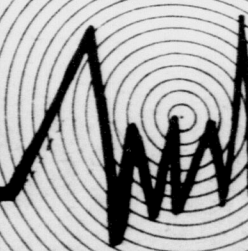
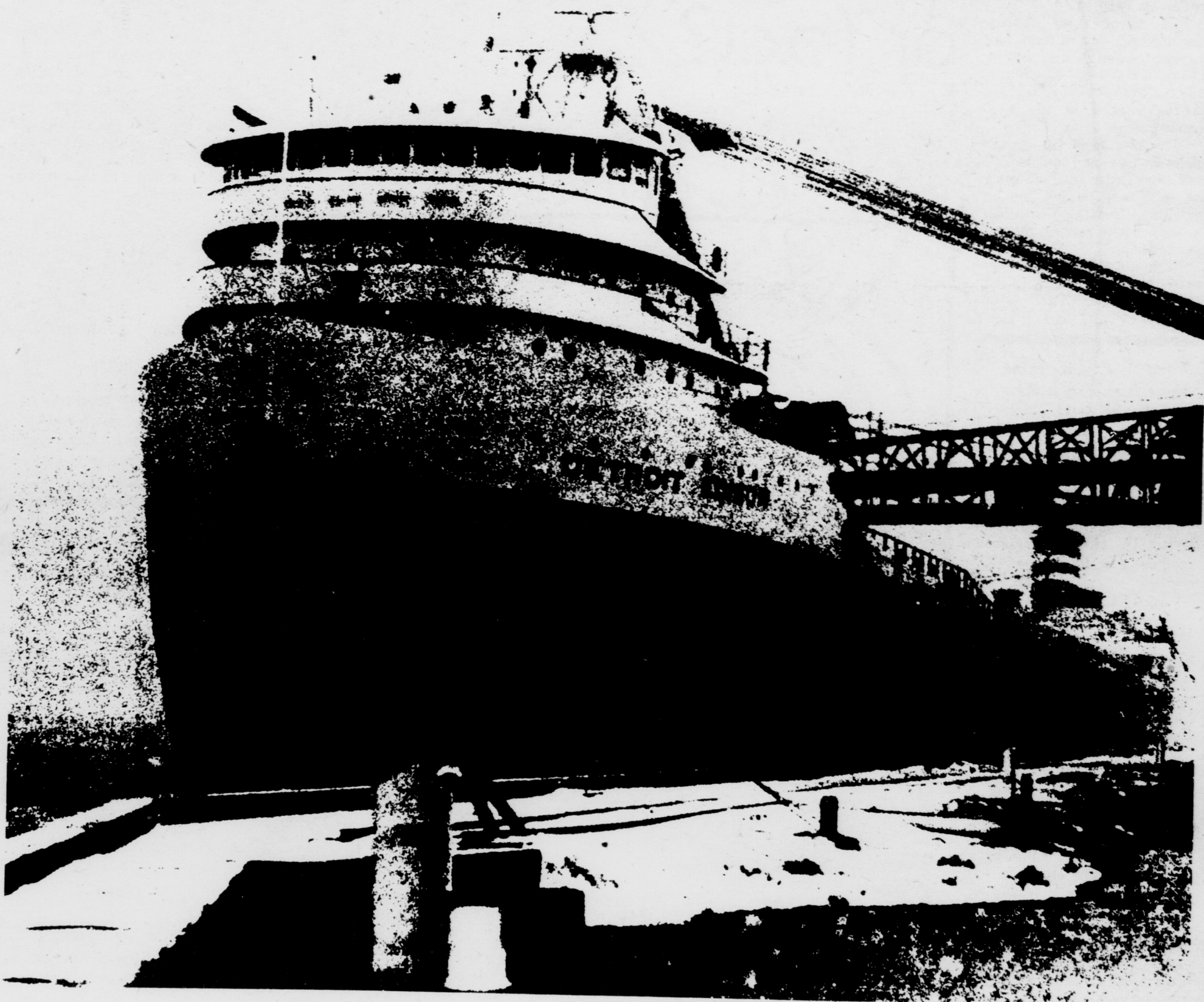


# COUNTERPOINT



A bi-weekly supplement to the State News

Tuesday, February 5, 1974



## THE LIFE OF A GREAT LAKES SAILOR

Groucho takes on East Lansing  
Are health foods really healthy?  
and more.



By  
LYNDA ECKERT

Many people, including students, are turning from traditional diets and foods to health foods, organic foods and natural foods.

Health food stores have sprung up all around the country and even supermarkets have added sections for health foods. The sale of these foods was estimated to be \$300 million in 1971, with projections of a \$3 billion market by 1980.

The number of stores specializing in health foods has increased from about 1,200 in 1968 to between 3,500 and 4,000 today with about six stores located in the East Lansing area.

"We have need for certain elements we call nutrients," said Dena Cederquist, professor of food science and human nutrition. "Anything classified as food has to contain at least one nutrient."

"I do not think there is any such thing as a health food," Cederquist said. "There is no

*"I do not think there is any such thing as a health food. There is no food that will guarantee health."*

food that will guarantee health. The very connotation of health food to the uninitiated promises something — health," she said.

"One of the most serious hazards of food faddism is that the false promises of superior health and freedom from disease which are believed to accrue from the use of health foods delay individuals from obtaining necessary competent medical attention," the National Dairy Council said.

