

Dorothy Spore Reflects On Her Active Years

By LINEVANS
Staff Writer

Go to the door, knock, and soon you are greeted by the modest smile of a snow-haired 81-year-old woman. Purring at your ankles is her 7-year-old cat, who still looks like a not-quite-fully-grown kitten.

The woman is Dorothy Spore and her cat, you soon learn, is Ruby. "Ruby," she tells you, "was a stray kitten my son found. He opened his door, she got in, and he brought her home to me."

"I have three children. My son Peter lives here. My daughter Gloria lives in Champlain, Ill. She's married to a surgeon (Dr. Richard Helfrick). And my other daughter, Nancy McCann, lives in Tucson, Arizona."

"I always tell them that nobody but God and I know how I love them."

Mrs. Spore has been actively involved in many civic organizations, for which she recently was honored at a tea by Ethel G. Swanbeck and The Erie County Federation of Republican Women.

Her credits include having been named outstanding Ohio Library Trustee in 1968 and listed in Who's Who of American Women 1972-1973; serving as an elec-

tion official in her precinct for many years and as campaign manager for eight years for Ethel Swanbeck; as president of the Library Board from 1947 to 1968; and as an organizer and past president of the Republican Women.

As she talks with you, she watches Ruby sitting in the bay window watching the autumn leaves falling.

"That's Ruby's favorite spot," she says with a smile. Ruby purrs affectionately at the sound of her friend's voice, and gently stirs and stretches knowingly at the sound of an opening door and footsteps.

Mrs. Spore explains, "That will be Kathy, my lovely, lovely granddaughter, coming home. You like her, don't you Ruby?"

Another smile and a warm greeting when Kathy enters the room. Kathy is a beautician and manicurist. She lives with her grandmother.

"I'm very stupid, I guess . . . My friends tell me I should go out, but I can't see very well and have given up most of my social life now. I don't go hardly anywhere at night and very few places in the day."

"I've been in Sandusky since 1919. When I first came, music was my thing. I

graduated from Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 1918. I played the violin, and played in a quartet with George Anderson, Olga Hyder and Fred Bertschi . . . We'd practice. One of my children would cry. We'd stop and I'd run upstairs. Then we'd practice again."

"But music was my early life, really my entree to Sandusky."

She doesn't play now. Her violin was sent to one of her grandchildren a few years ago.

After graduating from Oberlin, Mrs. Spore worked as a social worker for a year and one half at Glen Mills School in Pennsylvania.

"That's a place I'd like to go back to just to see it. Mrs. Martha Falconer, founder and supervisor then, felt you had to get the girls (delinquent girls under the age of 21) out of the city, into the country and make them work so they would be tired at night."

"They did gardening . . . anything that would make them tired! . . . It was reform, yes, but not as we know it."

"Mrs. Falconer believed girls just out of college might have a good influence on the girls at the school . . . and there were some rugged ones."

"I liked the work there. I left when Mr. Spore came home from Italy and we were married."

"The best part of my life was centered around my husband. We'd have been married 55 years had he lived. My husband and I had a very fine life together."

"He had a brilliant, brilliant mind. In fact, not too long ago, a fellow phoned and asked if he could come to talk to me about my husband. He wanted to include him in the 'Cyclopedia.' 'I said he could come when my son was home."

"He came and I thought he was from the FBI! He had a stack of information like that!" She indicated an 8-inch pile with her hands.

"But he wanted information on my husband's life in Sandusky. I don't know what the book is exactly, or if he put my husband in it."

She said she doesn't know why she was listed in Who's Who of American Women 1972-1973.

"My husband was listed in them too. Once when he asked why he was being

listed, they said 'We choose. You don't. I don't know why.'

"Mr. Spore gave me a lot of ideas. One day Rev. Troy from Ebenezer Church approached Mr. Spore and asked him to raise some money for the nursery school. Mr. Spore went downtown and got it, and that's how I got into it."

She does remember how she became involved in the Republican Women of Erie County.

"Ethel Swanbeck, a very dear friend, first got me involved. And I think Clara Reichenbach met me on the street one day and said 'Will you do it.' I said I would, though I didn't know exactly what I was getting into really . . ."

"Ethel is one of the finest women in Columbus. I'm sad about our Republican Party but I hope that honesty will come from anything we do . . . I don't care for much publicity, only that it might do the Republican Party some good."

Mrs. Spore watches television a lot now. Because she is partially blind, the result of a cataract operation a few years ago, she must read with a magnifying glass. She isn't very familiar with the things which are happening today, she says, and adds in a soft, calm voice "I'm not ashamed of my age, not exactly proud of it. I'm ready to go when the Lord wants me to come."

She sits peacefully in a white-upholstered Victorian chair in front of Ruby's bay window. Her legs are crossed at her ankles. One arm is extended across the arm of the chair, the other is on her lap.

She watches Kathy and Ruby. She smiles. She reminisces, and says "I hadn't thought of myself as active."

"I've just done the things that have come . . . and enjoyed. I heard a man on TV say 'Happiness in your work, happiness in your travel, and you have a dream. Hang on!' I thought that was good."



MRS. LELAND P. (DOROTHY) SPORE
...I've just done the things that have come...



