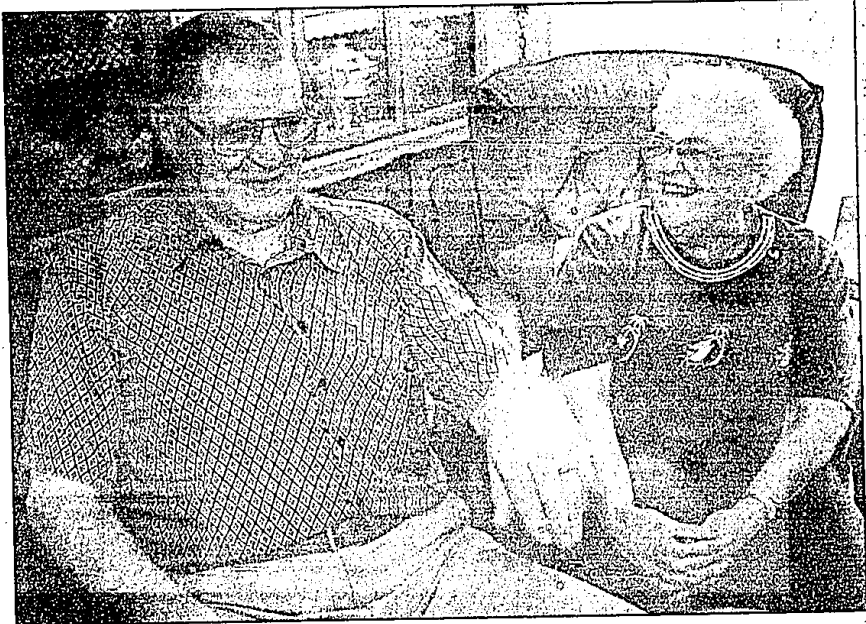
Loretta's memory didn't extend to remembering her children's friends' names. She got around that by calling her daughters' friends "dear."

Dinner in the Andree home was a family affair, shared together at an oversized dining room table when Jack returned home from his job as an ironworker. In an authoritative voice, he would call the kids in for dinner. More than once a stray child or two playing with the Andree children would filter inside and sit down at the table, too.

For 47 years, Jack plied his trade, constructing steel frames for multi-story metro Detroit buildings. Loretta was a homemaker, and has also worked as a school secretary. All the children met recreation of privileges, such as playing with friends.

In November, the couple will mark their 69th wedding anniversary.

The Andree children today range in age from 57 to 21. Loretta gives a thumbnail sketch of each: Louise is a member of the Sisters of the Holy Cross stationed in a retreat house near Tucson, Ariz.; John is a priest in Chicago; Steve lives in Midland; Rosemary is in Tallahassee, Fla.; Larry resides in Ypsilanti Township; Gerard lives in Bloomfield Village and will host today's bash; Jeannine lives in New



Parental reflections: Loretta and Jack Andree of Farmington celebrate more than birthdays this weekend. Their family of 12 children, 20 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren has them beaming with pride. The clan gets together this weekend to mark many milestones

Albany, Ohio; Mary Jo is coming from Oak Park, Ill.; Dan, also a Redemptorist priest, is a pastor in Wichita; David lives in West Troy; and Tim, the "baby" and father of "four darling little Irishmen," is coming from New Jersey.

The celebration will begin with a Mass concelebrated by the two

Andree priests at St. Hugo Church.

Asked if they expected to have a dozen children, "no, never," the Andrees say, almost in unison. A doctor had once told the teenaged Loretta that she would never have children. Loretta likes to tell a story originating early in their marriage:

"My mother's uncle Henry was a Jesuit priest working in India. She wrote him a letter after I'd had three babies in 2 1/2 years. She was worried about me. He wrote back 'When she has her ninth (child), he'll be a missionary named after me.' Daniel Henry is my ninth, and he's a priest."

The couple has lived in Farmington for 24 years. Three children were still living with them when they moved here. After extensive renovations on the small house were completed, the remaining children promptly moved out on their own, according to their parents.