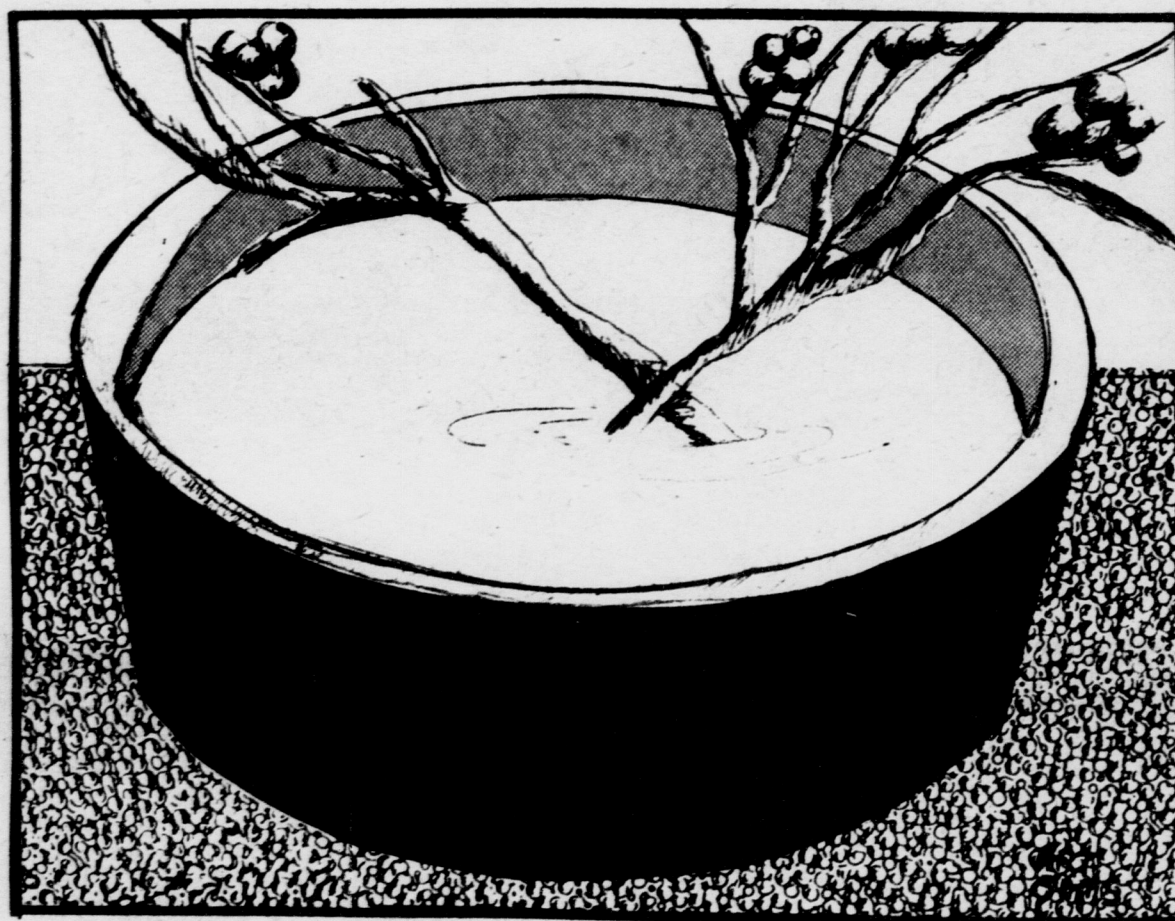
"The use of the word health implies health - giving curative properties in a product beyond the nutritive qualities to be expected," the council said.

Organic foods have been defined as those grown on soil nourished only with manure or compost and without the aid of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. They should also be prepared and packaged without preservatives, coloring agents and stabilizers.

Natural foods may be grown with the use of artificial fertilizers, but without the use of artificial pesticides and herbicides.

Organic and natural food proponents suggest that these

# The health food craze: fad or fact?



foods are nutritionally superior, safer and because of the absence of chemicals and sprays, they taste better.

"Just eating natural foods doesn't guarantee anything," Spencer Brady, a Family of Man (a natural and organic food store) employe, said. "Given you have a balanced diet of natural and highly processed foods, you will have more energy available."

Organic fertilizers are

broken down by soil bacteria and the minerals and nitrogen-containing compounds are absorbed by the plants, the same nutrients absorbed from commercial fertilizers.

Several experiments indicate that organically grown foods are not necessarily more nutritious, or even as nutritious, as food not organically grown.

One study showed that plants grown on soil fertilized only with manure contained less carotene, a precursor of vitamin A, than when the manure was supplemented with a synthetic fertilizer. Another experiment showed that chemical fertilizer increased the thiamine (vitamin B1) content of grain.

A biochemist at the University of Texas said that depending on the kind of animal and what he eats, manure can vary greatly in nutritive value.

Another study showed that the use of organic farming techniques has the added disadvantage of possible Salmonella contamination which can result in food poisoning. Salmonella are bacteria which cause food poisoning, gastrointestinal inflammation or diseases of the genital tract.

Many people turn to organically grown foods because they fear the continued consumption of chemical additives and pesticide residues found in most regular foods.

But with most of the nation's population concentrated in urban areas far from where foods originate, some additives are necessary to assure the consumer food products that are free of spoilage, deterioration or insect infestation.

Also organically grown food prices have soared. Most Americans are paying from 30

per cent to over 100 per cent more for organically grown groceries as compared with their nonorganic counterparts.

In a survey conducted last spring by the Dept. of Agriculture in the Washington, D.C., area it was found that a market basket of 29 standard foods bought in a supermarket cost \$11.29 and organic-labeled counterparts cost \$20.30 in the supermarket's organic section, \$21.90 in a health food store and \$17.80 in a low-profit natural food store.

The difference between the supermarket cost of organic and regular foods, the study found, was greater for processed than for unprocessed foods. In general, organically produced foods cost about twice as much as their regular counterparts.

"I think the price situation will improve as productivity

*"Just eating natural foods doesn't guarantee anything. Given you have a balanced diet of natural and highly processed foods, you will have more energy available."*

and numbers of natural and organic farms increase," Brady said. "I can see the improvement coming within five years."

Another problem area is that there are no laws regulating organically grown food.

One study found that from 50 to 70 per cent of food labeled organic, is, in fact, no different from that being sold in regular stores.

There is no federal agency or law which defines and supervises the label organic and certifies that such foods do in fact fit that description.

Legislation has been proposed to legally define the terms organically grown and organically processed food. Some legislation would involve twice-yearly government inspection of farms claiming to produce organically grown foods.

"I would be in favor of such legislation," Brady said. "As it stands now, we have to take a company's word for it that their products are really organic."

All things considered, these food industries will probably continue to boom because Americans are interested in good health and will go to any lengths to achieve it.

## COUNTERPOINT

Counterpoint is published biweekly as a supplement to the Michigan State News. It is published by students of Michigan State University in 341 Student Services Bldg.

