

Just Movies

# This week's local listings

# Former vaudeville star reminisces about career

**United Press International**  
**FREMONT, Mich.** — Geraldine Valliere's scrapbooks and diaries are full of memories of high times, the fame and thrills that came with a career in vaudeville.

The pianist, 87, was once the lead performer in an unusual all-woman four-piano act known as "Jerry and the Baby Grands." She worked with Milton Berle, Burns and Allen, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby — everyone who was anyone back then.

But what time gave, time took away.

Vaudeville died out and, after accompanying Major Bowes' traveling amateur show for a few years, Valliere returned to this small western Michigan town to care for her mother.

"It's been a pretty lonely life after the excitement of traveling and meeting people in show business," she admits. "It was tough at first. All I know is music. I can't even cook yet."

Her rise to vaudeville headliner was the stuff of which movies were made.

A small town music teacher, the daughter of a grocer, gets a job in Duluth, Minn., and works in her spare time as a theater pianist. She gains some local fame in 1919 by heading three other pianists in a piano quartet and, after appearing in Chicago, is booked for New York.

From there, the sky's the limit. Long runs at the nation's top theaters as Jerry and the Baby Grands, the piano quartet that came complete with a troupe of eight dancers and 6½ tons of equipment.

She even headlined a 13-country around-the-world tour that lasted from August 1929 to November 1930. Her quartet played the top halls in England, France, Germany, Australia and South Africa.

But the demand for a piano quartet that traveled, with 13,000 pounds of gear in tow faded along with vaudeville.

After a couple of years with Major Bowes, she returned to Duluth — where a small confectioner had named a candy bar, the "Jerry Bar," after her — and then retired to Fremont to care for her mother.

"My mother, right up until her last moment in life, said 'no body ever had a daughter like you,'" she says. "I came home in 1941 to care for her after my father died. She passed away at 103."

"I never married. I never had time," she says, a bit wistfully. "Oh, I had my chances. My manager waited for me for 42 years. He died in Florida."

Memories and memorabilia keep Valliere company in the small apartment she calls home.

The walls are lined with photos of her act; four platinum blonde women seated behind huge pianos with dancers strutting on top.

A globe marked with the route and performance dates of her around-the-world tour sits atop a small cabinet jammed with overflowing with scrapbooks, publicity photos and handbills.

"I still hear from Milton Berle," she says.

When she shows remorse, it is not over a lost career but bitterness toward the rigors of age.

"I don't play the piano any more," she says, rubbing her hands. "It's arthritis. I haven't played for two or three years. I just can't play well enough to suit myself — I always played fancy, not plain."



"Class" takes a laugh-filled look at two prep-school seniors whose friendship is supremely tested when one of them inadvertently has an affair with the other one's mother. Pictured: Jacqueline Bisset, Andrew McCarthy and Rob Lowe (seated).

computers and plays war with the Russians for real. PG.

**Twilight Zone:** This is a four episode movie length version of the old TV show the *Twilight Zone*. If you consider two out of four episodes good enough, then go see this movie. It makes you wonder who is in the *Twilight Zone*. R.

**Blue Thunder:** Roy Scheider is in this flick about a honest man trying to save the public from the horrors of an overdone riot control helicopter. The story line is interesting but the feasibility will leave you lost. R.

**Trading Places:** Eddie Murphy and Dan Akroyd star in this humorous "Prince and the Pauper" type story. These two talents come together to make one of the funniest comedies out this summer. Good entertainment. R.

**Octopussy:** The most interesting thing about this James Bond flick is the title. This particular story follows the James Bond formula and has nothing new and exciting to offer. If you have ever seen a James Bond movie before then you might as well say you have seen this one also. R.

**Skyway Twin Drive-In**  
 822-3300

**Space Raiders:** A sad adventure film which thinks it is a cross between *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Last Ark*. Rated R.

**Star Crash:** Crash is an accurate term in this film's title. Rated R.

**Tough Enough:** A cheap Rockyrip-off. This film is about an unemployed worker in the East who turns to boxing to earn his living. Rated R.

**Psycho II:** Norman Bates is back and the Mother's Day horror continues. This sequel sticks to the original in a complimentary fashion but you will wonder if you are crazy for paying \$4.50 for this movie. R.

MSC Grove

**Alien:** A terror fantasy story where terror lurks around every corner. This exciting movie pits the crew of an industrial space ship against a deadly and terrifying alien who never stops growing as he feeds on the crew. **Thursday.** Rated R.

**On Golden Pond:** Henry Fonda and Katherine Hepburn star in this romantic love story of an elderly couple spending the last years of their lives together and coping with growing old. **Friday/Saturday.** Rated R.

**Same Time Next Year:** Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn star in this romantic comedy about a couple who, no matter what, meets every year to see each other. **Sunday.** Rated R.

**The Graduate:** Dustin Hoffman relates the dilemma of graduation as he faces real world problems and the older woman next door. **Monday.** Rated PG.

