

Student Feature

Irma MacKenzie

It will not be unusual for Irma MacKenzie to receive an Associate's Degree in Arts from the Wurtsmith Campus of Alpena Community College in May of 1980. What is noteworthy is her age: she is 70 years old.

MacKenzie enrolled for the first time in college classes when she was 67. She hadn't attended school since her high school graduation almost 50 years ago. What motivates a woman to begin college in her later years? "I wanted to take courses just to have the education," MacKenzie explained. "It's so important to keep the mind active.

MacKenzie credits her Belgian-born father with instilling in her the importance of education. She comments, "Neither of my parents had a formal education. "Her father wanted her to take advantage of the learning opportunities he had missed.

Had circumstances been different after her high school graduation in 1927, MacKenzie is sure she would have attended college then. But her family couldn't help her with the expenses and, as she recalled, "back then it wasn't accepted by society for a woman to work her way through school."

She postponed her aspirations until she and her husband, Frank, retired to the Oscoda area. Her independence and energy needed an outlet. She came across an Alpena Community College circular listing classes at Wurtsmith Air Force Base.

MacKenzie didn't view her age as a handicap when she began taking classes. She was readily accepted by the younger students and felt at ease in the classroom.

Part of the reason she fits in so easily is that she doesn't believe in a "generation gap." She believes that "when you segregate people by age, older people are deprived of

the spirit of youth and the young are deprived of the experience that come with age. The younger generation is very necessary to us-we stay young by seeing the young around us."

She thinks self-confidence makes adjustment to college life easier too. "The opinion you have of yourself projects to other people. If you expect to be treated differently as an older student, chances are people will pick up on that and treat you accordingly."

The instructors don't treat her differently from the other students. They aren't condescending because of her age and she receives no special treatment.

MacKenzie wouldn't recommend jumping in after 50 years and taking a full load of classes. She thinks starting with one or two courses and finding what interests you is a better idea. "Learn the basics of note-taking and studying, take it slowly and don't be afraid to ask for help."

How do her two children feel about their mother, the college student? "They're so proud of me MacKenzie smiled. "They're almost as excited about graduation as I am."

After graduation, she isn't worried about getting bored. She works part-time for the Michigan Deer Hunter's Association as a secretary. She also works 4 evenings a week as Evening Assistant for Alpena Community College at Wurtsmith Air Force Base, dealing with instructor and student concerns.

MacKenzie definitely isn't letting life pass her by. Maybe she has more energy than most people her age. Maybe she has more talent and ability than most people in their 70's. Or maybe she doesn't believe that because she's over 65, her intelligence, her curiosity, her independence, and her spirit should be "put on the shelf."

Dancers tap their way to Alpena

The Thunder Bay Arts Council presents the Jerry Ames Tap Dance Company which will be performing at the Alpena High School auditorium on February 14 at 8:00 p.m.

Jerry Ames is considered one of Americas foremost exponents of the art of tap dancing. In October of 1978, Mr. Ames was guest artist with the Kankakee Symphony of Illinois, performing his own choreography of Morton Gould's "Concerto for Tap Dancer and Orchestra". The first concert group in America dedicated to that indigenous form. Mr. Ames founded his tap company in 1975.

Jerry Ames has appeared three times on the Mike Douglas show and has been featured on every major television network, night clubs, on and off-broadway, as well as the concert stage.

Also on Tuesday, February 12 the group will provide lectures and demonstrations for 2nd and 3rd graders in eleven elementary schools Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. a

master dance class will be offered for any person, with some advanced techniques. This will be held at Ella White School.

Tickets are available in Room 107 VLH for Jerry Ames Tap dancing Company, Thunder Bay Arts Council ACC students need I.D. card, other adults \$6.00 a ticket.

DERSU UZALA THE HUNTER

The second of the Classic films is **Dersu Uzala** translated The Hunter. This 1975 Academy Award winner is set amidst the beautiful forest and plains of Siberia.

The film concerns the efforts of a party of Russian soldiers charting the vast wilderness. During their expedition they meet the hunter **Dersu Uzala** whose extensive knowledge of the wilderness and his communication with nature saves the men from destruction.

Dersu Uzala will be seen on February 7 at 7:30 pm in room 150 at VLH. Please bring your student ID card.

Happenings at the Museum

Running through March 16, works of art in paper not on paper will be presented at the Jesse Besser Museum.

The "Paper Movement", using paper pulp to sculpture and create art has evolved in this country primarily in the past decade. This exhibit features 18 works of the most influential artists. Included among the noted figures will be Sam Gilliam, Clinton Hill, Alan Shields and Michele Stuart. Three generations and natives of different countries represent the various forms of paperwork on display.

Fletcher Paper Co. is sponsoring the exhibition, while Tom Allen of ACC Graphic Arts Dept. will instruct a workshop in papermaking, March 1, 1980, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Viewing the Paperwork exhibit is possible from 9-5 on Monday through Friday, 7-9 on Thursday evenings, and 1-5 on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Etchings

The etchings of Martin Lewis are now on exhibition in the Jesse Besser Museum through April 8, 1980.

Included are many seldom seen works from private collections. A broad spectrum of Lewis' work is shown. His subject matter is varied and all his work presents total mastery of rich tones and his incredible wizardry with light and dark. Be sure to stop by the museum and see

these etchings.

Sky Theatre

Different dimensions in space? Sound fantastic? Unbelievable? In the universe of Dr. Albert Einstein and in the Jesse Besser Museum sky theatre, all things are possible.

Watch Mildred park her 20 foot car in Harveys 15 foot garage. Also see how Beulah, a traveling business woman outlives her husband, Herbert, by four million years.

The program may be viewed on Sundays at either 2:00 or 4:00 p.m. With 50 people allowed to attend each session, it will end Feb. 28. Groups may attend the planetarium by special arrangement. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children.

Classes

During February, the Jesse Besser Museum will feature astronomy and history courses.

A class in descriptive astronomy will begin on Thursday, February 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the museum. It will be taught by Eugene A. Jenneman, Planetarium Co-ordinator. The cost for the eight-week course is \$15.00.

Ann Taber, a local historian, who has delighted many with her tales about the early days of our city, will conduct a six-week course on the history of Alpena, beginning Thursday, February 21, at 7:30. The cost is \$15.00.

To register, or for more information, call 356-2202.

Classified Ads

Will do babysitting in my home Monday-Friday (days only) for parents who work or attend classes. Phone 354-3258.

Will do typing in my home: resumes, term papers, research papers, etc. Call 354-3258 for more information.

FOR SALE: Slalom downhill skis with Rosemount bindings-poles and Kastinger boots size 10. Call 354-8752.

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