

Farmington Observer



hallways

A page of Farmington-area school news

Make a story

WHAT IS A STORY? It is a short story, a poem, a play, a novel. How can it be? Consider that time and intensity are major factors in good poetry and short stories. Most count every word, every line, every stanza, every sentence, every word needs to be a necessary component of the short story or the poem. We tell by showing the reader the images we wish them to see — from our pen to the mind of the reader.

Generally speaking, there are two broad classifications of the short story. The first is a story based upon one event or another, which leads to a conflict and plot resolution.

The second type of general classification of a short story is the character short story. It is a story about someone that the reader comes to believe is almost real. The character lives and breathes; the reader can identify with him. This is the kind of short story in which the plot takes a back seat. The plot may not even be significant but the main character in the story, the protagonist, is highly interesting.

CAN YOU write a short story in which both the plot and the characterization are vital? Yes and no. The form of the short story does not allow for either plot and characterization to be developed by themselves.

A short story is typically 1,000 to 2,000 words, or about four to six pages. A short story is about a single incident or a single character.

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Lucky Penny

By Amy Rickenback
special writer

The wooden hinges creaked as I slowly opened the door to enter my old bedroom. I automatically reached my hand out to the light switch, and the room immediately came to life.

My eyes flew from corner to corner, and I was a little surprised at what I saw. It isn't that the room looked any different to me, frankly, it was quite the opposite. Everything, every little detail, was exactly as I remembered it to be. The sky-blue walls were still plastered to the ceiling with the movie star pictures that I had so patiently cut out of various magazines years ago. All of them were still stuck to the wall, except for the elegant pose of Jean Harlow, which had since fallen onto the blue, hand-stitched quilt made by my mother.

I slowly walked over to the bu-

reau, which, by now, was covered by a thin blanket of dust. I reached out for the knob to pull open the top drawer but found that there was only one. "Of course!" I thought. "How could I forget that I accidentally knocked one handle off when I was 6 years old? Mama nearly killed me for that one!"

I giggled at the memory of that day came back to me. I looked at the two neatly stacked piles of dresses. The frilly, but now fading, white lace reminded me that I had outgrown these garments years ago. On top of the bureau sat two framed pictures. The first one made my heart flutter as I read the message inscribed on the photograph of the debonair-looking gentleman which read, "Best wishes to Katherine. Love, Cary Grant."

I then gazed at the second photograph of a rather common-looking boy that read "Katie, I'll love you forever. Jim," written boldly in the



Amy Rickenback
10th grader

left-hand corner. I smirked at the rather odd mustache that Jim, now my husband, wore in the picture, which had hardly suited his boyish

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A World's Grave

By Roberto Devoto
special writer

A darkness lay over the land covering the once prosperous kingdom of Eldor like a cold, malefic veil. All creatures of nature were hidden in their hovels in futile attempt to rid their minds of the incidents occurring outside. Those who had no sanctuary fluttered about from place to place, screaming as the evil penetrated their bones.

The kingdom of Eldor was the most thriving nation of all those in the world of Effax. Under the rule of the benevolent King Fargo of the White Plume, this chivalric state possessed a self-sufficient economy and a strong army. The Knights of Eldor were renowned for their skill in horsemanship and prowess in combat. Never had any of the neighboring countries dared to defy the will of the Lords of Eldor. There were only 13 knights that were given the honor to be Lords of the White Plume. These had to attain and

maintain their title every year in a tournament known as the Great Games.

During this event, men from all over the land would gather to compete in a series of contests that would determine, through the process of elimination, who was the best knight. The top 13 individuals would be given a large, white plume and a suit of white armor made of a magical alloy, which was as thin as wool yet as impenetrable as iron. These men would lead the armies of Eldor and, between wars, be sent on royal quests to chart unknown regions. This manner of distribution of power served Eldor successfully for over a century.

About a year ago, the placid ambience surrounding Eldor was shattered by the appearance of a dark smog in the northern reaches of Eldor. Rumors stated that this smog was magical and that the gods had sent it down upon the world as a gift. At first, this incident seemed trivial to the Lords of Eldor, but soon, they



Roberto Devoto
10th grader

received news that this palpable darkness was engulfing a group of towns. Scouts were sent into the darkness only to come out again raving about green corpses and unseen

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inkwell

Inkwell provides primary and secondary school news and information about Farmington-area students. The column appears monthly throughout the year as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 3203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

LOCATION CHANGED

The Tuesday, Feb. 17 meeting of the Farmington Board of Education will be held at Fairview Early Childhood Center instead of at the district's central office.

The meeting — a study session for trustees — was changed because of a report from the district's early childhood committee that is expected to draw a large audience. It will begin at 7:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION

Registration for new kindergarten-tenters will take place at all Farmington elementary schools from March 9-13, according to information from the district.

Any child 5 or on or before Dec. 1, 1987, is eligible to enroll. Orientation for all new kindergarten students will take place May 15.

MAKING MUSIC

Carl Gippert, a 16-year school teaching veteran, was hired recently to replace Doug McQueen as band director and instrumental music teacher at North Farmington High School.

His appointment was approved by the school board Jan. 13. Gippert holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from Central Michigan University.

