

Deck The Halls—It's That Time Again

Decorating for the Christmas season gets off an early start in Plymouth and Farmington this week as garden club members begin displaying holiday specialties.

The Plymouth branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association will open

six homes for a Christmas walk with a carol theme on Friday, Dec. 1.

In Farmington, the Hill and Dale Garden Club will present "Christmas Fantasia," a holiday flower show, in the new Farmington Public Library, 3237 W. 12 Mile, from 2 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec.

1, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2.

SIX DIFFERENT Christmas carols provide the themes for the six stops on the Plymouth walk that will raise funds for the community's new Cultural Center.

Tickets are \$2 for visits to all of the six homes, scheduled to be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday.

Mrs. Walter Sumner, 15070 Bradner, Plymouth, is handling ticket sales.

"Deck the Halls" is the theme for the home of Mrs. Vincent Sullivan, Jr., 1470 Woodland Place, where six children in the family have helped work out decorating ideas.

In the home of Mrs. Thomas Klucka, 670 S. Evergreen, visitors will be reminded of

"Silver Bells" in the white and silver living room decor.

Mrs. Erling Oyen has chosen "Silent Night" as the theme for the traditional decorations which will include some treasures from the homes of other garden club members.

Natural straw angels will be sold by the club in the Oyen home, located at 1655 Old Salem.

A DISPLAY for children—dolls, toys and an old-fashioned sleigh—will be found in the "Night Before Christmas" home of Mrs. Alyn Fletcher, 4429 Clare.

That stop also will be noted for its stained glass cookies to be hung in the windows.

Cookies, recipes and cutters will be on sale. Mrs. Thomas Fidge, chairman of the

Garden Walk, has worked with Mrs. Fletcher in creating the cookie designs.

A dozen different arrangements to depict, naturally, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" will be found in the home of Mrs. Richard Mallow, 13400 Beacon Hill.

They were created by Mrs. Stephanie LaGosh, club president.

A traditional Williamsburg setting and a theme of "The Holly and the Ivy" will be found in the home of Mrs. Bruce Richard, 9417 Ivanhoe Drive. Decorated wreaths of natural straw and miniature Swedish straw baskets will be on sale there.

Maps will be available to help ticket holders find the six homes.

IN FARMINGTON, the

"Christmas Fantasia" show will be free to all visitors and will offer all sorts of ideas for decorating doors, tables, packages and various parts of the home.

Mrs. Albert Borst of Farmington is chairman of the show, a standard flower show in which garden club members will enter their Christmas arrangements for judging and then put them on display for the public.

Mrs. Borst and her committee have been busy for months planning the show.

As a standard show, it will include a horticulture as well as an artistic division, and the public is invited to enter the horticulture judging.

Some of the entry classes are Christmas-related plants such as Christmas Cactus, Norfolk Pine, Jerusalem

Spotlight on Women

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Publishers of Farmington Enterprise & Observer, Garden City Observer, Livonia Observer, Plymouth Mail & Observer, Redford Observer, Southfield News & Observer, Westland Observer

Cherry and Prayer Plant. Dale Club go into special Specimens of any of these may education classes in the be taken to the library bet- Farmington school district wren 8 and 10 a.m. Friday, every two weeks with a and more information on garden therapy project for the horticulture entries may be children to "enjoy in their obtained from Mrs. Borst, classrooms or take home. 3641 Lyman.

A display of these "Garden Lady" projects also will be volunteers from the Hill and part of the Christmas show.



CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY in special events in Plymouth and Farmington Friday and Saturday. At the left, Mrs. Gladys Fletcher of Plymouth shows some of the antique dolls that will be part of her home's "Night Before Christmas" decoration in a Dec. 1-Christmas Walk. At the right, the traditional joins the contemporary in a display prepared by Dottie Vickland (left) and Phyllis Borst for the "Christmas Fantasia" show in the new Farmington public library Dec. 1 and 2. (Observer and Evert photos)



m. m. memos

Seems to me I once reported in this space my regrets that I never had learned to be graceful, and that I feared I had done the same thing to our girls by letting the logical time for dancing lessons slip past.

