

Joan MacKenzie

East's music teacher honored

When Joan MacKenzie's vocal students learned that she was chosen the teacher of the year by the Midwestern Music Educators Conference, they registered a nonchalant attitude.

But that reaction was shared by their teacher, who's in the throes of preparing her class for their spring program based on songs from the '60's.

Although she's proud of the award, it's just another sign of the determination she has already displayed in keeping her classes tops in state competitions.

That determination to make the best of every situation surfaced in 1973 when she was transferred to East Junior High from Harrison High School. Most of her teaching experience was in high school but she was sent to a junior high when the district shuffled its teachers as part of a budget cut.

When she arrived at East, she discovered that she was the fifth teacher in four years to step into the vocal classes.

ONE OF HER first attempts to pep up interest in vocal classes involved putting up a bulletin board in class. When one of the students advised her that bulletin boards had a short life span in the room, she became more determined to do things her way.

After informing her students that her bulletin board should stay on the wall, undamaged, she began to shape up the class into the state's top junior high vocal group.

What other teachers might have seen as indifference, she interpreted as a lack of self-imposed discipline and standards.

She fought that with an avalanche of work.

"I don't feel you can ever give them too much. I want to expose them to as much as I can," she says.

Practice sessions were conducted after school and on weekends. Some parents wondered if she was giving her class too much work. But her insistence paid off when the group was judged the outstanding junior high choir in the state and was invited to perform at the Midwestern Music Educators Conference the following year.

She believes the musical success served to help the youngsters attain outside goals.

"If a student has any kind of success in a school situation it gives them confidence to tackle other jobs," she says.

Most of the students in the first group she taught stayed in music throughout junior high and senior high school.

Her honors continue to accumulate as she settles down into teaching junior high school.

"I don't think I'd want to go back to high school. I miss that high school caliber of voice and the rapport I had with the students. But the teaching staff is so professional and friendly here, too," she said.

Eventually, she would like to become involved in college choral instruction. Until then, her junior high classes involve her time in and outside of school.

Her after-school activities with her classes include taking students to see musicals and concerts. She invites her students to dinners at home. Work is an important part of her life.

She began teaching in 1959 at Redford Union High School. There, she met her husband John, who is a track coach and counselor at the school. After her marriage and the birth of her oldest child, Heather, 11, she gave up teaching for a year.

"I WAS OUT FOR a year and I couldn't stand it," she remembered.

Instead of getting her teeth and staying home, she became a substitute teacher in Dearborn and eventually moved to the Farmington district as a part-time instructor at Harrison High School. That job grew into a full-time position.

In 1976, she was invited to conduct a sight reading clinic at the Midwestern Music Educators Conference for junior high school teachers. She conducts choral clinics sponsored by the music group.

She's the first to admit that her success has been a combination of hard work and happy accident.

All the while, she has attempted to share her music with her students.

"I dwell most on sharing," she said. "And on the joy I have received in music. I want others to feel as marvelous as I have felt."

Sharing her enjoyment of the music includes helping her students find the good and bad characteristics in different styles.

"I want them to be discriminating listeners and performers," she says.

Pap smear clinic slated for OCC

The Farmington Branch of the American Cancer Society is sponsoring a free pap smear clinic from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 5, at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus, building M.

There is a \$5 donation requested to cover the cost of materials used. Appointments are not necessary but may be made by calling 476-9400, ext. 245.

Dr. Efrén Platon and Collen Moranco, RN, will conduct the clinic.

Further information can be obtained by calling Ms. Moranco at 476-9400, ext. 245.

Carter returns

Navy Fireman Wayne Carter, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Carter, of 2410 Farmington, Farmington Hills, recently returned from an extended deployment in the Mediterranean Sea.

He is serving as a crewmember about the fast combat support ship USS Seattle, homeported in Norfolk, Va.

A 1969 graduate of North Farmington High School, Carter joined the Navy in July, 1969.



Joan MacKenzie instructs her East Junior High class on the fine points of choral performances. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

YOUR Optometrist's CORNER

By DR. D.W. SCHIFF and DR. H.J. KUTINSKY
Dr. Kutinsky

What is your most precious possession? Most people would agree that their eyes were far more precious than any amount of material wealth. Nevertheless, many of us... maybe most of us... allow the precious gift of sight to suffer from neglect. It has been estimated that 68 per cent of the half million blind people in this country could have saved their sight through proper, early treatment.

In this column, each week, we intend to discuss various aspects of good vision with you. We'll talk about the eye, its marvelous construction and how it works, why it sometimes fails to work as well as it should and how you can protect and preserve your most priceless possession, your eyes.

If your eyesight is not too good, don't wait to see your problem discussed in the paper... make an appointment for an eye examination.

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OBITUARIES

ELSIE MaGEE INGRAM
Elsie Ingram, 58, of 22B Southfield Downs, Southfield, died Feb. 24 in Botford General Hospital. Services were Feb. 26 in Thayer-Rock Funeral home, and burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery. Ms. Ingram was a cab driver and founder of the West Oakland Cab Co., which operated in the Farmington area.

BERTHA ANN HEADRICK
Bertha Headrick, 77, of 30624 Lamar, Farmington Hills, died Feb. 25 in the Farmington Convalescent Home. Services were Feb. 28 in Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, and burial was in Glen Eden Memorial Park Cemetery.

Mrs. Headrick was retired as a licensed practical nurse and worked at the Hurley Hospital. Surviving are daughters, Mrs. Jo Ann Kardas and Mrs. Sue Street; brother, Jimmy Smith; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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Farmington Community Band

We're the **Winners!**
Yes... we're all winners

We are winners because we presented a wholesome evening of family entertainment that will be remembered for a long time. This exciting show was good for our community.

THE ATHLETES AND PERFORMERS were winners because they were able to demonstrate their tremendous skills and abilities to an appreciative audience. We want to thank them for appearing on our "All Sports and Variety Show" February 17th.

THE ADVERTISERS AND PATRONS were winners because they once again demonstrated that they care about providing good band music in the Farmington area. We thank them for their loyal support.

THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY BAND MEMBERS are winners because they demonstrated that they are one of the best community bands in Michigan and deserve the support of the entire community.

THE FARMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE are winners because they once again have shown that they are interested in all aspects of community activities. They constantly are striving to make Farmington a better place to live and work.

And lastly... THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the Farmington Community Band are winners because they will now have adequate funds to run a fine community band program throughout the next year.

We want to personally thank each advertiser, patron, sponsor, donor, performer and committee member for making this such a successful fund-raiser campaign.

THE NEXT PERFORMANCE OF THE BAND WILL BE
March 12, 3 p.m. in the Farmington High School
for our Annual Senior Citizen Concert, which will be co-sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees.
We invite all of you to enjoy the music of our band and the company of our "special citizens"

Sincerely yours,
Bill Conroy, President, Farmington Community Band
Paul Barber, Conductor, Farmington Community Band
Ralph N. Chapman, Director of Activities -- "All-Sports and Variety Show"

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