

Book characters come alive

Flanders pupils pose riddles

The boy in the black ski mask and costume mounted the stage while adjusting the orange construction paper nose that was part of his costume.

Remembering to waddle like a penguin, he took over the center front stage and posed a riddle to the parents assembled in Flanders Elementary School's media center.

"I eat gold fish. I live in Antarctica. Who am I?" he asked.

"A penguin," the parents and teachers in the audience answered.

"What book?" he demanded. Steve Koshowsky, a third grade student, was giving his impression of a character from one of the books he read this year. In addition to offering a chance for parents to see what their children have learned, the assembly was a chance for students to do a painless book report, according to teacher Mrs. Jean Rice.

STEVE TREATED his audience to his impression of the penguin in the book, "Mr. Popper's Penguins." Although his adult audience were stumped by the demand for book's title, they knew a penguin when they saw one.

Other classmates portrayed characters ranging from Cinderella to thieves in the night.

Although parents were unfamiliar with the newer children's books, they discovered that even old favorites could pose a real puzzle.

Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer" presented a problem that made the audience pause.

In the scene during which Tom tries to convince his friend that whitewashing fences is fun so he can escape the tedious task, most of the adult audience assumed that Huckleberry

Finn was the boy being conned.

As third grader Mark Coleman gave his impression of Tom Sawyer, the audience was surprised to learn that the friend who was picked to finish Tom's chore was Ben. Brent Finley, who played a doubting Ben took a bow knowing he had helped stump the audience.

ADULTS HAD better luck guessing such old favorites as Eeyore and Piglet from "Winnie the Pooh." Lee Anne Richardson and Sheri Jackson played the two characters.

"We didn't know what else to do," explained Lee Anne, who wore brown stockings on her hands for Eeyore's paws.

Sheri carried a balloon during the skit but it burst in the middle of her lines. True to stage tradition, she dropped the balloon's string and kept on with the skit.



Jennifer Berard takes time off from playing Cinderella's godmother to try some of the punch.

Historical group publishes book

Preserving history is what the Farmington Hills Historical Commission is all about.

To that end, the group recently published its second historical volume, "The Religious History of Farmington."

Commission member and longtime Hills resident Stella Styre is the author.

The 48-page book is priced at \$2.50 and is available at City Hall on Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

Ms. Styre includes a brief history of the many religious groups which contributed to Farmington's past, a compilation of all churches currently located in the Farmington area, and brief notes on denominations in the area.

The book begins with a tribute to the native Americans who resided in the area prior to white settlement. The Algonquin and Potawatomi tribes developed an agricultural religious culture and love of nature, according to the book.

"The Potawatomi believed in a pantheon of guiding spirits, a creator who had peopled the world and bestowed its bounty, and in an afterlife similar to life on earth."

Brief histories of religious movements include the Presbyterians, Quakers, Baptists, Methodists, Universalist Church, Lutherans, Salem United Church, Christian Science and Catholic.

"FAITH of Women" is a brief note of the female contributors to the religious background of the area.

"In Recent Years" includes biographies of later groups which entered the scene, including Trinity Episcopal, Greek Orthodox, Judaism and the Jehovah Witnesses.

Pictures of modern churches and

historical photographs of buildings no longer standing illustrate the volume.

Ms. Styre offers the book as a "humble acknowledgment to the Oakland County missionaries and preachers whose work looms in history beside the Holy Crusades," she writes.

Those pioneers demonstrated the beliefs of freedom to worship as a part of the American heritage, she continues.

Acknowledgements are offered to Pastor Carl Schultz, Salem United Church of Christ; Pastor Richard Duncan, the First Baptist Church of Farmington; Pastor Rutkowski, of St. Paul Lutheran Church; Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church; Rabbi S. Wine, Birmingham Temple; and the Rev. E. Nye of the First Presbyterian Church.

Here's the meeting schedules

CITY OF FARMINGTON
Council meeting
8 p.m., May 1
23600 Liberty

A public hearing for consideration of an amendment to the zoning ordinance concerning housing for the elderly will begin the regular council meeting.

The student government council will be attending the meeting in honor of Student Government Day. Council will consider the following items:

•An agreement between the city and Farmington Hills to furnish court facilities for the 47th District Court.

•Continuation of a contribution to the Oakland County Task Force for six months funding.

•Authorization to purchase radar equipment for the Public Safety Department.

•A request for the transfer of a liquor license at the Rustic Pub.

•A request for the issuance of a liquor club license to the American Legion.

•A request to add a dance and entertainment license at the Huron River Fishing and Hunting Club.

•Review of three sign variance requests made by Realty World, Armstrong Lock and Safe Co., and Benner's Standard Service.

Proclamations, monthly accounts, and correspondence will wind up the meeting.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Farmington School District
8 p.m., May 2
32500 Shilwassee

A curriculum report on the intellectually gifted program will highlight the regular board meeting Tuesday. The board will consider guidelines for Student Round Table and a student code of ethics as well.

Purchase of a printing press for Farmington High School and a brake lathe for the Harrison High auto shop will be considered as well.

Under old business the board will consider the request from a development firm for an easement at Warner Junior High. Consideration of policies will end the meeting.

