

December oddity

With temperatures reaching a high of 67 degrees Thursday, two Oaklawn Community College students stripped to bare chest and T-shirt and flipped a Frisbee around the parking lot.

Don Glyshaw, 21, (left) celebrates his birthday barbequed and Bob Anzlover, 20, catches the disc.

Moving memories

Video yearbook hits high schools

By Alice Collins
staff writer

Put away the photo albums. Get out the video equipment.

"Video yearbooks" are competing with pages of stories and photographs in Birmingham's two high schools.

The electronic innovation is thought to be a first in Michigan.

Twenty years from now when reunion committee members from Groves and Seaholm want to show what life was like when they were students, they'll know where to look.

They'll just "slip a cartridge into a video player and say, 'There we are.'"

That's the way Charles Scott, assistant principal at Seaholm, summed up what he sees as the potential value of the "video yearbooks" being produced this year for the two Birmingham School District high schools.

The two-hour video yearbooks include sound and sell for \$80 each. They will not take the place of the traditional high school yearbooks, which are being published as always.

"This year is a test year for the video yearbooks," said Gil Richard, who along with Dennis Prebee, make up Par Video Production Inc. "We're just doing the two to see if there is going to be a market for them."

THE IDEA of the yearbook on film originated in California, Richard said. "Groves and Seaholm will be the first

in Michigan.

"In fact we've been kind of trying to keep it under wraps because of competitors that might want to get into it. But we're a year ahead of them now."

If the yearbooks sell well, Richard said he and his partner will expand to other high schools next year. "We know it's going to take more than one year to catch on."

Par Video Productions approached the administrations at Groves and Seaholm and made the proposal. The schools accepted.

In return for handling the promotion and sales, the schools will get 10 percent of the proceeds, said Richard.

THE VIDEO yearbooks will include segments of a variety of school activities including plays, homecoming, Field Day, sports, prom and graduation. One of the features will be the Groves-Seaholm football game played this fall at the Silverdome.

Printed yearbooks provide records and pictures of these events, but with the video yearbooks "they'll get the actual movement, sound and excitement of the function at the time," said Richard.

The big question is: Will it sell?

Groves senior Mary Chris Jaklevic, a liaison between the journalism class and the production company, said she probably won't buy one "but of course I haven't seen it yet."

"I'm involved in school activities,

but I don't know that being on a few minutes of tape would be worth \$80 to me. Maybe the class president or someone like that would be more interested."

"BUT I THINK they're expecting the parents to be the ones to become interested and put out the money so they can look at it 20 years from now."

The big sales push will start next week at Groves, said Assistant Principal Richard Smith. Name and poster contests are planned to help promote the sale.

"I think the sales have to be aimed at the adults rather than the students and their recognition of what this type of thing might mean 20 years from now," said Smith.

He calls it an interesting idea that hasn't been done before. "But there are questions on whether there's enough interest in the community for a product like that."

"It will be especially nice for the school to have a copy of the year's events for our archives. And I think it would be an additional memento to those who are concluding their high school careers."

MANY IN the area already have video recorders and players, Jaklevic said. "And I guess most will have them in the years ahead."

"They've been here (filming) for just about everything we've had since October," said Smith.

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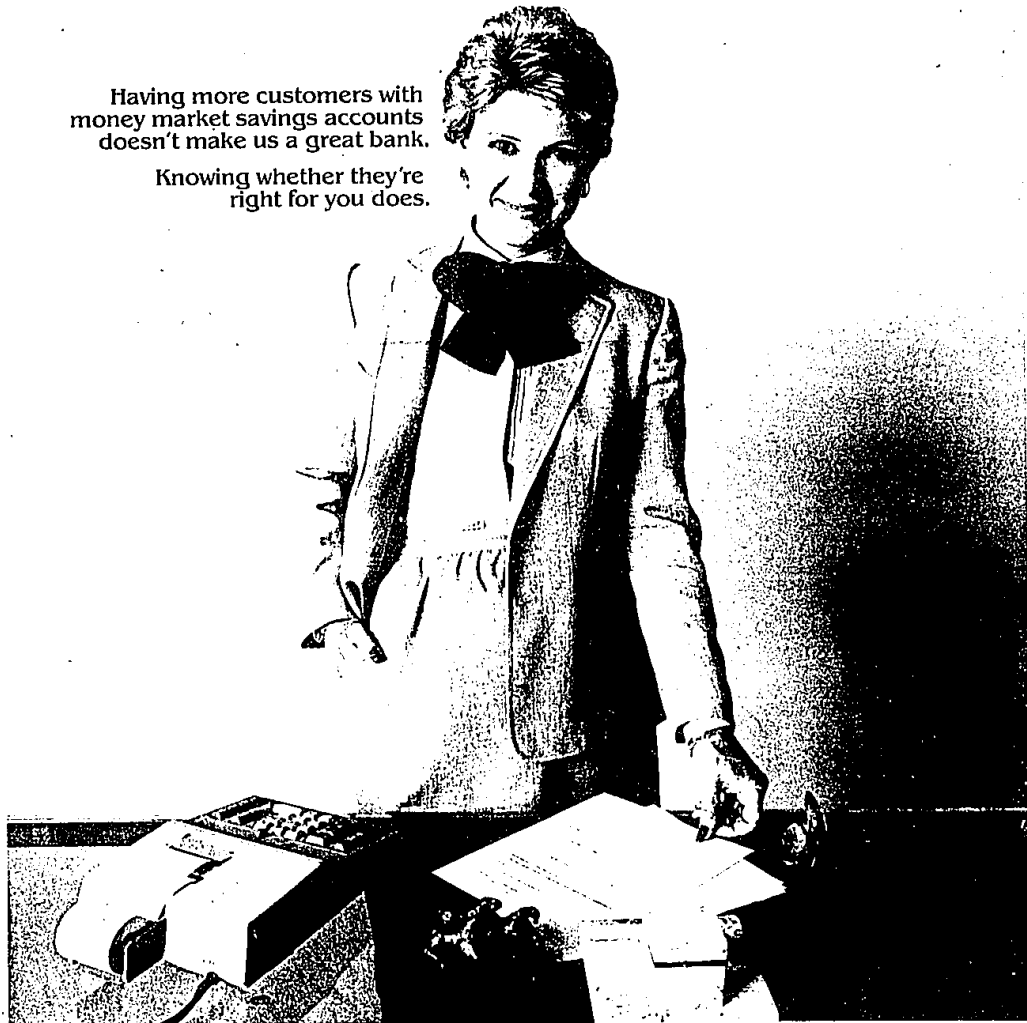
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