

Beautification Commission says thanks

Year-round gift sent with holiday greetings

TO ALL OF OUR FRIENDS:

We have just finished decorating the first Christmas tree ever to be put up in downtown Farmington on the Meenon Temple triangle on Grand River and Farmington Road.

The tree was given to us by the Farmington Area Jaycees, and a lot of the work came from our Department of Public Services, (because none of us has ever had experience with a 15 foot tree before), but we footed the bill for lights from our new special projects fund.

There would be no special projects fund if it weren't for all of the Farmington area residents who purchased our "Keep Farmington Beautiful" shirts and caused us to put a sidewalk sign on our sale of flower flats and shrubs last spring.

We dipped into our fund for the first time last October, when a couple dozen of us planned our strategy at

breakfast and set out for several points with shovels and shovels.

About \$225 of your money was spent on the Shiwassie and Warner triangle for a weeping cherry tree, some low blue spruce spreaders, Yucca plants, mums and tulips for year-round color.

NEXT TARGET was the Shiwassie-Grand River point, that up to this point could best be described as a mound of nothing. You'll see tulips and hyacinths there next spring. We planted an oval patch that will produce a pink and white and yellow array.

We had already planted 350 bulbs in the Meenon Temple's corner but knew it was time for a revamping. Those 350 bulbs had reproduced close to 1,000 bulbs that are now re-planted, stretching north and west from the seating area making several solid rows of tulips and hyacinths for you to enjoy.

Three or four weekends later, we wound up the planting with a batch of

red tulips in Downtown Shopping Center's fountain area, and as our first try at a downtown Christmas tree, another something that had never been done before.

Some of the work was done by our Friends of Farmington Beautification Committee, and they know who they are, and some of those first-timers had to learn what "root side down" meant. But the point is that what we've done to make a more colorful spring couldn't have been done without both the extra man power and the extra dollars.

WE ARE NOT DESIGNED to make money. Our budget is taken up with seminars, school awards, our awards banquet. To accomplish the extras we either would have had to go begging to the city fathers or gamble that the residents would support our fund raisers.

We won on our gamble, hands down. We sold just short of 500 T-shirts. We know for a fact that one of them was sent as a gift to Alaska. One of them was spotted in Florida and another in Aspen, Colorado. Small world.

Our all day Friday and Saturday spring flower and shrub sale closed down at noon Saturday. Not only did we sell all we had planned to sell, but we sold the extra 30 flats of flowers we had special ordered for ourselves to plant around city hall. And we kept calling Springbrook Gardens back time and again until that nursery ran out of geraniums to give us. The Saturday afternoon and evening shift didn't work that weekend.

We know you will enjoy the Christmas tree this season, and we are all looking forward to the fruits of our labors that will bring us a brighter and more colorful spring.

Until that time, if you want to know more about what we are all about, stop in at city hall, on liberty, and take a look at our scrapbook that tells our history.

WALT SUNDQUIST designed one scrapbook for us, then made us another one that is always on display and always kept up to date.

If you like what you see maybe you will join our Friends of Farmington Beautification Committee. The group is made up of people that we can call on from time to time as we need extra help for any project that comes along. Leave your name at city hall and one of us will get in touch with you.

Our next big project our Friends are helping us with now is the pruning and grooming preparation seminar we've scheduled for next March. We're repeating the free seminar we staged

last spring, encouraging you all to pretty up.

Many thanks to you all, and season's greetings, from

DEEDE ADAMS (secretary)
JOAN BARBRICK (civic and government)

EARL BILLING (liaison from Department of Public Services)
WARREN BUCKLER (liaison from Farmington City Council)

BARNETT DICKMAN (civic and government)

RICK HATTFIELD (program)
JANET KOZUB (awards)

CAROL KURTH (awards)
WILLIAM McNAUGHTON (youth and school, and awards)

JOANNE MESHANE (vice chairman)
STEWART MEREDITH (business and community)

ROSE OSMER (public relations)
BILL REED (program)

JACKIE STEUER (chairman)



Farmington Observer

Suburban Life

Thursday, December 21, 1978

(F1)B

Glasgow runs a tight ship in perceptual motor classes

By EMORY DANIELS

Jim Glasgow is the godfather to many special children throughout the metropolitan area.

He barks, and they jump. He commands, and they respond. He smiles, and they relax. He praises, and they feel fulfilled. He loves and they love.

Glasgow is a gym instructor for dozens of youngsters who travel to his classes once a week for special help. But he's much more than a gym teacher. He's their godfather.

During the day, Glasgow works for Northville Public Schools as a physical education instructor at the special education center in the former Burger Junior High in Grand City.

On Tuesday and Thursday nights, Glasgow conducts special classes in perceptual motor training for the Birmingham, Southfield, Farmington, Livonia, Plymouth-Canton, and Westland chapters of the Michigan Association of Children with Learning Disabilities (MACLD).

Parents who are members of MACLD are so pleased with the work Glasgow has done that they've adopted him as a full-time godfather over their children's physical development.

WATCHING THE GODFATHER at work is an experience in itself.

