



Randall checks out his record log during the program.



Taking a quick break during his radio program is Farmington resident Johnny Randall.

## Disc jockey turns on listeners

By CRAIG NEWMAN

People turn Johnny Randall on Six days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Randall is host of a Southfield WXYZ radio show.

He sits behind a desk, wrapped in a world of microphones, tape players, racks of tapes and nearly 50,000 listeners.

"I have a great deal of respect for the people who listen to me," said the Farmington Hills resident while lighting a cigarette. "You know, they listen because they want to, not because they have to."

HE SPINS around in his chair, pulls a tape from the massive rack and quickly sticks it into one of the six tape players.

He pulls the microphone closer to his mouth as the record ends.

"That was Alice Cooper from WXYZ and 'Only Women Bleed'."

Twenty minutes before two Our payroll game is next. Keep listening and you can win a \$12.70 an hour.

He flicks a button and another record is playing.

"WXYZ is an aggressive station. They are always promoting something. We've been trying to get more people to listen."

Randall seems relaxed during his show. He handles the equipment like it is actually part of him.

"YOU KNOW," he says, "I have been on the radio for more than half my life. I started in radio when I was 15, now I am 30."

He started with WDTM in Detroit with an evening show. That station is now WWWW.

His first job came by accident. While interviewing the station manager for a report he was doing on mass communications, the station manager thought Randall was applying for a job. He was offered a spot and he took it.

A song coming in over the studio

monitor ends. Randall gets close to the microphone. "WXYZ zips off tickets all day long. Stay tuned and you can win. Now a little 67 golden the Johnny Randall show."

As the music starts, he turns and perches his feet on the console.

"Wow, my last song."

The tune begins to wind down and he is near the mike again. "Well folks, that does it for the Monday Johnny Randall show. Dan Henderson is next on WXYZ music radio."

RANDALL LOOSENS his necktie and leans back.

"When I am done with my show, I am emotionally as well as physically tired. Four hours on the radio is like working at least eight hours at a car plant. It is really a tough job."

A negative point of the radio business for Randall is that when he is on the radio, he gives up the right to

have a bad day. "I don't get paid for being in a bad mood. The radio sort of dehumanizes me for four hours a day."

There is little security in the business, he said.

A typical day for him begins at the station at 9:15 a.m. He gets his show together for the day and gets any information he needs before airtime.

"I never eat breakfast or lunch. I only eat dinner."

Randall leaves the station a little after 2 p.m.

"I always have things to do after my show. I never get home until four or five."

SINCE HE was 21-years-old, WXYZ has been his home.

"Being at the same station for nine

years is unheard of. The average life of a disc jockey is two years."

Randall is the first to admit that his musical tastes are strange. He was raised in a family that loved classical music.

His favorite is blues. "I think it is the purest form of music. It has a great deal of simplicity. It moves me."

The hottest artists on the market yet played the most at WXYZ.

"Captain and Tennille" is the hottest group around.

"Also, Olivia Newton-John will be strong for quite a while and Neil Diamond, but he has to do something fast to get going."

With a look at the clock, he thought-ens his he put on a pair of blue-shaded sun glasses, open the door and walks down the long brightly lit corridor.

Photos by Craig Newman

## Cake receives royal treatment

By Lorraine McClish

A cake that has the estimated retail value of \$300 was given a police escort on its way to a surprise party for the Bible school graduation class at Farmington Seventh Day Adventist Church.

How do you go about getting the police to escort a cake?

"It's easy when a policeman is your neighbor and he is the one who suggested it and when he's going to stop at the department on his way to show it off," said Tom Northrup of 35172 Gary Drive.

The cake that caught the eye of the neighbors on Gary Drive looks as though it came right out of fairyland and was fashioned after a Walt Disney designed castle.

Mrs. Northrup stopped counting the batches of lavender frosting she mixed for the part German chocolate and part pound cake base. And by the time she finished building turrets, walkways and ponds, she guesses she used "somewhere around four dozen eggs."

Inverted frosted ice cream cones serve as pine trees, the turrets sparkle with gold domes and the entire inside of the castle lights up with miniature Christmas tree bulbs hidden inside of tubes behind glazed 'stained glass' windows.

THE CAKE WILL serve from 300-350 persons, and had to be transported in a van because of its size.

Mrs. Northrup made several attempts to glaze her lily with frozen frosting made into flower buds, but the 90 degree weather with even a room fan set up to blow on the cake wouldn't keep the flower decorations from wilting.

"I should have been an artist but I never got around to learning how to paint so I use what creative ability I have this way," Mrs. Northrup said.

4 area students get WMU stipends

Four Farmington students graduated from Harrison High School in June were offered scholarships by Western Michigan University.

The three students from Farmington are Mary K. Williams, 8808 Badalment, Gina A. Cervasi, 2564 Brookview, and Susan B. Moore, 28011 Westmeath.

Ann Rogers of 25129 Harcourt, Farmington Hills, also received a scholarship from Western.

Ranging from \$800 to \$2,800, the scholarships depend on financial need and academic grades and are renewable each year if the student maintains adequate grades.

This cake was the center of attention recently at the Farmington's Seventh Day Adventist Church after receiving a police escort. (Staff photo)

She had a "couple of lessons" in a cake decorator's class "but never stuck with it, just went off on my own," said Mrs. Northrup, who also designs her own clothes.

Her cake creations are always gifts, and are more often than not, surprises.

"When our church burned the mortgage," she said, "I made them a cake that was an exact duplicate of the building," copied from a picture in one of the church's publications.

She forgets how many dolls she dressed on another occasion to place atop a gift cake to simulate a chorus set up with a music box to honor a church choir.

AMONG THE recipients of the surprise fairy castle cake this week are Mrs. Northrup's two grandchildren, Joey and Jeremiah Northrup. Her daughter-in-law, Sue Northrup, is director of the Bible School at 28011 W. Ten Mile Road, who wound up the summer session with the surprise party.

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