

League activist carries expertise around country

Editor's note: The article on Grace McLendon is the sixth in the series of the women who make up the membership of the Farmington-West Bloomfield League of Women Voters.

By LORRAINE MCCLISH
Grace McLendon believes it is a "pretty neat thing to be able to carry and use your expertise from one locale to another."

It is one facet offered in the League of Women Voters, something she's seen

others do before her, and something she was able to do when she transferred her membership to the Farmington-West Bloomfield branch after belonging to branches in South Carolina and Georgia.

Her expertise in the area of Urban Studies started when she became interested in a water pollution problem in South Carolina.

"I learned that a neighbor of mine knew an awful lot about it, and she

knew a lot of people who knew an awful lot about it, and they were all in the league," she said.

Her subsequent membership has since "kept the brain alive through diapers and baby talk."

It has also made her committee chairwoman of a number of studies, all pertaining to problems of the nation's cities.

"EVERY CITY (in the U.S.) has pretty much the same problems," she said. "Each has its slum housing, the garbage disposal to deal with, unemployment, land fills, flood plains. There are a lot of by-ways to deal with when you are looking at the over-all, and all of them in this country are solved by money."

Money played a big part in the questions that had to be answered by the local membership when Mrs. McLendon and her committee gave their end-of-the-study presentation.

Members were asked if the federal programs to distribute money to the cities were working. They were asked to give opinions of general revenue sharing, federal involvement on local bonding, methods to enhance the economic base of cities, the effects of the cities' economies stemming from the migration from city to suburbs.

Though that portion of the study on the country's urban areas is over, there is another one coming up which Mrs. McLendon hopes to get going.

"I want us to zero in on the local scene," she said, "and I will lobby for that if need be."

Mrs. McLendon's reference to "us" was the Metropolitan League of Women Voters, made up of representatives from branches in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties, which draws on the talents of all of its members for any study which involves all three counties.

HER HOPE is to zero in on the likes of SEMCOG and SEMTA to discover what and how much influence umbrella organizations such as these have on the individual towns and cities within the region.

As well as believing it will be a valid study for the local league, Mrs. McLendon said her previous study of cities was so far-flung, "it is time I learned something about where I live."

She and her husband, Jay, and their two sons "tend to get transferred every three to five years," but the move to Farmington Hills was the first to a northern state.

"I like everything about Farmington Hills," she said, "except February."

Since moving here, she has become just as well known for her quilts in some circles as for her League of Women Voters work.

"Not enough people up here know how to quilt," said the former teacher of high school grammar, who teaches a new quilting class at Ten Mile Community School.

MRS. MCLENDON mused on what she termed "the amazing impact the league has made on so many lives."

"I remember one woman in particular," she said, "who was called on to do a study on children's services for the league study and now is setting up programs all over the state for disabled kids. I could give you a dozen examples like that."

"Maybe it doesn't show itself very blatantly, but what you get out of league is there and cannot be denied."

Mrs. McLendon said she picked up organizational and business skills "that aren't taught in school."

"I learned some of these things almost by osmosis and used them several times organizing a few things I ran into that needed organizing."



Grace McLendon has finished her study of U.S. cities for the National League of Women Voters, and now wants to get another study started on cities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

m.m.memos



By MARGARET MILLER

Shelves and closets empty, packing boxes fill and minds get cluttered with details to be remembered as we get closer to moving our stand to a different homestead.

And everyone wants to know if I don't feel terribly nostalgic and sad as the family prepares to leave the historic old house that has been home for nearly 20 years.

Frankly, those are feelings I fully expected, even though I had no doubts that the move was the right one for us. But they haven't materialized, and moving day is only a week away. Our lilacs burst into sweet-smelling bloom and I found myself just appreciating. This year I don't have to worry about trimming back the bushes, or more accurately, fretting that there never is time to trim back the bushes.

The lawn turned a lovely green and this year I wasn't bothered about the number of dandelions spotting it with yellow. (Note to new owners: I absently pulled a few, but don't worry, there are plenty left for you.)

I drive by stands filled with colorful flowers to plant, and I hear friends and fellow workers tell about their gardening with no guilt feelings this spring. For once I won't be digging frantically in early June the holes that should have been dug in early May.

And watching the man of our house cut the big lawn last weekend, I felt thankfulness that there would be just one more time and awareness that

sometime during the few days left I would have to accomplish a mighty clipping job. (Note again to new owners: we'll get it done, one more time, so you can find the gardens.)

Library sponsoring airplane clinic

The Young Adult Department of the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, is sponsoring a Model Airplane Building and Flying program, Saturday, June 9, 2p.m.-4p.m. This free program will feature guest speakers from Joe's Hobby Center, who will demonstrate model airplane building. All who attend the program will receive a free model to build.

A special film on model airplane flying is planned, followed by a demonstration of radio control by experts.

All questions concerning the program can be answered by Lauren Bowman at 553-0300.

Disco students in full swing

Ricky Dove's "Disco Plus" dance classes are in full swing in Farmington Community Center, where singles and couples are learning to move to the beat of the 1979 sounds.

"There is room for more," Dove says, in the Thursday sessions that run from 9:15-10:45 p.m.

"This group is really moving fast. We'll cover all types of rhythms and variations before summer sets in," he said.

Latecomers can join the spring sessions by calling the center and making a reservation, 477-8404.

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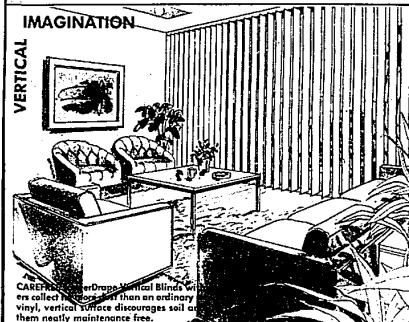
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