— DINNER SPECIALS —

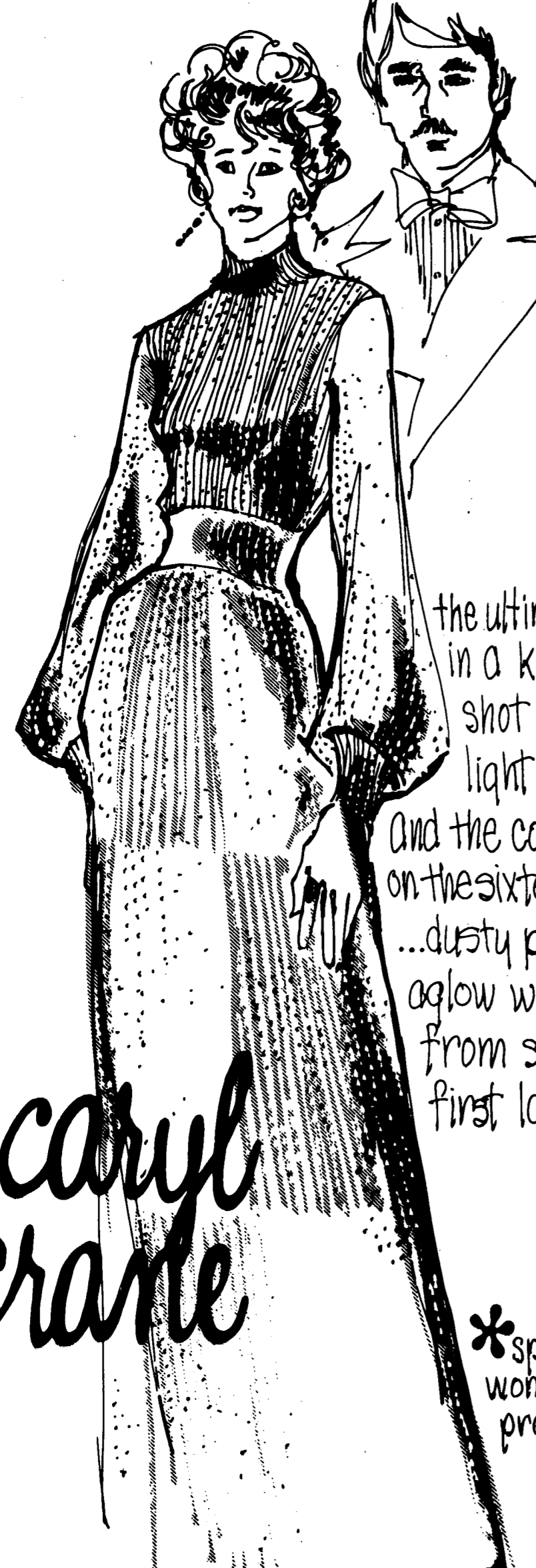
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Harlequins To Open With 'Marigolds'

Thursday, Nov. 7, is opening night for the 1974-75 season of the Harlequins, Sandusky's community theater, with a presentation of Paul Zindel's award-winning play "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds."

Performances are Nov. 7-8-9 and Nov. 14-15-16. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m. in the Coach House Theatre, 414 Wayne St. Reservations can be made with Mrs. Joyce Mulaney, 41 Poplar St., Huron, after 4 p.m. Admission is \$2. Season tickets are available.

The play is about a divorced mother of two daughters, who is acid-tongued, wears a gressing gown all day, drinks and smokes too much, and has little affection for housework. She etches out a living by boarding people whose relatives are prepared to pay for the privilege of not having to look after them.

Beatrice Hunsdorfer's two daughters are Ruth, a high-strung rather bratty girl who is subject to convulsions, and Tillie, the youngest and an awkward, dim-looking science prodigy.

The play's title comes from Tillie's gamma ray experiment with marigolds, which almost finishes off her mother and sister and the rickety life they have built. The play establishes a parallel between the effect of the rays on marigolds and the effect of environment on people.

Mrs. Cathy G. Young, Norwalk, will portray Beatrice Hunsdorfer. Mrs. Young has had previous experience in professional theater and is well-known for her work with the Harlequins, both on stage and as director.

The role of Ruth is being played by Pat Spellerberg, her first Harlequin appearance.

Karin Kevesdy, a Perkins High School senior who has appeared in plays in school, will appear as Tillie.

Supporting roles include Mrs. Ruth Jacobs, currently president of Harlequins, as a 90-year-old woman, a crippled and partially blind boarder in the Hunsdorfer home, and Sally Marshall as Janice, a high school student in competition with Tillie in the science fair.

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Women's News



JAZZ ARTIST MAYNARD FERGUSON IN CONCERT
...will appear in Norwalk Nov. 23 for T&C benefit.

Maynard Ferguson At T&C Benefit Concert

Jazz artist and trumpet player of renown, Maynard Ferguson, is scheduled to appear in a benefit concert at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 23, in Towne and Country Theatre, 57 E. Main St., Norwalk.

Funds raised in the concert will be used for building improvement in the theatre, according to Ron Koerber, director.

Ferguson, known to jazz fans for more than 20 years, is considered by some in his profession to be a "jazz freak." Some predicted he'd "blow his brains out in five years."

He didn't. He continued to play both good jazz and contemporary music and established himself as one of the greats in today's musical world.

Ferguson began his musical training at age 4 when he studied piano and violin. He studied all saxophone instruments at age 9, tried clarinet and slide trombone, and finally settled on the trumpet.

He founded his first band at age 15 and eventually played with greats like Jimmy Dorsey, Charlie Barnet and Stan Kenton.

Ferguson's creed, "all my life I've wanted to play my pleasure game."

The salt and pepper haired, Canadian born artist, plans to bring that joy with him to Norwalk.

Tickets for the concert are \$5 per table, \$3.50, \$4, \$4.50 for orchestra and \$3 for balcony. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Towne and Country Box Office.

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