



Lurline Reetz (left), Laura Galloway (center) and Diane McLean exchange ideas during a conference recess.



Monday, July 17, 1978

Farmington Observer Suburban Life

(F)1B

Teens pick and choose during career institute

"I got a lot out of it and I really enjoyed it," said Laura Galloway of Farmington, in reference to the National Business Career Institute she attended at Madonna College last week.

"I thought it was really interesting when people came in and shared their experiences and problems with us," said Lurline Reetz of Farmington Hills, another participant at the conference.

The first-of-its-kind week-long seminar featured successful business women from the metropolitan Detroit area. The women spoke of their careers to participants, advised them on opportunities currently available on the job market and a course of action to pursue in attaining their personal career goals and alerted them to the importance of planning ahead.

Decision-making games, interest testing, panel discussions, and an inside look at the workings of a large corporation, courtesy of Chrysler, were other components that made the seminar such a success for the young women who attended.

One, 17-year-old Laura Galloway,

spoke highly of the group games. One game asked the people at individual tables to describe each other on the basis of their first impressions.

"From a few minutes of conversation, I could really tell a lot about the people at my table," said Miss Galloway. "You can learn a lot from first impressions."

The conference raised many important questions for most of the women. Discrimination against women and the strains of having both a family and a career were other issues discussed. Young women were urged to be assertive by many of the speakers.

"The conference emphasized that if we wanted to we could get out there and do what we wanted to," said Miss Reetz.

Although sharing Miss Reetz's feeling of confidence, Miss Galloway felt the ideas presented at the conference "threw a lot of the responsibility for future success back on women."

Although the majority of the participants were still in high school or in their early college years, a few of the women who attended had already had one career and were attempting to

make a change. The girls saw these women as a resource also.

This week of discussion did not resolve all career concerns for the young women but for most it did offer a new awareness of opportunities and a sense of direction. Women who were uncertain or confused about their futures learned how to match their capabilities and interests for a successful career decision.

Miss Galloway's goals changed as the result of the seminar. "I thought I would like to work for the airlines but my interest tests showed that I would be best in personnel."

On the other hand, Miss Reetz was undecided on a career before the conference. "I've decided now," said the recent graduate of Farmington High. "I think I would like to be an automotive sales engineer."

The overall feeling of the institute participants was that the conference was well worthwhile. Many expressed a desire to have such a program as a regular part of the high school curriculum.

Road and loom weave to shape artist's life

Story: CORINNE ABATT
Photos: STEPHEN CANTRELL

Now, looking back, C. Ann Savell's change of career seems totally natural to her.

True, when she was teaching classroom Spanish, she didn't foresee such a dramatic change. Yet, here she is a decade later, a successful weaver, driving her van some 40,000 miles a year to sell her output.

She marvels at the wonder of it. "I always wanted to weave," she said while seated at one of three floor looms in the basement studio of her Birmingham home.

THE LONG WALL SHELVES are lined with large spools of yarn, all colors, all textures—enough to stock a store. There is fabric in process on all three looms and large bundles of completed fabric piled on the floor.

A van in the drive in which Ms. Savell clocks about 40,000 miles a year is still not completely unpacked from the last show.

At times, it doubles as a mobile gallery as she loads it with 10 to 15 pieces of her larger wall constructions and hits the road for Texas, Florida, Nebraska, and points between.

"I am one of a few women doing what I do on this scale," she said referring to her cross country travel to shows.

A modern commuter artist, if she has two shows in Texas in the same month, she may drive to the first, leave the van with friends, fly home, tend to her weaving, fly back, pick up the van and do the second show.

If she is due for a show in Florida, she may stay at the hotel for the entire trip with her CB radio to keep her company.

"I get a lot of my ideas for my work while driving so much—22 hours at a crack and I can work out a lot of problems in my head," she said.

"IT'S A NICE MIXTURE of people and solitude. I can set my own schedule and be responsive to my own needs."

She wondered if 10 or 20 years from now she would feel the same way. She described her weaving career as one that "did a Topsy." It just kept growing and evolving without her hardly being aware of it.

She took her first weaving class at Greenfield Village eight years ago and followed that with two more. Her first project was a traditional type overshot bedspread and pillow covers to match.

Then she took off on her own and began to improvise.

From tote bags and pillows she proceeded to wall hangings and finally her present constructions. These are wall pieces backed with board and stuffed with polyester. They are contemporary in design, sometimes a combination of suede and handloomed fabric, sometimes strictly fabric.

HER LARGEST commission to date is in process on the living room floor. All the weaving is completed the suede stretched, board backing cut and graph paper design carefully rendered. Now, it is being assembled—the part Ms. Savell has been looking forward to for several months.

When completed it will be 13 related wall constructions for the main office of Universal Oil Products of Des Plaines, Ill. It will cover a 15 by 20 foot space in the lobby of the main office.

Another of her pieces was recently bought by the city of Springfield, Ill. Many others are in private collections and she keeps in contact with those who have her work. Consequently, from these contacts and fellow artists at shows, she has developed a nationwide network of friends.

The commission from the oil company came as a result of a Chicago show, a company representative saw her work and invited her to do a design. Ms. Savell will participate in the Art in the Park show in Birmingham later this year.

The days of searching for something interesting to do are long past. The times of floundering when trying to sell her work are remote. She is secure in her knowledge of her art. She has more than average road smarts.


It's a life C. Ann Savell finds both exciting and satisfying—not for everyone, but certainly, ideal for her.



A variation of the traditional overshot weaving piece in white was purchased by the city of Springfield, Ill. A similar technique was used for this wall hanging.



C. Ann Savell of Birmingham knows now that she was destined to become a weaver, but she didn't plan it that way.



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