

# Generation gap takes a beating

By MARY GNIEWEK

There was no generation gap in Evelyn Kaplan's second grade class at Gill Elementary School in Farmington Monday afternoon.

The class had a party with three residents of the White Hall Home for the Aged as guests of honor. There was singing, snacks and storytelling.

The friendship between 27 second-graders and 23 nursing home residents began last November when 7-year-old Mary Beth Strand's aunt, Judy Rutilla, a gerontologist, spoke to her niece's class about her job at White Hall.

The class was so interested that they decided to adopt the residents of the Novi nursing home and began writing letters and sending small handmade gifts. Monday was the first face-to-face meeting.

"We hope to bring a few in every few weeks," Mrs. Kaplan said.

Viola Wiseman and Ernestine Levesque, both 75, and 45-year-old Melva Brown were the first three adopted grandmas to enjoy the children's hospitality.

The kids sang songs while their teacher played piano. Then they told their attentive guests about their grandparents, their schoolwork and their friends. Mrs. Levesque, a French Canadian, taught the children to count to 10 in French.

"WE'RE LIKE your grandchildren," one youngster told the trio who responded by reading them storybooks and showing them wallet snapshots of their real grandchildren.

The children, seated in a semicircle on the floor around their guests, asked them how it feels to be old.

"We wouldn't know because we're not old," the women quipped, almost in unison.

After snacks of carrot and celery sticks, crackers and candy, the children gave the visitors handmade vases and flowers — enough for all the residents at White Hall.

Then small smooth hands grabbed wrinkled ones for a quick tour around the class to see bulletin boards lined with valentines from the White Hall seniors.



Brian Peterson listens with intense concentration.



Ernestine Levesque reads to Mrs. Evelyn Kaplan's second-grade class at Gill Elementary School in Farmington. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)



Tim Alson has attention diverted for a second from the task of devouring a cookie.



Speaking before the second-graders are (from left) Melva Brown, Viola Wiseman, Ernestine Levesque and gerontologist Judy Rutilla.

## inside angles/Louise Okrutsky

**IT'S REUNION** time again. All over town, persons wonder if they ought to show up to their high school or grade school reunion. Among those who ought to be mulling such a earth shattering decision are graduates of Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington and Osborn High School in Detroit.

Sorrows graduates are invited to a grand reunion for graduates of all years on July 18. Angles has been advised that this date is different than one previously sent out to grads. (Pay heed, grads) The ticket price of \$25 includes dinner, dancing and drinks. For ticket information, call John Hinzl at 569-3133 during business hours, Carol (DeNies) Gassel at 661-0614, after 3 p.m. or Kathy (DeNies) Pennywit at 477-9544.

Transplanted east-siders who graduated from Laura F. Osborn High School in June, 1970 should be advised their 10 years are up and they are more or less expected to at least consider attending the class reunion on the evening of Oct. 4 at the Imperial House, 34701 Groesbeck in Fraser. The ticket price of \$25 per person covers buffet dinner, open bar, live entertainment and souvenirs. The tickets can be purchased in two installments due April 15 and June 1. You must finish paying before you can receive the tickets. Mail to: P.O. Box 05152, Detroit, Mich., 48205. Make checks payable to Osborn Class Reunion of 1979.

when former presidents come back to wreak havoc on the group's regular meeting.

District president Wilma Birdsall visited the post and donated 50 hand-made soap bags to hospital chairwoman Irene Johnson for veterans' hospitals and 12 trophies to community activities chairwoman Jean Telford for the Special Olympics project at the Hawthorn Learning Center. (Keep up the good work, ladies.)

