

At Mother of Sorrows

The Dance Is the Thing

By SHARON DARNIEDER

No matter how old you are, probably one of the most popular forms of entertainment when you were a teenager was a dance.

Styles change, and bands and their beats are different today than a generation ago, but teens are still looking for a good time and a place to meet their friends.

And at Mother of Sorrows dances they get both.

Periodic dances, sponsored by the Men's Club, began at the parish at 5000 Mt. Read Blvd. about two years ago, and they began for a reason.

"A few years ago the Men's Club volunteered to underwrite anything the young people wanted," said Father George Wood, pastor. The dances were the result.

"The main purpose is to put something on for the kids," said Dick Crooker, immediate past president of the club. (The new president, George Jezsick was recently installed.)

"If we make money, fine," he continued, "but it's primarily for the teens and their friends."

There's no denying that the dances make money now, although when they first began the club lost money on some and broke even on others.

The club has booked other bands but the one that usually plays and is the most popular with those who attend is Lucifer, a local group.

"A lot of people are afraid to get involved with kids today," he said, "but we've found it to be nothing but very pleasant."

The parish hasn't had any major trouble at the dances, and the last one on April 26 drew around 800 teens. Such success probably is due to several forces, the Greece police, the Civil Defense and volunteer chaperones — all of whom are present at each dance.

Normally there are around 20-25 volunteer chaperones at a dance, but the club can always use more because of the number of children who attend.

Crooker added that replacements are needed, too, for those chaperones who usually attend but who may be away on vacations, have illness in the family or other commitments for the night.

Crooker believes that if you treat those who attend like adults, "they'll react accordingly."

Some of the things the teens like are the lack of strict dress codes and the fact that their friends may attend.

"The dances are pretty good," states Sue Hasenauer, 15, "we get a chance to see our friends here."

Joan Elliott, 15, likes to come because it gives her a chance "to get out and do something" after a long week in school.

Proceeds go into improvements for the church. So far the Men's Club has installed outdoor festival lights, some new equipment for the church hall kitchen and contributed toward sealer that'll be used on part of the church's asphalt parking lots and school playground.



Dick Crooker, [left] former Men's Club president talks with Debbie White, Sue Hasenauer, Gary Hemdal and Frank Bock before the dance begins.

Before each dance, posters are placed around the area and hand flyers are distributed. And the two teen members on the Parish Council, DeWitt Ring and Mary Hasenauer, are in charge of getting together a crew to help clean up afterwards.

Other than local school dances, Father Wood said that as

far as he knew, no one in the area "has systematic dances the way we have."

And they're paying off. Not only for the teens who attend them, but for the band and parish as well. The next dance is scheduled for May 31 from 8-11 p.m. Admission is \$1.50.

OHD Names Miss Wehrlin

Judy Wehrlin has assumed the position of communications director for the Office of Human Development, effective May 2. The position was formerly held by Susan Dollinger.

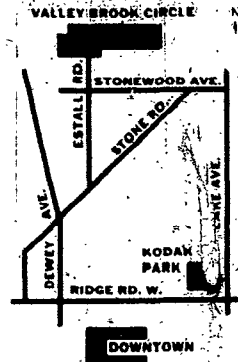
Massachusetts, Miss Wehrlin was the communications director for the college ministry staff. She has also been involved in prison ministry, migrant work in Florida and poverty programs in Appalachia. Miss Wehrlin is a native of Palmyra and a member of St. Anne's Church.

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