

Times Tribune staff photo by Ken Yimm

Graphic designer Eleanor Leishman and publisher Morton Malkofsky of the Learning Periodicals Group in Belmont review proofs of the first issue of Family Learning, a magazine to be introduced this month.

Aiming to 'fill a niche'

PEN TIMES 1/4/84
By Rob Hof

Times Tribune staff

BELMONT — Morton Malkofsky claims the idea for his new magazine on education came before recent parental outrage about the declining quality of schools.

But those parents certainly timed their outrage right, he says with a smile.

That's why Malkofsky, head of the Learning Periodicals Group in Belmont, expects Family Learning, the company's first foray into consumer magazines, to make a tidy profit within a few years.

Until now, the Learning Periodicals Group, a division of London-based Pitman Ltd., has stayed with serving various segments of the educational market, selling teacher aids and educational books.

Not that it has no experience putting out a magazine. Learning, a magazine for teachers that Pitman acquired in 1979 when it bought out the publisher, Education Today Co. Inc. in Palo Alto, has grown in 12 years to one of the largest educational magazines in the country, with 220,000 paid subscribers.

LPG, which employs about 50 people, also publishes Classroom Computer Learning, Curriculum Product Review and Educational Dealer, all for those in education.

But Family Learning will be the company's first magazine aimed at a general consumer audience — parents with children.

Although there are many potential subscribers — 14.5 million households nationwide — Malkofsky said the venture is risky.

"You don't know what the heck's going to happen," he said. "With the advertisers, we are a known quantity. With the parents, that's the risk."

But Malkofsky thinks parents are ready for a bimonthly magazine that tells them what's wrong with schools and how to help. And Family Learning, with articles on what television is teaching kids, what to do if your child is labeled gifted and how to help children detect bias in books, has no competition now, he said.

"Education is kind of a rudderless battleship," he said. "No one is really talking seriously about education. No one is yelling about the emperor and his nudity. Parents have reached the point where they're saying, 'Enough is enough.'"

Malkofsky also points to the first rise in membership of the PTA in 20 years last year and the start of foundations to fund schools hit by budget cuts.

"Parents working with the school board have to identify just what they want," he said. "They have to be much more articulate than they are. We think we can help parents establish a learning environment in the home that will help their kids learn better."

The company has a two-pronged strategy for gaining subscribers. It is starting by mailing free copies to 150,000 parents, mostly subscribers to Cricket, a children's literary magazine.

Next, it plans to advertise its existence in national magazines. It also is asking teachers who now receive its materials or publications to send literature on the new magazine home with their students.

"There's nothing more that a teacher wants than to have a parent understand what they have to do," he said.

Beyond the noble goal of improving education, the magazine should make money even with 150,000 paid subscribers, Malkofsky said. He hopes to have 250,000 within three years.

Initial advertisers are mostly book publishers and others who advertise in Learning and the other magazines. But Malkofsky hopes such national advertisers as auto makers and insurance companies soon will realize who is reading the magazine.

The initial audience has an average household income of almost \$35,000, 92 percent own their own homes and well over half have a college education. Those are attractive statistics to an advertiser.

The response from parents gained through months of market research, as well as from advertisers, has been encouraging, Malkofsky said.

"They see this magazine as a niche that is not being filled," he said.

On moving America 'beyond racism'

Former SJSU president Bunzel works in new role at Civil Rights Commission

By Mary Madison

Times Tribune staff

PEWITT/STANFORD

11/5/84

Suggesting policies that will curb discrimination and help move America "beyond racism" is one of John Bunzel's main goals now that he is a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

Bunzel, 58, a Belmont resident, is a senior research fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. He is a political scientist

and a former president of San Jose State University.

Bunzel was sworn in last month as one of President Reagan's nominees to the eight-member commission, which has the power to recommend action to the president and to Congress. His confirmation came following a controversy involving charges that Reagan was trying to stack the commission with people who hold conservative views similar to his.

In an interview Tuesday, Bunzel

said his position at the Hoover Institution had nothing to do with his appointment to the commission, although many Hoover scholars have worked for the Reagan administration in a variety of functions.

Bunzel, a Democrat, said he was asked by the administration to join the commission because of his past record supporting civil rights in addition to his numerous writings on the subject.

He will attend his first meeting

with the advisory group Jan. 16-17 in Baltimore, Md., and for the next three years will be meeting with the commission at least once a month in the Washington area.

The commission includes Democratic and Republican appointees. Bunzel served as a member of the Robert Kennedy delegation in California and attended the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago as an

uninstructed delegate following Kennedy's death in June of that year.

Bunzel has stirred controversy with his outspoken opposition to quotas as part of affirmative action in hiring women and minorities.

He emphasized, however, that just because he is against "the quota system" does not mean he also is against affirmative action or favors discrimination in any form.

At San Jose State University, where he served as president from 1970 to 1978, Bunzel issued a memo requiring that the campus search for qualified women and minorities to fill vacancies.

The key word for Bunzel in affirmative action is "qualified." He has urged that disadvantaged people, starting in grade school, be given special educational opportunities so that when they are ready to apply for college or jobs they can compete equally with those who always have had advantages.

"We don't have to do it (affirmative action) with artificial figures with the belief that only one certain group can advance itself by preferential treatment," he said. "That leads to the invidious conclusion that some groups are more inferior than others, and that is the wrong way to get beyond racism."

Bunzel's own agenda for the Civil Rights Commission includes research and analysis of such conditions as "the whole concept of discrimination itself in this country."

Discrimination still exists, he said, but that does not fully explain "the deeply layered problems we face."

Such problems include why some minority groups perform poorly and others do well on key examinations, such as those for college entrance and graduate school, and why some minorities are willing to work for Ph.D. degrees leading to college faculty jobs and others are not.

Bunzel said different cultures or racism do not fully explain such questions and that more data is needed.

"Racism is not going to explain this," Bunzel said. "Discrimination has been used like a sponge to sop up everything, but the issues are much more complicated than that."

"We need a review of the history of affirmative action in higher education and look at the results and procedures," he said.

Turning to another area for the commission to address, Bunzel said, "Millions of blacks are trapped in poverty and failure, and affirmative action has done nothing to help them. Why?"

"We need to look at affirmative action and the kinds of results it has brought about."

Other issues the Civil Rights Commission will consider include the complicated subject of "comparable worth" in pay for men and women and a pornography case in which claims are made about discrimination and degradation of women.



Times Tribune staff photo by Ken Yimm
John Bunzel of Belmont discusses his role on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

Russel Estep — History Is His Hobby

CALL. ENQ 1/25/84

By GRACE DONATELLI

Behind the weathered exterior of 80-year-old Russel Estep is a man still kicking up his heels.

Growing up with 10 brothers and sisters and having to "jump to get the potatoes," geared Estep for a life of all action and little rest, and Estep is not about to slow down now, even a little, he says.

"I haven't got time to contem-

plate being old," Estep said. "Let alone leaving my real estate business or dying."

Seated at his desk in a real estate office he has occupied since around 1950, Estep is surrounded by his past. The walls of his office are covered with 43 plaques awarded to him for various reasons — various Lions Club plaques (one for a lifetime membership and another for

devoted service), a citizen of the year award from 1981, an official declaration naming Estep Belmont's historian dated 14 years ago and more.

The less visually rewarded part of his life includes playing the roles of mule driver, hog farmer, father, husband and ham radio operator.

Born in 1903 in Oak Run in Shasta County, Estep was farmed out to live with his grandmother in San Jose when he was 3-years-old. He managed to visit each Christmas and spend his summers with his family.

While in San Jose, Estep concentrated on his schooling but quit high school at the age of 17 to return to the family ranch and help his mother out after his father's death.

Estep started with a handful of hogs and fewer cattle, but by the time he left the ranch four-and-a-half years later he had 56 head of cattle and 80 hogs. During the hours after the long day of ranching, Estep fiddled with radios. He put aerials up in the trees surrounding the farm house east of Redding to hear ships transmitting off the coast.

One day while listening into the party line, Estep recalls hearing something he shouldn't have.

"I used to let my hogs run loose to feed off the land and on that particular day I heard my neighbor Pearl talking with her daughter. 'All I've done is chase after those damned Russel's pigs. They root up my potatoes and make quite a mess,' Pearl exclaimed. 'Well mama why don't you tell Russel to come get his pigs?' the daughter asked. 'Why that Russel wouldn't

take care of them anyway,' she answered. That ticked me to death," Estep said.

After four-and-a-half years on the ranch, Estep returned to San Jose and became an apprentice carpenter because of financial need.

From 1930 to 1936 Estep worked for Shell Oil Company. "The first word my daughters learned when I worked for Shell was 'move'," Estep recalled. "We moved so much because of the job that sometimes I find it hard to believe it now."

Before working for Shell Oil Company, Estep built buildings and saved every penny to enroll in the Pacific Radio School in San Francisco for a three-month course that would make the dream of an operator's license a reality.

After two weeks of school he didn't have enough money to buy lunch. But because he didn't want to return to San Jose to build again, Estep took the test to receive a license and passed a first class license exam with 98 percent. With only \$5 left in his pocket, Estep talked himself into a job on the Gulf Pacific Line as chief radio officer. His first voyage was terrible, Estep remembers.

"The first time we docked I got on land I would run a few steps and stop as if I was at sea. My friend had to stop at a store for something and left me outside wrapped around a telephone pole so I wouldn't fall down. After that I was OK."

Before Estep married Helen, his present wife of 49 years, he married a girl named Kay Stephen. He had a daughter, Barbara, by the four-



Photo by Larry Hooper
Belmont Historian Russel Estep, surrounded by his many community awards, talks about his life before and in Belmont.

year marriage. Barbara recently died of cancer.

Helen and Russel had two children, Margaret and Evelyn.

Estep's interest in wireless radio got him involved with the Society of Wireless Pioneers where he holds the 80th ranked membership position out of a membership of more than 17,000.

Through the fascinating wonders of radio, Estep talks to people morning and evening everyday.

During the Vietnam War, a distressed woman called Estep on the phone and asked him to please find her son in Guam with his ham radio. Estep tried to explain that it wasn't that easy, but after more pleading from the mother he tried. Without turning the dial on his ham radio Guam came in. "It was a miracle," Estep said. "Within 5 minutes she was talking to her wounded son. He recovered and visited me when he got back to the states."

Piled under and around his desk are old cardboard boxes full of Belmont history. With all this information, Estep writes and has been writing a history column in the *Carlmont Enquirer-Bulletin* for two-and-a-half years.

He spends the rest of his day in his office drumming up business. "Real estate is dead," Estep said. "I've never seen it this slow."

Although many things occurred in Estep's life that could be considered terrible he looks at life "through rose-colored glasses."

His wife has Alzheimer's disease and lives in a convalescent home, but Estep visits her everyday. "I think it's terrible, but I can't do anything about it."

Estep recalls an employee he had called Mr. Freeland.

"I put his desk by the door so people would see his name plate, Mr. 'FreeLand,' and come in. He worked for me about seven months and didn't do much but read magazines. One day he mentioned that he felt ill. I told him to go home and get some rest. I was on my way to an appoint-

ment in San Mateo when as I was driving I realized that he was dead. I turned my car around and drove 100 miles an hour back to my office and sure enough he was dead.

"There were two people sitting in the office and they said something was wrong with my salesman. I told them he was dead and they went running out of the office. I never knew what they wanted and they never came back," Estep said.

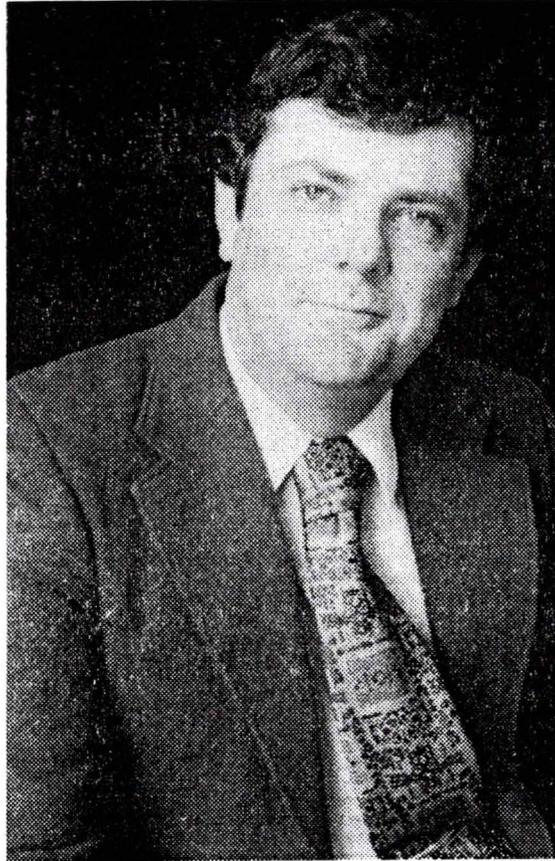
During the Depression, he wrote a syndicated column published in various national newspapers called "The Come Back." The column was written to help ease the pain of the Depression and bring back the lighter side of things to everyone's life Estep said.

