

# Happiness Was Order This Summer At Eagle

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Persons unhappy with their lot in life could have profited from a visit to Eagle School this summer.

A summer program for special education children. The first thing noted on a visit to the summer sessions was the happiness.



**YUM-YUM FUN** — The fun of baking is licking the frosting bowl, say Becky Boyes (left) and Cindy Lower. The girls had a chance to do it during Eagle School's summer classes for special education pupils.



**PEEK-A-BCO** — Sandra Perry is having fun as she is also learning to overcome a physical handicap during a summer class at Eagle School.



**BATTER UP** — Playing baseball in a wheelchair isn't the easiest way to do it, but it can be just as much fun as these special education students demonstrate.

HAPPINESS was everywhere --around the wheelchairs, in between crutches, over the heavy leg braces, inside the hearing aids, inside all the tiny handicapped minds and bodies.

Directed by Fred Parker, Farmington district consultant for the mentally handicapped, and a staff of 30, 20 of them professionals, this happiness was spread to 130 youngsters this summer. They included all manner of physically and mentally handicapped.

Financing for the program came from 75 per cent federal monies, 25 per cent county.

UNLIKE the regular school program, emphasis this summer was not on the academic. Every attempt was made to give the children many different experiences.

Working from the program theme, "The Community Around Us," the staff exposed its charges to all manner of experiences--things usual for the normal, but wondrous to the handicapped.

TRIPS INCLUDED a visit to a local veterinarian, to a pet shop, to a department store, to a supermarket, to a dairy farm and a horse farm, to Greenfield Village, to Cranbrook, to Kensington Park, where a trip was taken on the Island Queen around the lake, swimming, and best of all--a picnic at Kensington that was just like any normal child's with swimming, games, hotdogs and other good things cooked over a fire.

## Floods Cause Hot Tempers

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Dinan replied that "we can afford to spend as much money as you want, but to stay within the tax levy is something else."

With this, a third Councilman--Ralph Yoder--broke into the discussion to remind the other councilmen that "during the last two budget sessions I was a strong advocate of more manpower for the DPW and could never get any support."

Selbert offered the suggestion that the city should set up a program of reviewing problem areas.

(Following the meeting, Director of Public Services Theodore DeBeane told The Enterprise & Observer that the DPW currently employs seven men including supervision. He estimated that the department would require a total of 12 men to carry out the type of program the council discussed and placed the additional yearly cost at \$25,000.)

ACCORDING to Dinan the problem in Alta Loma is caused by the water runoff from the Woodcroft Subdivision which overflows the ditch on Gill Rd. and runs down through Alta Loma.

In Bel Aire the city manager said that the sanitary sewer backup into the basements is caused by the small eight inch size of the sanitary sewer system which is tied into the storm sewer.

An additional problem is caused by the fact that the ditch on the north side of 10 Mile Rd. between Orchard Lake and Powers Rd. has been filled in, thus causing the water to cross 10 Mile from the township and run down through Bel Aire.

The Council gave Dinan strict instructions to contact the Oakland County Road Commission Tuesday morning to have the ditch cleaned out. Then the city officials went a step further and authorized Dinan to use city equipment to clean out the ditch if the county was unable to meet the request.

The council also adopted a resolution instructing Dinan to

Parker sums up experiences like these this way: "Some of the children who don't have a good time during regular school come to the summer program and have such a wonderful time they return in the fall and think 'school is not so bad.' With handicapped youngsters, that's half the battle."

BECAUSE Eagle's summer pupils had such a wide range of differing handicaps, the school each day was a hubbub of diverse doings.

In one room, mentally handicapped tots might be learning "body image awareness" through shiver-and-shake movements called for in a recording.

In another room, children in need of speech correction might be experimenting with sounds.

Another room might be filled with pre-schoolers learning reading readiness by cutting out paper shapes.

The kitchen might be filled with the mentally abnormal making cupcakes for the first time.

And outside there might be a gang of orthopedically handicapped boys and girls playing a slambang game of baseball. With 22 of the 27 orthopedically handicapped enrolled this summer confined to wheel chairs, the baseball games were stark evidence of shaver's exits. WITH ALL THIS activity, the main impression gained from a summer visit to Eagle was this -- Happiness is going to school.



**HOMEWARD BOUND** — Two of Eagle School's special education summer students wait for the bus that will take them home from a day of fun and learning.

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