

Young Coloratura Soprano Takes Honors in Contest

A musical family and three years of voice training paid off for Jane Purdy, 15-year-old coloratura who won top honors over 25 hopefuls in the annual contest sponsored by the Detroit City Parks and Recreation association.

She sang "Ah! non giunge" from La Sonnambola by Bellini.

Her first-place win gives Jane the opportunity to sing with the Detroit Symphony orchestra in the future.

From the original 300 who tried out for the contest, 50 were selected to audition at the Detroit Conservatory of Music. Twenty-five of the 50 were chosen for the contest at Belle Isle on July 13.

Jane is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Purdy of 27729 Lathrup in Lathrup Village.

Music is a family affair at the Purdy household; for Mrs. Purdy is a pianist and also teaches piano, and her husband is a violinist.

Jane's older sister, Sally, 22, also is a coloratura.

Other family member is football player, Bill, who, says Jane,

"manages to play the radio once in a while".

For the last two years Jane has been the student of Mrs. Roy Peralta who teaches at her home on Grand boulevard in Detroit and also in Birmingham.

Jane, a June graduate of Southfield high school, is only in her third year of training.

About the future, Jane says that she plans to continue studying.

She added that she would like to appear on the Arthur Godfrey Talent Scouts show.

Eventually, perhaps in the fall, she and Mrs. Peralta hope to go to New York City so that Jane can seek an audition on the Godfrey show.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale—Houses" column on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

Society deadline is 3 p.m. each Tuesday.

Walsh to Head Torch Drive's Retail Group

The appointment of Harry R. Walsh of 1354 Gleggery road as chairman of the 1955 Torch Drive retail promotion committee was announced Saturday by vice chairman Ross Roy.

Walsh's committee will prepare all retail advertising for this year's Torch Drive.

Sales manager of The J. I. Hudson Company's basement store, Walsh was chairman of the same committee last year.

HE HAS been active in Torch drives since the origin of the United Foundation in 1949.

This year's "Give time for All" drive will be held Oct. 18 through Nov. 10. No goal has been set as yet.

Previous drive records were broken last year when \$14,000,000 was donated for the support of 150 Metropolitan Detroit health and community services.



HARRY R. WALSH

Birmingham CAP Will Entertain All-British Unit

Beginning July 29, Birmingham's Civil Air Patrol squadron will be hosts for four days to 25 British Air Cadets. The group is part of 250 exchange air cadets taking part in the annual CAP program. The British young people are spending three weeks in this country.

Guests of local CAP families while here, the visitors will be guests of American cadets who have planned a program to acquaint them with unfamiliar aspects of American teen-ager's ways of living.

BCAP squadron will meet their guests at Selfridge field Friday, bringing them to their several temporary homes here.

THE PROGRAM, planned to give the visitors an insight into American life and introduce them to this section of America, will in-

clude lunch with host families Friday, a free afternoon for spontaneous entertainment, and an outdoor movie Friday night at the Oak Drive-in.

Saturday will have a tour of Detroit in buses supplied by Chrysler, lunch in Detroit and dinner with hosts.

Beginning at 8 p.m., an open house will be held at the Birmingham Community House, where a brief entertainment feature will be planned.

SUNDAY VISITING cadets will be invited to attend the church of their choice and later a swimming party and picnic at the home of Dr. and Mrs. F. Granger.

The cadets will leave Monday morning, Aug. 1, for Flint.

Capt. William Teasel, Birmingham CAP commander, recalls that this is Birmingham's second time to entertain British cadets. Others have been here from Portugal, Chile and Alaska.

"Lasting friendships have been formed through these exchanges," Capt. Teasel said. "Several cadets were before from the British units, here before stationed in Canada for flight and air crew training."



MRS. PURDY OFTEN ACCOMPANIES JANE Shown in Lathrup Village home (Eccentric Photo)

Completes Armored Training Course

Pvt. James H. Coote, son of Harold M. Coote, 32081 Beverly circle, recently completed ten weeks of advanced training at the Armored Replacement Training Center, Fort Knox, Ky.

Private Coote was trained under the new packet platoon system. Present plans call for him to be a permanent member of his training tank crew during his tour of duty in the Army.

A 1953 graduate of Lincoln high school in Ferndale and former student at Bob Jones university, he entered the Army last January. Coote completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C.

Birthdays, anniversaries, guests, births, parties are all news—call the society editor about them.

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