Besides the publication of "The Come Back," Estep has published over 60 stories and articles in national magazines.

Walking briskly down the streets of Belmont, Estep sighs, and more memories come back to him and he begins, "I used to have two mules..."

The play's the thing

By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer



(Times Photo by Mike Spinelli)

Robert Bentley

Parents and students must also allow for at least 15 minutes each week to discuss academics and student goals and log the conversation on a "Parent/Child Conversation Sheet." Bentley carefully checks the sheets up with telephone calls. "Sometimes I'm shocked when I call up at night and say, 'This is the headmaster calling.'"

Bentley also involves Carlmont students in his Performing Arts school. We have about 15 for "West Side Story."

The Carlmont students compete for the parts in plays and the students must contribute at least four hours of good of the project," according to Bentley. He adds, "I agree with the Carlmont students in various subjects of theater."

The School of the Performing Arts has a demanding schedule for those who are in it. It starts out with two hours after school the first couple weeks of a production, then it gradually expands to three hours a week of the production when they are in it, sometimes right through dinner, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and sometimes on a weekend from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — in effect another school day."

The school-within-a-school also provides a work day for Bentley, who teaches social drama classes at Ralston during the regular school day.

The longer schedule, however, does not bother him. "I'm going into my 15th year, and it sounds like a cliché, but it seems like I've enjoyed what I've been doing."

J. TIMES
1/30/84

BELMONT — Robert Bentley sees the performing arts as a way to stimulate students — even in non-theater subjects such as math and science. He also sees the performing arts as a way to advance seventh- and eighth-graders through "this turbulent time of adolescence."

Bentley is enthusiastic about the theater and readily admits "I use the play as a carrot, a motivational device, because I believe motivation is a catalyst to academic and life success."

As headmaster of the School of the Performing Arts at Ralston School, Bentley drills students in traditional plays such as "West Side Story" (to be performed May 22-25 at College of Notre Dame auditorium). He's also produced non-traditional plays, satirical pieces written by himself, such as "Star Bores," "Crocky Three" and "Lock Jaws."

"Satire at this adolescent age is good for students because satire takes the sting out of that time of transformation," he says.

There are 112 students enrolled in the School of Performing Arts this year. "This school within a school is intended to complement and enhance the established curriculum the children are already being offered," Bentley says.

Parents must agree to volunteer four hours per semester before their children are admitted to the Performing Arts. "Last quarter some parents came in and painted stage sets, they typed, ran errands and some were head ushers ... whatever they could do for the good of the performing arts," adds Bentley.

Taube will receive an award on Wednesday

J. TIMES 2/13/84
BELMONT — Thaddeus N. Taube, owner of the Oakland Invaders, will be presented the William C. Ralston Award for Community Service during the fourth annual com-

munity luncheon scheduled Wednesday in Ralston Hall at College of Notre Dame.

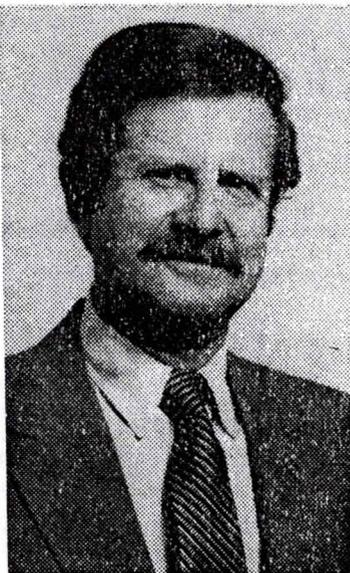
In addition to owning the Invaders, Taube is a member of the College of Notre Dame Governance Board and is chairman of the Woodmont Companies of Belmont, a diversified real estate firm.

The annual award, presented by the Belmont Chamber of Commerce, is named after William C. Ralston, the pioneer California financier who founded the Bank of California and also built the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

The late Ralston also once owned the property on which College of Notre Dame is located and the college's Ralston Hall was his Peninsula residence. President Sister Veronica Skillin will give a brief State of the College address.

Belmont Chamber of Commerce President Cathy Mainini will present the second annual business scholarship to Debbie Collins, a senior at the college.

More information and reservations for the event are available by calling Sybil Marbelston, manager of the Belmont Chamber of Commerce.



Thaddeus N. Taube

's the thing for him



(Times Photo by Mike Spinelli)

Robert Bentley

Parents and students must also agree to sit down for at least 15 minutes each week to discuss academics and student goals and log their conversation on a "Parent/Child Communication Sheet." Bentley carefully checks the sheets, following up with telephone calls. "Sometimes parents are shocked when I call up at night and say, in a deep voice, 'This is the headmaster calling.'"

Bentley also involves Carlmont High School students in his Performing Arts school. "Right now we have about 15 for 'West Side Story,'" he says.

The Carlmont students compete with Ralston students for the parts in plays and the high school students must contribute at least four hours "to the good of the project," according to Bentley. Many of the Carlmont students, he adds, agree to tutor Ralston students in various subjects other than theater.

The School of the Performing Arts has a demanding schedule for those who are admitted. "It starts out with two hours after school each day during the first couple weeks of a production," according to Bentley. "Then it gradually expands until the last weeks of the production when they are here, sometimes right through dinner, from 3 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and sometimes on a weekend from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — in effect another school day."

The school-within-a-school also presents a long work day for Bentley, who teaches social studies and drama classes at Ralston during the regular school day.

The longer schedule, however, doesn't bother him. "I'm going into my 15th year, and I know it sounds like a cliché, but it seems like 15 seconds. I've enjoyed what I've been doing."

Bentley believes that "if you capture a child's imagination, you have a more willing learner. We make it fun to be part of the team here and yet they have a lot of discipline and hard work."

He adds, "I am very unabashed about waving the banner of this school."

Bentley notes that he recently "recharged my batteries" by taking a six-month sabbatical. He went to England, where he stayed in the heart of London's theater district. Bentley spent weeks attending plays, interviewing British actors and observing British filmmakers in action.

Now that he's back, Bentley says he'll lobby for the introduction of more performing arts at local schools. The arts, he says, are especially important in middle schools where students are going through the real-life drama of "mood changes ... their emotions are soaring and they are changing."

Other school programs, such as sports, may be much better recognized as a motivational tool for students, but Bentley says the performing arts can be just as good at prodding students forward in their studies.

"He gets results," says school district trustee Josephine DeLuca. "When you see the finished product (the play) you are really in awe. My own children have been involved in his productions and I must say he does an outstanding job."

Bentley always reminds his students that being good in drama "can make you better for the rest of your life."

"You can only play football until you're in your 30s or 40s," says Bentley, "but you can continue to act on stage even if you are old and in a wheelchair."

Welcome the 'Bard of Belmont'

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

Civil servants long have been thought to be among the dullest of nature's creatures, people consumed by the mundane details of their work and oblivious to the lyrical or poetic.

For every rule there is an exception, of course. In Belmont's case, the exception is City Clerk James McLaughlin, the "Poet of City Hall."

McLaughlin has been city clerk in Belmont for nearly 20 years. He was first elected to the office in 1966 and is now in his fifth term.

He writes poems "to condense into just a few stanzas serious subjects on which you could write whole books."

Like other bards, McLaughlin pens poems about love, beauty and truth, traditionally the most popular topics of verse and song.

But his subjects are different from those of most rhymers. He does not write about the love of a fair maiden, the beauty of a golden sunset or the truth of some far-off god.

The most recent subject of McLaughlin's art was his own proposal that the city raise money by creating an "Adopt a Pothole" program — like the Cabbage Patch doll adoptions — that would allow residents to pick out an orphan pothole and finance its resurfacing.

McLaughlin read this poem during the April 23 City Council meeting when his idea was discussed, and endorsed, by the council. The rhyme:

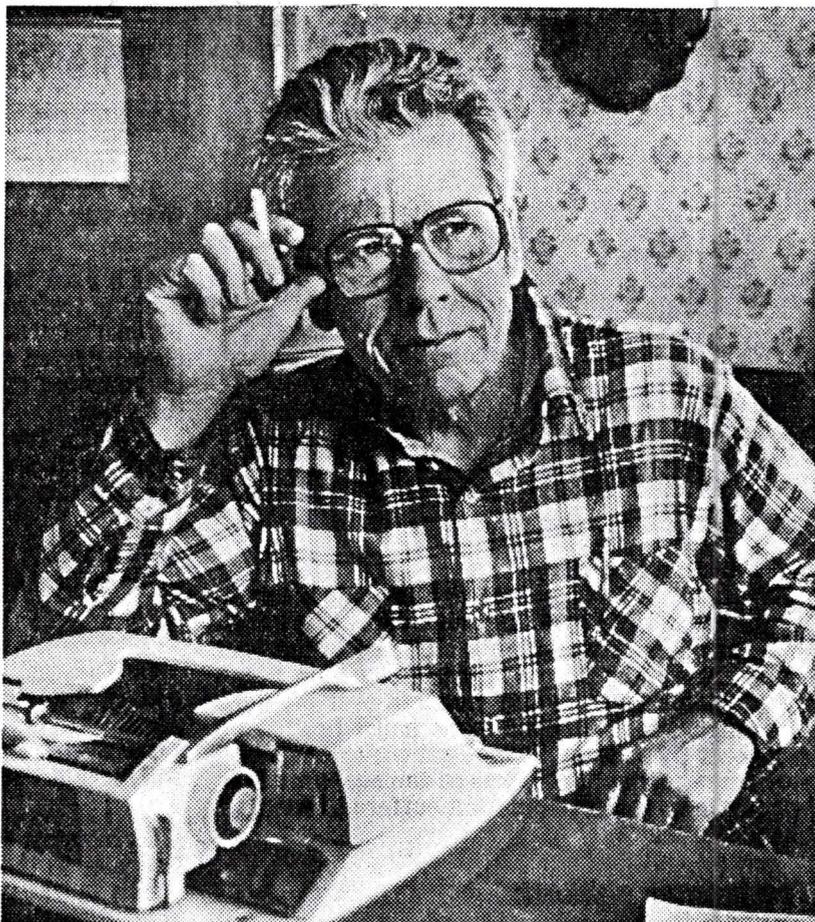
*Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse,
Like mice, were once in every house.*

*Pet Rocks and Barbie dolls,
Were sold in stores throughout the malls.*

*Lately dolls from cabbage patches,
Were sold by case and boxcar batches,*

*Just passing fads — unique and clever,
But Belmont Potholes are Forever!*

Last fall, during discussion of an ordinance to protect hillside residents' views from being obscured by their neighbors' trees, McLaughlin again was visited by the Muses.



Times Tribune staff photo by Sam Forencich

Belmont City Clerk James McLaughlin, sometimes known as the "Poet of City Hall," pauses for a smoke between bursts of creative activity.

The ordinance died a slow, lingering death — it was referred to the Planning Commission where it was tabled — but McLaughlin's "We Used to Have a Lovely View" will live on, like the potholes, forever.

The poem is lengthy. It reads, in part:

*We used to have a lovely view,
That gave aesthetic thrills,
In vast expanse of azure bay,
And gently sloping hills ...
We used to have a lovely view
Of sailboats on the bay,
Now eucalypti pines and oaks,
Are all we see each day.
We hate your poles, PG&E,
We hate you wires, Ma Bell,
We truly hate our neighbors'
trees, as well ...*

McLaughlin, an avid smoker, appealed in verse to the compassion of the City Council when, in December 1982, it banned smoking in the council chambers, partly because it did not want its new rugs soiled with ashes. Despite his creativity, the appeal was turned down.

*Has the city clerk rightly predicted,
(Because he is slightly addicted)
In his 17th year,
Taking minutes right here.*

For a rug he'll be tried and convicted?

