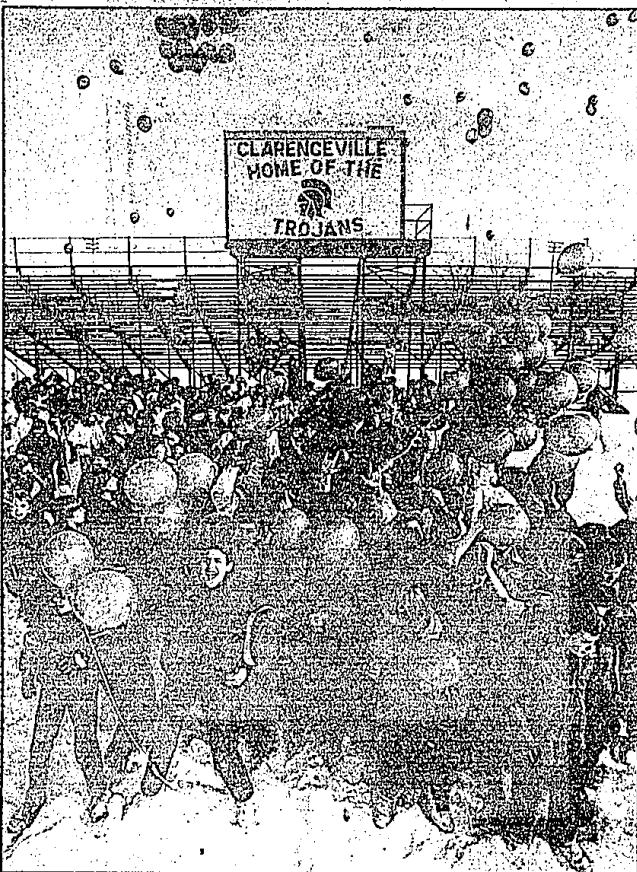


Students mark C'ville's 150th birthday



It was a red, white and "balloon" day Jan. 25 as Clarenceville Junior High School students joined their elementary and senior high counterparts in releasing balloons to celebrate the district's 150th anniversary. These students stood on the white snow-covered playing field to launch red balloons, each carrying a message about the sesquicentennial.

By Mary Kiernio
staff writer

Michigan wasn't alone in celebrating its 150th anniversary Jan. 25. The Clarenceville School District officially became a fractional school district Jan. 25, 1837, as recorded in the Farmington Township minutes of that day.

It's not clear how that event was marked in 1837. But 150 years later, students from the district's elementary, junior high and senior high schools celebrated it with a balloon litoff.

"Whose birthday is it?" Clarenceville Junior High School principal Dan Kelly shouted in the cold air Jan. 25. "Clarenceville's!"

AT HIS signal, students gathered on the playing field near the bleachers released their red balloons, just as their counterparts at Botsford Elementary, Grandview Elementary and Clarenceville Senior High schools had done moments before.

The sky was dotted with some 2,200 balloons in all, each carrying the message "Clarenceville 1837-1987." Clarenceville includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

The launch signaled the start of the district's sesquicentennial activities on the 25th of every month until June, when Clarenceville's Sesquicentennial Celebration takes place.

The June celebration is scheduled to run Thursday-Sunday, June 25-28. Planned events are:

Thursday, June 25
Registration; renewal of friendships; visits to historical sites, Greenmead and Livonia Spruce; class meetings; practice for golf tournament and athletic events; swim at Botsford Park.

Friday, June 26
Registration; variety show; golf tournament; athletic contests; dinner-dance at Vladimir's; high school dance.

Saturday, June 27
Registration; parade; grand assembly; barbecue; athletic contests; mini-festivals; ice cream and concession stands; "Dance Under the Stars."

Sunday, June 28
Church services; class meetings; final meetings with old friends; exag-gerating exploits while in school and after.

LEADERS OF their respective classes or groups will organize and conduct class reunions, social hours and other activities.

Clarenceville's sesquicentennial committee has compiled a mailing list of former and present students, and sent them invitations to the event. Responses have been received from as far away as California. Some have asked for the district's \$10 souvenir book. One former stu-

dent, now living in Colorado, heard about the sesquicentennial from his mother. He called the district and asked for more information.

IN THE meantime, all grades are getting into the spirit of things. For example, a contest is under way in the schools to name the Clarenceville historical room. The room is now being set up to hold memorabilia from the district. Cash prizes of \$10 will be awarded to winners in four age categories — kindergarten through third grade, grades four to six, grades seven and eight and grades nine to 12. A grand prize of a \$50 savings bond will be presented to one of these.

Bills would extend health care policy

State Sen. Jack Faxon reintroduced a series of two bills designed to make it easier for an adult to include one's senior citizen parents as members of the family as understood in health insurance policies.

The bills would enlarge the definition of "members of the family" for insurance purposes to include the parents of the policyholder or the parents of the policyholder's spouse if the parents reside in the policyholder's household.

Currently, policies may cover "eligible members" of the policyholder's family as limited primarily to spouse and dependent children under a certain age. "It is good to encourage families to try to care for their

own," and seeking to broaden the definition of family members to cover more than two generations would be a step towards making a "new reality" of stronger family units, said the Senator today after offering the legislation.

Senate Bill 26 amends the Insurance Code's provisions for disability and group disability, normally understood as health insurance, while SB 27 amends the non-profit health care corporations' definition of "member" (subscriber) to include a subscriber's parents or parents of a subscriber's spouse.

Both bills have the bi-partisan support of 19 other senators who have signed as co-sponsors.

History month is observed

As the Quakertown Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution observes American History Month, they urge us all to read the

Declaration of Independence that was adopted on July 4, 1776. It announced the birth of a new nation.

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Officials will attend forum

Mayor Ben Marks, councilman Donn Wolf and city manager William Costick will represent Farmington Hills at the National League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference Saturday, Feb. 28, to Tuesday, March 3, in Washington, D.C.

The cost for each is approximately \$75.

Councilwoman Joan Dudley said only the mayor and city manager should attend because of the expense to the city and because conference topics typically yield little new insight or information beneficial to Farmington Hills.

Wolf, however, defended his going, saying the knowledge he gains enables him to be a more effective councilman.

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