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IN COOPERATION WITH THE Sebring Woman's Club program for the promotion of non-professional young artists - Alice King, flutist will be performing at the S.O.S. Benefit Fashion Show, January 5th SFJC Auditorium at 2 p.m. - Accompanist is Mr. Don Meiser -

Young At Heart Set For Jan. 5

A gala event for the "young at heart" will be January 5, 1979, when the "new" South Florida Jr. College Auditorium will be the scene of a Fashion Show to benefit Services Over Sixty. This fashion show will be a major fund raising effort for the coming year.

Fashions from J.C. Penney and Wedding Belles will be featured for men and women of mature age. There will be refreshments served and entertainment by several talented local artists.

Evelyn Gordon-Jones, Director of the Young Highlanders, is a professional soloist, voice teacher and choral director who lives in Avon Park. She received her Bachelor of Music Degree at Stetson University and further study at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. Ms. Jones has appeared with several Symphonies as guest soloists along with Oratorios, Concerts, Radio, T.V., Musical Comedy, and Director of large choirs and smaller ensembles. She was recently Director of Heart of Highland Chapter of Sweet Adelines and soloist with Lakeland Bach Festival.

Also featured will be the new Duo team of E. Jones and Larry Mixon, tenor. They bring to mind the styles of Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald.

In cooperation with the Sebring Woman's Club's new program to promote some of the area's non-professional artists, Alice King, young flutist will also be performing.

The accompanist for the artists will be Don Meiser.

For ticket information please call the HOPE offices. 382-2134 in Sebring, 452-2718 in Avon Park, and between 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. in Lake Placid, 465-0204.

Obituaries

Mada A. Cowart, 82, died at her home in Wauchula December 17.

She is survived by her husband, Boyd sons, Ronald of Malaysia and Charles Ray of Wauchula; daughter, Frances Walton, Avon Park, 12 grandchildren, including David and Arnell Roberts of Avon Park, and three great-grandchildren. Also she leaves her brother, Max Phillips, Lakeland; sisters, Agnes Epstein, Lakeland and Ernie Wingo, Jacksonville.

The funeral will be Thursday at 10 a.m. at Lake Dale Baptist Church.

Coker Funeral Home, Wauchula, in charge of arrangements.

Hazel V. Heyde, 89, of 2301 Santa Rosa, died Sunday evening at her residence. She has been a winter guest of this area for the past 12 years, coming here from Huntington Indiana. She was a member of the Christian Church.

She is survived by her husband, Alvin G. Heyde, one daughter, Jo Ann Gressley of Huntington Indiana, three sons, Carl Heyde of Huntington, Dallas Heyde of

Warren, Indiana, and Larry Heyde of Huntington, Indiana. She also leaves 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild as well as two brothers, Charles Sheneman and Claude Sheneman of Indiana and two sisters, Mary McBride and Blanche Swihart also of Indiana.

Services will be held at the Deal and Robbins Funeral Home in Huntington Indiana with interment to follow in the Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Stephenson - Nelson - Smith Funeral Home in charge of local arrangements.



Evelyn Jones



Larry Mixon

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History Of Our Hand Bell Choir

There is a fascination and delight that fills one's being upon hearing the wondrous tones of hand bells. In keeping with these feelings and the fact that all people generally enjoy listening to the bells the first 2 octave Schulmerich hand bell set was presented to the Union Congregational Church in loving memory of Paul Garber on August 15, 1965.

The bells 25 in all, were presented to the church from family and friends of Mr. Garber.

In the dedication ceremony the minister was quoted as saying "We remember before Thee with gratitude him whose memory this gift is given. May his remembrance long be fresh and fragrant among us and his good example an inspiration to many." It has also been said that many personalities have found the carillon as a means of expressing their love of life and their fellowman. The original Congregation Church handbell choirs were the first in Avon Park, later to be joined by the First Baptist Church.

The earliest history of the handbells date back to 655 B.C. where 10 of cast bronze from Modern Iraq, known as Nineveh were found. There is about 40 old Irish bells made of iron plates, hammered square and riveted being preserved, the most famous is the Bell of St. Patrick's Will of 552 A.D.

Throughout ancient Asia, Egypt, Greece and Rome handbells played an important part in religious ceremonies. Their ringing called people to prayer, exorcised demons, and helped healed the sick.