Hate smoke from tailpipes and industry stacks,

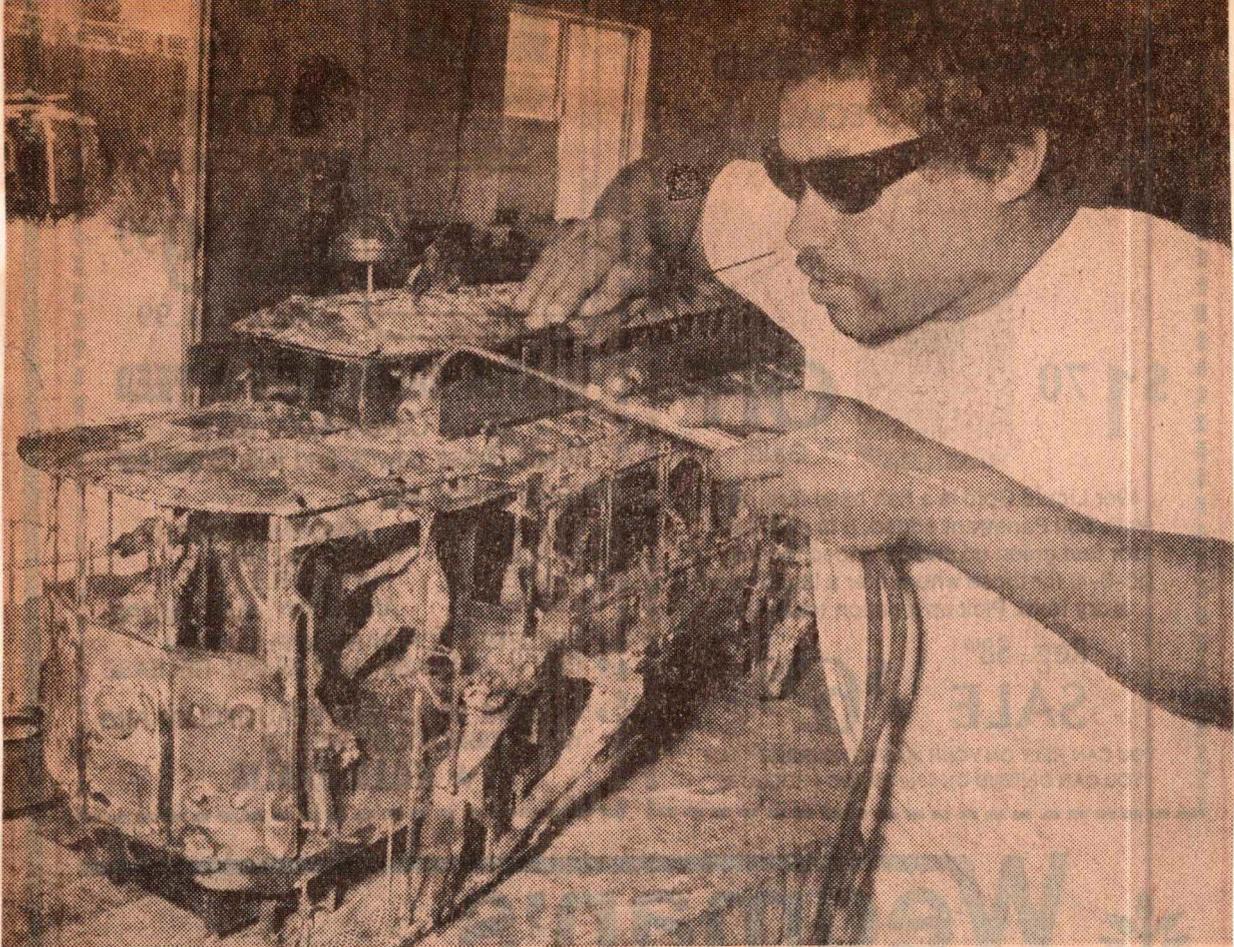
Not smoke from smokers who need to relax.

Belmont's version of Ogden Nash occasionally turns his talents to more serious issues.

When the City Council honored former U.S. special envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib, a Belmont resident, McLaughlin presented an award of his own. It was titled "Where Habib Has Gone." Its last verse.

*Ashes smoulder
Where Habib has gone
But mankind
Has awakened
To enjoyment
Of another sunrise
And the challenge
Of guarding
His priceless victory.*

McLaughlin has been a poet for decades. It began as a way to ease boredom. Among his published works are "A Complete Guide to Governmental Insanity — With Rhyme and Reason," which appeared in 1971, and "Poetry of the Golden State," which was published to coincide with the nation's bicentennial.



J.M. TIMES 7/18/84

DEMO CABLE CAR

(Times Photo by Ray Zirkel)

Belmont sculptor Jean-Marc Vander Heuvel commemorates the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco this week with a metal creation depicting donkeys hanging from the outside of a cable car. The copper and brass sculpture is 4 feet long, 2 feet high, and has a working copper

bell. Vander Heuvel, a native of France, had originally planned to exhibit the cable car at the convention, but Metal Sculptors Unlimited of Belmont applied too late to get a permit for selling their wares at Moscone Center. The sculpture's fate is unknown at this time.

Wednesday, July 10, 1974

'Now And Again'

Author Writes Novel

Joan Cassity began writing after getting her pilot's license in 1974, but with the success of her new book "Now and Again", she doesn't have much time for flying anymore.

A resident of Belmont, Cassity works in the testing department at Randtron Systems in Menlo Park and serves as the editor of the company's newsletter.

Combining her interest in flying with her desire to write, Cassity initially wrote two articles for "California Flying" magazine, later starting work on her 18-month writing project of "Now and Again."

Cassity described her Avon Romance Novel as "not quite mainstream and not quite a Harlequin Romance." Although her original manuscript was twice the size of the published work, Cassity thinks the editor did a good job cutting the book.

SUCCESS

Enjoying the success of her new novel, Cassity is two-thirds of the way through a first draft of her second romance novel.

Although there is a certain format to writing romance novels - they all must have a happy ending - Cassity says she usually only starts with a beginning and a conclusion in mind. Once she begins writing, however, "the characters begin to take on a life of their own."

"I know people will think I'm crazy, but I get into the characters so much that I can't help just going with what is happening in the story, regardless of how I've planned it," she added.

Writing a novel and working full time is no easy task, but Cassity says she just makes up her mind to devote a period of time to writing and tries not to get side-tracked by other business. Because she enjoys writing and considers work on her new novel a challenge, though, the job isn't quite as tough as it might otherwise be.

MAINSTREAM

Beyond finishing this next novel, Cassity would like to get into mainstream writing. Although she hadn't read many romance stories before starting her novel, Cassity is now an avid reader of romance.



JOAN CASSITY of Belmont is both published author and full-time employee at Randtron Systems in Menlo Park.

With copies of her book on sale at local bookstores as well as grocery and drug stores, she gets plenty of opportunity to check out sales on her novel.

Intending to give copies of the book to relatives and friends, Cas-

sity ordered 150 copies from the publisher. She was pleasantly surprised, however, when after bringing copies to work she sold out her supply and had to purchase additional books at a local bookstore where she was autographing copies of "Now and Again."

Belmont's Dick Crest will lead the band for Demos

S. N. TIMES
7/14/84

By KAREN PETTERSON
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — Had it not been for a couple of blond golfers, veteran musician Dick Crest might never have had the chance to perform at next week's Democratic National Convention in San Francisco.

He took time out from his hectic preparations to recall when his patriotism was reborn on a golf course in Spain.

Crest, who won the choice assignment of music director for the political gala, had thoughts at one time of hanging up the horns and took time out to travel to Europe.

"It was a very low time in my life," he said of the 1974 trip. He had been offered a job in Paris and was thinking about taking it, he said, when he and wife Robin found themselves spectators at a prestigious international golf tournament.

"I saw Johnny Miller and Jack Nicklaus playing with such style and class, it made me proud again to be an American," he recalled.

It was then he decided to come back to the U.S. and work even harder at his chosen profession.

These days, that profession involves scoring some of the most obscure music ever written for 50 musicians who will join Crest at Moscone Center next week to serenade visiting delegates with their home state songs.

He is also working on his repertoire of rousing marches and upbeat patriotic tunes, along with a varied selection of swing numbers and current pop hits to keep the delegates in the proper mood.

"I love the adventure of it," Crest said of the convention assignment, which he won over such stiff competition as Peter Duchin's New York band, which entertained the Demos in 1980.

He plans to make the most of the opportunity to show the rest of the country that Bay Area musicians can hold their own.

"San Francisco will look real good musically," he said.

Crest, who began performing as a youngster, is a music lover who is in his glory when crooning in front of a big band. He specializes in entertaining for conventions. Robin runs the business end.

That business end has burgeoned from bookings and bookkeeping to organizing parties and events on a grand scale.

"People would book the band and then ask if we could handle the hall, or the caterer, or the decorating, and of course she never said no."

Today, Crest Productions has offices in Belmont and in Southern California and has orchestrated sit-down dinners for more than 10,000.

But the convention assignment has thrown the busy local office into high gear.

"It's those state songs," sighed Crest, who credits his getting the convention job in part to his already having half of them in his music library.

He was finally able to find all 50 in the San Francisco Public Library and is preparing sheet music for his musicians. That music is spread all over the floors of his home and the work rooms of his office.

"Of course, I have back-up songs for some states," he said, "because the state songs are just not recognizable. California is a good example — who knows what 'I Love You California' sounds like? I'm sure they'd rather hear 'California, Here I Come.'"

"New York, New York," on the other hand, is universally recognized and enjoyed, he said. "That tune can make people respond anywhere on the planet."

But that patriotism that was reborn on a golf course in Spain surfaces once more when Crest talks about some of the other songs he'll be performing.

"I know we'll be playing 'Battle Hymn of the Republic' at some point," he said. "And that is going to be a very moving musical moment. We're going to be part of history."



(Times Photo by Ray Zirkel)

Dick Crest

Belmont writer will assist Demos in matters of food

By JUDY RICHTER
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — Besides fog, hills and weird characters, San Francisco has a reputation for fine restaurants.

Belmont writer Jeannette Ferrary is helping Democratic conventiongoers learn more about that reputation through the eyes of four of the nation's foremost food authorities: James Beard, author of numerous books about food and cooking; Julia Child, known for her books and TV programs; Craig Claiborne, food editor of the New York Times; and M.F.K. Fisher, a Glen Ellen resident known for her writings about food.

Ms. Ferrary, a contributing writer to KQED's monthly Focus magazine, has written an article about these four experts and their views of the San Francisco food scene in the "1984 Democratic National Convention Official Guide to San Francisco," published by Focus.

"I wanted to give some perspective on San Francisco in the eyes of people who are considered THE food people," she said.

"They had all just been here" and had had contact with some of the newest restaurants and chefs, she said.

"What struck me is that all of them except M.F.K. Fisher, who lives in the area, felt insecure as an authority on what's being done here. They were constantly being surprised by what's being done here."

Rather than speaking as authorities, "they were in awe, too," she said.

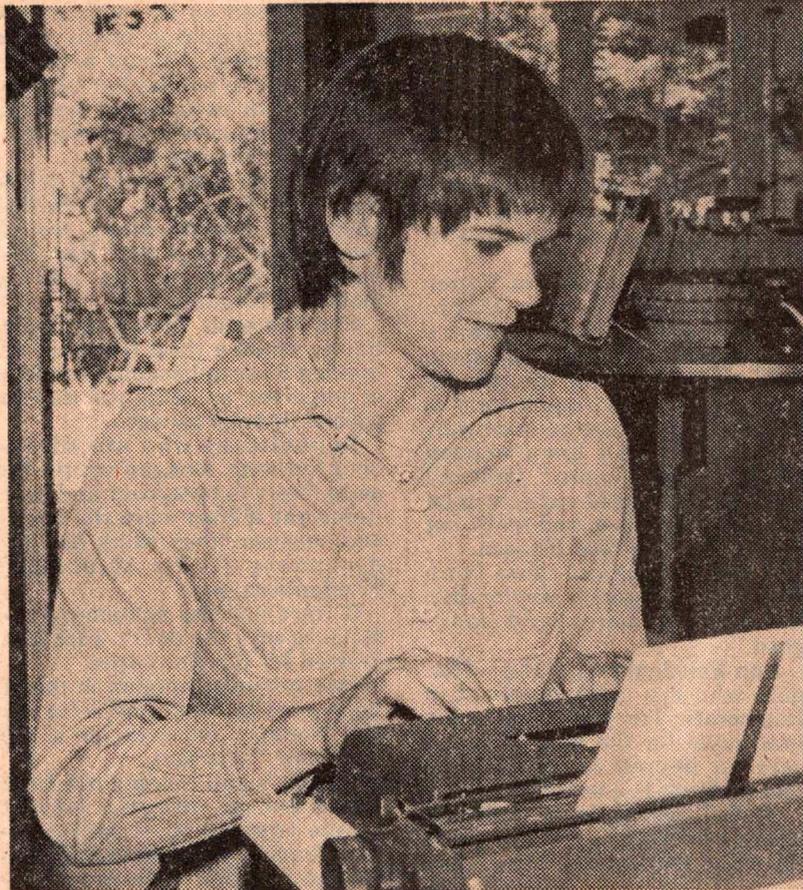
In the article, Beard told of his first visit to San Francisco, when he came on a boat from Portland to visit the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915.

