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School memories last a lifetime

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

School careers, like old flames that got away manage to improve under the golden haze of memory.

Faults fall from favorite teachers while disliked educators are allowed to keep all of their shortcomings and generously accrue more of them as the

Some ex-students who live and work in Farmington took a few moments recently to delve into their past for a description of their most memorable

Farmington Public Safety Lt. John Santamouro singled out his Marine boot camp drill instructor in San Diego.

"He left a lasting impression on my mind," said Santamouro.

"In an eight week period, he influenced me more than any other person in that amount of time," he said.

Santamouro credits the gunnery ser-geant with a forceful personality.

"HE HAD A STRIKING, positive type of personality. He left a lasting respect for himself and for the organi-zation he represented," Santamouro remembered.

Clanders Elementary School Princi-pal Weldon Petz turned back to his own days as aneighth grade student to select his favorite teacher.

"She was a lady who had a flair for trying to look to you for your individ-uality," he said.

The teacher noticed that he was interested in music and encouraged him to take lessons. Petz said he was encouraged to make a wooden harp as a school project.

"The teacher used music as a vehicle to understanding math. I didn't care too much for math," he said.

The special attention paid off for Petz who went on to become a professional musician. He played trombone while touring with Jimmy Dorsey, Jimmy Durante and Jimmy Long for three years.

Another teacher in college helped him win his own niche among scholars of Abraham Lincoln.

AT WAYNE STATE University, Petz met a teacher who suggested he write his master' thesis on Lincoln and music. It took him three years but the work is or of the first on that facet of Lincoln's life.

"It was a logical progression from elementary to high school to college," he said of his interests.

"Actually, that put me on the road to my continuing interest in Lincoln," he said.

Petz's road from elementary school to college had its chuckholes. One of them came in the shape of a third grade teacher who insisted the entire class sit still with hands on the corners of the desk.

"That teacher ran into problems with many people. She was too strict," he remembered.

Jeff Farland, of Farmington Hills Department of Parks and Recreation, fondly recalled the memory of a teacher who offered less guidance.

teacher who offered less guidance.
"The teacher used to let football
players out of class to play ping pong
with the athletic staff," he said.
Then there was the chemistry
teacher that kepf football player Farland on the team.
"He taught in simple football language. He passed me and kept me eligible for the team," he said.

THREE WEEKS alter he arrived in the United States, recently elected Farmington Hills City Councilman Joe Alkateebe enrolled in an English course at Concorde College. While still unfamiliar with American slang, he tried to figure out a writing assignment about Dagwood and Blondie. Dinawer of the comic strip, he went to hit teacher and asked for an explanation. "I've heard of retiwoods and dogwoods but I hadrit heard of a Dogwood wood," he recalled telling he Dogwood was not called telling he Dogwood was not have been successful to the control of the was convinced that Dagwood was a character and not a tree, he was told to write a story about hot THREE WEEKS after he arrived in

Harrison presents

its winter concert

The vocal and instrumental departments of Harrison High School, Farmington Hills, will combine their members to present a winter concert.

The concert, at 8 p.m. Dec. 8, in the Harrison auditorium, is open to the public

public.

The concert and symphony bands, string ensemble, men's glee club and wocal ensemble will participate in the performance of seasonal and serious music. Tickets will sold at the door. Family admission is \$3, adult tickets are \$1.25 and student tickets are \$75 cents.

rods. Misleading American slang reared its ugly head once again nd Alkateeb wrote a description of a fur-

His teacher remained under-standing. "I remember her because she was very kind to me," he said.

Alkateeb moved on to Virginia Tech and discovered a teacher he could dis-

"I remember him because I had to go to an extra year of college to pass his class," he said.

"All he ever did was take the book in the left hand and write from it." Alka-teeb remembered.

BORED, he skipped class more than the allowed 16 times and failed the required course in spite of earning a 92 on the final exam. He was forced to wait another year urtil the course was offered again, delaying his graduation.

"I told him, 'some day when I get rich and famous I'll pay you \$20,000 a year not to teach," he said.

Teacherss who could convey a posi-tive feeling about their work and learning make the grade in Drivers Education Director Don Howell's book.

He remembers his botany p at the University of Michigan.

"He was a fine chap but also had an unusual technique of thinking posi-tively about every student and con-veying those positive thoughts to you," he said.

It was an attitude that Howell has tried to take in his own classroom.

Positive attitudes were missing between Howell and his high school band director.

"I didn't like my music instructor," he admitted. "I wasn't a musician and probably had no business in band. I was the one who was always blamed for everything. I had the last chair."

"WHEN SOMEONE else hit a clin-ker, it was 'Howell, take a rest." When we were marching, be used to yell, 'bonehead, get in step.""

Expertise with the eraser left an impression on Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department secretary Mary Rogier A

Her elementary school teacher kept the class in line by throwing erasers at unruly students.

Farmington School Supt. Lewis Schulman's favorite teacher was his high school counselor. Arthur McGraff.

McGraff was a Renessaince man who taught Greek to a few interested students in the back of a study hall in Schulman's Detroit high school.

"He was a fine, warm man. He had a humane quality. He had great intelligence," Schulman said.

Schulman's secretary Bea Scoffield remembers her fifth grade teacher Celest Mitchell, whom everyone called Miss Lettle. She taught them to pare sentences with expertise that lasted the class through high school. When they wanted a break from lessons, one of the students used an unerring ploy—asking her about her summer travels.

Shakespeare and foreign policy were two subjects that were introduced to Farmington Hills Administrative Assistant Michael Dornan by a memorable teachers.

SHAKESPEAREAN scholar Henri TenHorr integrated the master's plays with historical analysis and psychol-

His wrestling coach at Detroit Coun-try Day School, John Campbell, introduced his English class to Dick-ers and the Ox Bow Incident during seventh grade. Later on in his scholar-tic career, Hope College professor Renze Hoeksma, and to John Ken-nedy, introduced him to Mid-Eastern history. A by-product of that class was-speed writing. Hoeksma graded by-giving one point per line.

"If you could get 100 lines, you got 100 points," said Dornan. "I scored 138 on one of his tests."

The course, according to Dornan; was a condensation of Hoeksma's three summers of history studies at Harvard.

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