Jane Seaberry is Counterpoint director. Persons wishing to contribute to future issues should contact the State News.





# Older 'Groucho' hits MSU

## Who is that 83-year-old movie star, telling jokes with a cigar in his mouth?

By PAUL GOODMAN

There was that familiar leering voice, a bit softer and slower with age, but the quick cutting comments were as sharp as ever.

You could almost see the man pacing back and forth with that queer hunched walk. The black eyebrows and moustache had to be bobbing up and down while long fingers grasped a cigar.

One evening you would have sworn you were listening to Groucho Marx answering listeners' questions and relating those familiar stories on a local radio program. You may have called and talked to the famous man yourself and then there would have been no doubts.

And you would have been wrong! It was not Marx, it was Dana Charette, one of the founders of a local theater group, the Street Corner Society.

Nobody guessed. Not one of the 200 callers or any of the 25

*"There was more involved than just picking up a voice. Groucho Marx is not just someone who cracks jokes and fiddles with a cigar." — Dana Charette*

people who stood outside the station chanting, "Groucho, Groucho," had any idea. It was that convincing.

This elaborate gag ("Please don't call it a hoax," Charette requested,) was created by Charette, and Dan Wardlow and Dick Rosemont, producers of Audio Aftermath, a progressive rock show on WKAR radio.

Part I of the gag debuted with a tape of Rosemont calling the Pentecostal Hotel

in Detroit and talking to an "83-year-old mystery movie star whose name can't be mentioned without violating a contract."

There was no mistaking the voice. It had to be Groucho.

The second tape had the mystery celebrity volunteering to guest host the show the next day. Rosemont responded in bewilderment, wondering why this famous man would do such a thing.

The next night, the station was a madhouse. When the guest went on live the phones started ringing and did not stop, even after the station went off the air at 2 a.m.

"Who was Groucho's sexiest leading lady?"

"What was his favorite movie, his funniest routine?"

"Does Groucho smoke dope?"

"Will he sing 'Lydia the Tattooed Lady'? Can he hum it if he won't sing it or just recite the words?"

Three hours of chaos. Charette sat in the studio with six Marx biographies on the table, flipping from page to page answering obscure questions, making his answers perfect.

While the music played he scrambled from room to room talking on the phones,

clutching his cigaret and walking the characteristic Groucho walk.

Outside the building people ran in the streets trying to discover an unlocked door. If someone in the station looked out a window the people outside pointed and screamed, "Groucho, Groucho."

Madness. The station resembled a Marx brothers movie as people ran through the corridors, breathlessly answering the calls until Charette could talk to the people.

One assembly line worker waited 15 minutes after his break expired to talk to

"Groucho." A 45-year-old woman called from Detroit just to say hi. A call from Armstrong Hall reported that the entire hall was listening to the show.

Nancie Kammer, a former Street Corner Society member, answered one call and overheard a voice in a crowded room yell, "Groucho won't talk to you if you're just wearing jockey shorts."

Sure enough, Charette got on and said, "Young man, don't expect me to talk to you if you have on nothing more appropriate than jockey shorts. A local restaurant called to offer a free meal. Charette, as Groucho, wanted a pabulum pizza. The free food was turned down because it would have been accepted under false pretenses. Besides, there was no way to allow the delivery man inside without admitting the waiting fans.

As the show drew to an end, it was time to reveal the truth and Charette was apprehensive. Would the people understand the joke? Half seriously, he wondered if he might be lynched.

"The people who have called in tonight have been very special people," Charette began in his Groucho voice. "They all have a very special concern and really care for a gentleman named Groucho Marx."

Then switching to his normal voice, "Everyone imitates Groucho at 45, they think he was only a viable man then and they forget he is 83."

The 83-year-old Groucho was not as quick as the younger man. The voice was soft and halting. The stories recalled the grease paint moustache, the show biz mother, the first car he owned. There was a touch of sadness during the reminiscences.

The stories were all factual. It was as real as it could be without Groucho. Charette had spent a week of intensive cramming to guarantee it. He



Dana Charette does Groucho Marx imitations while bussing tables at Cave of the Candles Restaurant, 110 Abbott Road. At other times, he is an actor with the Street Corner Society, a local theater group.

Photo by Dale Atkins



# The sailor's life is a lonely life, full of sea stories, cruel weather and phantom fathers

By  
GARY SCHARRER

Able-bodied seaman Joe Kelly manned the lonely "look-out" post on the bow of the 678-foot S.S. Detroit Edison as she plowed through the thick ice of Lake St. Clair headed north for Rogers City.

It was 1:30 a.m., almost time for him to relieve the wheelsman. He welcomed the warmer refuge of the pilot house since the 1½ hours in the subzero cold had nearly numbed him, and he would get two more hours of "look-out" during his four-hour watch.

Kelly smuggled a bottle of Peppermint Schnapps with him on the bow to light a flame in a frozen body and also to cool an angry mood. The desolation and stillness of the brittle night intensified his thoughts.

Would he get home in time to spend Christmas with his wife and four-year-old son? Why was he out there in the first place?

Usually at some time in a young man's life comes the yearning to break from home and turn to some new adventure. The lure of the sea may be one attraction. Sea stories are always fascinating and sailors seem to be a unique breed, an exciting combination of Douglas Fairbanks, Errol Flynn and Kirk Douglas.

But times change. Green sailors who head out to sea on their first voyage soon realize that sailing is more work than it is adventure. And the romanticism colored by the sea stories soon turns to more vicious reality as the November and December storms set in.

The winter weather is particularly harsh on the Great Lakes sailor since the howling winds sweeping down from Canada continually disrupt waters of the upper lakes and

bring periodic blizzards.

Most of the 400 lake freighters lay up for the season by Dec. 20, but the shipping companies, with government support, have recently attempted to extend the shipping season through January. Bigger icebreakers and modern technology have delivered what previously was considered a dream.

The longer season for sailors, however, has become a nightmare. Many of them have been on the water since March and long to be with families for the holidays.

"It's bad enough to miss the entire summer and not being able to go on picnics with my family, now the most important time of the year (Christmas) is here. Not being able to spend that time with your family is lousy," Kelly complained a few days before Christmas.