Town criers, walking the streets, were one of the early users of hand bells in the West. In Greece they announced the opening of the fish market, while in Rome, the public baths. The common practice of ringing handbells during funeral processions has been recorded on the 11th century Bayeux Tapestry, and medieval European peasants ring handbells in the fields as a fertility charm.

In 1847 P.T. Barnum, the showman, brought to the United States the Lanchashire Bell Ringers under the pseudonym Swiss Bell Ringers. The 20th century hand bell ringing movement was furthered by vaudeville and later by non-professional ringers of England.

Most handbell choirs in the U.S. have 8 to 12 players. The Congregational Church has 9 women and the First Baptist Church has 9 youth members.

The Congregational Church through memorials has obtained 2 more octaves in previous years, a total of 4 octaves at present. The first choir was under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Garber Zuck. In the beginning there were three choirs, adults, youth, and children. However, with the changing and rapid pace of today's lifestyle the church has only one choir. The adult women shown in this article. However, they do occasion have substitutes, that fill in very well when an active member has to be absent. Such is the case as Nancy Nunnelee.

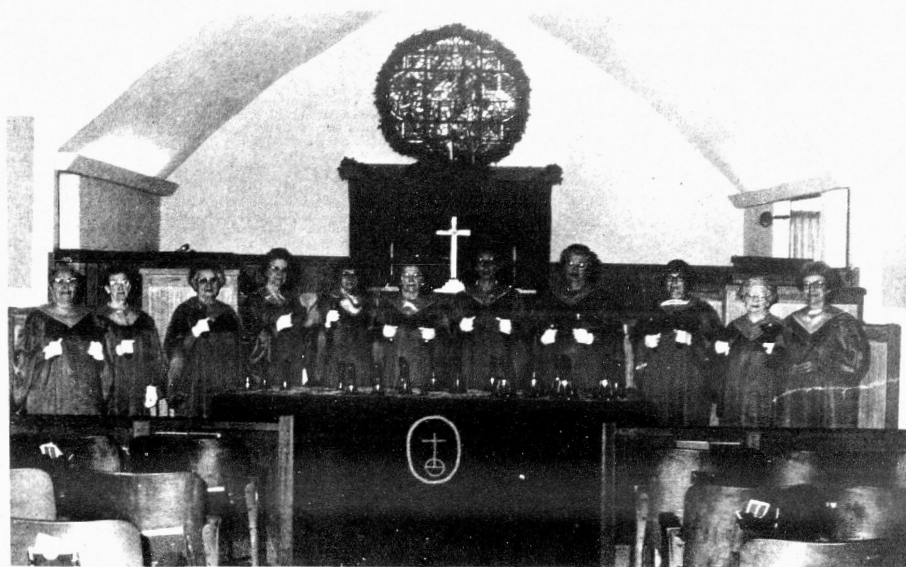
The Congregational's choir is truly a rarity as it is made up of mature ladies only, ranging in ages from the early 30's to the middle 80's. Mrs. Zuck was in charge of the Congregational Church bell choir until three years ago when she turned it over to the very capable hands of Evelyn Delk. Evelyn is an undergraduate of the University of Miami, has a Masters from Columbia University Teachers College, taught music in public and private schools in Miami, taught piano at the Miami Conservatory and has been a director of church choirs for 25 years.

Some of the ladies in the hand bell choir have been with the group since it first organized in 1965. Agness Dentler began playing the handbells in 1965 as a winter visitor and has stayed with the choir. Why? "For my own enjoyment," she said. "I enjoy making music and working with the other ladies in the choir", she added. Bea Luscomb has also been with the choir since the beginning and has stayed with the bell choir because, "I love it." Her favorite song is "Silent Night" with "Grandfather's Clock" ranking second best.

Helen Dickinson was also one of the first in the Congregational Church bell choir. And to her the loveliest piece of music the hand bell choir has done is "The Lord's Prayer", in conjunction with the church organ.

Many others have stayed with the choir as Elizabeth Zuck, the originator, Jane Barben, Eloise Mount, Lucy MacDonald and Martha Arganbright, later joined by Daisy Wollangk and Mary Ziegenfus, the pastor's wife.

