

Farmington High bandsmen call her 'Mom'

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Twenty-year-old band uniforms and "a bunch of avid kids" pushed Ron and Betty Tucker into getting involved with Farmington High School's Music Patrons.

Since that time, five years ago, Mrs. Tucker has become known as "Mom" to the 120 music students who make up the school's orchestra, concert band and marching band.

It's not hard to understand why from her conversation that is peppered with talk about "my fantastic kids." She has never missed a marching band performance in all that time. She is in the band room anywhere from 80 to 90 minutes before every performance. And she has taped every note they've played.

Racing through one of the tapes to find a certain song she wants her visitor to hear, she'll stop pushing buttons for a minute and say, "Now what could be more beautiful than that?"

HER HUSBAND is currently president of the Music Patrons and she is uniform chairman, which is rather like a wardrobe mistress, so the job brings her into more direct contact with the students than the finance chairman, for example.

"But it's really not work," she says. "It's the kids who work like crazy—you should have heard their first concert this year—unbelievable—and they appreciate everything you do so much, it makes you want to do more."

On the job as uniform chairman, Mrs. Tucker spends time tracking down misplaced hats or forgotten uniform overlays, or fixing broken zippers. She is never without her "small suitcase" filled with mending and patching supplies, safety pins, or

"anything I can think of that they might need."

Her role has brought students to her with their problems and their confidences, and in these instances she acts as both the nurturing and disciplining mother.

"No matter what the problem, they always are able to work it out for themselves. More often than not, they just need someone to listen to them and if I can do that, then I'm glad to be there."

"But don't think I'm the only parent that works for these kids. I'm not the only one down there. We all work. Other mothers bake cookies for half-time. We've all eaten a lot of meals at McDonald's. But look what we've got," she continued.

"When those kids come in from a judging performance with all 'ones'—the highest grade given for performance standing—I am nine feet high."

OF THE SENIORS who have left the high school, some have returned to visit her at her home at 2488 Orchard Lake. Of these she says, "I hope I have helped given them some good memories."

The Tuckers have two sons. Chris, who left high school two years ago, and Shayne, a 18 year old, both of whom started playing a band instrument in grade school.

When Chris announced to the folks he was going to drop out of music classes, Mrs. Tucker pushed him into finishing the year. "It was only a 30 minute class. He could live through it," she said. But by junior high, they learned he had worked band into his schedule without prompting.

When Chris got to high school, "we found all these kids (stemming from Farmington Junior, Power Junior and East Jun-

ior High School) with nothing better to play in but some tin wind breakers and some old fairs."

"That's why we got involved," she continued. "They were all good musicians and we wanted to keep them that way, just keep encouraging them and letting them know we were behind them."

The bill for the uniforms was \$8,000 and for this "we had our hands out all the time. We did everything we could think of to make that money. And it was worth it," she said. "Just look at them."

She said she thinks she baked enough cookies to help raise money to buy her own two sons uniforms a couple times over. "But that is not the point. We worked with the kids and we all worked together. It just made us all cling together that much more," she said.

THE TUCKERS took a week of their vacation this year to escort a group of the teenagers to band camp and have traveled with them to various places for performances, some she said, "that moved me to tears."

About a month ago Shayne was chosen as a member of the "Duty Dozen," following in his parents' steps as a supporter of school bands. The dozen, coming from all three high schools, covered the Farmington area as a promotional effort for the schools' Tag Day playing jam sessions to raise money for their music and scholarship programs.

Gerald Jacoby took over the directorship of the music programs at Farmington High School last summer. "He is doing a super job for the kids now. We learned to love him very quickly," she said.



BETTY TUCKER



Craft fair items

Two Farmington Hills residents display a few of the many items which will be sold at a crafts sale Dec. 1 sponsored by the Women's Club of the Livonia Family Y, 14255 Stark. Mrs. Beverly

Miller studies a wood scone made by her husband, while Mrs. Jan DeCicco displays a bread basket she made with dough. The fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Monday, November 29, 1974



F11B

Fashions with Irene back for another show

Irene MacKinnon's fashion show and luncheon returns to the Farmington Community Center, this time with a Christmas decor on Dec. 10.

Twenty-five models from Mrs. MacKinnon's sewing classes on the center will showcase their own style creations when "Fashions With Irene" gets under way with luncheon at noon.

The instructor narrates and adds tips on accessories, wardrobe coordinating and fashion ideas.

Twenty door prizes with a holiday theme will be given away with directions to reproduce hand-crafted items at home for Yuletide giving.

Other gifts for guests will include lengths of fabric from the Vermont Mills and Hawaii travel kits, shoe boxes, cosmetic, jewel and sewing cases.

Advance reservations are necessary. Call the center at 477-8414.



IRENE MACKINNON

Lions kicks off seals campaign

The Farmington Area Lions Club kicked off its annual Blind Aid Seal campaign last year, the White Cane Drive, and coin boxes located in restaurants throughout the area.

Funds received by return mail will be used to support Leader Dogs for the Blind, Pennickton Center, Michigan Eye Bank, and to aid numerous Farmington area residents who are unable to obtain eye care.

President Lee Loberger reported that the local club donated more than \$4,000 to

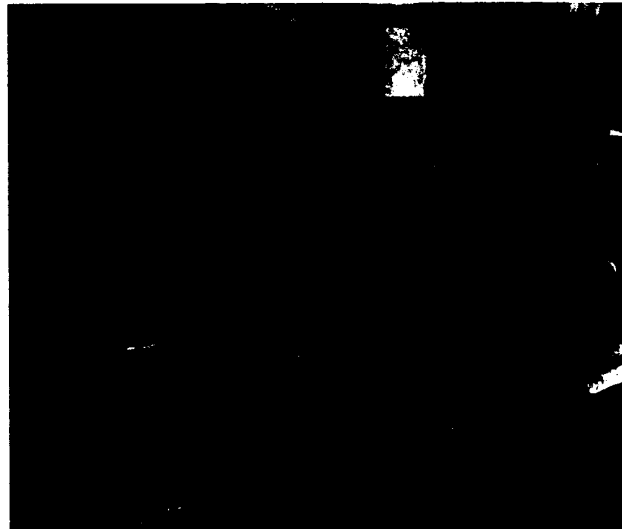
eye care through the Blind Aid Seal campaign last year, the White Cane Drive, and coin boxes located in restaurants throughout the area.

Loberger stressed that "every penny received over the cost of the goods sold was donated to charity."

Persons who do not wish to donate to the club are asked not to return their envelope

back to the club because cost of return postage will cut down the amount that will be given to charity.

David Glidenberg, speaking for the group this week said, "The Lions wish to extend thanks to the community for efforts last year and hope the residents are as generous in helping the visually handicapped and underprivileged again this year."



Holiday Festival

Harriet Shubin instructs students in Woodcreek Elementary School on the proper way to ladle wax, in preparation for the school's Holiday Festival. Students and parents join in making handcrafted items that will go on sale Dec. 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the school's cafeteria, 28400 Harwich. In addition to the sale, the Merry Players will join festival night with a production of "The Wizard of Oz." Admission is without charge.

cute and clean as a pink striped cat... that's how boys and girls keep their rooms, with coordinating accessories of crisp cotton. Great giftables in five, fun-time "cat-egories"!

- A. Shog tote, 7.50
- B. Dirty Duds bag, .66
- C. Autograph cat, 5.50
- D. Bulletin board, .67
- E. Pajama bag, 5.50

Jacobson's

Children's Store
Woodward at Willits, Birmingham

Holiday Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9:30-9; Saturday 9:30 to 5:30. 2 hours free parking... when you make a purchase!