December and January sailing becomes intolerable at times as the temperature often falls to 15 degrees below zero. Winds can take the chill index to 60 degrees below zero. Towels protect the face

somewhat but escaping vapor from the nostrils instantly freezes eye lashes and eye brows.

Waves crack over the shipside, sending their powerful fury rolling down the cold deck. That also freezes.

"At this time of the year when the weather turns nasty, this ain't no place to be," Kelly bemoaned. "Rough weather bothers me. When we get a rocking and a—rolling and the ship is dancing and waves come over the side, I don't sleep.

"If something were to happen right now we wouldn't have a prayer. If we had to abandon ship right now we'd be done," he added.

Sailors respect the water's wrath, but not all are as fearful as Kelly. He knew several seamen who went down to a lake bottom grave with the freighter Carl Bradley in a 1958 Lake Michigan storm, and still remembers a bad personal experience in 1965 on Lake Superior.

"For 17½ hours we did nothing but bop around like a cork in a rapids," Kelly recalled. "Waves were coming



over the top of the pilot house and slashing down the entire deck. Everyone was sick. Everytime I get into a storm I start thinking of the Bradley."

The most recent disaster occurred in 1966 when the S.S. Daniel J. Morrell got caught in a Huron storm and broke in half, miraculously leaving one survivor to account for details.

The five Great Lakes have earned their reputation as North America's inland oceans. They cover an area of 95,000 square miles and constitute the largest reserve of fresh water in the world, an estimated 65 trillion gallons. These lakes and their connecting waterways form a 2,300 mile chain, extending from Duluth, Minn., to the Atlantic Ocean. Enough water leaves the lakes via this route every 10 minutes to supply the city of New York for a day.

At the lower end of the lakes are the great industrial centers — Chicago, Gary, Detroit, Cleveland, and Buffalo. Iron ore, limestone, coal, grain, gypsum, sand and salt are the major commodities shipped across Great Lakes waters in the bellies of the freighters, which are between 500 and 1,000 feet long. The ships' cargo holds carry between 8,000 and 58,000 tons.

Sailors report to their vessels in March, after breaking with their families again for another

long separation. It is the cruellest part of a lonely life.

Walter Dominick, boatswain on the Detroit Edison, has been sailing for 27 years and says he regrets bidding all those farewells to a wife and two sons left behind in Wilkes Barre, Penn. He started sailing after climbing out of the coal mines but would not sail again if he could turn back the fortunes of time.

"I'd never do it again. It's the most lonely life in the world," Dominick flatly said. "You're away from society, and you miss it. I missed my family and my boys growing up. The saddest days of my life came when they begged, 'don't go daddy.'"

First mate on the Edison, Michael Elson has sailed 25 years, 19 as an officer. He admits the children — father relationship is difficult to carry through.

"That's really a brutal thing. The kids know you nine months as a voice," Elson said. "It makes for poor relations with the children and a father. I can see that with my own two boys. There's nothing really close about us."

"It takes a family that understands," Captain Wilbur Opp said of the effect on a relationship. "I think the family that is left ashore has the greatest problem.

(continued on page 5)



Men aboard ship eat hearty meals (above) and drink with gusto (left). A hard day's work builds up an appetite satisfied by the ship's chef and an abundance of soft drinks, wine and beer.

Photos by Gary Scharrer



# Great Lakes sailing: It's not all romance and adventure

(continued from page 4)

"It takes a special breed of woman and tolerance from the children to put up with their bread — winner and father being away from home all those endless days and seeing them only fleetingly, perhaps by chance more than design," Opp added.

Opp's son, Greg, an engineering student at the University of Cincinnati, seldom saw his father. Opp, who has been a captain for the past six years, has completed 38 years in the Merchant Marine. He went to sea during the Depression because he could not find employment on shore.

"I grew up with a phantom father," the younger Opp said. "Ever since I was a little kid I accepted it. I always noticed that the situation was different from what other families had, but it wasn't until I became of high school age that I wondered why and asked questions."

The Edison sailors also asked questions as Christmas approached and it became evident that they would not get home. The option to quit was available but only at the expense of losing company seniority, spring job security and winter unemployment pay. Not many sailors sacrifice nine months only to forfeit those benefits.

On Christmas Eve the Edison was in the middle of Lake Huron, steaming downbound for Fairport, Ohio with 20,000 tons of limestone. The only Christmas spirit came wrapped in gifts of Kessler, Smirnoff, and Seagram.

"The anticipation of missing Christmas was worse for the family," Elson remarked. "But then, after Christmas day and after the turmoil was all over it seemed different, and they were resigned to their fate again."

Mariners stand watches — four hours of work with eight hours off before the next watch. Since television reception is not always available, sailors tend to read newspapers, books and magazines in their spare time. And there are some like Kelly

"I put my day in and then sit around and mope — cry the blues," he said. "You have to numb yourself to put your mind blank. I try not to think of my family, and that's no good."

"Most of the sailors that I know have been divorced or are getting divorced or their wives are running, or they're running," Kelly added.

For Kelly there is only one drive that takes him to a blast of a steamship whistle each spring.

"To make a buck, that's all," he said. "Naturally my wife doesn't want me to be out here, but a person has to make a living some place. I don't have a good education (he

*"Out here you don't have to have an education. In my opinion, if a person makes this his career, he has truly wasted his life. He has to be a little crazy upstairs, a misfit or a little queer, so he comes out here to hide."*

— seaman Joe Kelly

never finished high school) to get a decent job and there were no manual labor opportunities ashore where I live in Rogers City.

"Out here you don't have to have an education," Kelly said. "In my opinion, if a person makes this his career he has truly wasted his life. He has to be a little crazy upstairs, a misfit or a little queer, so he comes out here to hide."

Elson was a young man when he first packed a seabag and sought only employment.

"I wanted to see what it was like," he recalled. "That was when the lure of the sea was involved, and I just stayed with it."

Sailing today is different, Elson said. Bigger and faster ships have caused more port time (loading and unloading) and more work. The Edison shipped over 2½ million tons

some disruption in the solitude of the daily routine, but the guys soon realize that they're living as a family, a 'captured group of citizens' is how I put it," Opp said. "Everybody learns to respect the rights and privacy of others."