Handbells are a unique musical instrument," said Mrs. Zuck. "No accomplished musician can come in and just start playing without making a mistake," she added. Hand bells take



THE UNION CONGREGATIONAL Church hand bell choir first began in 1965, as a memorial to Paul Garber.

Members of the choir today are Agness Dentler, Lucy MacDonald, Mary Ziegenfus, Eloise Mount, Jane Barben,

Bea Luscomb, Helen Dickinson, Martha Arganbright, Daisy Wollangk and

director Evelyn Delk. Sunphoto by Betty Amburn.

constant practice and lots of concentration. And must be done in a group, for the notes are like those of a piano and if someone is absent, the group is like a broken piano without the use of all its keys. Also the ladies added, if a note is missed, you can't catch up as in other musical instruments, the player must just forget it and keep up with the notes for his next turn to ring her bell.

Missing a note or using the wrong bell

will also throw the whole group off key. That is why the members of the choirs are so very careful to select the correct bells before beginning to perform a selection.

When picking up a bell one will notice the clapper, and hand bells will not produce a tone unless used correctly. To shake it as one does an ordinary bell will produce nothing. They must be brought forward in a circular motion, hold the

handle correctly, and with a quick snap of the wrist produce a tone. This tone may be carried by tolling. Chiming the bells is done in two ways. One method the bell is hit by a mallet at the sound bow rather than by the clapper. However, swinging the bell from side to side to enable the clapper to strike first one side and then the other is called Ringing The Bell.

The next performance of the Congregational Church Hand Bell Choir will be Sunday Evening, December 24, at the Candlelight service where they will be joined by the organist in a selection of Christmas carols.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Holiday Recipes

Smoked Salmon Log Party Perfect



Delight holiday guests with Smoked Salmon Log. This delicious spread has the gourmet taste of expensive smoked salmon, yet it can be made with one of the less expensive varieties of canned salmon like Pink or Chum. The secret is a dash of liquid smoke which is added to a creamy blend of cream cheese, flaked canned salmon, lemon juice, grated onion and zesty horseradish. The chilled mixture is shaped into a log or ball, then rolled in colorful chopped parsley and crunchily walnuts.

Waste-free canned salmon is delicious just as it comes from the can or combined with other foods in a variety of salads, entrees and appetizers. It is in plentiful supply year 'round, and the price is moderate.

Smoked Salmon Log

1 can (16-1/2 oz.) salmon
1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 teaspoons grated onion
2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
1/4 teaspoon liquid smoke
3 drops Tabasco sauce
1/4 cup chopped walnuts
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
Drain and flake salmon. Combine salmon with remaining ingredients except walnuts and parsley. Chill several hours. Combine walnuts and parsley. Shape salmon mixture into log or ball. Roll in nut mixture. Chill. Serve as a spread with crisp crackers. Makes about 2 1/2 cups spread.

Easygoing Entertaining

If big bashas bore you, if formal dinners frighten you, why not do your holiday entertaining the easygoing modern way with an informal open house?

Start with a brimming bowl of punch which will act as the focal point of the party. Ring the bowl round with some holiday greens, light a bright red candle and the table says "welcome." For nibbling with the punch, serve a molded cheese ball, studded with pecans, to spread on crackers or on apple and pear wedges.

The punch itself is an easygoing concoction... a blend of instant tea, cranberry-apple juice, red wine and a little orange liqueur. Make the punch ahead of time to give the flavors a chance to "marry." Then pour it into a pretty bowl, add ice cubes and float orange slices on top. It's festive to behold, refreshing to drink.

2 rounded teaspoons instant tea mix
1/4 cup sugar
4 cups water
1 quart bottle cranberry-apple drink, chilled
1/4 cup orange-flavor liqueur
1 (4/5 qt.) bottle dry red wine, chilled

Combine instant tea, sugar and water; stir until sugar is dissolved. Mix in remaining ingredients. Serve over ice cubes, garnish with orange slices. Makes about 3 quarts.



Easydo Holiday Punch

King Crab Makes Festive Fare



Alaska King crab is always an excellent choice for party tidbits, a gourmet treat with time-saving convenience. These Hot Crab Canapés are an easy combination of Alaska King crab, cheese, mayonnaise and seasonings, broiled atop crisp rounds of Melba toast.

