

Farmington veterans optimistic over patriotism resurgence

By CORINNE ABATT

It's a Farmington Memorial Day tradition. Harold Quinn, World War II veteran and longtime member of the local American Legion Groves-Walker Post 346, will raise the flag before the parade starts. He can't remember how many years or how many times he's done it, but it's a lot. For Quinn and his fellow Legion members, the Memorial Day parade is an important event. Many of the 180 post members will be marching.

Broadhead-Farmington VFW Post service officer, William Tolhurst says, "I think we'll have the largest crowd ever for this year's parade."

The VFW has 280 members and most of them will be marching in the May 31 parade.

The women of the American Legion auxiliary under the leadership of President Lorraine Christensen will be part of the parade as will the VFW auxiliary.

Auxiliary president Grace Raymond says the 196 members will be marching either in uniform or bicentennial costume.

"THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS," says president Margaret Kahle "expect to be in the parade, but we may ride. Not too long ago there were some lean years when patriotism was out of favor with the American public, particularly high school and college students."

Tolhurst is optimistic that there's a change under way.

One of our great themes is Americanism. We're trying to promote it back into schools and churches. Recently, we had the best poppy day in many years. Why two high school kids even chased me down the street to buy poppies.

That made him feel good because he

says, "Usually the further away we are from war years, the more people tend to forget, but they didn't this year."

The poppy sale money goes to help veterans in a variety of ways.

In addition to selling poppies, VFW members never forget their deceased or hospitalized comrades.

Members visit the Allen Park veterans hospital twice a month and take entertainment with them. Several times a year they drive to the hospitals in Ann Arbor and Battle Creek.

Both the Legion and the VFW sponsor Scout troops and have several types of scholarship programs.

The VFW has the Voice of Democracy national scholarship and the Legion has a state scholarship program and a national oratorical contest.

Locally the American Legion sponsors basketball teams, boys' and girls' state, a student troop program and gives good citizenship awards at the junior and senior high levels.

Former American Legion state commander Charles Larson says scholarship awards will be given to 31 students in 10 area schools this year.

"The basic concept of these awards is good citizenship and good grades, too."

It pleases him that the Harrison High senior class asked the local Legion post for help with its gift to the school.

"They wanted to give the school a Bicentennial bicentennial flag in memory of the class of '76, so I have it for them and I'm going to take it over to them now."

Larson said this week.

Norm Giers, service officer for the Legion post, has the same feeling of optimism.

"Now, they're starting to come in. I'd guess we've had 15 new this year."

Giers should still probably won't take

credit for attracting some of the younger veterans in Legion membership.

As public service officer, he takes on all problems of veterans or their families that have any relationship to the government.

"WHETHER OR NOT they belong to the post, I tell them I'll get the answers to their questions," he says leaning on the counter of the Lantz Party Store at Nine Mile and Grand River where many a problem has been solved.

The local Legion post receives strong support in many of its projects from the auxiliary.

"We work right along side the men—whatever the project," says Mrs. Christensen.

Just recently Quinn was chairman of a fund raiser for a Troy school for mongoloid children. Through the sale of bicentennial pins, bumper stickers, and other things, the committee raised more than \$2,300 for the school.

The women pitched in for that one, too. On their own, the auxiliary will place a wreath on the grave of the unknown soldier in the old Farmington cemetery on Memorial Day.

The VFW auxiliary has had a busy year so far, Mrs. Raymond says. They have given many flags to schools, participated in a number of parades and helped with the Ohio Olympics in Mt. Clemens.

The eight or 10 active Blue Star Mothers are primarily fund raisers. Each year they raise money for donations to the veterans hospitals at Iron Mountain and Ann Arbor.

They also are ready to aid mothers or relatives or area service men.

For all of these groups, this bicentennial Memorial Day will be one of the most meaningful because patriotism is gradually coming back in style.



PARADE PLANNERS

Everybody loves a parade and this group from the VFW and the American Legion are making sure that Farmington will have the nicest parade of all on Memorial Day. They are (from left) Clayton Manninen, Farmington VFW

commander, Gus Hanson, deputy parade chairman, Don Gould, Farmington American Legion commander, and Wally Christensen, parade chairman.