Sailors, however, need some access to vent frustrations or some diversion from the isolated atmosphere. Sea stories usually accentuate the sailor as a drunken bum, wayward wanderer, derelict or whorehound, but those labels are extreme.

"We're bums, but nothing like you've heard," Fred McCalla, chief engineer of the Edison said.

McCalla, who left the schoolhouse at Sault Ste. Marie where he saw ships pass when he was 15 and who has sailed 49 years, said those stories are colorfully painted to make them interesting.

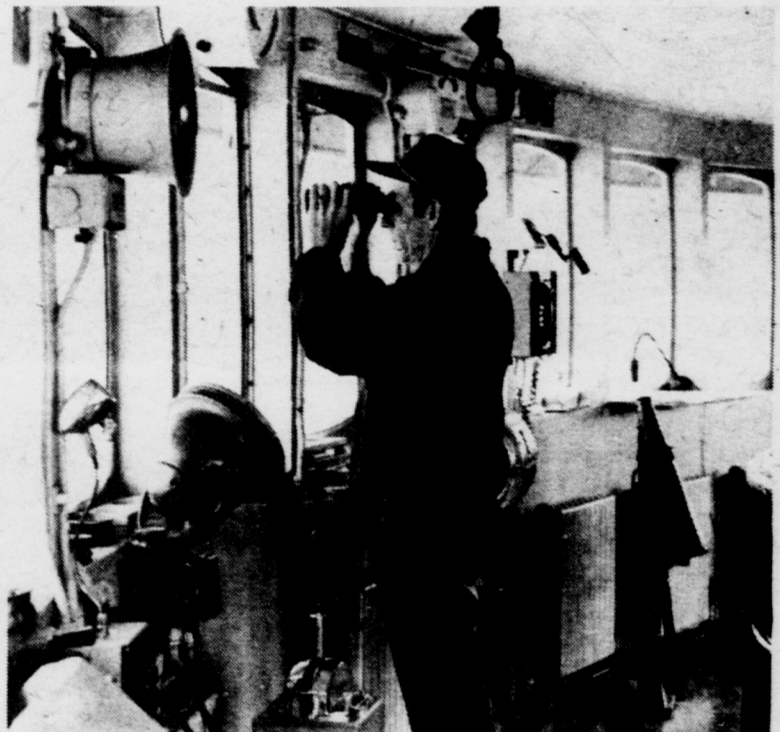
Dominick seldom touches more than one drink, but admits there are habituals who can become quite boisterous when a ship docks in port. And there are some sailors who assume that tomorrow is

always several months in the future. Unless they gamble aboard ship, there is no place to spend money except in port. A bar is usually the first establishment they patronize, and money is no concern.

"This life will lead you to drink anyway," Dominick laughed, "and when a sailor goes up town he tries to pour 'er down as fast as he can because he doesn't have much time. That's when he gets good and drunk."

"That's where a landsman sees him, and because he might be hitting it hard, the landsman gets that image of the sailor," Dominick explained. "That sailor might return to the ship and not touch another drop for two months."

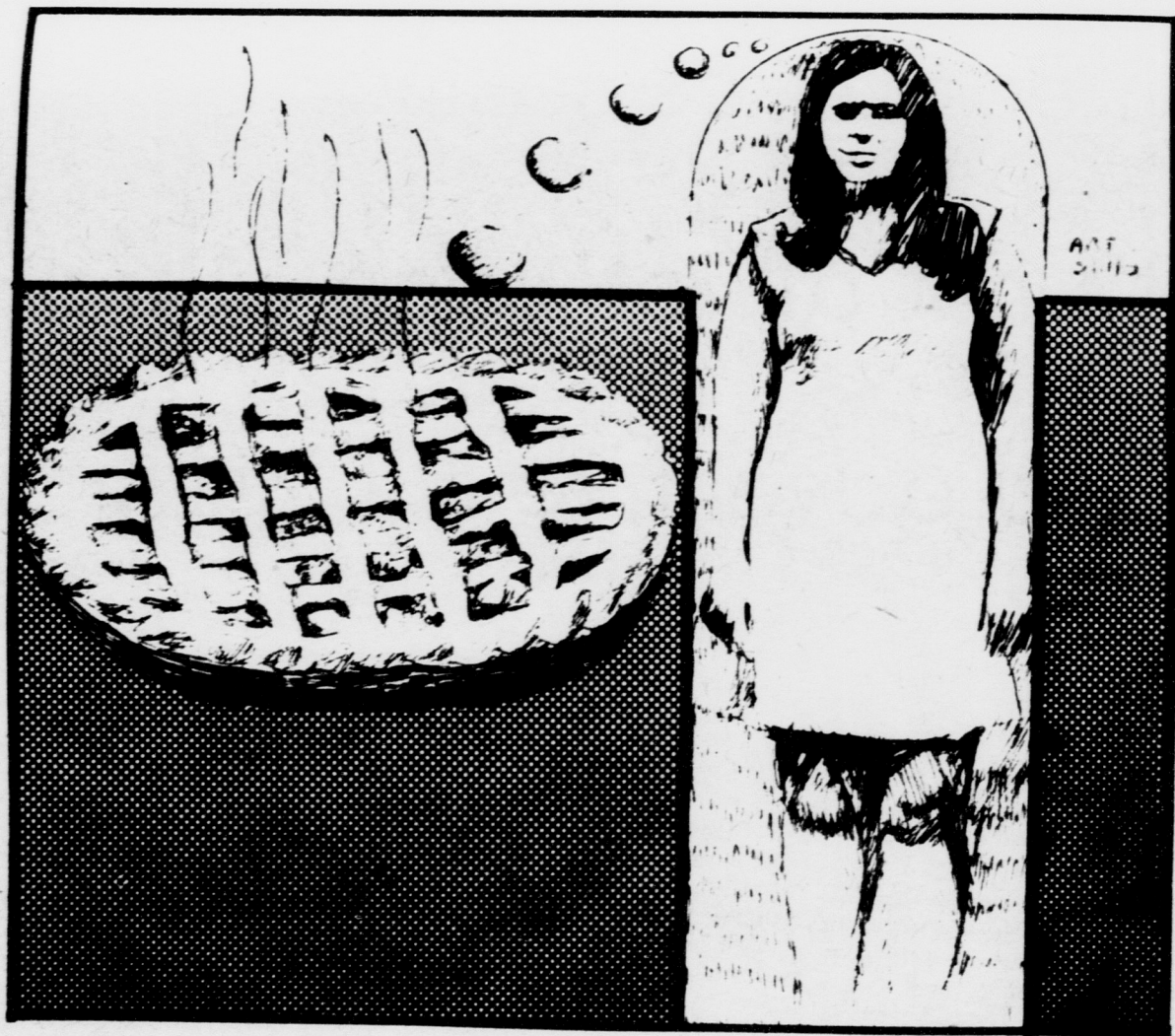
A sailor's life is unique. All agree to that. Some enjoy it, some despise it, but as soon as the weather becomes warmer and the ice begins to break, all pack their packs again for another nine or 10 months aboard a ship that becomes a little city in itself. Though that little city may be only miles from land, sometimes it seems like thousands.