Choose either frozen or canned Alaska King crab, both conveniently ready to use. The crab meat comes from the can or defrosted package (fully cooked and completely free of tendons and cartilage). For cold party foods, simply combine the crab meat with other ingredients and chill. Alaska King crab in hot appetizers requires only a brief heating through.



THE CONGREGATIONAL BELL Choir played several selections for the enjoyment of the ladies of the church last week at their Christmas Party. A Sing-A-Long assisted by the handbells was a delightful end to the days activities.

Hot Crab Canapés
1 package (6 to 8 oz.) frozen Alaska King crab, thawed or 1 can (7-1/2 oz.) Alaska King crab
2 tablespoons chopped pimiento-stuffed olives
1 tablespoon sliced green onions
1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon prepared mustard
1/4 teaspoon salt
Melba toast rounds
Drain and slice crab. Combine with olives, green onions and cheese. Blend in mayonnaise, lemon juice, mustard and salt. Spoon on Melba toast rounds. Broil 6 inches from heat just until hot and bubbly, 3 or 4 minutes. Serve hot. Makes about 3 dozen appetizers.

Ring In The Holidays With Popcorn Bells



Looking for an easy, inexpensive way to decorate for the holidays? Stir up some holiday spirit with a popcorn party. Pop a lot of corn (we used the pop-in-the-pan kind

because it's so easy). Then mold some popcorn bells. The smaller bells could be used to decorate the tree or to make a mobile. The large one would make a great centerpiece or mantle decoration.

HOLIDAY POPCORN BELLS

1 package (5 oz. or 142 g) Jiffy Pop® Popcorn
1 cup (240 ml.) sugar
1/2 cup (120 ml.) corn syrup
1/2 cup (120 ml.) water
1/4 cup (60 ml.) butter or margarine
1 package red licorice laces
1 package green gumdrops
Extra utensils needed: 1 pint (480 ml.) measuring cup
7-7 oz. or 210 ml. disposable drinking cups
toothpicks

Prepare popcorn according to package directions. Place popcorn in large pan or bowl. Heat sugar, corn syrup, and water in sauce pan to 250°-260° (219° C) or until a drop of the syrup in cold water forms a hard ball. Remove from heat and stir in the butter. Pour over the popcorn and mix thoroughly with a large spoon.

The coated popcorn is now ready to form into the bells. Grease the inside of the measuring cup thoroughly. Grease your hands also. Working quickly, pack the popcorn tightly into the measuring cup and drinking cups. Allow popcorn to sit for 15 minutes. Remove the popcorn bells from the cups and place on plate or tray. Now the bells may be decorated with red licorice laces tied in bows, anchored with the toothpicks. The base of the bell may be decorated with gumdrop halves, also anchored with toothpicks.

APPLETON HOT BUTTERED RUM

1 teaspoon brown sugar
Boiling water
1-1/2 ozs Appleton Gold Rum
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 pat butter
1 cinnamon stick
1 slice lemon
2-4 cloves
In a heatproof glass mug, dissolve sugar in a little boiling water. Stir in rum, lemon juice, and enough boiling water to fill mug. Top with butter, cinnamon stick, and lemon slice stuck with cloves. Serve immediately. Makes 1 serving. Recipe can be increased according to number of servings needed.

Red Devil Cagers Head Into Tourney With A 3-1 Victory



A CLASH BETWEEN opposing teams for a rebound is won this time by an Avon Park player. In their latest game, the Red Devils came in second at the Lake Wales tournament as they lost to the

Lake Wales Highlanders 82-70. The game was played in Lake Wales. The Red Devils had previously beaten the Highlanders in a contest played in Avon Park.

The Avon Park High cage team chucked up its second straight home win here Tuesday, Dec. 12, knocking off previously unbeaten Lake Wales High 68 to 60. The victory left the Red Devils with a 3-1 record heading into two Christmas holiday tourneys.

Again it was the sophomore duo of Alvin Conners and Charlton Weathers, both newcomers to the APHS varsity, that led the way in a game that wasn't decided until the final minutes. Conners had 22 points for the night, while Weathers collected 21.

Both teams started slowly, playing control ball and showing a tight defense. They traded basket for basket at the outset and had the score knotted a 16 all with but a half minute left in the first period before Gerald Jones, another APHS sophomore, popped in a field goal and netted a free throw to put the Devils on top 19-16 as the quarter ended.