He mentioned some old-time restaurants like Jack's and Tadich, which are still around, and some new ones like Chez Panisse and Santa Fe Bar and Grill in Berkeley, along with Fournou's Ovens in San Francisco.

Claiborne also mentioned Fournou's and Chez Panisse along with the Hayes Street Grill and Campton Place. For Chinese food he likes Kee Joon in Burlingame.

"I always say about San Francisco that the air is carbonated. The people are less uptight. The food situation is tremendously imaginative; there's a good deal of inspiration going on," Claiborne said.

Ms. Fisher also said her first contact with the city was the Panama-Pacific Exposition. She



Jeannette Ferrary

didn't go, but her parents did and brought home wondrous tales and souvenirs of the city.

"What's really wonderful about eating in San Francisco is the beautiful array of fresh ingredients rather than the stodgy old style of covering everything with heavy sauces," Ms. Fisher said.

Ms. Child spoke of Campton Place, Le Trianon, L'Etoile and Masa's as some of the newer restaurants she's enjoyed.

"I think it's always fun to go to San Francisco. San Franciscans are very proud of their food and of everything they do. There's a certain spirit that enlivens everything," Ms. Child said.

Ms. Ferrary has studied cooking with both Ms. Child and Ms. Fisher and had previously met both Beard and Claiborne.

She is associate editor of "Foodtalk," a quarterly newsletter published in San Francisco, and has an advertising and promotion company, Reilly & Ferrary Associates, which she runs from a two-room building next to her house.

She sees food not just as a necessity or even pleasure but as a reflection of lifestyle and culture.

Some of her recent Focus arti-

cles reflect that view. For November she wrote about wild rice and alternatives to the traditional Thanksgiving turkey.

Her December article explored the stories behind holiday cookies, while March looked at Irish cooking.

Her latest venture for Focus is to combine celebrity interviews with restaurant reviews. Inspired by the movie, "My Dinner With Andre," she had her first interview with Lynn Redgrave, star of "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You," at the Cafe Bedford on Wednesday.

She also is writing a book about current California cooking that Simon & Schuster will publish next spring.

It talks about "the kinds of things that influence California cooking from the American regional repertoire" as well as Italian and French, but "its recipes are for the home cook," she said.

Those recipes are being created by her co-author, Louise Fiszer, who owns a cookware shop and cooking school in Menlo Park.

Ms. Ferrary is doing the background research and writing, and both women are testing the recipes.

He just keeps rolling al

S.M. TIMES 7/21/84

By HEIDI VAN ZANT
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — Frank Skoglund Sr. gets a kick out of welcoming a luncheon guest with the greeting, "Excuse me if I don't get up."

He has a good laugh, all right, even if it's at his own expense.

You see, this retired physical education teacher, sportsman and go-getter has spent the past 29 years in a wheelchair.

It hasn't kept him down, nor does it keep him from laughing.

"The only thing that holds me back is stairs," says the 56-year-old retired teacher who left the San Mateo City School District last year after a 30-year career.

He's the kind of man who, when told a restaurant can't accommodate his chair through the front doors, looks at the bright side of using the back door.

"A lot of times I go in through the kitchen. I get to check the place out," he says with a wink.

Winking right along with him is his pal Helen, his wife of 33 years, who was five months pregnant with their second child when her athletic husband was felled overnight by polio.

Skoglund, a standout athlete in high school and college, took great pride in his physical abilities, so it was with some irony that he learned he, of all people, had lost the use of his legs.

The week before he became ill, he had been coaching teams each day at Beresford Park School. He wonders whether his exhaustion brought on the polio.

But that's a question Skoglund doesn't ask himself often because then, as now, he's got too much living to do.

"It never crossed his mind to give up," Helen recalls. "We all cried, got it out, and went on."

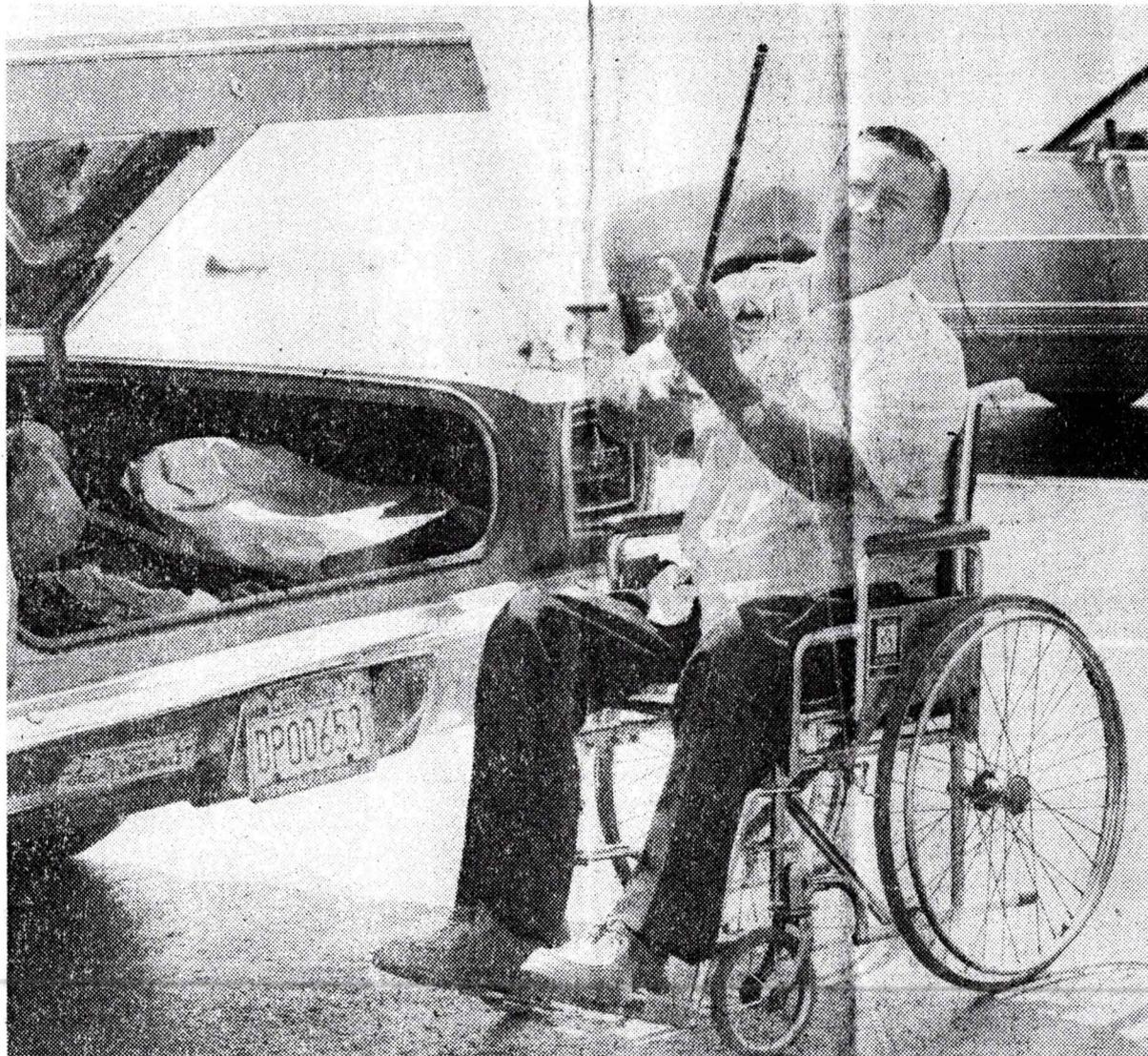
Skoglund says his naivete saved him. He fully expected to walk out of the hospital, resume his teaching career and go on with life as before.

"I was P-O'd that I was laid up," he says. "I never did give up hope. (Maybe) I just wouldn't face the facts."

Once he found out what the facts were — that he would never walk again — he took the news in stride.

Friends and family rallied round, a wheelchair ramp was constructed for his home, and he learned how to drive using hand controls.

He says the biggest factor in his recovery was being told by then-Superintendent Walter Jack (now vice president of The Times) that his job at Beresford Park was waiting.



(Times Photo)

GOIN' FISHTN'

Now that he's retired from his teaching job with the San Mateo City School District, Frank

Skoglund Sr. will have more time for one of his favorite pastimes.

When he returned to school, he resumed coaching flag football, basketball, softball and track.

He also found time to sing in a barbershop quartet and served as timer for the College of San Mateo basketball games for 20 years.

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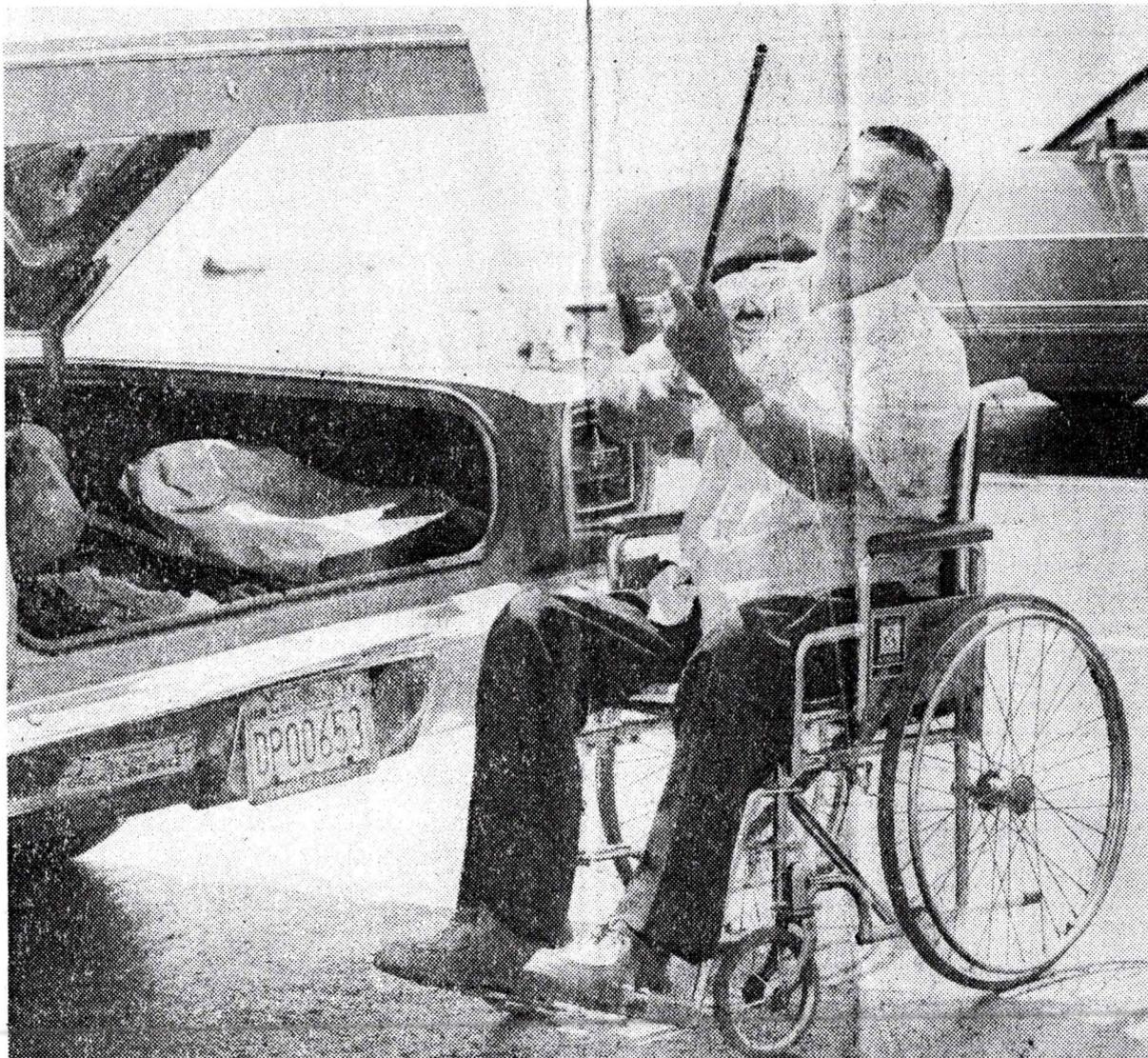
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He also found time to sing in a barbershop quartet and served as timer for the College of San Mateo basketball games for 20 years.