The ship's captain looks out for the current, weather changes and anything that may affect the ship's course (above). Below, a crewman tries to shovel an icy deck after a cold night on the water.



# 6 You are what you eat, or what you don't eat



## How not to diet when losing weight

By  
**LYNDA ECKERT**

Americans seem to be obsessed with the ideas of being thin, getting thin and staying thin. Almost everyone, at one time or another, has gone on a diet to "lose a few pounds gained over the holidays."

In fact, 40 million American families annually spend over \$1 billion on low-calorie foods and beverages, despite current high costs of food.

Some 50 million overweight or cholesterol-conscious Americans will go on diets this year, and over 20 million are dieting under doctors' care for health reasons.

Despite all this, the U.S. Public Health Service indicates that over 50 per cent of adult men and 40 per cent of adult women are at least 10 per cent overweight.

Among students, especially women, crash dieting is nothing new. It may be brought on by the urge to lose five pounds to fit into a favorite pair of jeans or to look great in a new bathing suit.

Crash diets do have their merits.

"There is one for everybody regardless of race, creed or color," said Peg Bracken, author of the "I Hate to Cook Book." "It is something to get up in the morning for, just to

to be: booze it up, eat it up, live high on the fat, low on the sugar or heavy on the egg noodles."

In other words, whatever else crash diets may be good for, they are certainly good for a laugh.

Many nutritionists consider crash diets a public health problem because they are potentially dangerous and they

everything you can eat followed by a finger down the throat.

Other extreme examples include the Zen Macrobiotic diet, a combination of religion and diet. Followers believe that diet makes one holier, and they eat varying amounts of cereals, vegetables, soups, animal products, salads, fruits and desserts.

As a person becomes holier, he progresses until he is following diet No. 7, which is 100 per cent cereal. Strict observance of the Zen Macrobiotic diets have caused scurvy and even death.

Another extreme diet is the total fast diet, also known as

overwhelmingly quickly is an unhealthy way."

Glenn says that on a sensible diet, most people would lose approximately two pounds a week. The heavier, and the younger one is, because of the faster metabolic rate, the more quickly one may safely lose. A man tends to lose more quickly than a woman because of his greater activity.

The second problem associated with crash diets is they rarely, if ever, come with a two-year guarantee. Surveys have shown that 85 per cent of all dieters, including those under professional care, do not reduce and stay reduced for over two years.

lose weight and gain it back, these levels are even higher.

The third, and possibly the most serious problem, is that many physicians are not very knowledgeable about nutrition and dieting.

"Most physicians have never had a nutrition course," said Gilbert A. Leveille, chairman of the Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition. "In fact, most medical schools do not even offer courses in nutrition."

The colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and Human Medicine and the School of Nursing at MSU do offer courses in nutrition.

The most effective way, experts say, to lose weight is to follow a balanced diet and eat smaller portions of each item.

"A weight-reduction diet, to be effective, must be adapted to a person's lifestyle," said Dena Cederquist, distinguished professor of food science and human nutrition.

"A diet, to be effective, must affect a change in the person himself so he no longer abuses the eating function in futile efforts to solve other problems of living," one doctor, who asked not to be identified, said.

The doctor said exercise is a critical factor in the weight reduction process. Studies show that dieters who exercise lose fat, not just muscle weight.

It seems obvious that people who want to lose weight should avoid crash dieting, and instead turn to balanced diet, eat smaller portions and indulge in that least-favorite pastime — exercise. Only then will a person lose weight

*"Dieting is something to get up in the morning for, just to see what today's diet is going to be: booze it up, eat it up, live high on the fat, low on the sugar or heavy on the egg noodles."*

— Peg Bracken

rarely, if ever, come with a two-year guarantee. Also, many physicians are just not very knowledgeable about nutrition and dieting.

Many diets cited by Dr. Philip L. White, director of the Dept. of Foods and Nutrition of the American Medical Assn., are dangerous, including the all-the-coffee-you-can-drink and all-the-cigarettes-you-can-smoke diet and the classic

the zero-calorie diet, which has led to deaths from heart failure and caused various serious health problems.

Dr. Morton B. Glenn, past president of the American Nutrition Assn., has said that all crash diets are dangerous because all crash diets are not nutritious. "A crash diet, by definition, is an overwhelmingly quick way to lose weight," he said. "And the

"It really makes me mad," one woman student said. "I worked so hard last summer and lost 25 pounds and I've gained 10 of it back. It just makes me sick. And it seems like it is a lot harder to lose the second time around."

There is some evidence that individuals who lose weight and gain it back have a gradual increase in their blood cholesterol and blood lipid



# Groucho hits MSU

(continued from page 3)

emphasized the desire to present an evening with Groucho. He succeeded.

Charette uses words like "mindboggling," "overwhelming" and "frightening" when he thinks about that night. He wants to do it again.

The reaction to the show was stunning and Charette was deeply touched. The outpouring of love and admiration was directed at Groucho and Charette as Groucho received it.

"I have great respect for Groucho and so did the people calling. People really loved him and I (as Groucho) was the recipient of all that love," Charette said.