With J.D. Taylor getting into the scoring act for the Devils, the see-saw battle continued during the second period too with the Avon Park five taking a 38-33 lead into the locker at half time.

Third Period Active
Avon Park started to move out as the second half got underway, when Artis Wilson, Lake Wales defensive star, got into foul trouble. Weathers got two buckets, Conners added two more and a free throw, while Taylor and Jones each scored to give the Devils a 41-34 lead, and things looked like they might break loose.

However, two quick buckets by the Highlander's Dick Singletary, and another by John Griffin put the visitors right back within one point. A free toss by Conners put the count back to 42-40, but Griffin again came back with a two pointer to knot the count at 42-42 with the quarter almost over.

That was as close to winning as Lake Wales got. Jones again got in for a two pointer and a free throw to put the Devils up by three as the period ended.

Avon Park came out with a full court press to open the final stanza and held the visitors to 14 points, meanwhile forcing sufficient turnovers to pile up a 10 point lead half way through the quarter.

At the point, Pernel Gibbs, who had been kept out of the scoring by two double-teaming Lake Wales players, left the game on fouls, and once more the Highlanders pulled back to within 5

points. That was the finale, however, as the Devils, employing a stalling game, counted five more points while running down the clock. Gibbs had pulled down nine rebounds before fouling out.

Jones, and J.D. Taylor, a senior, pumped in 10 and 11 points respectively to put four Avon Park players in double figure scoring. David Sisemore with two baskets, completed the Red Devil total.

Taylor, in addition to his 11 points, led the team with an even dozen rebounds.

Three Lake Wales players hit for double figures. Rich Singletary and John Griffin each had a dozen points, while Wilson chalked up 11 before drawing his fifth foul. Bernie Haynes, Lake Wales guard, had eight points before leaving the game in the third period with five personals.

Devilettes Lose To Sebring

The Avon Park High School girls basketball team traveled to Sebring last Tuesday (Dec. 12) and came up on the short end, bowing to the Streakettes 59-45. The Devilettes were outscored in all four quarters as the Sebring girls built a seven point first quarter lead and never relinquished their lead.

Avon Park took an early lead on two quick baskets by center Kathy Wiggins, an eight foot shot by guard Laurie Welch and a 14 foot jump shot by forward Bernice Taylor. This gave Avon Park an 8-6 lead with 3:10 left in the first period.

Taylor was playing in her first game of the season, since she entered school late this year and has just become eligible. Sebring countered by scoring 12 straight points to take the lead 18-8. Eight of these points were scored by Jackie Smith who led all scorers in the game with 20 points.

In the second quarter, Avon Park guard Annette Blake scored on a layup to cut the Streakette lead to 18-13. Then Sebring proceeded to outscore the Avon Park girls 12-1 to take a commanding 30-14 lead. However, in the last two minutes of the half, Devilette forward Patti Barben hit a 12 foot shot, Blake banged one in from 13 feet, Taylor hit two free throws and Ellen Macklin added one

charity toss. This Red Devilette flurry cut Sebring's lead to nine points at halftime 30-21.

The Streakettes came out firing in the second half. They converted on three quick baskets and two free throws to raise their lead to 39-21. The Devilettes never threatened again. The third period ended with Sebring ahead 45-32. In the last eight minutes, Sebring outpointed the Avon Park girls 14-13 to win by the

final tally of 59-45.

Bernice Taylor was the high scorer for Avon Park with eight points, followed by Tammy Ostling, Laurie Welch, and Annette Blake each registering seven

points. Kathy Wiggins scored six points, Ellen Macklin had five, Patti Barben shipped in with four, and Brenda Brooker tallied one. Sebring raised its record to 2-1 while the Devilettes dropped to 1-4.

Bombing Range Open For Hunting Dec. 23-25

The Avon Park Bombing Range Recreational area will be open for the regular hunting season on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, December 23, 24, and 25, 1978 to hunters possessing a hunting license and a State Wildlife Management Area Stamp.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will have personnel on duty at the Main Gate and Frostproof

Check Stations starting at 5 p.m., on Friday, Dec. 22, until 9 p.m. and between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 23, and 24, 1978, and from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 25. All hunters are to be off the range no later than 8 p.m., Monday, December 25.

Confirmation of the above dates and times can be obtained by calling 813 - 452-4223.