I didn't reckon with their better-late-than-never attitude, and now at this late date I find us enmeshed in a dance rehearsal schedule.

I had agreed last summer that our youngest could start ballet lessons, and she's been going regularly to a studio near home. Then her two big sisters decided to get into the act and enrolled in a series of lessons.

"Can't you just see me in a tutu?" asked the one of not exactly petite proportions.

"Well, maybe a four-four," the small one answered.

Anyway, the oldest is now off to college after enjoying her course and vowing to return to it, and sister No. 3 is taking ballet lessons this fall. And it's Miss Four-Four who is preparing for a small production of "The Night Before Christmas," as Santa Claus, no less.

She even was granted some time off from her part-time job for extra rehearsals. "How could I refuse Santa Claus?" commented her understanding boss.

As for me, I may have to miss a Christmas concert or two, but nothing's going to keep me from that dance program.

And when I see it, I probably still won't believe it.

—Margaret Miller

For Some, An Age-Old Question

As preparation for the Christmas season begins throughout Observerland, an annual dilemma comes to the fore again by one segment of its population Jewish families in the area.

They must decide how they can best help their children grow in appreciation of their Jewish traditions while the buzz of Christmas excitement goes on all around them.

"It's not easy to be a Jew in suburbia," said one father whose young family is preparing to begin the celebration of Hanukkah with the lighting of the first candle Thursday evening.

"When we were growing up, most of the neighborhood was Jewish, and there was less exposure to television and not quite so many Santas around," he added.

MRS. NORMAN ZACKS of Livonia, mother of four and former Livonia School District teacher, has lived with the problem long enough to find it less pressing as time goes by.

"More and more Jewish families are deciding to celebrate Hanukkah by our ancient traditions," she said, "and more and more Christians are interested in learning about our Feast of

Lights while they celebrate Christmas."

In fact, Mrs. Zacks added, she sees some danger of over-commercialization happening to Hanukkah as it has to Christmas.

When Hanukkah comes early, as it does this year, there is less push for extensive decoration of the home, Mrs. Zacks said.

"We decorate very simply and exchange gifts only on Hanukkah," she added.

BUTHER CHILDREN have learned to appreciate other traditions of the season, she said.

"They've helped trim Christmas trees in friends' homes and invited their friends here for some of our celebrations," Mrs. Zacks said. "We've even had the opportunity to be a part of Eastern Orthodox church ceremonies, which come on Jan. 6."

"And I can't say Santa Claus has been a problem. They know Santa's for Christmas. My children have talked to him, and when he asks what they want for Christmas they explain we only celebrate Hanukkah."

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Girl Cagers Dribble In

Some 80 Plymouth girls are this year making inroads into that traditional male stronghold...the little league.

"It's about time we did something for the girls," was the comment of many parents as they signed up their sixth and seventh grade daughters in the new girls' league of the Plymouth Community Junior Basketball Association.

THE GIRLS' program was begun last spring when questionnaires were sent out to explore community interest.

Association President Ron Mack decided to begin the program with the sixth and seventh graders, and if it is successful it will be expanded.

Like the more than 500 boys involved in basketball in Plymouth, the girls will practice once a week in various school gyms and will play Saturday league games beginning Dec. 2. Their games will be in Pioneer Middle School, and like the boys they'll be wearing such names as the Celtics, the Pistons, the Bullets and so on.

And they'll be playing boys' rates.

Others are Wes Brightbill and his son, Dan, and Wicki Healy; Linda Troutman, a young housewife who used to play basketball, and Ann Renauer, a high school student; Darald McKinley, a Plymouth teacher and swim coach, assisted by Lee Ann Howe, a high school student; Jack Christie, director of the girls' league, assisted by Jenny Diehl; and Tom Gammon and his daughter, Sue, plus Bill Collins, and Bridget Broderick, a Plymouth High sophomore.



BETH RICHARDSON gets some expert help in basket-shooting from her father, Bob Richardson, vice president and coach for the new girls' basketball in Plymouth. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

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