When the students first enter the gym they immediately walk to a sign on the floor with their name on it, sit down, and wait for the godfather's first words.

The youngsters speak only if spoken to and raise their hands to gain the godfather's attention.

Glasgow speaks crisply and slowly—allowing time for each word to be absorbed and translated by little minds which many times become confused by too many directions.

And there's always warning given before a command is spoken. "Alright, listen up!" he barks, pausing while every ear awaits the next word.

"We are not here tonight to have fun. We are not here tonight to socialize. We are here because we all have problems. And we are going to do something about these problems, right?"

"The first thing we are going to do is try. Maybe you can't do a backward roll the first time—but you can try! Don't we—let me hear you say, 'I can't.' Not many of us can do everything the first time we try. But all of us can try! Right?"

"Right, Mr. Glasgow," a chorus of voices answers—almost in unison.

BEFORE STARTING the physical activity for the evening, Glasgow asks students a few questions to provide an opportunity for verbal interaction.

He asks questions such as the month, season, date, day of the week, and temperature. He expects each student to recite, when asked to, their height, weight, name, age, address, school and teacher's name at school.

Each student is assigned a shape (triangle, square, etc.) and must tell what it is when asked.

During the preliminary warm-ups between the godfather and his children, then, attention is given to personal information, self-concepts, spatial relationships, and time. Not any heavy academic stuff—just stuff which helps a kid relate to who he is and things which help define his narrow place in the wide universe.

A point system is used with points awarded for correct answers during the warm-ups, for good behavior, for

"trying" on the equipment and during exercises.

Glasgow uses points as a reward system—not for competition. In fact, no cumulative total of the points earned is kept. A child is told when he earns points, but a tally isn't kept so no one knows who earns the most. Thus, effort—not final achievement—is rewarded.

Glasgow's stern demeanor not only gains and keeps the attention of students, but also insures there is no horseplay—a necessity because of the equipment used: Balance beams, trampoline, parallel bars, bicycles, ropes and rings.

"Each child must abide by strict rules and regulations pertaining to use of equipment," Glasgow said.

"Since beginning my program in 1965 and having worked with thousands of handicapped and multi-handicapped children, no-one has ever been injured in this program."

Glasgow's sternness, however, is mixed with smiles of approval which the children strive hard to earn. And, when appropriate, Glasgow treats students with samples of his corny humor to entice laughter.

All children, after all, need to laugh—especially children living with handicaps that often makes it hard to laugh.

AFTER A SERIES of exercises, the youngsters are ordered to different locations in the gym to work either with young adult assistants or with the Glasgow.

Some youngsters will be running through an obstacle course. Others will take turns swinging a bat at a ball on a stick.

One child will climb into a harness to jump on the trampoline. Another will mount the exercise-cycle. Another will be working on the balance beams while other students are using the ropes, parallel bars, or rings.

Glasgow will walk from one location to another, providing individual instruction, encouragement, prodding, and praise.

A whistle blows and all activity halts. Every eye turns toward Glasgow who then begins shouting out names.

"John, get over to the trampoline now, Lisa go to the cycle, Bobbie you take a turn on the balance beam. Mary, Shawn, Freddie, Lyle and Peter report to the obstacle course."

The whistle blows again, and every one promptly reports to the next work area.

At each area the kids are involved in an almost super-human effort, trying to accomplish what the unsuspecting might view as simple tasks.

A young boy who cannot run without falling forward is working on the treadmill. Another youngster, who can only see with one eye, struggles courageously to hit a ball with the bat.

A young girl who is too uncoordinated to skip struggles to do a jumping jack. Glasgow watches and is pleased because they all have courage to try.

Glasgow continually builds up the self-image of his pupils. Self-confidence is preached and practiced each minute. "You can do it. Come on now!"

Because of this effort on confidence building there is only one "real mistake" which can be committed, and that's to laugh at one's self.

AND WHO ARE these children Glasgow tutors?

Some are normal children enrolled in the class to serve as positive models for the handicapped youngsters. Some have physical handicaps, or problems with vision, hearing and some may be emotionally impaired.

Many are learning disabled youngsters, which explains the involvement of the MACLD chapters in the metropolitan areas.

Learning disabled children need the physical training to help them differentiate between left and right, to develop spatial concepts, to sharpen motor development in hopes the child in later years will be able to learn to read.

The learning disabled child has a handicap which was discovered in the 1960s. The child's problem has been described as the "invisible handicap" because the child looks normal but yet deviates enough that academic achievement will be very difficult to obtain.

The learning disabled child often is described as lazy, stubborn, or immature, and feels confused and defensive about this judgment because he so often tries—too often without success of any kind.

The child often is of average or above average intelligence, and is best recognized for the real gap between expected and actual achievement.

Most of these learning problems are touched upon, directly or indirectly, with the activities, exercises and operations used in Glasgow's gym class.



Jim Glasgow gives one of his students help climbing up a rope. (Photos by Bob Cameron)



The class is asked to join in with applause to reward effort.



A gentle kiss is given by an assistant to reward progress with honest affection and appreciation.