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Red Devils

Take Win Over Miners

The Avon Park varsity basketball team recorded its second 40-point victory of the season Thursday night (Dec. 14) in Ft. Meade by destroying the Miners 85-45.

Playing in Ft. Meade's spacious new gymnasium, the Devils scored the first 12 points of the game before the Miners lit up the scoreboard with 4:08 remaining in the period. Avon Park steadily increased their lead, as Charleton Weathers pumped in five baskets, to finish the first eight minutes with a commanding 26-5 advantage.

The Devils continued their fast paced scoring in the second period as Alvin Conner led the way with 10 points. The Avon Park lead ballooned to 50-21 by halftime.

Ft. Meade, playing without three suspended players, was not able to cope with the Red Devil speed and shooting ability. Only when the starting unit from Avon Park took a rest with 2:34 remaining in the third period, was Ft. Meade able to mount a charge. The Miners outscored the eventual winners 8-2 during these 2½ minutes to narrow the gap to 65-33 going into the final period. While the Red Devil reserves were getting plenty of playing time in the fourth quarter, Avon Park again outpointed their hosts 20-12 to win their third consecutive game of the young season. Reserves, Jeff Adams and Chris Collins contributed eight and ten points respectively.

The combination of Weathers and

Conner, Avon Park's two super sophomores, again led the team in the offensive department. Weathers recorded 10 field goals and one of two free throws for 21 points, while Conner had three field goals along with 10 of 11 free throws for 16 points. J.D. Taylor pulled down a team leading 14 rebounds and added six field goals for 12 points. Center Perneli Gibbs grabbed several key rebounds and added eight points. Guard David Sisemore tossed in four points, as did Dwayne Simpson, a reserve forward. Gerald Jones scored two points, while Stanley Smith and James Wilburn also saw action.

Avon Park shot a fine 69 percent from the free throw line as they connected on 15 out of 22 attempts. Ft. Meade could

only make five out of 14 tries at the line for 38 percent. Avon Park was whistled for 15 fouls while the Miners were whistled for 17 times.

The Devil's Heartland Conference record now stands at 2-4, while the Miners suffered their third loss in as many games, two of them to conference opponents.

Girl Team Defeats Ft. Meade

The girls basketball team used a second half rally to come from behind and beat the Ft. Meade Miner girls team by the score of 49-34. The win was the second for the Devilettes against four losses, while Ft. Meade dropped its second game in three outings.

The game was close throughout the first half with the Miners outscoring the Avon Park girls by one in the first period, leading 9-8. Both teams tallied 10 points in the second half to bring the score to 19-18 at intermission with the Miners still in the lead.

At the outset of the third quarter, the Red Devilettes took charge of the game by scoring 10 unanswered points to take a 29-19 lead. Laurie Welch scored seven of these points as she led a full court press that caused several Ft. Meade turnovers. However, the Miners staged a rally of their own by scoring eight straight points at the end of the period to cut the Devilette lead to only three, 32-29.

With four minutes left in the game and a four point Avon Park lead, the Devilettes took command again. They went on an 11 point game ending scoring spree while their defense shut out the Miners to preserve their second Heartland Conference victory.

Leading scorers for Avon Park were Laurie Welch with 12 points, Kathy Wiggins and Annette Blake added 10 tallies each while Bernice Taylor chipped in with eight. Ellen Macklin had three field goals for six points and Tammy Ostling scored three points. Ft. Meade was led by Karen Williams with a game high 14 points.

The Devilette's next game will be Monday, January 8. The opponent will be Lake Wales and it will be played at home starting at 7:00 p.m.

A.L. MACDONALD caught his 10 lb. 1 oz. bass last Saturday while fishing in Lake Lotela. The 67 year old man said that this

MacDonald Lands Big Bass

A.L. MacDonald caught his 10 lb. 1 oz. bass last Saturday while fishing in Lake Lotela. He landed the 25 inch fish using a "devils horse" plug. "It's the

largest fish he had caught and plans to mount it.

largest fish I've ever caught," said Mr. MacDonald, and "I plan to have it mounted."

Devils Defeat Hornets 61-41

The Avon Park Red Devils advanced to the finals of the Lake Wales Invitational Basketball Tournament Saturday afternoon by defeating the Haines City Hornets by the score of 61-41. The Devils outscored their opponents in every period to post their fourth straight victory and earn the right to play the host Highlanders in the Monday night finale for the championship trophy. Lake Wales blasted Ft. Meade 79-41 in the second game played Saturday.