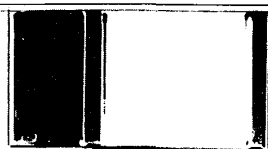
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Officials suspect arson in vacant house fire case

Scott Robinson, as Cowboy Sam, Phil Swan as Nathan Hale and Ernie Dillaha as Curious George show off their story-telling form at Flanders Elementary School. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Arson may be the cause of a fire that gutted a vacant home in Farmington Hills last week, fire officials say.

Firefighters twice were called to the scene at 28235 Nine Mile on April 23. On the first run, Station No. 3 firefighters put out a fire in the kitchen under the direction of District Chief Bill Roberts after the first call at 1:22 a.m.

By the time the firefighters returned to the station, another call came in concerning the same house. Upon their return, the firefighters discovered the home in flames again.

On the second run, they were unable to contain the blaze, which left only the outer frame walls standing.

"The men assured me the fire was completely out the first time," said Fire Chief John Van De Voort. "They checked out everything, including the attic."

Suspicion of arson has led to further investigation, he said. Officials are awaiting reports from the crime laboratory.

THE HOUSE and about four acres of property on the site is owned by the Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, currently meeting in the North Congregational Church in Southfield.

The church has owned the property for three years and plans to build on the site, according to Rev. Nicholas Fedetz, pastor of Holy Resurrection.

Fire officials have been unable to determine if the structure was insured or its value. Rev. Fedetz refused to comment about insurance. He believes the fire was intentionally set.

Holy Resurrection is a church for all ethnic Orthodox faiths, he explained. He began the church about seven years ago.

"HOORAY, HOORAY, the sun is shining. For a while, I thought winter had come to stay permanently. The other day over at the Exchange Club, HERB HENRY was torturing us with stories about his adventures in Florida recently. But that's all right, he came back just in time to catch that late April snow we had a few weeks back."

"SUN DAY will be celebrated on Wednesday. Just make sure to drop by at the Farmington Hills Library up on Twelve Mile and see the film "The Last Resort" presented by the Earth Alive folks. It will begin at 7:30 p.m. The film deals with energy alternatives for the future, especially solar energy."

"MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC. That's what the Farmington Community Band will be presenting in its week-long salute to National Music Week. The free concert will be on May 7 at 3 p.m. in the Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield. Band Conductor PAUL BARBER says a wide variety of music will be featured including three trumpeters, holiday for trombones and selections from Star Wars, plus a number of soloists. Also, an exhibit of more than 30 posters by Farmington elementary school students will be on display, all touting the theme "Music Is."

"BELIEVE IT OR NOT. Michigan's state personnel director, RICHARD ROSS, says persons seeking jobs in the state government will get faster results for examinations taken. Ah, bureaucratic wonders. The Michigan Department of Civil Service released scores on 49 examinations last week involving more than 4,800 persons. This "breakthrough" in exam processing is due to the recent installation of computerized equipment which allows the department to utilize advanced data processing techniques."

"EVER THINK ABOUT BEEKEEPING? Well, get this. More than \$100 million worth of crops depend directly on pollination by bees, according to GORDON WARDELL, a Michigan State University graduate student. Beekeepers, while not making much money at it, are renting beehive colonies out for \$18-25 to help keep the state's agricultural industry, especially fruits, healthy. Because the south had a bad winter, production of replacement queens and colonies is down. Wardell advises growers who are planning on bringing bees in from the south to order them at once if they hope to have them by the end of May or early June."

"BLINKING EYES reveal if you tell little white lies. At least that's what a report in the May issue of Science Digest says. If you were confronted by questions that you found disconcerting or embar-

assing, you might well blink. That particular blink, however, would have distinguishing characteristics setting it apart from your casual blink. A guy named ROGER BENNETT, a faculty member at Ohio University, has developed techniques, theories and conclusions about how your eyes give you away when you begin to fudge with reality. These subtle, almost undetectable alterations in expression are dead giveaways, he says. "We know that a psychopathic liar can beat a polygraph test, but so far as we have been able to determine it is impossible to beat this," he says. Imagine the police requesting you to blink."

"IMPORTANT. Persons can be trained to take blood pressure in a Red Cross course being offered free of charge on May 11, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Farmington Hills Library, 32737 Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills. There is a fee of \$2.29 for the course textbook. Because enrollment is limited to 12 persons, preregistration is required. Call the library at 553-0300."

"BARBECUING FREAKS, listen up. Here are some tips to make your outdoor gourmet sessions more rewarding. Good grillmanship begins by knowing how to build an even-burning charcoal fire. Start by stacking the briquets in a pyramid. They'll light faster this way because the air can circulate around the briquets. Before you put the food on the grill, be sure you have a bed of evenly burning coals. It will take about 20-30 minutes for the coals to burn to the right state. When ready, they'll be covered with a layer of grey ash during the daytime and turn a bright red at night. Go get 'em cook."

"CHECKERS, ANYONE? Newell Banks, a skillful American checker player, once played 140 games simultaneously in 1933. He won 133 and drew seven. By the way, most good players recommend that you try to gain control of the middle squares of the board as soon as possible with a compact, wedge-shaped formation. If your opponent tries this, attack at the apex of the wedge. This move often opens the way for a man to reach the enemy's last row and become a king."

"TRIVIA TIME. The most difficult tongue twister in the world is thought by many to be "The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick." And if you think it's difficult to say, try typing it."

"FRUSTRATED AUTHORS, take heart. Poor old Gilbert Young received 106 publishers' rejections for his book "World Government Crusade."

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