

# Dancing Scene Sees Change

Las Vegas and New York are the dreams of an aspiring dancer, but Grand Rapids turned out to be almost as exciting for a Southfield dance group.

The Senior Sherylettes enjoyed the excitement of performing as the main dance line in the professional production of "Showboat" and appearing with jazz talent Boots Randolph in July.

The 12 girls, ranging in age from 16 to 18, also appeared on Grand Rapids television to promote the production. "The performance may be the closest they get to a professional production because of the fading of big nightclubs.

But interest in dancing hasn't faded and no one knows that better than Sheryl Hahn, of Southfield instructor and namesake for the Sherylettes.

At 28, Miss Hahn already has 14 years experience teaching dance and has five major dance lines which competed in state and national contests.

A total of 328 students attend Sheryl's School of Dance in Detroit which she opened at the age of 17. Her first three years of teaching were in the basement of her Southfield home.

Her students might harbor visions of joining the Rockettes on the stage of Rockefeller Center in New York, but so far a famous choreographer hasn't snatched one of her graduates.

"I think most parents bring their children here for an extra activity or for the gracefulness that dancing gives you," Miss Hahn said. "Dancing gives you gracefulness and coordination. It's

partially a mental attitude on learning to control the movements of your body." The secret of a good dancer is one who "gives out more than she takes in," Miss Hahn said.

Her sister, Pandi, learned that secret and let her personality shine through while dancing. That special touch won her offers to join the Rockettes as a summer replacement or go to the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. She rejected both and recently graduated with a degree in biology.

Sheryl started dancing lessons when she was three but "never won a contest." "I tell my girls that I learned a lot from losing," she said.

By watching her own students, Miss Hahn said she realized that her dancing was hindered because she looked self-conscious.

After having two daughters of her own, Miss Hahn (her married name is Mrs. Jerry Sulick) has learned to be more lenient with her students.

"I used to be so strict," she said. "I've found that when you're too strict, the student is limited on where she can go personally-wise. When you are more lenient, it brings out more personality when they are dancing."

During her years of teaching, Miss Hahn has noticed a difference in parents' attitudes.

"Before, if you told a student to do something and she questioned it, her parents told her to do it. Now if they

questioned it, the parents come to me and ask me why they have to do it."

She's found that the busier her students keep her, the younger she feels.

And although she didn't win contests when she was competing, she's enjoying the excitement of watching her own students bring in the trophies.

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