

25 years at Botsford

Principal celebrates anniversary

Graffiti in the washrooms is a little more colorful these days and some of his early students are grandparents, now.

But after 25 years, Leo Laruwe still regards Botsford Elementary School as his home away from home.

Recently, parents and graduates honored Laruwe and the school by presenting a portrait of the building and its principal.

"The pairing of the man and the structure was appropriate for even Laruwe will admit that he and the Clarenceville school have matured together.

Laruwe, 52, was 27 years old and as new to the business of being a principal as his school was fresh from the architect's designs.

"I was just as proud as punch," he said, remembering his first days on the job. "I would come in on Saturdays and Sundays. I enjoyed showing it off."

Somehow it was only natural that he took a personal liking to the building that he describes as utilitarian.

"It was my home away from home," he said.

For the first few years in his tenure as principal, Laruwe worked to establish himself and to build a rapport with his staff.

HE HAD left his original position as



LEO LARUWE

a music teacher to become an administrator.

The teaching position had lasted three years. He began teaching as a 22-year-old fresh from the University of Michigan. Music education from the first to sixth grade, seventh and eighth grades and the senior high girls glee club were his domain.

His first day on the job as a high school teacher for Clarenceville was

marked by another teacher asking him for his pass.

She taught he was a student.

"I'm the new music teacher," Laruwe remembers telling his colleague.

"Oh," was the reply.

Although he was promoted quickly, Laruwe now concedes that it might have been better if it had been from a teacher longer.

"The first few years were a struggle," he said.

"I felt my teacher knew more than I did." But the teachers didn't object to the fact that I was so young," he said.

"I truthfully had to rely on them for help," he said.

His early experience left him with an administrative style in which there are few of the caste lines between teacher and principal.

"MOST PEOPLE FEEL we work well together as a group," he said in his characteristically quiet voice.

After close to 29 years in teaching, Laruwe occasionally meets old students.

"I was 22 when I started. I was about four years older than some of

my high school students who were 18. Now some of my students are grandparents before I am," he said, a twinkle in his blue eyes.

"I have some students who are in their 40s now. When I meet them I feel like Methuselah," he said.

The years have brought more than students' grandchildren to Laruwe.

Students are tackling more personal problems today than in previous years.

"There are more broken homes and more students have problems. Although there is a decrease in the number of students enrolled in the school we don't have a decrease in the students who need special help," he said.

But 99 times out of 100, Laruwe says he's confident parents will help him solve a problem that a child may have at school.

"They want a good education for their youngsters," he said.

When he's away from the cinder-blocked office at Botsford, Laruwe indulges in his passion for golf.

"I play at it," he said. "But I love it."

Career choices debated

(Continued from page 1A)

Nichols, of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus.

Nichols adds that parents believe there's something magical about a college education which will bring a solid career and financial security to their children.

But going through college without acquiring any vocational skills leads only to unemployment, he said, instead of the instant job that some parents foresee for their child.

Within the last five years, the expectation of employment following a college career has decreased along with enrollment. Students have quit believing that college guarantees a high paying job.

Students, especially males, are finding jobs without going to school but return to college when they decide to train for a specific vocation.

The high schooler who pumped gasoline at the corner station may grow tired of it, realize he needs to find another job and return to school, finds Diana Yurk, of Counseling Associates.

ANOTHER FACTOR affecting college enrollment is the attitude that

blue collar jobs are inferior. Vocational classes in high school have the reputation that their designed for students of inferior ability, according to Mrs. Peter.

Students who would ordinarily be drawn to the class are scared away by its reputation.

Plumbers can be as creative as college educated white collar workers, Nichols said.

A joke making the rounds about a plumber's fee illustrates his point.

A plumber called in the middle of the night to fix a broken pipe charged his customer \$57 for a half hour of work. The irate customer said his doctor would charge her less for the same amount of attention.

"Yeah, I know," replied the plumber.

"I used to be a doctor, myself."

THOSE who want to register for the panel discussion should send \$5 for the first family member and \$3 for each additional member to: Jean Peter, 2660 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills, 48018. For more information, call 476-8010.

Lectures scheduled at Orchard Ridge

The Community Continuum of Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, Farmington Hills, will be sponsoring a series of lectures starting Oct. 11.

The free lectures will be at 8:15 p.m. in building J.

The campus is between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads, south of Twelve Mile.

The Oct. 11 lecture, given by Art Wiggins, is entitled "Black Holes."

Other lectures are: Gerald Frye, speaking on politics of the world on Oct. 17; Dean Charles Yeraman speaking about the values and the curriculum on Oct. 23; Arlene Biggs, Karen Burns and Margaret Daley speaking on poetry and lyrics on Oct. 31; Steve Emlock speaking about the generalist in the era of new scientific discovery on Nov. 7 and on Nov. 17; Henry Austin rounds out the series by speaking on Gurdjieff.

Ladies host fall festival

The Associates of Michigan Christian College will conduct its annual fall festival Oct. 7 on the college campus, 800 W. Avon Road in Rochester.

Booths will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fruits of the Worthy Woman is the theme of this year's event and booths will be awarded various prizes. An Associate Queen will be selected from Benita Ward, Sally Kessler, Josephine McKee and Edna Hargis.

All proceeds from this year's festival will be used for landscaping and the paving of the college parking lot.

Breakfast will be served in the morning for all workers and early guests. Chapters throughout the state and Toledo will be represented at the festival, the largest ladies event of the season.

Mildred Freeland and Helen Slater are the chairwomen of the festival committee. For more information, call Freda Parker at 626-2484.

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DUE DATE AND PLACE

Proposals will be received at the Board Offices, 3500 Shawwassee, Farmington, Michigan 48004, addressed to: Mr. William Fick, until the following time:
3:30 P.M., Monday, October 9, 1978

ISSUE OF DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS
Drawings and specifications may be obtained at a Job Meeting at the Farmington High School at 3500 Shawwassee at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, September 20, 1978.

DEPOSIT: \$25.00 per set
Deposits will be refunded in full, providing the drawings and specifications, including any addenda, are returned in good condition within fifteen (15) days after the bid opening.

LOCATION OF PLANS

Drawings and specifications will be on file for bidding reference at the Architect's office, Dodge Reports and Builders & Traders.

RIGHTS OF THE OWNER

The owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities therein.

MS. EMMA MAKINEN
School Board Secretary

Published: October 2 and 9, 1978

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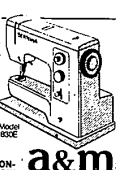
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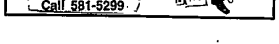
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