"I was too young to give up," Skoglund says. He felt it was important to show his students that a disability does not have to be disabling.

Every year, on the first day of school, he would explain to students that he was confined to a wheelchair and "that was that." His students went out of their way to show him kindness.

"The kids would all meet me at the car in the morning when I arrived for school — 10 to 15 of them — to help me get out of the car."

Ward Stanley, a fellow teacher and longtime admirer of Skoglund's grit, says his friend's quiet courage has not gone unnoticed.

"He was an inspiration to his students, his fellow teachers and all who saw his performance," says Stanley, who helped organize Skoglund's retirement party in May.

If Skoglund is such an upbeat man, does his paralysis ever get him down?

"I still wish I was up, but I don't tell anybody," he says with uncharacteristic softness in his voice. "But you have to accept what's happened. There are times when I'd love to walk down the beach with my wife or climb a mountain."

His wife says wedding receptions can be the hardest, when they sit on the sidelines and watch others dancing cheek to cheek.

"I miss dancing," Mrs. Skoglund says. "That's when a couple of tears come."

But like her husband, she doesn't look back with regrets or bitterness. She has devoted herself to her husband and their two children, Karen, 31, and Frank Jr., 29, and made the best of it.

Skoglund has overcome the self-consciousness associated with asking others to help him in and out of his wheelchair or through difficult doorways. But he says he may never get used to people's stares.

"I still feel, when I'm in the (shopping) mall, people glance at me. They either feel sorry for me — which I don't want — or they wonder why I'm blocking the aisle."

It's typical of Skoglund to credit others for helping him cope so well with life in the wheelchair. He shuns most praise, as if to wonder what all the fuss is about.

"Courage — I guess I do have it. But it's all the people around who have helped. My wife has given me 150 percent. Everybody has been fantastic.

"People say they couldn't do what I do, but I think they could."

At long last, these pals meet

S.F. TIMES

4/25/84

By TERRY ROBERTSON

Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — Mary Ridge and Jean Mehrtens have been close friends for 37 years, but earlier this month they met for the first time.

Mrs. Mehrtens flew into San Francisco International Airport from her homeland England in early July, achieving "a lifelong ambition" to meet her lifelong pen pal.

Although the visit began rather inauspiciously when neither could find the other at the airport, they hit it off immediately, both agreeing that it was as if they already knew each other.

In fact, they did. Their friendship started when they began writing letters to each other as part of a "hands-across-the-water" English assignment in 1947.

Mary was a fifth-grader in Emerson Grammar School in San Francisco when she sent her first letter to Jean, a third-grader at Edmunson Higher Grade School in England.

While neither remembers any specifics of the early letters they wrote to each other, they do remember they had a lot in common.

They both liked traveling, sewing and the same kinds of books and they shared the events of their lives. Later in life they both married what Mrs. Mehrtens called "solid rock husbands" and raised three daughters each. They also sent updated pictures of each of their families.

"If we left writing to three to four times a year, then there was always a lot to write about," Mrs. Mehrtens said.

While they both traveled throughout their respective countries they never had a chance to visit each other until Mrs. Mehrtens inherited money from her father's will.

"My mother said she didn't need all that money, so she told me to use it to do what I wanted," she said. "So, I decided to come here."

She left her husband and daughters behind and after a brief visit with her sister in Illinois, stayed with her pen pal and family in Belmont for three weeks.

At the airport Mrs. Ridge held a metallic balloon and wore bells "as in 'I'll Be There With Bells on,'" Mrs. Ridge explained with a giggle. She was accompanied by her husband and her daughter, who held a bouquet of red roses for their visitor.

They spotted each other across opposite ends of the terminal, Mrs. Ridge said.

"But when she came up she said, 'I didn't recognize you, but I did recognize him,'" Mrs. Ridge said, casting a teasing glance at her newly found old friend. "You see, my husband is very good looking. I forgave her though and gave her a kiss."

During Mrs. Mehrtens' stay, which ended last Friday, the Ridge's escorted their visitor on an extensive sightseeing adventure around California and Nevada. In Reno they celebrated their 50th birthdays and also won some money, they said.

"I enjoyed the visit very much. Yes, very much," Mrs. Mehrtens said. "These crazy people. Ever since I've been here we've never stopped."

"What impressed me about America was what a vast country it is and everybody's so friendly here."

Mrs. Ridge glanced over at her friend.

"She still calls this America," she said teasingly. "I still can't get her to call it the United States. I think she still thinks of us as the Colonies."

National Guard promotion given to Belmont man

S.M. TIMES 8/28/84

BELMONT — Ralph C. Marinaro, 47, who joined the California Army National Guard as a private in 1955, has been promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

He started his military career as an ammunition loader, was commissioned an officer in 1959, graduated from the U.S. Army General Staff College in 1973 and was selected to attend the U.S. Naval War College (the first member of the National Guard to do so), where he graduated with honors.

Today, he commands more than 1,800 troops throughout Northern California who serve in the National Guard's 49th Military Police Brigade.

He said his promotion "sends a significant message about opportunities in the National Guard. Any soldier can start at the bottom, labor, aspire and expect a return on his effort."

Marinaro grew up in San Bruno, graduating from Capuchino High School. He later earned his degree from the University of San Francisco.

He's a professor of business and speech at the College of Alameda and previously was program director of Vista College in Berkeley. He also taught advertising and marketing courses at Laney College in Oakland.

Marinaro resigned from a community relations position in 1982 with the Office of the Chancellor, Peralta Community College District, in order to



Ralph Marinaro

have more flexibility in his military command.

The 49th Military Police Brigade, headquartered in Alameda, has traditionally provided a variety of public services during disasters such as winter floods and the 1983 Coalinga earthquake. Most recently, the National Guard's military police helped provide security during the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

"The military police really did a good job down there," boasted the new brigadier general.

Marinaro and his wife, Barbara, live in Belmont. They have three children.

BELMONT'S BOB KATO performed a Bonsai demonstration at the San Mateo County Fair last Sunday. CARL ENO 7/25/84 Photo by Paul Fry



'Now And Again'

Author Writes Novel

Joan Cassity began writing after getting her pilot's license in 1974, but with the success of her new book "Now and Again", she doesn't have much time for flying anymore.

A resident of Belmont, Cassity works in the testing department at Randtron Systems in Menlo Park and serves as the editor of the company's newsletter.

Combining her interest in flying with her desire to write, Cassity initially wrote two articles for "California Flying" magazine, later starting work on her 18-month writing project of "Now and Again."

Cassity described her Avon Romance Novel as "not quite mainstream and not quite a Harlequin Romance." Although her original manuscript was twice the size of the published work, Cassity thinks the editor did a good job cutting the book.

SUCCESS

Enjoying the success of her new novel, Cassity is two-thirds of the way through a first draft of her second romance novel.

Although there is a certain format to writing romance novels - they all must have a happy ending - Cassity says she usually only starts with a beginning and a conclusion in mind. Once she begins writing, however, "the characters begin to take on a life of their own.

"I know people will think I'm crazy, but I get into the characters so much that I can't help just going with what is happening in the story, regardless of how I've planned it," she added.

Writing a novel and working full time is no easy task, but Cassity says she just makes up her mind to devote a period of time to writing and tries not to get side-tracked by other business. Because she enjoys writing and considers work on her new novel a challenge, though, the job isn't quite as tough as it might otherwise be.

MAINSTREAM

Beyond finishing this next novel, Cassity would like to get into mainstream writing. Although she hadn't read many romance stories before starting her novel, Cassity is now an avid reader of romance.



JOAN CASSITY of Belmont is both published author and full-time employee at Randtron Systems in Menlo Park.

With copies of her book on sale at local bookstores as well as grocery and drug stores, she gets plenty of opportunity to check out sales on her novel.

Intending to give copies of the book to relatives and friends, Cas-

sity ordered 150 copies from the publisher. She was pleasantly surprised, however, when after bringing copies to work she sold out her supply and had to purchase additional books at a local bookstore where she was autographing copies of "Now and Again."



Joe Price is shown at work in his Belmont studio on Belle Monti Avenue.

(Times Photo by Ray Zirke)

Let's be practical about art —



Joe Price is shown at work in his Belmont studio on Belle Monti Avenue.

(Times Photo by Ray Zirke)

Let's be practical about art — 'It's not strictly painting'

S.M. TIMES 9/6/84

By JACK RUSSELL
Times News Editor

BELMONT — Joe Price made a decision some 12 years ago that changed his life around totally and opened the doors to his being hailed as one of the Peninsula's finest artists.

"I had just completed my first two years of art instruction at the College of San Mateo," said the Alabama-reared artist sitting on a high stool in his neat studio on Belle Monti Avenue.

"I was so drained emotionally that I was unable to work on a single piece of my own art. I took a six-months leave and went home to Decatur. I vowed that I would find some way to never stint my teaching or never lack the motivation to create my own art," he said.

Price returned to college and to his classes where he carries a full load. His students enjoy his teaching methods so much that they helped him build a showpiece gazebo with tiled hot tub and artificial waterfall in his backyard.

Recently he has had major shows of his serigraphs acclaimed in New York City and in Philadelphia. Victoria Donohoe, powerful art critic of the Philadelphia Inquirer, wrote in her review, "Joe Price's silkscreen still lifes are easily mistaken for watercolors or colored drawings. He is so adept in the form that even print experts have not believed an artist can do the things he has done with silkscreen for the last 10 years. Price is an artist who doesn't want to sacrifice spontaneity, image or emotion for technique. He can be regarded as a masterful printmaker dealing with a painter's problems."

Flushed with the success of the eastern showings, Price is particularly pleased that a showing of some 32 of his prints, including several never before exhibited, will be opening on Sept. 13 at Gallery 30 on 30 East 3rd Ave., San Mateo.

"I was very surprised when I was invited by Ronnie Goldfield to exhibit. She has been bringing in some magnificent shows of such artists as Robert Motherwell, Richard Diebenkorn and Frank Stella. I didn't think I belonged in that company but she assured me that I was a fine artist and just what she wanted," he said.

"I am very happy to have a showing here rather than in San Francisco because I believe that there is a tremendous resurgence

of culture on the Peninsula. I believe in what Ronnie Goldfield is trying to do with her gallery."

Price opined that he was very fortunate in the timing of his representational shows. "The art world is swinging back to the representational. When I was in New York I was amazed that people would wait in lines in 100-degree heat for hours to tour the exhibits at the Museum of Modern Art."

It takes Price several weeks to complete one serigraph as he screens layer after layer of color. The two works he will have ready for the upcoming showing were begun in July.

Although his studio is a model of neatness, Price has not had an easy time at his studio. "The floods of 1982 almost wiped me out," he said. "I was only able to complete two works because the studio was shut down for six months during the storms. Then again in 1983 similar drainage problems occurred. I have pumps still draining the water. I only completed two serigraphs that year. 1984 has been a total success, however," he said.

The artist almost took up studio space in the Twin Pines complex but decided against it because of his work habits. "I get an idea sometimes at midnight and I go down stairs and work until dawn. Sometimes when I am stuck I just sit out in the yard and regain my concentration."

Price is hopeful that more and more corporations will be utilizing art in the work place. He said he felt that artists can be gainfully employed as art curators and consultants.

Price received his master's degree from Stanford University after studying at Northwestern University and the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles.

He has some firm opinions on art and the value of an art education in the world today.