"What we wanted to do was bring a real man who is 83 and not lost to us, his mind still works and functions.

"Unfortunately his body isn't as fast as it used to be, nor his tongue. It's almost like when you're writing a letter and your hand can't keep up with your thoughts. That's where Groucho is at."

"So thank you very much for sharing with us tonight, a very special man named Groucho Marx," Charette said.

The people outside refused to believe. Wardlow tried to convince them but they insisted on physical proof, so Charette did two minutes of Groucho in the lobby. They believed.

But they refused to go home

without autographs. Charette was too stunned and embarrassed to refuse. The long night was over.

The response to the show was 99 per cent favorable. Only one negative phone call was recorded. All the other calls and letters reported pleasure and enthusiasm. The key was Charette.

He did not try to bluff his way through with three hours of wisecracks. The voice was not the familiar Groucho at age 45.

There was more involved than just picking up a voice. Groucho Marx is not just someone who cracks jokes and fiddles with a cigar," he added.

One of Charette's fondest memories is of a man who

called after the Wednesday tape and volunteered to drive to Detroit and pick Groucho up for the show and then drive him back to his hotel again.

"That's a very special kind of love," Charette pointed out.

Charette bears a striking resemblance to Groucho. An army officer once noticed it after he stuck a cigar in Charette's mouth. He did not actually try to imitate Groucho until the Street Corner Society formed in the summer of 1969.

Charette divides his time between the Street Corner Society and a job as a waiter and bus boy at an East Lansing restaurant.

The Groucho voice has been used to entertain customers. On occasion Charette has

mildly chastised customers for not eating vegetables or finishing meals.

His big hope is to see the Street Corner Society develop into a professional acting group. Now, the members must work at other jobs to support themselves.

The Street Corner Society was originally formed to present antiwar skits and dramas. After several reorganizations the group is still concerned with social commentary.

The group falls between traditional and guerrilla theater. The name indicates the group needs no formal stage, just a space to perform. They remove the frills of formal performances using few props or costumes.

"I knew I wasn't coming back, and I didn't even take my finals."



John Doyle sits in his Akers Hall room, reminiscing about classes, his Christian conversion and Moroccan hash.

Photo by Julie Blough

MSU's average guy?

By  
SUSAN AGER

Editor's note: This article is the second in a number of "man on the street" features. Persons interviewed are selected at random.

John Doyle may seem like your average guy.

He is the third of 22 Doyles in the student directory, a senior, majoring in multidisciplinary social science.

He's unconcerned about his chances of getting a job with that major, saying it would be worse if he knew what he wanted to do. Then he would be worried, he says.

But to get to where he is now, Doyle has been halfway around the world and back again.

Last year, he dropped out of school after missing half of his spring term finals. At that point, he was an economics major; his first term here he was a statistics major.

"I wanted to be a socialist economist for the government, right?" He chuckles. "But in the spring of '72

I was out there with everyone else on Grand River demonstrating, and since I knew I wasn't coming back, I didn't even take my finals."

He hitched to New York, flew to Lisbon, moved south through Spain, then dabbled for six months among the cities of Morocco.

"I wanted to find out some things, like what was real as opposed to cultural. I wanted to rise above American culture. I thought of myself as a thinker — what is life, what is truth..."

Doyle talks like that sometimes, quietly, chuckling a lot, smiling through his eyes. His friends call him Bill because his bushy beard (red, brown and white under his lips) reminds them of a goat, he says.

In Morocco, Doyle was pressured to buy three kilos of hash for \$700, and later discovered he had only one kilo.

"I smoked 300 grams and threw the rest away." Chuckle.

In Marrakech, where he went to meet a former MSU roommate, he found not the roommate but snake-charmers, potion merchants and 10-

year-old drug pushers. He also met a Canadian obsessed with machine guns who was heading for Algeria to train for "the revolution."

"Everything moved really fast, with no time to slow down," he says, clicking his fingers. "In all those cities everybody seems really stoned, partly because they are, and partly because it's a hypnotic type of culture. People my age are pushing dope and the old men sit around in the cafes and get high."

In Tangiers, which Doyle calls a city of "general sleaziness," he accepted a free meal from a group of young international missionaries in "a big house," he said emphatically.

"The first night I was getting mad, telling those people that there really was no truth, that they were all deceiving themselves. But then a guy began telling me about his conversion, about Jesus Christ, and it really calmed me down. It almost didn't even matter what he told me, but I could tell he really cared about me."

"Sometime during that week, I became a Christian. Before, I had

thought that if there was a God, there was no appearance of him anywhere. Now I feel pretty comfortable, yeah, I feel really good, a lot better than when I left. Yeah, I'm really happy and stronger." He grins and chuckles and shakes his head as in disbelief. But you believe him.

"I just got back at the end of August after six months in Tangiers. It's really a change in lifestyles. This is back to the big wide highways, big cars, stereos...Stereos almost drove me crazy when I got back."

Now he studies, takes afternoon naps, spends time with other Christians at His House, where Shaw Lane meets Haggadorn Road, plays tennis and ping pong ("probably too much but not enough to be good"). He doesn't smoke anymore.

"I still want to turn the world around, but I know that it's got nothing to do with how much money you've got or what political party's in power. It's the freedom to love. That's the revolution I'm interested in, but there's no way to force it. I just had to share what I have."



# MSU: Home on the range

By  
IRENE EVANS

There is more to preparing for a rodeo than unpacking the old spurs, putting on the cowboy hat and leaping onto a bucking bronc or bull. The MSU Rodeo Club members are now preparing for the production and competition of their rodeo, next month.

"There are really two parts to prepare for," Kim Kitchell, chairman of the rodeo, said. "The production angle includes promotion, tickets, setting up the arena, prizes, concessions and handling the entry fees. The other angle involves preparing the rodeo contestants for the events they plan to be in."

"Normally, each person spends about seven hours a week just riding his horse. This keeps the horse in shape," Kitchell said. "Then, additional time is spent preparing for the rodeo events."

There are only three events in which women can participate in college rodeo. They are goat-tying, break-away roping and barrel racing. "Goat-tying and break-away roping combined almost equal the men's event of calf roping," Kitchell said.

