

'Writing A Book Is Like Filling A Big White Wall'

By NITA HARD
Eccentric Correspondent

FRANKLIN—"The hardest part to writing a book . . . is just to get started," bubbly, blue-eyed Margaret Williamson (Mrs. Charles Peterson of Irving road) told members of the Women's Alliance of the Birmingham Unitarian church last week.

"I do almost anything to keep from starting, from clothes, clean closets . . . anything. Then, one day, I'm suddenly ready and it's a Christmas feeling. It's as though I had a big, white wall on which to put whatever I choose."

And when Margaret Williamson does get started, she makes a major contribution to science education for the young child beginning to ask the all-important "Why?" And for the parent who doesn't know the answers.

WITH HER first book already in its 13th printing, Margaret is taking a sabbatical before she begins her fourth. The sabbatical means looking after her three children, Anne, Hugh and Peter, all under seven.

Ten years ago she published "The First Book of Bugs" with Franklin Watts, Inc. Her other two "first books" are also part of the 80-book series.

A McGill university graduate

can exchange ideas and techniques in publishing. I wish there were more so I could have someone to talk to about problems.

"I work like a movie camera. Everything is blurry at first and then I gradually bring it all into focus."

Asked if she had written any story books, Margaret said "No, just went on to explain that having children of her own was beginning to give her ideas."

"Just about the time Hughie spills ink on the floor, and Peter's dumped the ash trays and Anne is tugging at me for something . . . and I think I'm tethered at the end of a rope, it strikes me that this would make a wonderful story and I begin to relax."

HAVING written "The First Book on Bugs," "The First Book on Birds," and "The First Book on Mammals," she is contemplating a first book on zoos.

"A whole world exists behind the moats and doors of zoos. I came in contact with some of it when I was doing research on the first book of mammals."

"I'll never forget the sick alligator who kept spitting at me. Besides, this kind of book would demand first-hand research. And since my children like to go to the zoo often, I've already gotten a lot



The three little Petersons look over their mother's three books with her. From left are six-year-old Anne, three-year-old Peter, and Hughie, 2.

of ideas fled away. And think of all the wonderful zoos there are!

CANADIAN-BORN Margaret is an ardent skier. The Peterson family is apt to be found on skis most any snowy day in Franklin, looking for animal tracks and hibernating creatures.

They also have a private foreign student exchange going. For the past four years they have had four German girls come and live for a whole year with them, teaching them English and the American way, while the Petersons are learning to speak fluent German in exchange.

— BINGHAM FARMS
— WOODCREEK FARMS

Nita Hard—MA 6-3224

Family Night Slated At Church Franklin Boy Scouts Plan Parents Night

FRANKLIN—The first of four Family Nights at the Franklin Community church will open the Christmas season with a pot luck supper on Dec. 5 from 6:30-8 p.m. Rev. Robert Searls will tell the Christmas story and music will be provided by the junior choir.

Families are asked to bring their own china, silver and milk as well as a favorite food for serving. Coffee will be offered by the committee heads, Vanev Bohls and Mrs. Marguerite Woodburn.

FRANKLIN—Recognition of 11 second class scouts will highlight Franklin Boy Scout Troop 3's Parents Night and Court of Honor, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Dec. 1 at the Franklin Community church.

Each patrol has prepared a skit demonstrating second class skills so that mothers and dads will have a clearer understanding of the scouting program. Colored slides taken at various overnight camps held by the troop will be shown.

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Henkes, Masons, Johnsons Move To Cranbrook

CRANBROOK VILLAGE—Newcomers to the Cranbrook Village area are Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Henke of Duxbury lane.

The Henkes have three children, two boys, 5 and 8, and a girl, 7 weeks-old. Henke is a graduate of the University of Michigan and is commercial artist employed by The Detroit News. They are former Lathrup residents.

Other new residents are the Peter Masons of Autumn Lane. They are former residents of Flint.

