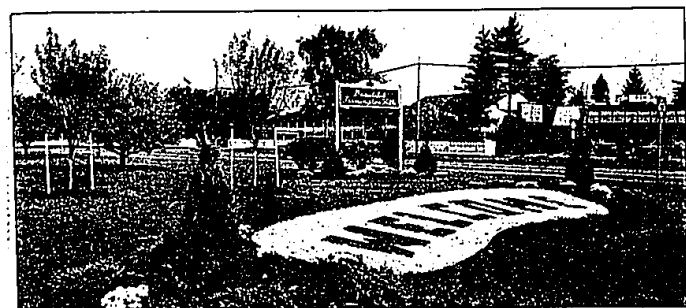


'The community meant a great deal to him'



File photo

Frank Smith hand-carved the "Beautiful Farmington Hills" sign on the median of Grand River, just west of Eight Mile.

Continued from Page 1

plans for a memorial garden at Nardin Park.

"He thought the garden would be something nice to have," said Blake-ney, also a Nardin Park member.

She added that Smith always "had a very beautiful garden" at his Hopkins Road home.

Smith retired in 1971 after spending 37 of his 44 years in education at Redford High School in Detroit. He was an architect and drafting teacher, one of the last such teachers in the city.

"IT WAS a pioneering kind of program," Ritter said. "Most everybody who passed through Frank's class and went on to study architecture in college felt they had one leg up on everybody else because of their background. Frank was the kind of teacher who students remembered and thought about."

Ritter added that Smith kept the best drawings of his best students in a cup-

board at home.

As a memorial to the Redford students who died in World War II, Smith designed a monument that stands outside the school.

A Farmington Hills resident for 17 years, Smith was on the Botsford Inn sesquicentennial celebration committee and was a volunteer at the Farmington Community Center. He also did a landscape design plan for the Inn.

Last fall, Smith landscaped the welcome garden near the "Beautiful Farmington Hills" sign, on the median of Grand River, west of Eight Mile. The city's Economic Development Corporation paid for the plantings. Steinkopf Nursery of Farmington Hills furnished the flowers.

SMITH MADE it a point to polish the liberty bell each year at Independence Green, Farmington Hills.

"He couldn't look at anything without wanting to make it a little bit more

beautiful," said Barbara Smith, his daughter-in-law.

Smith also was a painter, furniture maker and poet. "In his will, he asked that one poem he had written in 1931, and which no one had seen, be read at his funeral," Ritter said.

Smith enjoyed singing as well. For many years, he was a member of the Detroit Harmonic Club Chorus and the Detroit Schoolman's Chorus.

"Frank was the kind of man whose life spilled out in every direction and who touched an awful lot of people," Ritter said. "He thought life's lessons were not only to be discovered, but to be shared. He was always the teacher."

Survivors include his wife, Beatrice; one son, Frank of Muskegon; one brother, George of Grand Rapids, Calif.; and two grandchildren. Services were Jan. 30 at Nardin Park. Burial was in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy.

Elementary school boundaries — in the spotlight

Continued from Page 1

Eagle Elementary, according to discussion.

If approved, these students would be allowed to transfer to Eagle early during the 1986-87 year, if they prefer, Freedman said.

"Rooms for the total number of students will result from the construction of the new media center at Eagle," the committee report said.

THE BOUNDARY study committee was formed last spring to study elementary boundaries and student pro-

jections. Due to fast growth on the district's west side, the committee postponed boundary changes for "at least one school year."

"We knew at the time some schools would be quite crowded; however, it seemed wise to hold the present boundaries as long as possible, since growth in some areas could not be anticipated," according to the committee report.

In August, the committee decided to incorporate projections and boundary studies for middle and senior high schools also. These studies were not presented at the meeting last week.

The committee's information was

based on revised five-year projections developed from the current fourth Friday reports, when student enrollment is counted.

"The recommendations will take care of immediate needs in all buildings except Larkshire and Gill school," the report said.

THE COMMITTEE suggests boundaries for Larkshire be studied for the 1987-88 school year, and that Gill be studied the following year.

"We try to keep friendship patterns together as best we can," Freedman told the parents. "There isn't a bounda-

ry area that is ever guaranteed for any period of time."

Bennett told the group she was concerned about being able to accept students "yet this spring," because of continual enrollments into Longacre. "I have kept the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) board apprised of the situation since last September."

Enrollment at the schools is increasing on a daily basis, committee members said.

A teacher at the meeting told parents "the move will be painful. But you will have good educators (at Flanders). The curriculum doesn't change from school to school."

THERE ARE areas in the district where students have "already been moved twice," Freedman explained. "We will not look at (moving) those areas again."

Although not discussed at the meeting, no change in boundaries is recommended for middle and high schools in the committee report.

However, an open registration area for Harrison High School is being considered for a square mile area bounded

by 13 and 14 Mile and Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads, plus a portion of an area bounded by Eight Mile and Nine Mile and Orchard Lake and Middlebelt. These students presently attend North Farmington High School exclusively.

Official recommendation for boundary changes is not expected for another month, Freedman said. Community meetings will be arranged at each of the affected schools for parental opinion before a recommendation is made.

State of the state is upbeat

Continued from Page 1

ties — increasing state support in K-12 education funding for the past three years.

"OUR EFFORTS have relieved pressure on local taxpayers by the equivalent of six mills (of property taxes) statewide," Blanchard said.

"Our students are rewarding us with continuing increases in test scores such as those recorded on the Scholastic Aptitude Test."

Almost half of the message was devoted to celebrating the state's economic record of the three years Blanchard has been governor.

Except for "more of the same," Blanchard offered no new economic programs. He advised sticking to the "Michigan Strategy."

This means targeting specific industries — high technology in the suburbs,

forest products in the Upper Peninsula, agriculture and tourism statewide —

for advertising and investment attention.

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