Child molesting prompts security advice from cops

Even though you live in safe, affluent Farmington, you still should lock your doors at night.

That's the word from the Farmington Public Safety Department after the recent potential molesting of a 13-year-old girl early Saturday morning.

A tall, muscular male entered a quiet Farmington home shortly after 5 a.m. Saturday through an unlocked door between the house and garage.

From there, he crept through the sleeping family's utility room, wandered around the house and finally stopped at the young girl's room.

At that same moment, while he loomed over the unprotected girl, hundreds of homes in the area were also left unprotected as locks and security hinges remained unsatisfied, according to police.

But the youngster was disturbed by the man's presence.

She saw the intruder lurking over her wearing a black ski mask which com-

pletely covered his face.

AS SHE screamed for help, awakening the rest of her family, the potential sexual assaulter fled from the house.

By the time officers arrived the intruder had vanished untraced.

That young girl was lucky. It could have been worse and it could have happened to someone in your family.

Officers

Norm Maddison said.

"What this incident stresses is that everyone should make sure to lock their doors at night or when they are alone in the house."

Even though you may live in Farmington, there still exists the danger of someone entering your peaceful home un-

ited," he warned.

Clarenceville parade Monday

The Clarenceville School District will hold its biennial parade at 10 a.m. May 31 with the parade review taking place at the high school's athletic field, 2020 Middle Belt.

Taking part in the parade will be the Scout, Girl Scout and Brownie Troops, an explosives post sponsored by the Livonia police department, high school band and other National River Society chapter

from Clarenceville High and community church groups.

Registration will be an American flag made by Mrs. Amelia Richmond, a school district employee.

In case of rain, the parade will be postponed to another date. To be listed as a parade participant, the decision will be made at 9 a.m. Monday on whether the parade will start as scheduled.

Jewell Cooke steps down as championship coach

By SUE ROSEK

"It was just overpowering. I was expecting a small, family-type affair, instead, they put on this elaborate, well-planned dinner. It was beautiful," said Jewell Cooke, retiring coach of Garden City Parks and Recreation Girls' Swim Team, still reveling in the excitement of her biennial dinner Sunday in the Dearborn Inn.

Mrs. Cooke, of Farmington Hills, said she's trying to catch her breath after last week's tribute, in which she received letters of commendation and congratulations from President Gerald Ford and a host of other state and federal officials.

THE 58-YEAR-OLD Mrs. Cooke said she will continue to teach, but decided to relinquish her time-consuming coaching responsibilities.

"The trek from Farmington Hills to Garden City became too demanding, especially during the winter," said Mrs. Cooke. "I'll still teach this summer in Garden City, but as soon as the bad weather hits that will be it," said Mrs. Cooke, who



JEWELL COOKE plans to look for a job at a Farmington area recreation department.

AFTER MANAGING a packed schedule for the past 15 years, Mrs. Cooke said she expects to be "lost" for awhile. "I'm not used to having so much time on my hands, I'm going to go back to reading and working outdoors. I also like to play on my boats and take the dogs for a swim in the creek behind my home."

Cooke's coaching had produced swimmers ranked among the country's top 10 swimmers for 12 consecutive years.

She accumulated several coaching awards and Sunday's banquet, co-sponsored by Garden City Parks and Recreation, swimmers and parents, honored her distinguished career.

MORE THAN 100 swimmers, family members, friends and associates gathered at Mrs. Cooke's home, where she was presented with a bronze plaque from the Garden City Recreation Commission. Mrs. Cooke earlier received a certificate of appreciation from Garden City.

George Whistley of the American Red Cross presented Mrs. Cooke with a 38-year pin and a certificate congratulating her for having taught more than 2,500 swimmers in the Red Cross program.

Letters of congratulations were read by Garden City Parks and Recreation Sgt. Ray Wicks who also served as master of ceremonies.

Presentations also were made by Livonia Spartan Swim Coach Lou McDo-

nald, who reminisced about the days she and Mrs. Cooke swam together on a synchronized duet team.

Also recognizing Mrs. Cooke's achievements were Jim Moore of the Michigan Amateur Aquatics Association (MAAA), nationally ranked swimmer Cindy Brown and Dave Seagraves, coach of the Royal Oak Penguins.