Goat-tying involves roping the goat, throwing him on his back and tying up his feet. The contestant is not on her horse for this event.

"A girl in this event practices throwing her rope

and roping a bale of hay for about an hour a day," Kitchell said. "Then she spends some time roping an actual goat or calf."

"We used to use billy goats, but they were all castrated by the vet clinic," she joked.

In barrel racing, a pattern is set up with three barrels, and the contestant must ride her horse around these barrels at a fast gallop.

"If a girl has a totally finished horse, she only rides her horse through the pattern once a week because she doesn't want the pattern to go stale on the horse," Kitchell said. "If she's training a horse, she walks the horse through the pattern the first couple of times, then he canters through it, and he increases speed until he's at a dead run."

Most of the calves used in rodeos are too big for women to handle, so goats are used in the goat-tying event and calves are used in the break-away roping event.

In break-away roping, the

## Club shows you the ropes of rodeo

end of the rope is attached to the saddle horn with a piece of string. The contestant ropes the calf. The calf runs, and when the rope is taut, the string breaks. At this point, time ends.

"Rodeo is coming back as a sport," Jan Koepfgen, rodeo club member, said. "It's exciting, and challenging for both the contestant and the spectator."

One reason people hesitate to participate in rodeos is the great expense.

"A person could spend anywhere from \$200 to thousands of dollars for a horse," Kitchell said. "Then \$350 a year just to feed the horse. If he's boarding, it may cost \$600 or more."

Veterinary bills, blacksmith bills and approximately \$1,500 for a horse trailer must also be anticipated by the new horse owner.

In addition to preparing women for their three events, the rodeo club prepares the men for the six events they

may participate in, which are calf roping, ribbon roping (found only in college rodeo), steer wrestling or bull dogging, bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding and bull riding.

Three of the men's events, bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding and bull riding, are in a group called rough stock riding.

"These animals do give you a rough ride. One of our members broke his foot getting on a bucking horse in the chute," Kitchell said.

Calf roping is an event in which the contestant ropes a running calf from his horse. Then he jumps off the horse and ties up the calf's feet. The best time wins.

In ribbon roping, which was designed to give timed men a third event to participate in, the contestant rides from the chute, ropes the calf, jumps off his horse and takes a ribbon off the calf's tail. Then he runs, on his own two feet, back to the chute with the ribbon in his hand. The best time wins.

Time ends for steer wrestling or bull dogging when the cowboy has turned the bull on his back and the head and feet are facing in the same direction.

Bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, and bull riding are judged events. A possible 100 points are divided equally between two judges. Each judge may award the animal and the rider up to 25 points each for a performance.

Rodeo clowns and bells tied to ropes are used to distract bulls from fallen cowboys.

"If the people are in good shape, they will just be a little banged up after the rodeo," Kitchell said. "Most injuries are not too serious."

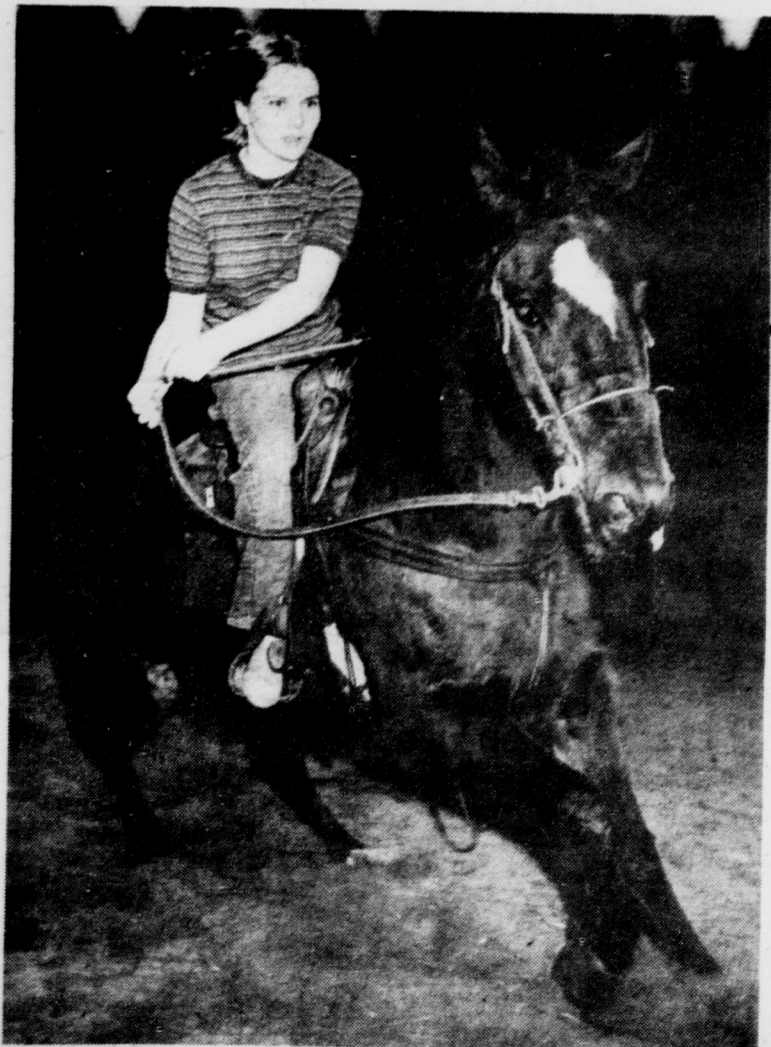
Entry fees are \$20 per event, Kitchell said. All monies are jackpotted and divided among the winners. A winner stands a chance to win \$2 to \$300.

The biggest problem in producing a rodeo is promotion.

"Publicity makes us or breaks us," Kitchell explained. "Horse people will come from far and wide just for the entertainment."

"Maybe one reason people like rodeo is because it is an individual effort," she added. "You can't blame the team if you lose because you're out there by yourself."

The club will produce rodeo on Feb. 22, 23 and 24 in the judging pavilion.



Mary Heath, president of the MSU Rodeo club, and Sue Frost, club member, show that women can take active part in the club's activities. Goat tying and barrel riding are two of the events in which girls from the club participate.

Photos by David Schmier