The Red Devils and Hornets jostled for position early in the game with the lead changing hands several times. The Hornets led 6-4 and 8-6 before the Devils, led by Charleton Weathers, began to get untraced. Weathers took charge of the Avon Park offense and calmly produced 14 of the team's first 20 points. Most of these points came on drives to the basket, as the Haines City man-to-man defense could not contain Weathers' quickness. He had 16 points at halftime.

J.D. Taylor, who played a strong board game at both ends of the floor, added eight first half points as the Devils cruised to a 12 point lead at the intermission 33-21.

Avon Park continued to increase their lead throughout the second half. Their 1-3 trapping defense kept the Hornets confused during the entire game. Weathers continued his hot scoring hand,

adding eight more points in the third quarter, while Perneli Gibbs and Taylor added two each and Chris Collins scored on a free throw to give the Devils a 46-32 lead going into the last period.

Haines City, now 1-3, never could get untraced to mount any kind of attack. Midway through the final period, Alvin Conner hit three consecutive 15 foot jump shots to nail the lid on the game and make the score 57-39 with less than a minute to play.

The victory against 3A Haines City was the third against four tries for the Devils against either 3A or 4A opponents. Avon Park was led in scoring by Weathers with 26, Taylor had 13, Conner 10, Gibbs nine, and Collins added two points. David Sisemore and Gerald Jones, although failing to score, played steady as ballhandlers and contributed to the overall defense which held the opposition to a mere 19 field goals and three free throws. Avon Park converted on 26 field goals and hit on nine out of 19 free throw attempts.

"Our next game (Monday night against Lake Wales) will be tough win," commented Red Devil head coach Don Sisemore after the game. "We beat them last Tuesday night at home so they definitely will be fired up for our rematch."

Varsity Team Runnerup

The Avon Park varsity basketball team accepted the runner up trophy in the Lake Wales Invitational Tournament Monday night after losing a close game to the host Highlanders. The Red Devils, led by Alvin Conner's 28 points, battled back from a 21 point first half deficit to make it interesting in the final two periods before losing 82-70.

The Red Devils, who had beaten Lake Wales less than a week before in Avon Park, jumped off to a 6-5 lead mainly because of Perneli Gibbs, who accounted for four of the six points. However, Lake Wales, inspired by a loud home crowd, reeled off nine straight points to give them a 15-6 lead with 2:40 left in period one. Avon Park never led again. The period ended with Lake Wales ahead 26-16.

The Highlanders, seeking their fifth win to go with two losses, made matters worse as they outscored the Devils 19-4 at the outset of the second quarter. This gave the Highlanders a 21 point lead, which the Devils were to find too much to overcome. However, the Red Devils showed character in their refusal to quit. Conner tossed in eight points while Charleton Weathers added six to cut the Lake Wales lead to 48-35 at halftime. Johnny Griffin, Lake Wales' premier shooter, had 21 points at the intermission.

As the third period opened, the Red Devil offense began to click. They outpointed the Highlanders 13-6 during the first 5½ minutes of the period. David Sisemore led the comeback with two quick 15 foot jumpers. Gibbs helped by adding three points, while Weathers, Conner, and Gerald Jones chipped in with two each to cut the margin to six at 54-48. Lake Wales called time out to regroup, which evidently helped, as they proceeded to score nine unanswered points. The Devils never got closer than seven points as the two teams traded baskets in the fourth quarter.

Avon Park dropped its second game of the campaign after four wins. They were led in scoring by Conner's 28 points. Gibbs added 14 points and led the team in rebounds with 12. Weathers pumped in 12 while Sisemore and Jones had six and

four points respectively. J.D. Taylor and Chris Collins rounded out the scoring with two points each. Griffin ended up with 25 markers for the Highlanders.

The Devils continued their Christmas break schedule by traveling to Ft. Myers

Racquetball Ladder Tourney

The APRD's Racquetball Ladder tournament ended last Friday, Dec. 15. The top two finishers in each division

received a trophy for their efforts in this two month long event. The matches played in this tournament were much closer ones than the ones in previous tournaments. Since there was an "A" and "B" division in the men's class, more competitors joined, knowing that they would have a greater chance to an award. Approximately 24 people took part in this tournament.