"I want my students to be secure in their love or art and in their talents. Many times they are discouraged by their family with the statement that art has no practical value and that there is no money in art. I reply that art is all around us. It might not be strictly painting but everything we use has some design to it. The artist might become a Chrysler designer or a designer of beautiful and practical office furniture," he said.

"I hope that I can be an example of someone who can show that art can have a practical value in today's world."

Sounds like you need to relax

S.M. TIMES 10/13/84

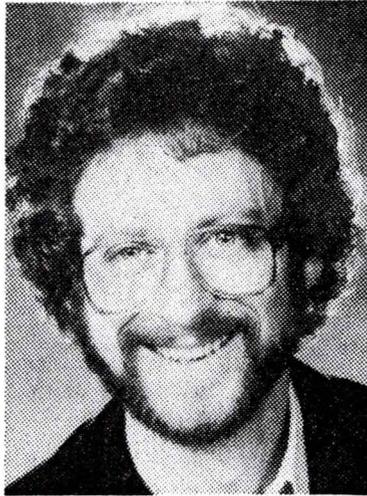
BELMONT — Music psychologist/author Dr. Steven Halpern, of Belmont will present his theories on "Making Color and Sound Work for You" at the San Francisco Home and Garden Show.

He will speak Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Moscone Center as part of the "Ask the Experts" seminars.

Halpern believes that sound, especially music, can have both positive and negative effects on the health of the body and mind.

His basic concept is that the human body and mind is an instrument that has a natural "tuning." When the tuning gets out of balance, it interferes with a person's natural state of health.

Halpern's theories on the healthful use of sound and music are more fully explained in his book, "Tuning the Human Instrument," and the upcoming "Sound Health," to be published this fall by Harper & Row.



Dr. Steven Halpern

He says the ever-increasing assault of sound upon our ears, minds and bodies adds to the stressload of civilized beings. This load must be decreased, Halpern believes.

"My research has shown that something as subtle as the droning of a television in another room, or traffic sounds can frazzle your nerves without your ever becoming aware of what's happening to you," says Halpern.

To combat this stress, Halpern, who has degrees in music psychology, has composed a new kind of music, designed to harmonize and balance the body and the hemispheres of the mind.

"It is designed to absolutely relax the listener," he says. "We don't know whether the music itself is doing the healing, or if it allows the body to heal itself."

He has composed five albums of music which he labels the Anti-Frantic Alternative.

Halpern's music has been widely used in hospitals, offices and biofeedback training.

"The rhythm of this music is not a standard metered pulse, but is more attuned to the breath," he explains. While there is no melody in the usual sense that focuses one's attention, the music is not random notes or sounds.

"The body has its own rhythm and my music is meant to coincide with that rhythm.

"One thing I found out through measuring the electromagnetic energy field of the body and through testing the electrical conductivity of the skin was that much of the music people say relaxes them, in fact does not relax their bodies.

"Much of today's rock and disco music is physically addictive due to the nature of the beat," claims Halpern. "The pattern is the opposite of the way your heart normally beats. After too much exposure the body can get turned around and it begins to seek out what is unnatural. That's why we have kids going around with loud speakers glued to their ears."

Halpern's music is often used before, during and after surgery. It is believed to relax the individual enough so that less anaesthetic is needed thus keeping the body functions proceeding more smoothly in the operating room.

He has also studied the effect of color on healing.

Peterson takes second

CARL ENR 10/13/84



Kristen Peterson, of Belmont, led her San Mateo Gymnastics Club team to a second-place finish in Class III competition in Rodeo last weekend. It was the Clubs' opening tri-meet for the 1984 Class III gymnastics season.

Kristen, competing in the 9-11 age group bracket, took a first on the floor exercise with a 9.00, a second on beam with an 8.60 and finished second in the All-Around with 34.00 points.

Kristen started with San Mateo Gymnastics Club as a four-year-old in tumbling classes and joined the team program at age eight.

Reunited after years, miles of separations



(Times Photo by Ray Zirkel)

HOME AFTER REUNION

Wlada Mstowski waters hanging plants in her yard at her Belmont home after returning from a reunion with members of her family in Chicago. Mrs. Mstowski was separated from her family 44 years ago when she leaped from a slave labor train in her native Poland.

S.M. TIMES 9/26/84

By ALAN QUALE

Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — "They say people don't get together, but they do."

Wlada Mstowski, 60, winked and leaned forward in her chair for emphasis: "You should never decide somebody is dead until you know for sure."

Mrs. Mstowski returned to her home here Tuesday after an emotional reunion in Chicago with her family — a family she last saw 44 years ago as she leaped from a slave labor train in her native Poland.

"It was just unbelievable," she said of the reunion. "I can still hardly believe it," referring to her get-together with her brothers, Eugene, 56, and Douglas, 52, and sister, Helen, 59.

The last time the four were together was Feb. 10, 1940, the day Russian soldiers suddenly converged on the Mstowski farm.

The Russians pointed rifles at Wlada Mstowski's father and ordered him and his family to get ready to leave their property.

"We were considered part of the Polish bourgeoisie and the Russians didn't like us," Mrs. Mstowski explained. The family was loaded onto horse-drawn sleds and taken to a railway station 12 kilometers away.

"We knew we were going to be shipped to a slave labor camp in Siberia," she remembered.

But the Mstowski girl, who was 16 at the time, suddenly had an impulse to flee.

Leaping from the train, she began to run as fast she could.

"Then I jumped under another

(Cont. on BACK

train that was parked nearby and I was running like a dog on my hands and knees. All I could hear were the Russian soldiers hollering 'Stop! Stop!'"

She continued her frenzied crawl under the train, emerging on the other side and then ran away from the tracks.

Mrs. Mstowski didn't hear the gunfire, but her sister, Helen, who also started to run from the train, did hear gunfire. Helen stopped running and was returned to the train.

Forty-four years would pass before Wlada Mstowski would learn that she had been fired at that winter day. The only sounds she remembered were the Russian soldiers yelling "Stop! Stop!"

From the train station the girl made her way to the home of her grandmother who, because of her age, was not being deported by the Russians. Wlada Mstowski was then sent to work at a nearby lairy where she remained for 17 months.

Meanwhile, the Russian army began to retreat as the Germans advanced through Poland. As soon as the Russians left, the arriving Germans began to round up thousands of Poles, including the Mstowski girl, and send them to forced labor camps in Germany.

Mrs. Mstowski was assigned to work as a cook — interestingly enough at a railway station — in Remuenden, Germany.

When the war ended she immediately began her search for her lost family. She said the Mstowski name "is very unique," even among Poles, and she hoped this would make her search easier.

She contacted the International Refugee Organization "but my name never came up," she said. "I had no idea if they (members of her family) were dead or alive."

She would learn later that three from her family — two brothers and a sister — died of starvation in Siberia. The rest of her family, including her father, Peter, and her mother Maria, were subsequently released by the Soviets near the end of the war after the Poles agreed to fight against the Germans.

Her father joined the free Polish army and died in the battle of Monte Casino in Italy in 1944.

Wlada Mstowski remained in Germany after the war and married an American civilian in Frankfurt in 1945. They had a daughter, Shirley, but later they separated and Mrs. Mstowski and her daughter emigrated to the United States in 1950, settling on the Peninsula.

"I went to San Mateo College and learned to speak English. I studied mathematics and electronics," said Mrs. Mstowski, a retired computer operator.

Unknown to Wlada Mstowski, the remaining members of her family also began emigrating to the United States, settling in the Chicago area.

None of the Mstowskis, including Wlada Mstowski's daughter, Shirley, ever gave up hope.

"A week ago last Friday, Shir-

ley was in San Francisco and she stopped by a library," Mrs. Mstowski said.

Shirley came to a room filled with telephone directories from various American cities and instinctively began thumbing through telephone books to see if there were any "Mstowski" listings.

To Shirley's surprise, she found a Mstowski listed in a suburban Chicago directory. She telephoned the number and reached Eugene Mstowski, her mother's brother.

A flurry of other telephone calls followed and Wlada Mstowski flew to Chicago last weekend for a tearful reunion.

"They said I was the 'missing link,'" she said.

"My mother died in 1982. They said she never stopped looking for me."

After such a long separation from her brothers and sisters, Wlada Mstowski said her 2-1/2 day reunion in Chicago was hectic as the four tried to fill in "all the details of the past 44 years."

They spent a lot of time talking about their childhood before the war. "We recalled how we would go to the market," she said. "We remembered a few spankings and we remembered a few naughty things we did such as my brother cutting school."

Although Wlada Mstowski was the only family member to escape from the slave labor train, she said she is not the daredevil of her family.

Rather, she said, she was just a typical teen-ager.

"When you are young you see things differently, just look at all the young people demonstrating today," she said. "There is no fear in youth. You just go and do it."

She still remembers vividly how she escaped from the train 44 years ago.

"I didn't say goodbye to my family or anything. I just looked straight ahead and jumped out the door and started running."

Things Happen For Seniors With Hugh Slay Around

CARL END 8/1/84
By Steven Stark

Among the gadflies who congregate twice monthly for Belmont city council meetings and planning commission meetings sits a gentleman with more than a passing interest in the proceedings.

With a following of more than 130 senior citizens under his wings, Hugh Slay is acutely interested in the doings at city hall. As president of the city Senior Citizens Club, Slay has taken up the decade and a half mission of getting a site established for a senior center.

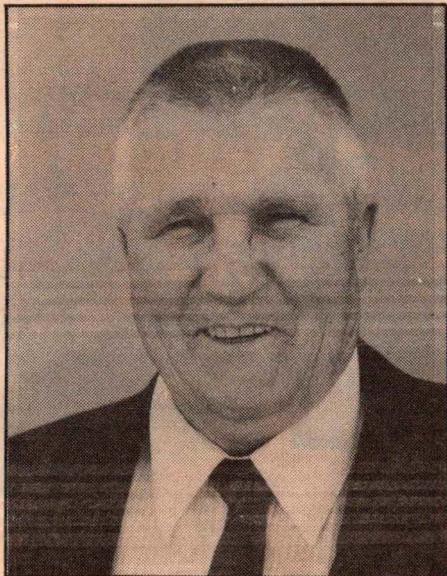
After 15 years, the native Alabamian has gotten farther than any of his predecessors, with the city hiring a part-time coordinator to assist the senior citizen's quest for a center and \$50,000 budgeted for study into possible sites for the center.

"Promises were made, but not kept," Slay said, referring to the odyssey that is the city's senior citizens' quest for a center.

Slay attributes the progress made so far to the tactic of "going through

the back door."

"If you can't get in the front door, get in through the back," Slay said. "What I did (to get the ball rolling on the senior



HUGH SLAY

center) was find out what I needed to do, then I came to the city."

Armed with the knowledge that the city needed to commit itself to establishing a senior center by admitting there exist potential sites, by hiring a part-time coordinator and by funding architectural studies, Slay went to work on city hall with a list of possible funding sources, including redevelopment agency funding which has the advantage of not costing city taxpayers a red cent.

Slay, who admits being "as political as I want to be right now," said the seniors needs are simple. "I told the city from day one we want nothing elaborate. Our minimum requirements are one floor in or near Twin Pines. We don't want a two-story building unless it's forced on us."

Along with his wife, Betty, Slay has lived in Belmont since April,

1949. After building their first house plank by plank, brick by brick without electricity, the Slays raised three adopted children. A survivor of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the sinking of four destroyers, Slay met his wife while on shore leave.

"Some of my buddies asked me to come along with them to the beach and since I was financing their trips with loans, I decided to go," Slay recounts. It came at a perfect time, Slay said, for he was heavily into drinking and gambling.

"I've never regretted it a day," Slay said of marriage.

"I've got too many things to worry about now (to drink and gamble anymore), Slay said, drinking an Orange Crush, his beverage of choice since those days.