**SMALL BUS BASE FARE** for the 17 small bus systems operated by SEMTA will increase five cents on March 10. The increase follows a five-cent hike in SEMTA's large bus fares which went into effect Sept. 4, 1979. SEMTA's small bus program is divided into Local Service Systems (LSS), also known as Dial-A-Ride for the general public and Essential Transportation Services (ETS) such as OCART, WACART and METS for the elderly and handicapped. Elderly and handicapped riders on SEMTA's small bus system ride for half-fare. If an attendant accompanies a handicapped person, the attendant rides for free. For further information about the local small bus systems, call SEMTA at 962-9515 or toll free, 1-800-462-5161.

**THAT SNOW** storm last month brought more than sidewalks to shovel for Bob and Debbi Rock. Their daughter, Melanie Elizabeth arrived at 1:19 a.m. on Feb. 27. The very young Ms. Rock weighed in at a solid 9 pounds, 9 ounces and is 23 inches long. Dad, of course, is the Rock portion of Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

And since Melanie showed up in a snowstorm, IA sends some welcoming snow flakes her way. \*

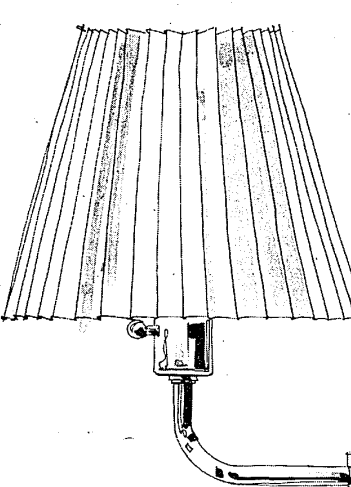
**THE RED CROSS** wants you. The American Red Cross is searching for volunteers for many different service areas in the Southeastern Michigan Chapter. March 9 to 15 is "Volunteer Recruitment Week," in the tri-county area. Volunteers are needed in Oakland County to work on bloodmobile units where they assist Red Cross nurses with non-medical duties such as registering blood donors, labeling and numbering blood containers, escorting donors to the canteen area and serving refreshments. Persons are also needed to serve as Red Cross hospital workers, transportation assistants and administrative volunteers. For more information call the West Bloomfield office at 334-3375.

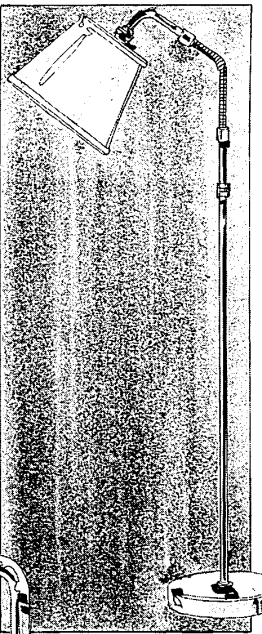
**WHILE OTHERS** worry about their bank accounts, Dr. John Richardson, Farmington's answer to James Herriot, is basking in the happy certainty of a thank account. Richardson has been seen passing out checks from the Union Thank and Trust Company. That lofty institution promises daily interest and high dividends, assures the recipient of the check "U.R. No.1" and concludes the check with "Have a happy day."

**THE ANNUAL "Coffee Day"** for Oakland County will be March 7 in more than 100 restaurants in Oakland County. "Coffee Day" buttons sell for \$1 each. The money will go to the Oakland County Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults. On "Coffee Day" March 7, any customer wearing their button may enter any participating restaurant and drink coffee free. Hurry up, that's tomorrow. In addition to awards given to waiters and waitresses who sell the most coffee buttons in the tri-county area, a Sony AM/FM cassette has been donated. Donations to the coffee fund will go towards recreational programs, such as summer day camp, physical and occupational therapy.

**ANGLES HAS** just finished reading one of the notes it regularly receives from Alice Tripp, of Brodhead Farmington Hills VFW Auxiliary 2269. The post enjoyed its recent "Past President Night"

**DO YOU** want to become a compleat angler? All you need is to reel in an interesting comment, note of news or bit of nonsense and flip it to IA via the postal system. Write to IA at 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48024.





**3-day sale  
on the functional fashion  
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\*Minimum units at Hudson's while quantities last.

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