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AN AUTHENTIC Civil War reenacting unit will be formed by April, or so hopes John Jacobs, a Harrison High School senior interested in the Civil War era. He recently played an acting role as an extra in a Civil War television production by ABC. John displays an authentic Union cartridge belt, shoes, Union saddle, Confederate belt and pouch. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

Civil War Buffs To Get Together

By SANDRA ARMBRUSTER

An interest in the Civil War and artifacts from that era landed a Farmington Hills youth a two-week acting stint last summer for a television production shown recently by ABC.

John Jacobs, a Harrison High School senior, was a member of a Civil War reenacting unit, the First Michigan, at Ft. Wayne last summer, when the unit received notice that Wolpen Productions would be filming a Civil War episode, "The World Turned Upside Down."

John traveled to Philadelphia with two other members of the unit and participated as an extra in the filming nearly every day for two weeks.

Filming was done in Washington's Crossing Park, a historic park on the outskirts of Philadelphia near where George Washington crossed the Delaware.

John got paid \$30 a day plus travel expenses and thought the experience was "just a lot of fun." Two main scenes which he remembers are where the army deserts Washington and mutinies, and where Washington's army "breaks" up behind the British by rafting on the Delaware River.

"I was impressed the way it was filmed. While we were in the field I had no idea how it would be put together to make it historically right, but when it came out it was accurate," John said.

"The directors were fairly decent, but I guess they had

to push to get where we were supposed to be. They did the best they could," he added. "I learned a lot. It was an altogether worthwhile experience."

John hopes to continue his brief career by participating in two movies which are being filmed this summer. He also hopes to further his interest in that era by taking a job as a guide with the park service at a Civil War battlefield in Virginia.

In the meantime John hopes to form a Second Michigan unit dedicated to "bringing back today what was yesterday." Such historical units parade in authentic uniforms and go to school presentations.

He hopes to have his unit organized by April. Currently members are looking for a four-button coat material. If parts of the uniforms are not authentic, then they are matched with an exact counterpart. For instance material for uniforms must be matched in weaves.

John, whose great-grandfather was in the Confederate Army, said in order to form a historical unit, a person must have a sincere interest, be historically minded, have an eye for details, do a lot of reading and know what he's talking about.

FARC Is Studying Needs To Improve Recreation

The Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC) is studying ways to improve the recreation picture in Farmington, according to Chairman John Richardson.

The annual report of the FARC will be presented Jan. 17, at 8 p.m. in the Farmington city hall.

John Dufour, director of the Livonia Parks and Recreation Dept., will be a guest, outlining the development of recreation and parks in that city.

"The FARC has decided the first step in analyzing our

recreation situation is to inventory what opportunities we have now, not only from the standpoint of municipally sponsored recreation, but also from private clubs, the schools, Little Leagues, AAU programs, as well as the YMCA and the Community Center," Dr. Richardson said.

"After this information has been compiled, hopefully by the first of the year, the commission hopes to be able to analyze the data with the help of professionals from the Department of Natural

Resources and be in a position to make recommendations to the Councils of Farmington and Farmington Hills in time for funding for the next fiscal year."

The FARC met recently with James Beers, head of the program development section of the DNR.

Beers stated the average expenditure for recreation for communities in Michigan similar to Farmington is about \$5 per capita.

The national standard goal is \$8 per capita for land and \$6 for recreation and leadership.

The national recommendation for parks or open space is 10 acres per 1,000 population.

The FARC has a total budget of under \$15,000, resulting in an expenditure of less than 25 cents per capita in the Farmington community through the FARC, Richardson said.

"Privately funded recreation programs will, of course, add to this amount—a total unknown at this time," he added.

Beers told the committee the DNR had professionals

on the staff to aid communities in the formation of recreation programs.

The FARC represents a broad cross-section of the Farmington community.

Ral Homovec, Farmington Hills, was appointed recently to replacing retiring Mark Sitts.

Other members include: Joan Dudley, Farmington Hills councilman; Elizabeth Brennan, from the Farmington Board of Education; Norman Hunt, from the Clarenceville board; John Cotton; and Armabelle Hoaglund, member at large.