Also new to the area are the R. F. Johnsons of 1860 Autumn Lane. The Johnsons arrived Nov. 1 from Whittier, Calif. Johnson is employed with Rinsched-Mason corporation of Detroit. Son, Jim, 17, is a senior at Birmingham high school, while Eugene, 15, is a sophomore. Judy, 10, is in the fifth grade at Beverly school. Just getting settled here the Johnsons enjoyed the Newcomers Group at the Community House in Birmingham.

Lathrup

- CAMBRIDGE VILLAGE
- CANTERBURY GARDENS
- CRANBROOK VILLAGE
- OAKLAND HILLS

Marian Eiler—EL 6-0772
Dorothy Zetell—EL 6-2039

Teenager Plans Party For 5-Year-Old Sister

LATHRUP—With very little help from her mother, Chris Lakota, 15, planned decorations and entertainment for a birthday party for her five-year-old sister Lynn last week.

Following cake and ice cream an amazing clown came to the party to entertain Lynn and her guests. Guests invited by Chris to the party were Joanne and Eugene Bernadotte, Bonnie and David Kolyarek, Gail and Steve MacEachern, Danny Howard, Nancy K.R. Dabke, Bushler, Bill Breen, Michele Dean, Wendy Kirkpatrick, Susan Nichols, Tommy Abbott, Victor Levandowski, Milton Sackett and Marcia Bacinaki.

Several teas have been given in the last few weeks for the mothers by the girls scouts of Lathrup. Teas were given Nov. 1 at the home of Mrs. Earl Barringer, leader of Troop 111 and Mrs. Frederick Retz, co-leader; also Nov. 18 at the home of Mrs. Fred Farris, leader of Troop 681, assisted by Mrs. James J. Juller and Mrs. Eugene Gardulski.

A tea for the mothers given by the girls of Troop 487 was held Nov. 17. Leaders of this troop are Mrs. Woodrow Nelson and Mrs. Charles Buhler.

The Brownies of Troop 475 held an investiture at Lathrup school Oct. 27. The new girl added to the troop was Mary Kay Olaszewski. Leaders of this group are Mrs. A. J. Miller and Mrs. John Fox.

Busy these days teaching girl scout songs at the meetings to all the girl scouts is Mrs. Wayne Dickerson.

Troop 475 at Lathrup school is planning a Christmas party Dec. 8. An afternoon of bowling by Troop 111 is being planned Dec. 1 instead of the regular meeting. The group will meet at Melody Lanes on Southfield.

When Troop 706 visited the Ivory Polo grounds Nov. 8, Mr. Ivory showed the girls the grounds, let them ride the five engine and hay wagon and allowed them all pony rides.

The monthly meeting of Pack LC-2 Lathrup Cub Scouts, was held Nov. 18 at Lathrup school. Receiving a wards were Mark Rubiner, Greg Hurdley, Paul Marr, Mitchell Booth, Marty McDevore, Brady Vibert, Steve Hoffman, John Williamson, Donald Jacob, Michael McFadden, Richard Moore, Doug Provencher, Steven Cline, Don Wasthous, Steve Payton, Rick Smith, Brady Vibert, Jim Shoemaker, John Shomaker, Bill Baughman, David Baughman, Rick Lesinski, Steve Hoffman, John Williamson and Donald Jacob.

A new arrival to the John Fox home on Woodward Way is Laura Margaret, born Nov. 19. Other children in the family are Denise, 7, and Susan, 6.

The White Goods Drive in Lathrup for the Cancer Society is well underway. All cub scouts are busy collecting white goods, including sheets, tablecloths, shirts, pillow cases and anything in the way of white cotton goods.

The items can be turned over to the Murnon Cleaners anytime between Dec. 1-8. Mrs. Charles Latham is chairman of the drive, with Mrs. Vigen Klock coordinating the drive in Pack LC-2.

Lathrup village council meets the first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the House-in-the-Woods, 19000 Forest drive, Lathrup.

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