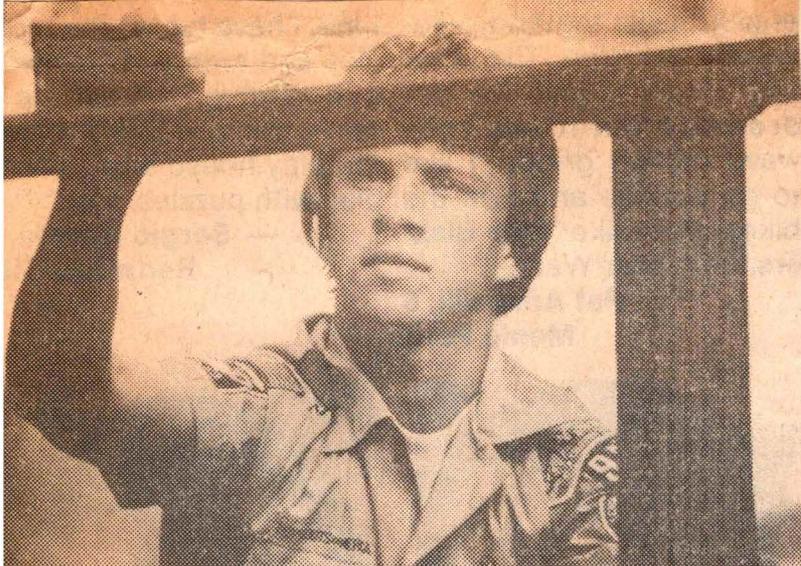
Out of the service in 1949, Slay said he really didn't know what he

a mechanic for 29 years where he served as shop steward, executive board member and trustee in the union.

wanted to do with his life. In between trial runs at "8-10 different jobs," Slay was instrumental in organizing a county baseball league while coaching Babe Ruth teams and serving as a reserve police officer in town. The former Cub Scout pack leader coached city park superintendant Karl Mittlestadt in 1966, the year after his Babe Ruth team won the championship.

After serving a stint in Korea, Slay worked for United Airlines as

The Senior Citizen Club president said he hopes to succeed in establishing the senior center by the end of his term in December 1985. Between the city council and planning meetings, his garden, trout fishing, visits to family in Alabama, and every-other-year reunions with fellow survivors of the last battleship to be sunk in WW II, Slay keeps busy. Luckily, for the city's seniors.



Times Tribune photo by Victor J. Vulto

Garvin Francis sands a fence at a park he is restoring at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Belmont for his Eagle Scout project.

15-year-old restoring park for his Eagle Scout project

By Andrew Moore

Times Tribune staff
DEN. TIMES 10/24/84
For the first time in more than 10 years a Boy Scout from Troop 98 in San Mateo is pursuing an Eagle Scout rank.

Garvin Francis, a 15-year-old Hillsdale High School sophomore, has been in the troop for four years and is the senior patrol leader.

To become an Eagle Scout, candidates must contribute at least 30 hours for a community service project. Francis is restoring a park at Immaculate Heart of Mary

Church in Belmont.

He will sand, paint and shellack tables, benches and a baseball dug-out at the park, and he plans to upgrade a barbeque area at the site.

If Francis completes the Eagle requirements, he will attain a rank that only 2 percent of Boy Scouts ever achieve.

As the patrol leader of his troop, Francis hopes to participate in the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia in 1985. Also, he will join his troop for summer camp next summer in Oregon.

Hold that beat as you brush teeth

S.M. TIMES 11/21/84

By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — "When your tummy growls for lip smacking treats...try fruits and vegetables, insteads of sweets.

"Hey hey hey hey....teethercize teethercize teethercize...."

The lyrics to Bob Davis' "Teethercize" song go on and on with helpful hints on how to care for your teeth, all played to a Michael Jackson-type beat aimed at today's trendy kids.

"We just want to get the song into the home," Davis says. "We know it can get kids to brush their teeth."

Davis, a lyricist, public relations consultant and former Belmont recreation superintendent, says he got the idea to write Teethercize after an appointment at his dentist's office.

"I just came back from the dentist and went straight to the recording studio," he notes. "I'd never heard a decent dental health song before."

The 37-year-old also spent several weeks reading dental books at the library and interviewing local dentists.

The new song was recorded at Bob Berry's recording studio in Campbell and Teethercize is being played inside the San Mateo County Dental Society's Brushmobile as the vehicle makes its rounds to local schools to show children the importance of caring for their teeth.

"Did you know that all your teeth have a job to do? They help you smile, talk and chew...."

"That's why it's so important to keep your teeth clean...And it's easy if you get yourself into the routine..."

"Brush every day and brush every night...It's a winning combination that keeps your smile bright..."

"Hey hey hey hey...teethercize...teethercize..."

Davis says he doesn't expect his song to hit the Top Forty Chart on today's rock 'n' roll radio stations but it will be playing on Romper Room on Friday morning (Channel 2). The 37-year-old Davis will be dressed as Dr. Brushrite, carrying a 5-foot-long toothbrush and Davis' wife, Jo Anne, will appear as a giant tooth on the TV show.

Davis hopes one day to hear his song in the waiting rooms at dentist offices everywhere. He's also hoping that Teethercize might be promoted nationwide by a toothbrush-manufacturing company.

"It (the song) helps to get kids to brush their teeth. I have a three-year-old who knows all the lyrics."

"We just want to stress the importance of good dental care to the children."

Community volunteers better Belmont

Editor:
CALL. ENP. 10/24/84

I read with anger and disbelief Rose Oswirk's letter to the editor dated Oct. 17. If I needed any further convincing that the recall of four Belmont Councilmen was totally justified and necessary, Ms. Oswirk's letter would have firmed my decision.

Her personal attack on five

people who are supporting the recall makes me believe that this is a last minute desperate move on somebody's part.

She asks: "What positive thing have any of these people (John Stoddard, David Bomberger, Hartley Laughead, Cora Feierbach, Lida Paetzke) done for the community?" Well Mrs. Oswirk, let me count the ways.

Hartley Laughead: Belmont resident for over 25 years and a UC Berkeley graduate, past PTA president of Cipriani School, past president of Cipriani Homeowner's Association, Co-chairwoman of Cottage Auxillary, active in Children's Home Society, Garden Club, Save Twin Pines, co-chaired Carlmont Grad Night,

member of San Juan Committee and a volunteer for the Red Cross for about 10 years, and on the committee for Belmont Cleanup day.

The many people who know Hartley, know that she has given more than a fair share of her time and energy for the 25 years that she has been a Belmont resident.

Lida Paetzke: Served as president for both Cipriani's Homeowners Association and Belmont Friends of the Library.

It is Lida who spends many volunteer hours at the Cottage Auxillary, cooking meals, washing dishes and serving lunches so that the money

made goes to beautify our Twin Pines Park.

What is most extraordinary about Lida is the fact that when the Twin Pines Psychiatric Center was partially destroyed by storm drain explosion four years ago, it was she who spent hours and hours helping clean out the mud.

Lida indeed is a council watchdog. While we are sitting comfortably at home, she is at council meetings carefully monitoring where our tax money is going. I am grateful that someone is watching, aren't you?

Lida is a member of Belmont Park Boosters and works voluntarily every concert Sunday at the various food sessions. Lida also does a lot of volunteer work at the elementary school level. Whenever someone needs a helping hand, Lida is there.

John Stoddard: Past president of both Cipriani's Homeown-

ers Association and Friends of the Library. Spends countless hours as volunteer for the Friends. John also volunteered teaching photography at Hillcrest Juvenile Detention Center for 10 years and at the San Mateo County Boys Camp for four years.

He volunteers his help yearly to seniors at the San Carlos Senior Citizens Center with their taxes. John received special commendation from the San Mateo county Board of Supervisors for his outstanding attendance record at their meetings. He was president of Concerned Seniors—a group dedicated to getting discounts for seniors, past chairman of the Belmont General Plan Committee, and a past steering committee member of Citizens for Orderly Growth.

David Bomberger: David is a member of the Storm Drainage Task Force, a council appointed citizens' group committed to finding solutions to our storm drain problem;

vice president of the Committee for Green Foothills, a member of the Sierra Club and he is on the steering committee for Citizens For Orderly Growth. David is committed to help save the environment throughout our Peninsula and spends much of his time in this endeavor.

There are many volunteers in Belmont. It is a city vibrant with people who are working for the betterment of this city. The people mentioned above have one thing in common with other volunteers: their work comes from the heart, not from their pocketbook. They are not spurred on or supported by developers or other special interests who don't have the interest of Belmont in mind.

Sincerely,
Coralin Feierbach
Belmont

His living?

Clowning around

S.M. TIMES
11/28/84

By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer

VENICE, FLA. — A Belmont man has been hard at work here, studying to become a clown.

Derek Hiskey, 18, was one of 41 aspiring mirthmakers who graduated recently from the 17th session of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College.

Hiskey and the other students were chosen from thousands of applicants from throughout the United States to attend the annual 10-1/2-week session.

Under the tutelage of the clown college Dean Ron and a 25-member faculty, including master clowns Lou Jacobs and Frosty Little, the students spent more than eight hours each day studying makeup, juggling, stiltwalking, pantomime, costume design, unicycling, improvisation and prop building.

The students worked at perfecting their skills and developing their individual clown characters.

On graduation day the students presented an elaborate, comedic stage presentation at the school.

Seventeen students from the class were selected to become apprentice clowns with Ringling Brothers.

The other graduates, including Hiskey, may find jobs with other circuses, said Mia Sakavich, a spokeswoman for Ringling Brothers.

"We have had some (graduates) who have gone out and started their own clowning business," she said. "Several have gone into other entertainment areas."

The clown college was founded in 1968 by Irvin Feld after he purchased the circus. It's the only clown college in the U.S. and has been instrumental in preserving an art which was becoming extinct, according to Sakavich.

"There were only 14 clowns left in the entire show and their average age was 58 years old" by the time Feld purchased the business in 1967, Sakavich added. "It (clowning) had been a pretty closed thing in the past, something that you would get into when you were six years old."

Today there are 900 alumni of the clown college and Ringling Brothers' famed Clown Alley has increased to 56.



Clown Derek Hiskey

A Bear-y Merry Christmas!

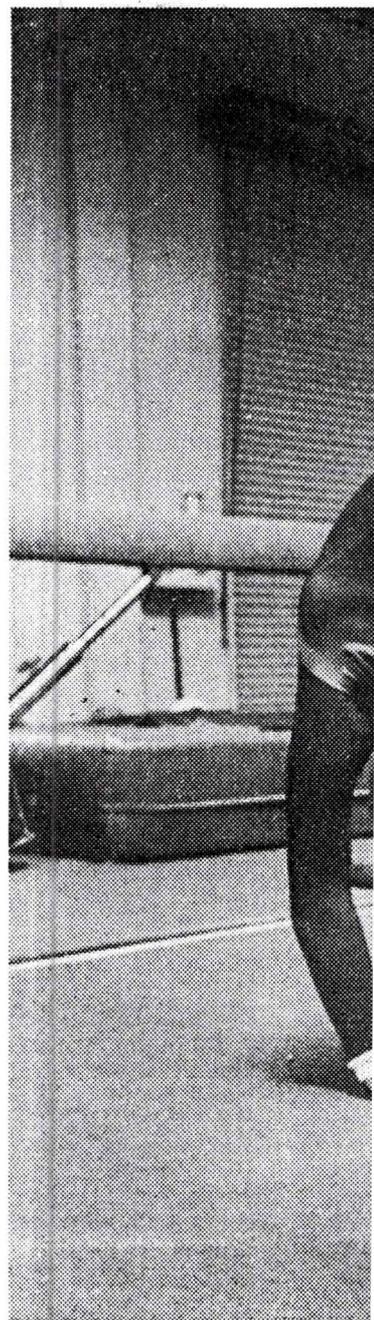


LORI BLODGETT of Rupert Taylor Real Estate and president of the Belmont Newcomers' club is surrounded by her family of "Lori Beargette" boy and girl Teddy Bears. What started as a spur of the moment gift idea has become her signature gift to the children of clients who buy a home through her. The presentation of bears has become a "warm 'n loveable" way to help the children settle into their new homes. Each bear is custom

designed and handcrafted for Lori by talented Belmont resident, Sally Cunneen. Sally has been in the "bear business" for over two years. The next appearance of a "Lori Beargette" will be at the Newcomers' Club Race Day at Bay Meadows, to be held in January. "Eddie Bearcaro," dressed in Belmont "racing colors," will be raffled off and proceeds donated to a local hospital.