Swimmer Kim Dorsey topped the dinner ceremonies with an original poem, "Mrs. Cooke's Special Smile."

MRS. COOKE, RECENTLY honored as a nominee for the United Foundation sportsman of the year award, has collected an impressive list of honors throughout her coaching years.

The MAAA voted her coach of the year in 1967 and again in 1970, the first time this honor was awarded to a woman, and the first time it was given to anyone two different years. In 1971, Mrs. Cooke was honored as master coach of the year.

HER OTHER achievements include national Canadian breaststroke champion, mother and coach of national breaststroke water safety chairwoman of western Wayne County American Red Cross, coach of 14 consecutive state championship teams, coach of two 1967 and 1971 national record holder relays and coach of national junior olympic record swimmer.

She has served as Michigan chairperson for the national committee of age group swimming and secretary and board member of the MAAA.

"MRS. COOKE EPITOMIZES the word class," said one member of the dinner planning committee. "She truly is a grand lady."

A native of Chicago, Mrs. Cooke received her teaching certificate from Margaret Eaton School in Toronto, a physical education school in Toronto. After graduation, she returned to Chicago and taught physical education in the school she had attended as a girl.

During World War II, she and her husband Horace moved to Detroit. She began coaching swimmers at Greenfield Village. The team needed a sponsor and Garden City agreed to lend the team its name.

Fifteen years later, city fathers and swimmers who have been coached by Mrs. Cooke are applauding that decision.



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MEMORIAL DAY
SALES & CLEARANCES

District ponders school closings

By RON GARBINSKI

Faced with a \$400,000 elementary education deficit, the board's decision concerning which elementary school in the Farmington District will be closed next year remains uncertain as summer vacation nears.

Since the board had decided to wait until school lets out for the summer before making a decision, the school closing decision plan has become more difficult.

If a decision was made earlier, it wouldn't have caused many of the problems we might experience when trying to close a school during vacation time," says Larry Freedman, assistant superintendent of elementary education.

Principals, teachers and students are on vacation and informing the community of school closings and boundary changes for the coming year becomes a problem of communications during the summer months.

At its May 4 meeting, the Farmington Board of Education set a July 1 deadline for the citizens' committee to look into possible school closings.

The committee, formed to gather community input, was to review an administrative report and make several recommendations to trustees.

AFTER THIS citizen's committee report, the board indicated it might make a decision to close an elementary school for next year.

At the same meeting, Freedman presented the district's elementary boundary committee's recommendations for school closings.

But the board didn't take action on the plans. Instead, it passed the report on to the citizen's committee for their review.

The citizen's committee is reviewing the boundary committee's recommendations and is considering alternatives of their own.

"The plans the citizen's committee are considering now will either close schools or change boundaries," Freedman says. "One plan deals with the boundary changes necessary if Ten Mile Elementary School is closed."

"Another describes the boundary changes necessary if Fairview Elementary is closed. A third possible plan keeps all 17 elementary schools open and reassigns students in the district to the best possible location that is feasible," continues Freedman, who also serves as advisor to the citizen's group.

"Due to the financial stress placed on the district and the need to make budget cuts to retain as much as possible of the educational program, administrators have been studying school closings for a long time," he explains.

"Our enrollments are increasing in the west end of the district, but are decreasing in the eastern portion. The west end has become overcrowded and there is a lack of space for programs."

"COMBINE THESE problems and something drastic must be done," he says. "If that is the case, then the closing of an elementary school should be considered."

Each of the three plans presently being considered by the citizen's group involves boundary changes that would affect students throughout the district.

The Ten Mile closing plan would mean the relocation of 841 students, sending these pupils to either Fairview, Wooddale, Kenbrook, Larkhale, Alameda, Shawnee or Longacre.

A second plan would keep all 17 schools open, but would change the attendance boundaries and shift 328 students district-wide to different schools.

A third possible plan, which Freedman says isn't being seriously considered by the citizen's committee, is the closing of Fairview School and sending students to several surrounding elementary schools.

"The committee is reviewing and researching the recommendations. The group really isn't considering closing Fairview because it is a better and newer facility," Freedman says.

"They are reviewing the plan, but it doesn't look like the closing of Fairview would materialize," he continues. "This plan would also entail the switching of about 300 students."

Ten Mile Elementary was constructed in

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