Goldman Defends Gifts

Wood Creek Audit Finished

"We've spent too much time on this audit already. It's a tempest in a teapot," former Wood Creek Farms Village President David Goldman told the Farmington Hills council Monday.

He presented the council copies of the audit of the 1972-73 fiscal year done by Alexander Grant Co.

The new City of Farmington Hills takes over the

assets and liabilities of both former villages within its boundaries.

The Wood Creek books apparently caused a delay in transferring the responsibilities of the village over to the city last month.

A report received by the city council Nov. 13 indicated the final audit of Wood Creek was delayed because the

Grant company was unable to locate two contracts needed for their records.

Goldman told the council he was "under the impression all records had been turned over" to the city then.

He said Farmington Hills policemen had taken the files and contracts to city hall, including one of the two contracts in question.

The other was in the hands of the village attorney.

A contract for rubbish collection in the old village, it was not signed before incorporation, Goldman said.

Goldman also said the village council had acted on legal advice when it donated \$7,000 to the Farmington School District and the Sarah Fisher home.

The Farmington Hills council has demanded the return of both gifts, claiming they were made illegally.

Both the school and the home have referred the matter to their attorneys.

"Unfortunately, since the vote for incorporation, there has been a complete lack of communication with city hall," Goldman said.

Police Grant Delayed

Farmington Hills delayed voting on a proposed three-city police "saturation patrol" Monday, pending more information on the program.

The proposal, which first came up at the Farmington city council meeting last week, would involve the two Farmingtons and the City of Livonia.

The federal government would pay 90 per cent of the estimated \$394,000 cost if all three cities decide to go ahead.

The Farmington Hills council indicated a final decision would be made at a special session Dec. 17.

Proposed is a 11-man special patrol which would be dispatched to areas indicated as "target areas" by computer analysis.

A similar program has been in operation in the Westland area for several years.



Junior Miss Goes To State

FARMINGTON'S CYNTHIA Leistikow will compete in the state Junior Miss Pageant next month after surviving the regional competition held Saturday in Westland.

Cynthia, a North Farmington High School senior and winner of the local Junior Miss pageant last month, received a Christmas gift from Santa Claus Friday night during a reception held by the Westland Jaycees, sponsors of the regional event. She is one of 10 finalists from the field of 16 picked to compete in the state pageant, set for Pontiac, Jan. 24-26. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Leistikow and plans to major in music education at Michigan State University. (Observer photo)

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School Committee Is Looking At Variable Tax Position

"Don't jump to conclusions," is the advice of the newly-formed task force on variable millage appointed recently by the Farmington school board.

Board President Mervyn Ross appointed six members to the task force to represent the three municipal units located in the Farmington school district.

The appointees are Jeffrey Leib and Mrs. Betty Rowe, of West Bloomfield Township; Fred Hughes and Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington Hills; and Mrs. Joan Bar-

ber and John Courville of the City of Farmington.

Vagnozzi was designated as committee coordinator.

The school board resolution which set up the committee allowed the group to expand its membership, which it did at its organizational meeting.

Added to the task force were Richard J. Wallace, Dan Lichtman and Fred Rowe.

Purpose of the task force is to gather facts on the allocation of variable millage, according to Vagnozzi.

This is the practice of a county board allowing a dif-

ferent school tax rate for communities within a school district.

The committee will report the findings to the school district by next spring.

The task force agreed to assign various areas of study to its members at its first meeting, Vagnozzi said.

The areas include the views of various governmental units involved, homeowner groups and those with income used in the current budget. The effect of variable millage income on

present and future state aid, and the history and application of variable millage will also be studied.

"Variable millage" is a taxing policy followed by Oakland County.

One result of the policy was the allocation of an additional 1.2 mills to the school district which formerly went to Farmington Township, before it was incorporated as a city.

The action was challenged in August by the Farmington Hills council, which threatened not to certify the school tax rate.

Members of the full board, have threatened a class action suit challenging the school board's action.

The homeowners are asking Farmington taxpayers to pay their taxes under protest, pending settlement of the issue.

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