Loretta's advice to parents: "Love them while they're young. They grow up so darn fast."

## Teen's recovery inspires ongoing blood drive effort

The conclusion of the lengthy General Motors strike isn't just good for the workers and GM. Critically injured people who need blood also stand to gain.

"Just in July alone, we lost 16 blood drives, canceled due to the GM strike," said Diane Risko, American Red Cross donor representative for southeastern Michigan. "And it's hard to recruit those pints."

Risko said slowdowns and work stoppages at GM factories forced the cancellations of those blood drives, some set up as far back as a year ago. But the need to replenish blood supplies remains severe, particularly during the summer.

Residents in Farmington and Farmington Hills this week have a chance to help build up the blood bank. A drive in Melissa Garr's name is scheduled 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, at Farmington Hills Fire Headquarters, Orchard Lake and 11 Mile roads.

Melissa, recovering from a coma sustained in July 1997, will be at the blood drive for part of the day to continue giving back to a community and emergency system that helped rescue her after her life-threatening injuries. The teen said she will donate blood herself.

### Donors needed

The city of Farmington Hills will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, at Fire Headquarters, on Orchard Lake and 11 Mile Road. Blood donors must be in good health, at least 17 years of age, and weigh at least 110 pounds. All donors must also pass a simple physical and health history examination.

To make a donation appointment, call the Fire Department at (248) 426-4400 or Diane Risko of the Red Cross, (248) 477-7353. People are urged to schedule appointments in advance.

To donate blood at any time of the year, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

"If it weren't for the donations of blood I wouldn't be here today," Melissa said last week. "So I'm going to donate."

Two previous drives set up in Melissa's name (in September and January) accounted for a total of 312 donated pints; each pint typically can save the lives of three people, Risko said. Melissa's parents are Lt. Mike Garr of the fire department and

Susan Garr.

"The community was so supportive of her and she feels this is a positive thing she can do in her name," said Risko about why the 17-year-old wants to participate again. "She's a miracle and she's showing people that miracles happen when people give blood."

Apparently, there aren't many who are doing that. "We don't even have one day's supply of blood available for hospitals" in southeastern Michigan, Risko lamented.

The southeastern Michigan Red Cross, during fiscal 1997-98, gained 6,000 new donors. But the need for additional blood grew by 18,000 pints during that time period.

Risko said selfishness among the general public is a big part of why just 5 percent of the American population donates 100 percent of the available blood supply.

"People always think, 'Why should I donate, what's in it for me?' They need to think about everybody else."

To donate, individuals must be at least 17 years old and in good health. For information, contact Risko at (248) 477-7353 or the Farmington Hills Fire Department at (248) 426-4400.

## Residents urged to display addresses

A clearly displayed address on a home can make a significant difference in the event of an emergency.

An address that is obscured from view by shrubbery, decorations, or improper placement takes valuable seconds away from police and fire personnel on route to a call for service.

Addresses painted on curbs also do not provide adequate identification as vehicles, garbage cans, grass, and snow often block addresses in that location.

"When it's life or death, seconds count," said Lt. Mike Garr of the Farmington Hills Fire

Department. "A clearly marked address ensures that you and your neighbors are receiving the promptest emergency response that is possible."

Section 7-316 of the Farmington Hills City Code states that in order "to provide proper police, fire, health, welfare, and emergency services ... it is necessary to provide for property identification numbers visible from public roadways adjacent to residences..."

Farmington Hills officials strongly urge residents to look at their own property from the street adjacent to their residence to be sure that it complies

with the ordinance. Some things to keep in mind include:

■ The numbers must be at least 3 inches high.

■ The color of the numbers must contrast with the background.

■ Though it is not mandated, reflective numbers or a porch light on at night are helpful.

■ It is also helpful to use actual numbers instead of writing the numbers out, (for example 1 instead of one).

For more information on correct property identification, call Lt. Mike Garr of the Farmington Hills Fire Department at (248) 426-4400.

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