**The Sting:** The greatest con of all time is what Robert Redford and Paul Newman are trying to pull off. Will they do it? The answer is this hilarious adventure comedy. **Tuesday.** Rated Pg.

**Blazing Saddles:** Mel Brooks is the comic genius behind this hilarious comedy. See how the west was won (or lost). **Wednesday.** Rated R.

**Plitt Cinema I&II&III**  
 846-6714

**Jaws 3D:** The latest of the *Jaws* movies. Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the movie theater they have brought another shark story — too bad this isn't the one that got away. R.

**Class:** A funny comedy about life of two prep school boys and the adventures they go through. It is just as if Porky's went to prep school. Rated R.

**Flashdance:** A film with

little plot and little acting talent but some of the most electrifying dancing and music that has come out of a movie in a long time. This film does for New Music what *Saturday Night Fever* did for Disco. R.

**Rocky Horror Picture Show:** What happens when the all-American couple meets a transsexual? Watch this classic cult film and find out. **Midnight.** R.

**The Man From Snowy River:** Kirk Douglas stars in this western about a boy suddenly alone in the world who helps a girl struggling with life. In Dolby stereo. PG.

**Return of the Jedi:** The third piece to the exciting *Star Wars* trilogy. I doubt seriously if there is anyone out there who doesn't know what this film is about. If you don't, wake up and smell the coffee. PG.

**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs:** A classic Disney animation of the famous

fairytale. For people of all ages. Rated G.

**Post Oak:**  
 764-0616

**Staying Alive:** The sequel to *Saturday Night Fever*. John Travolta stars as a dancer who wins the lead in a Broadway musical. The music is still by the Bee Gees. Oh Gee. Rated R.

**The Survivors:** Walter Matthau and Robin Williams star in this new comedy. The humor is more situation than anything else and unfortunately hides the talents of both of these men to be funny. R.

**Stoker Ace:** Burt Reynolds and Loni Anderson star in this excuse to "act" together. Reynolds is a race car driver and Anderson is the girl after his heart. R.

**Schulman Six**  
 775-2468

**War Games:** What happens when a computer fails to make the distinction of a real war and a war game to a 14-year-old boy. See what happens as a young computer genius taps into the defense

Now you know

**United Press International**  
 The most overworked word in English is "set," which has 58 noun uses, 126 verbal uses and 10 as a participial adjective.

**"Coming Soon" WHITE SALE!**

From 7:00 to 7:31

White 20# bond copies  
 8 1/2 x 11 loose sheets  
**2 1/2¢**

kinko's copies

201 College Main  
 846-8721

**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can walk to the SOUPER SALAD within a few minutes for the greatest soups in Texas. You may pick and choose your own salad from the twenty-six foot salad bar with great condiments and dressings.

**WALK AND SAVE To the Sbis Basement OPEN**

Monday through Friday 10:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

**"QUALITY FIRST"**

**Petal Patch**  
 707 Shopping Village

**Petal Patch, Too**  
 Post Oak Village — Hwy. 30

A TEXAS-DOZEN YELLOW ROSES (15 Roses!)

**JULY'S SPECIAL \$19.50**

JOIN THE **ADD-A-BEAD WHOLESALE CLUB**

**1/2 PRICE**  
 Until Nov. 30, 1983

Come in and join the Club for \$10 fee & a purchase of \$39.00. This will enable you to get all the add-a-beads you've wanted at 1/2 price until Nov. 30, 1983.

**Kay & Co.**  
 FINE JEWELRY

415 University 846-5816

MSC Summer Dinner Theatre presents

**The Man with the Plastic Sandwich**

**AUG 2-8 MSC 201**

NIGHTS	MEALS	STUDENTS	NON-STUDENTS
Wednesday	Refreshments	\$2.50	\$3.50
Thursday	B-B-Q Dinner	\$6.50	\$7.50
Friday	Chicken Dinner	\$7.50	\$8.50
Saturday	Buffet Dinner	\$9.50	\$10.50

Purchase tickets 24 hours in advance at MSC Box Office.

**The smartest move you can make.**  
 (next to going to A&M, of course)

**OPEN HOUSE**  
 3 PM 'til Dark Weekdays  
 10 AM 'til Dark Sat. and Sun.

Wood Brook Condominiums are located in an area known for its investment potential, just off Harvey Road across from the Woodstone Shopping Center.

- fireplaces with raised hearths or brick mantles
- cathedral ceiling in master bedrooms
- two ceiling fans
- built-in kitchen appliances
- hot tub and swimming pool
- private patios

**Wood Brook Condominiums**

**brazosland** realty services, inc.  
 846-5735

Another development by Sypcon Corp.

YES, send more information to:  
 Myself  My Parents

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Clip & mail to: BRAZOSLAND REALTY, INC., 4103 Texas Ave., Bryan, TX 77801