

Hill and Dale expands again

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Hill and Dale Garden Club of Farmington opened their fifteenth season in community garden therapy work by expanding in two more directions.

They are now working with residents in Oak Hill Convalescent Home and during the second week of October moved into classrooms in the new Farmington Training Center. The center is part of the Farmington School System located in the former Farmington Junior High School, created when the Oakland Training Institute spun off into local districts.

The club members are known as the garden ladies to the youth it has visited

since 1961, teaching planting, growing, flower arranging, conservation of wild life and plants.

The bi-monthly visits will be made to about 225 children in 21 classrooms this year.

At Oak Hill, the members are meeting with both young adults and the elderly with a similar program and similar projects.

THE BENEFICIARIES include orthopedically, mentally retarded, physically handicapped and emotionally disturbed persons. Our volunteer members teachers give their time and effort and all club members donate materials used in presentation of

projects," said Joan Granning, spokeswoman for the club.

Something new for the club this year is a farm which will enable the classroom teacher to evaluate the club's garden therapy sessions.

These will contribute valuable critique to enable us to continue our work with much more certainty that the children will fully enjoy each and every project," Ms. Granning said.

The purpose of the club, she said, was to broaden the knowledge of gardening and to stimulate interest in agriculture, horticulture and conservation.

ONE FULFILLMENT of that purpose is that the entire community is enjoying the landscaping and beautification of a landmark in the Farmington area, known as "old Noble school."

The project was chaired by club member Elaine Gunderson, who sought the help from several Boy Scout Troops who were working on their service awards. She clocked 225 service hours from 55 boys removing old trees and shrubs, preparing the soil and then planting.

The finishing touches for summer beauty were added with perennials and wood chips.

Old Noble School, now used by the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC), is located on the east side of Middle Belt, south of Ten Mile Road.

Hill Brewer of Boy Scout Troop 20 and Calvin Perry of Boy Scout Troop 359 acted as scout coordinators. The club planned the landscaping design and funded the project as their contribution to the area's beautification efforts.



Mrs. Ronald Granning (left), a member of Hill and Dale Garden Club, works at one of the garden therapy classes with Timothy Nocand and Kathy Pack. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



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The love of spinning brings them together

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

A get-together reminiscent of a 19th century quilting bee takes place once a month in Farmington Community Library's lower level, where the Michigan Handspinners meet.

Ellie Hill, the Bloomfield woman who brought spinners and weavers together to form the group two years ago, describes the sessions as "Part social—an exchange of ideas, part therapeutic—I don't think any of us will ever need a psychiatrist and informal—no matter how big we get, we'll never be parliamentarians."

Some of the members travel from as far away as Flint and Lansing. They range in age from 22-year-old Peggy Scanlon of Rochester to Jessie Robertson of Redford who is past 70.

Spinners are the same the world over, said Betty Dengate, a native of Australia who lived in several parts of the world before moving to Bloomfield Hills. "They are anxious to share their knowledge with one another."

She is the current president of the 40 spinners and weavers who had arranged for Carol Iselb, from Lansing, to share her knowledge with the group this month on what types of fleece adapt itself best to different projects.

The process includes teasing the fleece which is generally purchased direct from the sheep breeder, spinning it, dyeing it, then knitting it into garments or afghans.

Materials are hard to come by and the retail price of one pound of hand-spun yarn is about \$16, making commercialization impossible, according to Mrs. Hill.

Some of the Handspinners are also members of the Weavers Guild and meet of the



The deft hands belong to Belle Apiner, from West Bloomfield.

group have at one time or another been part of Silverfield Village's spring, War and Well Show.

PEGGY HARDING, the Farmington woman who donated an Abigail Adams costume this year and spoke for many local groups on the life of the colonial woman, is a Handspinners member.

Her interest in the ancient art stemmed from a love of history, antiques, women's heritage and the research she did on the life of the colonial woman. In addition to

spinning, she makes her own beauty soap and dips beeswax candles.

One of the smallest wheels brought to the meeting is owned by Lu Harle, a Lansing woman who spun a pound of raw silk this summer in the car while on her way to Kansas then knitted a sweater on the way home. Shirley Hall, a past president of the Handspinners and a resident of Northville, came the meeting wearing a new fall coat she spun, dyed and wove her self.

Peg Harding worked her way into the Handspinners via a chain of events which stemmed from a love of antiques.

Staff photos
by Harry Mauthe



Lu Harle (left) and Carol Iselb, from the Lansing area, make the trip from Lansing once a month to join the Handspinners.

They show a multi-colored afghan Mrs. Iselb made for her son, beginning with fleece purchased from a sheep farmer.

The handsome woven jacket is the work of its wearer, Shirley Reil, the Handspinner's first president.