

Seasoned skills used to aid school children

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Area seniors who have acquired skills, interests, knowledge and talents, cultivated throughout a lifetime, are now sharing their special expertise with youngsters in a couple of elementary schools.

"Project Assist" was created by Vickie Vanderbilt, coordinator of senior citizens education through Ten Mile Community School, as a two-fold benefit.

"The senior volunteers derive a deep sense of personal satisfaction sharing their knowledge on everything from quilting to astronomy," Ms. Vanderbilt said.

"And some of today's children who have never known the joy of being with a grandparent benefit from contacts with 'grand persons' who show an interest in them."

Some senior volunteers act as a one-time guest speakers in the classroom, demonstrating a hobby perhaps, or

sharing their knowledge of a life experience.

Others might volunteer as a field trip assistant, or help out in a musical production, or act as a club advisor.

Others, who want to volunteer on a regular basis are assigned as a teacher's aide.

WILLIE CAREY volunteers one morning a week to work individually with three children who are having trouble reading. Men Hoelter takes two fifth graders aside every week to help them review classroom assignments in a tutoring class of their own.

Ica Bowler works with special education students. With her help 14 mentally impaired youth have learned to thread a needle, sew on buttons, tie knots, and some simple hand stitches.

By the end of the year the class project, a patchwork wallhanging, will be completed.

Fred Hewitt is a lifelong resident of Farmington who is involved with oral histories of the locale, and is one of a

group who aided in the architectural restoration of the Farmington Masonic Temple.

He's a regular visitor at Forest Elementary School, sharing his experiences with tales of bear hunting, farming techniques, and life survival in the wilderness.

Former teacher and world traveler Mary Guenther shares her slides of Egypt, India, Israel, Greece, Burma, Wales and Hong Kong with elementary school classes.

"THE VOLUNTEERS come from all walks of life bringing with them what I call 'hidden' skills; knowledge that they once used very proficiently but just kind of put behind them once they retired," Ms. Vanderbilt said.

"They can coach athletic or forensic teams, or act as career counselors, or teach woodworking or dance or photography, either as enrichment for the children, or to act as teachers' aides."

Gifted children in Larkshire Elementary School have been helped in a garden project by John Hija.



Willie Carey is flanked by two of her charges, Beth Byrne (at left) and Steve Marion during one of her regular visits to Kenbrook Elementary School. The volunteer was one of the first to join "Project Assist." (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Cook book features art and 800 recipe ideas

By LORRAINE McCLISH

A cookbook filled with tried and true recipes designed to promote and benefit the Farmington Community Center is now on sale.

The book has been about a year in the making under the chairmanship of Ruth Falahee, who work with a committee of 16, collecting, editing and testing the 800 entries submitted by area residents.

The format is definitely Farmington Community Center.

A picture of the building and entrance is on the cover of the book. Each divider is an original drawing of one of center's interest spots — the stone gate, the entry hall with the portrait of its former owner, the herb garden and the playhouse on the grounds.

The artist is Jean McMillen, who said she sketched pieces and parts of the city's landmark during February "when the temperature was at least 10 below zero and the wind chill factor at about 40."

Working with Ms. McMillen toward publishing deadline was Ruth Hendricks, who took on her first job of indexing anything.

Both women became volunteers for the project through their neighbor, Joan LaVanway, who has a reputation as a renowned recruiter to promote the center.

"THE DIVIDERS are only very loosely representative of vegetables, or soups, or desserts," Mrs. Falahee said. "We used a wedding setting out on the grounds to introduce the cakes and pies section, for example."

"It's a little more interesting than showing a picture of a cake. The whole idea was to promote the center and show all of the many things we do here," she said.

Ms. McMillen's talents captured the center's dining room fireplace, with carved motto, "Let Something Good Be Said," that sets the tone for the entire house.

One divider shows the fieldstone wall with a banner announcing the International Ethnic Festival, an annual event that has become a tradition for area residents.

One divider shows the living room, with its specially woven oriental rugs, where classes, meetings and social functions take place almost daily.

Another shows the porch, a setting for summer receptions and entertaining overlooking the terraced flower beds nurtured by Farmington's Hill and Dale Garden Club.

THOSE WHO enjoy and use these facilities are the contributors to the Farmington Community Center Cookbook.

"A great many ethnic recipes came in to us," Mrs. Falahee said.

"I was surprised by this at first, but there should have been no reason to be

surprised. After all, we did ask for tried and true recipes so it is only reasonable that many family's collection of tried and true dishes would be of an ethnic nature."

Ms. Heinrichs did not index a special classification for ethnic fare.

"If it was a salad, it went under salads. If it was a main dish or a casserole, it went under that category," she said. "We asked for favorite recipes, so of course we got Armenian pastries, items like Norwegian butter cookies, gazpacho, and a great many German dishes."

Beverages are divided into alcoholic and non-alcoholic categories.

The book sells for \$6, available in the center on Farmington Road, north of Ten Mile Road.

"We ordered 1,000 of them," Mrs. Falahee said, "and we're hoping to order 1,000 more."



The cook book that bears the name "Farmington Community Center" gets final approval by three of the 16-member committee that pulled it all together. From left is Ruth Falahee, Jean McMillen and Ruth Hendricks.

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