

# Schoolcraft college initiates 'get acquainted' meetings

By MAURIE WALKER

In education, as in many fields, growth often leads to a deterioration of communications. As school systems grow, then tend to lose contact with each other.

"To help remedy the situation, Schoolcraft College this year initiated a series of meetings with the five school districts which make up the college district.

"To date, meetings at the college have been held with Garden City, Plymouth and most recently the Clarenceville school districts. Future meetings are planned with the Livonia and Northville districts.

C. Nelson Grote, Schoolcraft president, said the college trustees and staff decided on these meetings "because we wanted to become better acquainted with the surrounding districts.

"These meetings give us and members of the school districts the opportunity to swap ideas and to learn how we can cooperate and perhaps help solve each others problems," Grote said.

"Schoolcraft College's area is made up of five school districts in Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw Counties.

Rosina Raymond, a Schoolcraft trustee, told the 26 persons attending the meeting with Clarenceville, that "the school districts created Schoolcraft College, it is important that we get together."

## Local grad honored

Included among the more than 100 graduates completing their degree requirements in December 1978 and honored at a recognition service at Valparaiso University on Dec. 15 was Christopher Jordan, of 32260 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills.

Jordan was awarded a degree in business administration.

Clarenceville School Superintendent David McDowell said his district has always supported Schoolcraft.

"As the systems grew, we lost contact with each other. I hope these meetings will bring us back together," McDowell said.

As part of the "getting to know you" gathering, Clarenceville Board President Samuel Prisk gave a slide presentation explaining the history of Clarenceville.

"Our school district was formed on Jan. 26, 1837. It was originally an Indian settlement," he said.

His slides included pictures of the area, including Eight Mile Road when it was a two-lane highway lined on both sides by trees.

McDowell said as of last October, the district's enrollment was 2,606 students.

"Prior to the opening of Schoolcraft College, only 24 percent of our students planned to attend college," he said. "When the college opened, the figure jumped to 50 percent."

Grote said the college, which opened in 1964, is located on 182 acres in the northwest corner of Livonia.

"We have also suffered a decline in enrollment," he said. "Two years ago, our enrollment reached a high of 10,136 but has tapered off since then."

More than half the Schoolcraft students are over 30 years old and most work fulltime or part-time giving us an all-time low in credit hours, Grote said.

He added that 71 percent of the students are in

Schoolcraft has developed a schedule that will benefit high school students.

"We provide a program here which we realize you can't at Clarenceville because of facilities. This encourages students to come here."

Edward McNally, vice president for student affairs, said that fall 1978 enrollment figures, show that of the 7,894 students at the college, 117 were from Clarenceville.

"Of these Clarenceville graduates, 62, or 53 percent, were male students and 55 were females. Of the 5,582 who were career students, 80 were from Clarenceville. Transfer students (those moving on to other colleges) totaled 2,312 with 37 of them coming from Clarenceville."

"Another item discussed, was the upcoming special election March 26 in which the college is seeking one mill for capital outlay.

Vice Chairman Harry Greenleaf of the Schoolcraft board, said the additional millage "is needed to help keep us remain a top college."

"We are concerned with maintaining quality education. We are not looking at the operating budget. Our plant and

facilities are nearly 20 years old and these old structures take more money to keep up."

Paul Kadish, who chaired the meeting, said the college would not be treating the taxpayers fairly if they didn't keep up the facilities.

"We need the one mill, which is a restricted millage for capital improvements for equipment and maintenance. We served some 60,000 people in the past. If we want to continue to do so, we need the help of the residents. I hope they will support us by approving this one mill."

Schoolcraft officials were interested in the split school tax collection which Clarenceville recently had approved by the Farmington Hills council.

McDowell said he had been trying for three years to get people moving on the idea which allows part of the taxes to be collected in July and the rest in December instead of having all taxes collected just once a year.

He said the Clarenceville board found out recently that residents don't object to the double collection and it saves the local district a lot of money in interest payments on loans.

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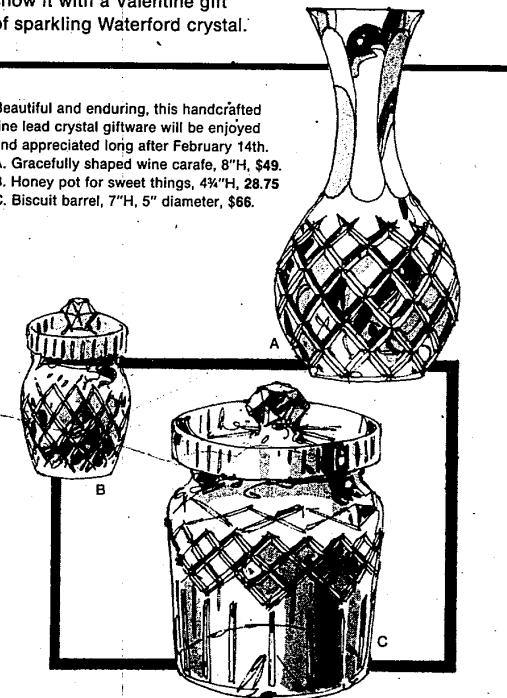
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