The awards were given to the people who held the top two positions the longest period in the two month event. The next ladder tournament will be in the spring or summer months.

The winners in their respective divisions were as follows: Men's "A" Division-1st-Tom Ray, 2nd-Woody Wood; Men's "B" Division-1st-Chris Dennison, 2nd-David Brooker; Women's - 1st-Darcey Ray, 2nd-Peggy Sisemore.

Contestants of this tournament and other interested racquetballers should look for the next tournament to be co-sponsored by the Avon Citrus Bank and the Highland's Bank of Avon Park, which will be in February. This again will be open to any of the players in the area.

Jayvees Takes Ft. Meade

The junior varsity Red Devils routed the Ft. Meade Miners Tuesday night (Dec. 12) 89-23 to record their third victory in four games. The junior Devils, playing in Ft. Meade, scored almost at will. They outpointed the Miners 24-4 in the first quarter to nail down the victory early.

The Red Devils opened with a press which resulted in many easy baskets and also balanced scoring. Larry Jackson accounted for six first period points while Dwayne Council, Eddie Loyd and Thomas McAfee each added five. Henry

Taylor, the other Devil starter hit on one of two free throws to account for the 20 point first period lead. With reserves playing most of the second quarter, the Devils outscored the Ft. Meade junior varsity by only 12-10. The halftime score read 36-14 in favor of Avon Park.

After intermission, the Devils put their offense in high gear. In the last 16 minutes of action, Ft. Meade was blitzed 53-9. Every member of Happy Rewis' squad scored as the regulars outpointed Ft. Meade 25-2 in the third period. The

reserves continued the onslaught in the last eight minutes by adding 28 points while giving up only seven.

McAfee, Jackson, Kevin Caldwell, and Council all scored in double figures with 17, 15, 15, and 12 points respectively. Ricky Oates added eight, Courtney Weathers five, Sam Smith four, and Bart Murphy and Henry Taylor each chipped in with three markers.

The junior varsity has two weeks off for Christmas vacation with their next game scheduled to be Tuesday, January 9, at home against the Arcadia Bulldogs. Game time will be 6:30 p.m.

Weight Lifting Tourney

The upcoming Weight-Lifting Tournament, sponsored by the Rec. Dept., will be open to all real lifters over the age of 14 years old. Participants must enter in the appropriate division, according to their present body weight. The

divisions are as follows: 150 lbs.-heavyweight; 220 lbs.-over-super-heavyweight.

The tournament will be held at the Recreation Center in Avon Park, Friday, Dec. 29. All contestants must complete sign and deliver their entry forms to the Rec. Dept. before Dec. 27. There will be a \$5. entry fee to help cover the cost of the trophies to be awarded. There will be trophies awarded to the top three in each of the four divisions, along with one for the top total of all contestants and one for the highest total, minus your body weight.

The three lifts, from which the points will be added to get the final total, will be the military press, bench press and the dead lift.

For more information call 453-6881

Avon Park Cagers Sports A 3-1 Season

The Avon Park Cage team, sporting a 3-1 regular season record, played in their second straight Christmas Turnout last night, meeting Naples High in the first game of a five day meet at Fort Myers.

If they came through in their initial game, they will meet the winner of the North Fort Myers-Bishop Verot game Friday, Dec. 22 in a quarter-final match-up. Friday's game is slated for 8-45 p.m. Quarter final winners from the first three days of the tournament will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at Fort Myers,

with the Championship game scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 28.

Sixteen teams are entered in the annual Holiday affair, and Coach Don Sisemore, coach of the APHS team said, "the going will be tough. We'll probably be representing the smallest school in the tournament, but if we can keep it together, we can give some of those bigger schools a tough time." Sisemore is happy with his team's showing in their first four games and hopes they can keep it up.

Celebrate Christmas Day

The Candlelight Restaurant & Lounge

Sun 'n Lake

Closed Sunday, Christmas Eve, in order for our staff to be with their families. We will be open for your dining pleasure Christmas Day - 12 noon-5 p.m.



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5306 Sun 'n Lake Boulevard
Sebring, Florida 33870

Menu

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Entree, Dessert
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Noon - 5 P.M.

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For Reservations Call
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