

Well-known educator dies

Services were held over the weekend for Bruce Barton, assistant principal at Redford Union High School, who died Wednesday while playing racketball. He was 42 years old and a resident of Farmington Hills.

As director of student activities, Barton organized all RUHS student events. He was also the moving force behind Red Cross blood banks, coordinator of parent newsletters and sponsor of the student council for many years.

Whether there was a major all-school activity to be organized or a club project that needed a boost, Barton was the man to ask, according to RU teachers.

He sponsored senior trips to Washington, D.C. in the years when the tours were popular. After organizing the trip for several years, he booked travel arrangements and hotel rooms himself without the help of an agent, because he felt he could save the seniors money and provide better accommodations.

While a teacher in the business education department, Barton established the school bookstore—a convenience to students as well as a laboratory for distributive education classes.

BARTON WAS among the most avid fans of RUHS teams and his enthusiasm infected the students. He turned teenage exuberance into school spirit in the '60s when he organized

motorcades complete with police escorts to accompany the RU Panthers to Livonia Bentley for their traditional football rivalry.



BRUCE BARTON

"Bruce Barton's energetic and devoted service to the schools and especially his genuine concern for the young men and women of this community shall indeed be missed," said Supt. Robert Juhnke.

A former business teacher, Barton taught at Hilbert Junior High School from 1960 to 1962, and at Henry Ford High School in Detroit for a year before he returned to Redford Union High School in 1963. He was appointed assistant principal in 1968.

After serving in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper from 1953 to 1955, he received a BS degree in business administration at Eastern Michigan University and his master's degree in secondary administration at the University of Michigan.

He was a member of the Elks Club of Farmington, the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals and Michigan High School Coaches Association.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon; daughter, Amy; mother, Elsie Barton; brother, Jack; and sister, Beulah Morris.

Services were Saturday at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery.

Contributions may be sent to the Bruce Barton Memorial Scholarship Fund, Redford Union High School, 17711 Kinloch, Redford 48240.

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C'ville enrollment decline worsens

The declining student enrollment problem in the Clarenceville School District is worsening.

That was the summary of a pupil enrollment projection for the next five years given to the school board Thursday night.

If the projections are correct, the district will have lost 54 per cent of its enrollment in 10 years of the 1982-83 school year. A low of 1,670 pupils is forecast, down from the 1972-73 level of 3,892.

School Supt. David McDowell said the problem in the district, which includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills, and Redford Township, is that the loss of students is accelerating.

The district is expected to lose 36 per cent of its current 2,859 students in the next five years, or about seven per cent annually.

McDowell's annual enrollment report said the elementary student enrollment in two years may be housed in only two buildings. The district now has three elementary schools.

McDowell stressed he is not making any recommendations now on a school closing "but is merely calling it to the board's attention."

The board several years ago closed an elementary for the first time and leased it to a parochial school and an agency which operates a workshop for handicapped persons.

McDowell also recommended that a citizens' committee be named to study the feasibility of a school closing.

The superintendent said the state's birth rate is dropping and that there has been an "outward migration" of families and students from Michigan.

McDowell said the district experienced its first elementary school enrollment decline in 1967 and its first junior high drop in 1972. The senior high didn't have its first significant decline until 1976-77 school year, McDowell said.

The elementary enrollment is now just under 1,400 and is expected to drop to 721 in five years—about the size of one large elementary or two small ones.

The junior high, which houses the seventh and eighth grades, is expected to drop from the current 473 to 346, a drop of 27 per cent.

In the senior high, which has grades nine through 12, the drop is expected to be 40 per cent in five years: from the current 994 to a projected 603.

The enrollment decline also has obvious impact on the number of teachers Clarenceville will be keeping on its staff.

The elimination of teaching jobs would be in proportion to the loss of students.

In the elementary grades, the number of teaching and support jobs would drop from 65 projected for next fall to 37½ in four years.

The junior high school would lose four teachers, to a level of 18, while the senior high would go down from the 1978-79 level of 44 to 30.4 in 1982.



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