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John Wesley College changes its educational structure for students

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON HILLS—Several years ago John Wesley College, a Bible school since 1890, changed the whole thrust of its educational program. The Owosso-based institution is now a liberal arts college with programs and philosophies tailored to meet a changing way of life.

One of those is to take the college to the students rather than the traditional way. Another is that learning is a lifelong process beginning in early childhood and continuing indefinitely.

These are two of the reasons why there is a center in Farmington Hills. The college leases the building behind University Hills Christian Church on Farmington Road, just south of Twelve Mile. It is one of six off-campus sites in the state where John Wesley faculty and staff are building a close interrelationship with the community and the people.

Provost Ed Bunnell explained the development of the off-campus centers.

"Two years ago January, we started the off-campus programs. We have tried to develop a school for adults to fit their needs—not ours. We have identified 21 ways people are earning degrees. On-campus is one."

He mentioned evening classes, television credit courses and travel-study programs as examples. John Wesley offers travel-study to the 500 on-campus students in Owosso as well as to another 500 taking courses at the local centers such as Farmington Hills.

Beyond these new tenets is one which reaches further into the lives of the people in the local communities.

NANCY BATES, administrative assistant with offices in Farmington Hills stated it.

"One of our challenges is to strengthen other community institutions and organizations. We will work with a church or school, for instance, to help develop programs and build a strong, well-organized volunteer group. That's really our goal. We're not competing with other educational institutions."

Mrs. Bates used the cooperation between the college and the Farmington Community Arts Council as an example. Another is the program for Farmington-area senior citizens which the college and the local senior citizen group developed together.

A shared-expense conference was held in Owosso. "The conference for senior citizens helped launch the art and craft program. We learned from those who attended that they want to be involved and doing things rather than just spectators," Mrs. Bates said.

Bunnell admits the far-flung program occasionally gets unruly, but the results in growth have been worth the effort.

"The best measure of success is growth. We have doubled our attendance every year. We don't have problems, we have growing pains."

GERONTOLOGY is one of the areas which is taking off very fast.

"People," said Bunnell, "should become interested in retirement when they're 45—housing, where they want to live, plans for a second and third career. Our dream is to someday have an institute for mature adults."

The human potential courses are also growing beyond expectations, reinforcing the college's belief that people today want more from themselves and more from life.

The philosophy that permeates the new programs, on campus and off, is that classroom experiences are only a part of the total learning process.

That's the reason for the travel-study tours. Experiencing the atmosphere at Gettysburg, Mrs. Bates reported, standing in the spot where the soldiers fell and died, fosters a special and irreplaceable understanding of the historic events.

TOUCHING the rocks, seeing the formations and colors in Yellowstone Park and the Dakota Bad Lands can never be duplicated in the classroom. Dr. Hulon Madeley is the tour guide

for the college sponsored two-week geology exploration trip to these and other areas next August.

Proudly Bunnell said the college is now an recognized candidate status with the North Central Association meaning that within a year, it will receive full accreditation.

"Today," he said, "non-traditional education is in. We know we must design programs to fit the needs of the students. It's in the people-relatedness that we're good. We know we can't be all things to all people and so many times we refer people to other institutions."

In addition to the variety of pro-

grams and learning situations for adults, John Wesley Center in Farmington Hills has an early learning center for pre-schoolers. It sponsors the Metropolitan Guidance Center next door. Speakers bureau service is also available in all of the center communities.

Meaningful education is a looser phrase—it means different things to different people. Yet, it describes the goal which this college set when it made the sharp turnaround several years ago. To meet the needs of an ever changing society, the John Wesley administrators know they have to hang loose.



George McNeil waters his garden. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Owner grows garden near tool company

By JUDY OWEN

George McNeil's garden in downtown Farmington could rival the proverbial tree that grows in Brooklyn.

McNeil might also be known as a person who makes optimum use of his land.

This is the fifth year for his four-foot-wide garden which is filled with strawberries, tomato plants, pole beans, lettuce, kohlrabi, beets, peppers, Swiss chard, chives, onions and Chinese peas.

The narrow strip runs 25 feet along the east side of his Precision Tool Co., 32431 Grand River.

"IT'S THE ONLY land I've got," he said. He appears to make good use of his tiny space along the alley beside his building.

His successful efforts might serve as encouragement to others who would like to raise some vegetables but think that a tiny space might prohibit gardening.

Cucumbers and beans climb wires strung from the ground to the windows to save space.

"We can pick the beans from inside," he said.

At one time, much of the strip had

been used for storage of excess steel that the firm was unable to use in its manufacture of aircraft parts.

BUT HE FOUND that the area high schools had a need for that type of material, so he hustled it over to them and gained more space for his garden.

"You know, things grow better where that steel was than anywhere else," he said.

He has tried corn—which bore just a few ears—and squash but has abandoned them for plants that require less growing space.

The tomatoes are already in the ground with protective wires encasing them.

"I STARTED the tomatoes too early," he said. "I got the itch."

"We get a lot of fun out of it," he said. "When everything works right, we get tomatoes everyday."

He shares the fruits of his labors with the 10 men he employs in his shop.

Meanwhile, there's a lot of water, a lot of love and even some encouraging chatter out along side his building as he asks his budding strawberries to "Come on now, plants, do your thing."



Not everyone who watched Farmington's annual Memorial Day parade Monday was a grownup. Some of the younger watchers sat on their parents' shoulders so they could watch the bands and floats easier. This year's parade attracted a good turnout, attributed to the Bicentennial year, but mostly to the good weather. Story and more pictures on page 3. (Photo by Craig Newman)



After the storm

Power failures hit Farmington and Farmington Hills Sunday night as a storm worthy of severe storm warnings swept through the two cities. Power was cut off for 14 hours in the Rolling Oaks subdivision of Farmington Hills.

Detroit Edison crewmen cut down fallen and falling limbs to free power lines. These workmen were out at 7:30 Monday morning clearing a back yard on Heritage Hills Drive to make sure electrical power continued after it was restored.

Kids' fish derby date is changed

The kids' fishing derby on Newburgh Lake has been pushed back two weeks to Saturday, June 21, but its sponsors promise it will be bigger than ever.

The date change was made to avoid conflicting with bicycling activities on Hines Parkway. The contest is open to boys and girls, competing together, from ages 6-16. It begins at 7 a.m. and runs to noon, although contestants may begin or stop any time in that period.

Joining the tournament as co-sponsors this year are the cities of Northville, Dearborn Heights, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Other prizes will be awarded for the largest fish in these species: Rock bass, channel catfish, northern pike, sunfish, crappie, bullhead, goldfish (golden carp) and carp.

The boy dressed as the Tom Sawyer and the girl, named like Becky Thatcher will receive prizes.

Any youngster who catches his or her limit of 25 minnow will receive a prize. Only minnow fishing with natural bait is permitted.

ALL CONTESTANTS must register before beginning to fish. A station will be set up near the shoreline along Hines Parkway just west of Newburgh Road.

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