CARL ENO 12/5/84 Photo by Paul Fry

Kristen's flying high



Instructor Margaret Morris w

Belmont fun and s

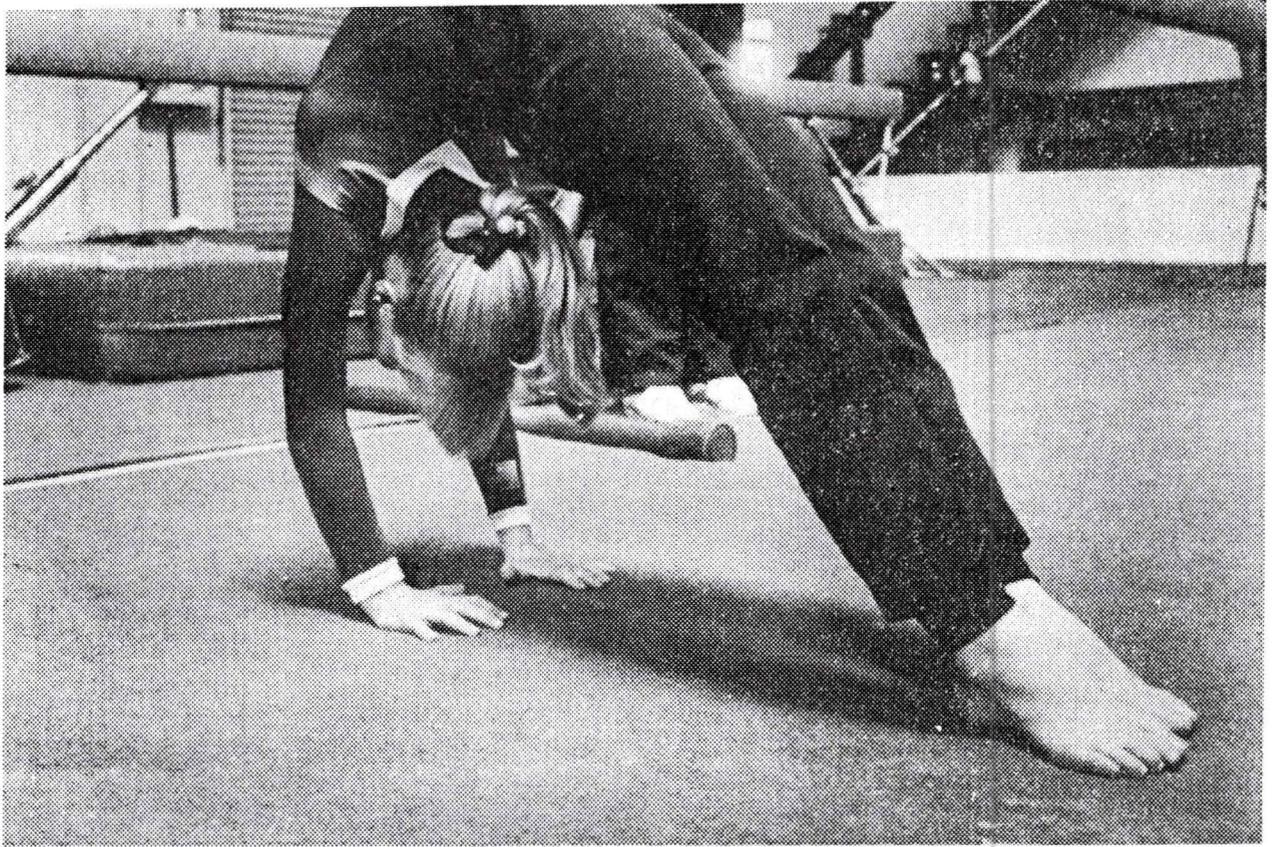
By Dan Smith

Special to the Times Tribune

DEN. TIMES 11/28/84
On a table in the home of M of Belmont lay a picture of th tics' Class III gymnastics team In the front of the line was th Kristen.

And after placing first in six meets, Kristen Peterson, who t definitely earned her spot in th

But when Kristen isn't doing and the like, she is a norma maculate Heart of Marv scho



Times Tribune photo by Ellen M. Banner

Instructor Margaret Morris watches as Kristen stretches to warm up before her workout.

Belmont 10-year-old is finding fun and success as a gymnast

By Dan Smith

Special to the Times Tribune

PEN-TIMES 11/28/84
On a table in the home of Mike and Joey Peterson of Belmont lay a picture of the San Mateo Gymnastics' Class III gymnastics team lined up in single file. In the front of the line was the Peterson's daughter, Kristen.

And after placing first in six events in the past three meets, Kristen Peterson, who turned 10 on Oct. 10, has definitely earned her spot in the front of the line.

But when Kristen isn't doing cartwheels, flip-flops and the like, she is a normal fifth-grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary school in Belmont. Kristen keeps her success a secret from her classmates.

"They all know now that I take gymnastics," she said. "But I don't talk about it much."

Kristen's parents have a common means of employment, which is how they met. Mike is the principal at Serra High School, and mother Joey has been a math teacher at Notre Dame High School for 12 years.

Kristen competes in the 9-11 year-old age bracket of Class III, the second of four competitive levels of gymnastics. The highest level after Class I is the Elite class, which includes America's international competitors, such as Mary Lou Retton.

This is Kristen's second year of competitive gymnastics, both years in the Class III level. This season, in the four zone qualifying meets she has competed in, she has finished in the top three in the all-around in all four meets and in only one meet did she fail to win a single event.

The floor exercise is her favorite event.

"It's one of the easiest and the funnest events,"

Kristen said. "I pretty much like them all, but floor exercise is my favorite. I just feel more comfortable with it."

The zone that San Mateo Gymnastics competes in comprises clubs in the Bay Area. The top 60 girls, judged on marks in two meets, go on to the zone championships, and the top 10 placers in that meet go on to the state meet.

Kristen has been with San Mateo Gymnastics since she was 3, the youngest age a prospective gymnast can work out on her own at the club. Some of the girls that Peterson started out with are still teammates.

But the girls aren't allowed to compete in meets until the year they turn 9, according to United States Gymnastics Federation rules. Kristen was tested on what she could do and was placed in Class III.

"To be good in gymnastics, it is very difficult to compete in another sport," Joey Peterson said. "Gymnastics is her life, there's no doubt about it. She eats, drinks and sleeps it. Even as a 2-year-old, Kristen would be doing cartwheels in the supermarket."

Kristen, who already is the second-youngest girl in Class III, may be moved to Class II next year, where the average gymnast's age is 13.

Kristen practices three days, seven hours a week, with an eighth hour for a ballet session.

"I go to school from 8:30 to 3 o'clock, do homework from 3:30 to 4:30 or 5, eat dinner from 5 to 6, and practice from 6:30 to 8:30," Kristen said.

But when Kristen has gymnastics meets and Carl, an accomplished athlete in his own right, has soccer games on most fall Saturdays, the Peterson family is divided for the day, with Mike attending Carl's soccer game, and Joey attending the gymnastics meet.

New age music

Belmont musician's 'anti-frantic alternative'

By William Johnson

Times Tribune staff

NY TIMES 1/27/84
Whatever his music is called — new age music, space music or relaxation music — Steven Halpern of Belmont is among the world's most successful players of the style.

In 10 years, Halpern, a former jazz trumpeter, has self-produced 16 albums and 16 cassettes of non-traditional music. Without fitting into the categories of folk, rock or jazz, he has sold an estimated 700,000 albums and cassettes.

Most of the music contains no consistent rhythms, memorable melodies or traditional harmonies.

Playing either piano or several sophisticated synthesizers, Halpern markets his soothing, improvised compositions as an "anti-frantic alternative" to the cacophonies of the 20th century.

Halpern, 37, lives in wooded, secluded San Juan Canyon in the Belmont hills. He is a trim man with a reddish-brown beard. He is articulate and precise, with speech that bears a trace of Long Island, where he grew up.

Sitting on a woven mat in front of his studio, Halpern explained carefully that his music is not just something he stumbled onto, or something that suddenly caught on with the public.

As Halpern's music is characterized by the use of exotic Oriental scales, so is his chairless house furnished with Oriental rugs, mats and tapestries. His house reflects an interest in Eastern philosophies that focus on the spirit rather than the intellect.

"My music is a kind of organized randomness. It is based on brain wave patterns or natural breath patterns and organized on more than just an intellectual level," he said.

In the 1960s, Halpern intended to pursue a career in jazz. The music of jazz greats Miles Davis and John Coltrane led to his investigation of Greek modes or scales. Then he

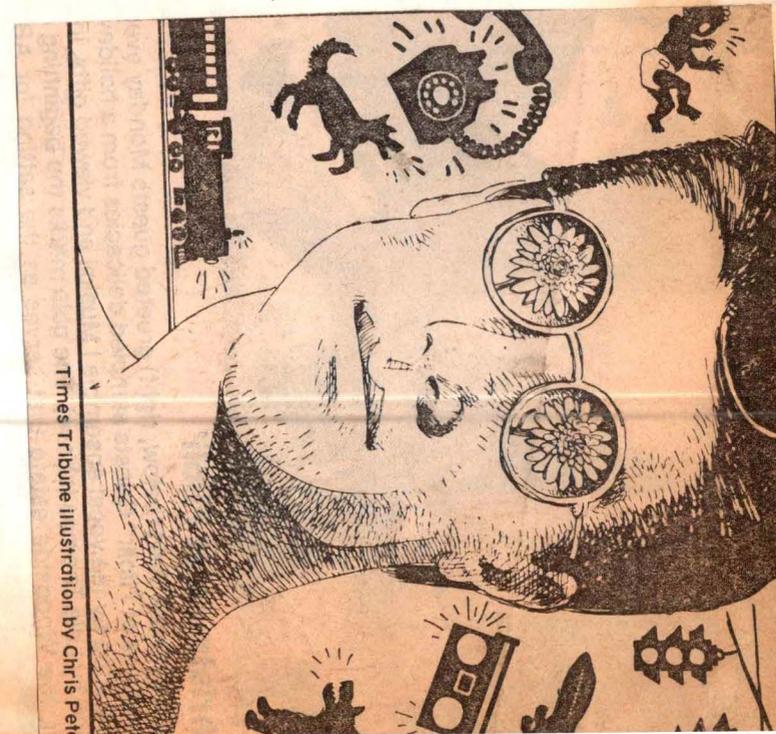
began to explore African and Chinese music.

"In my music now there are resolutions to tonal centers, but the resolutions and conclusions don't come out and hit you. I am interested in what happens to the body when music does not have harmonic, melodic and rhythmic imperatives. Then the body says, 'Ah, I will use this music to relax to.'"

While his music often is used by listeners to promote contemplation, Halpern himself is no dreamy flake.

His success in the new age music field is characterized by the use of

(Cont. on BACK)



said, "artists lose control of their music and get only a small royalty."

Halpern, who constitutes about 80 percent of Trondel's business, soon will publish his theories about the effect of sounds on people. His book, co-authored with Louis Savary, will be out Dec. 1. The Harper & Row paperback is titled "Sound Health, The Music and Sounds That Make Us Whole."

Halpern said he has evidence that loud music may be harmful to humans. "The human instrument responds to sound with the whole body, not just the ears," he said. "We can no longer afford to ignore that noise pollution is a very large part of our lives."

Despite that pollution, Halpern believes more people are learning to control their aural environments. "It has always been part of my work" he said, "to help people realize the peace and harmony that is available on this planet."

Recently, Halpern has retraced his musical path. His new album, "Connections," a collaboration with new age reed player Paul Horn, includes some jazz-inspired tunes. Halpern calls it "electronic space jazz."

"A lot of people are going to be surprised by this," he said. "They won't be able to figure out what I'm up to."

new marketing techniques.

His records and tapes are sold in health food stores, metaphysical bookstores and at personal growth seminars. He also does a brisk direct-mail business. With these outlets, he appeals to listeners who are weary of rock 'n' roll's assault on the ears, and weary of the noisy machinery of modern times.

Charting Halpern's course in the crowded musical marketplace is Trondel Corp. of Belmont, a management company that handles four new age artists. In charge of Trondel are former bankers Carl Trondhjem, 62, and Victoria Ginele, 29, both of San Mateo.

In his Belmont office, Trondhjem explained his strategies.

"We have found more and more people getting interested in alternative lifestyles," he said, "not just in the U.S. but all over the world. In the first three years of our business, sales doubled every year."

Trondel's management strategy shows the various artists to retain ownership of their own business. Trondel contracts for a percentage of the gross sales. "With a traditional record contract," Trondhjem



Times Tribune photo by Deanne Fitzmaurice

Steven Halpern's house in the Belmont hills, like his new age music, is strongly influenced by Oriental cultures and philosophies.