



DAN DEAN/ staff photographer

Clarencoville's school chief, Dave McDowell, sits in his office and talks about the district that's been his home for 18 years.

School chief says bye to C'ville

By Teri Banas
staff writer

Had things turned out differently for Dave McDowell, he probably never would have heard of the Clarenceville School District.

McDowell, a native of Sault Ste. Marie, had planned in his youth to take over his father's part of a Studebaker dealership there.

Next week, McDowell, 61, will say good-bye to the 2,000-plus student school district where he has been the top administrator for the past 18 years. The popular school chief who's made a name for himself as an all-around nice guy plans to retire.

"I've been so busy I really haven't had time to get an emotion about it," said the gravel-voiced McDowell this week. "With graduation and all, just completing the year has kept us very busy."

MCDOWELL arrived in Clarenceville, located in parts of Livonia, Redford Township and Farmington Hills, as the new high school principal in 1961. It was then twice today's size. In 1966, he was named the district's superintendent.

Before coming to the Detroit area, he worked in two other school districts — as a junior and senior high principal in Comstock and in Vermontville as a classroom teacher, coach and principal. There was also a year when he sold insurance.

McDowell attended Northern Michigan University to become a teacher. It was after a stint in the U.S. Marines during World War II. During the long stretches of boredom in the Pacific, he made up his mind to make teaching his life's work. His college major was physical education.

McDowell had been his high school's football captain for two years and was active in organized college sport as well. Playing quarterback, he was named Northern's most valuable player in football one year.

"It was important for me to do some-

thing with young people," McDowell recalled of his decision to enter teaching. "And the rest just came about. It was really not a big design."

The way McDowell describes it, he

was somewhat familiar with the profession because his mother was a schoolteacher before she settled down

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Harrison forensic team scores winning season

At finals in Michigan State competition this spring, Harrison High School's forensic team brought a winning season to a triumphant close.

Four members of the team added state trophies to the team's collection of other trophies, awards and certificates earned since February.

Seven of Harrison's regional qualifiers went on to state competition in Ann Arbor.

In this competition, junior Laura Burrell advanced to semifinals in oratory, along with senior Scott Novis, who placed seventh in the state in extemporaneous speaking.

Senior Scott DeChant placed fifth in the state in radio news broadcasting. Marc Tenenbaum, a freshman, took the fourth spot in the ninth- and tenth-grade division of extemporaneous speaking, and the duo of senior Todd Cherkasky and junior Laura Livingstone swept the first-place spot in Michigan in Dramatic Duo Interpretation.

"Our 1984 team is one of the most powerful small teams in this part of the state," said English teacher and forensics team coach Mrs. Laura Sparrow.

"The previous two years have been remarkable for this team with regards to awards taken by team members."

The late tournament capped the most successful season ever for the school. Team members earned a total of 41 trophies over the spring season.

The team also anticipates much success in future seasons. "Even though a number of four-year team members will graduate this spring, we still plan to go on and have a championship year in 1985!"


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