APPOINTMENTS MADE

Several new employees were put on the Farmington Public Schools payroll in January and February. They include:

- Joan Drake, teacher aide at Eagle Elementary.
- Katia Maria Farah, bilingual Spanish aide at East Middle School.
- Nikki Rosen, part-time occupational therapist at William Grace Elementary.
- Cynthia Goddard, program assistant, Cloverdale Center.
- Paulette Hart, autistic aide at William Grace Elementary.

- Rustem Ljulanovic, bilingual aide at East Middle School.

- Karen Stefanou, bilingual aide at East Middle School.

- Elaine Ziellinski, teacher aide at Farmington Training Center.

- Julie Anderson, part-time vocal music teacher at Farmington Harrison High School.

- Louise Ciccone, French/English teacher at East Middle School.

- Susan Cernita, resource room teacher at William Grace Elementary.

- Christine Goetz, math/science teacher at Power Middle School.

- Pauline Greenhalgh, home economics teacher at Farmington High.

- Anne Hommes, German teacher at North Farmington High.

- Joseph Ludwig, mathematics teacher at Farmington Harrison High.

ON LEAVE

- Joe Davis, a first-grade teacher at Gill Elementary, will be away from school on a health leave for the remainder of the school year.

IN MEMORY

The Galdes family of New Hudson has donated \$1,500 to the Fairview Early Childhood Center in memory of their daughter, Krystle, who was a student in the early intervention program there. She died last November.

The money will be used to buy equipment for handicapped children.

FOOD GIFT

St. John Lutheran Church of Farmington has donated \$200 to the Farmington Public Schools to be used for the Head Start food program.

STEPPING DOWN

Richard Tyler, a purchasing agent who has been with Farmington Public Schools since 1957, retired at the end of January.

Retiring effective June 30, are: John Zelle, fourth-grade teacher at Forest Elementary; and Robert Beckman, administrative assistant at North Farmington High School.

Joanne Hickox, a social worker at Cloverdale Center, and Pauline Wiese, a second-grade teacher at Wood Creek Elementary, both left the district Dec. 31.

Nancy Majack, home economics teacher at Farmington High School, and Barbara Simerka, French/Eng-

lish teacher at East Middle School, resigned in January.

Jean Swain, special education teacher at Shawwassee Center, tendered her resignation effective March 1.

FENCING COMPETITOR

Farmington Hills resident Laila Cusick is one of six students slated to compete in the under-20 age division of the 1987 Junior Olympic Fencing Championships Feb. 13-16 in Orlando, Fla.

The Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School athlete competed in one of three weapon classifications — foil, epee or saber — in the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships Qualifier Jan. 11 in Grosse Pointe.

LIFT PURCHASED

Morrison Hi-Lift of Novi was awarded the Farmington Public Schools bid for an electric lift truck for the district's central office.

At \$6,176, the company was the low bidder of two. Money for the lift truck will be taken from the district's Capital Needs Account.

SIGN UP

The Clarenceville-Farmington Community Education Program is still accepting registration for some leisure-time classes.

Classes in the categories of art and home, business, recreation, fitness and dance, and others are available.

New to the program this year are field trips. Those scheduled this month include one to the Birmingham Theatre with dinner and another to Greenfield Village with dinner and theater.

In March, two trips are scheduled — to a Detroit Symphony Orchestra Coffee Concert and to a performance of "South Pacific" at the Marquis in Northville.

For more information, call Ten Mile Community School at 474-5253 or Clarenceville Schools at 473-8900.

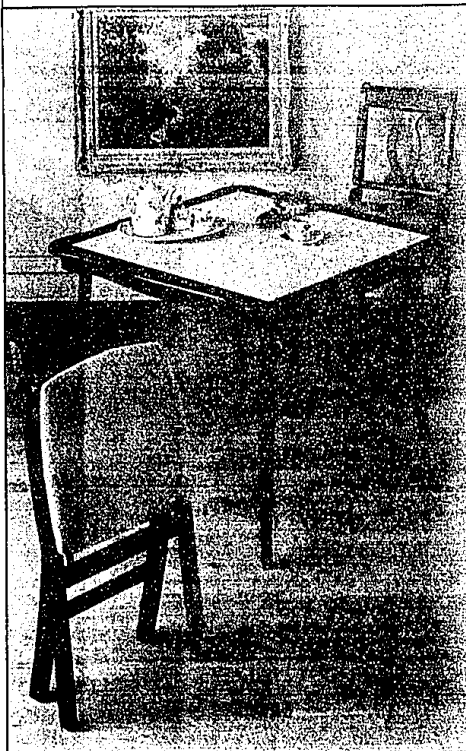
HIGH ACHIEVER

Neal Blatt, a Junior at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills, recently placed in the top 102 of 23,000 high school students participating in the annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.

He will be honored March 7 at an awards program at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

Harrison High mathematics teacher Susan Schultz supervised Blatt's entry into the competition.

Cherry finished folding furniture



ELEGANT SEATING

FOR

EXTRA GUESTS

When you have a houseful of guests, you want seating and serving space that lives up to the rest of your furniture, but can be folded away when it's not needed. Our Stackmore table features a rich cherry finish on a solid hardwood traditional frame, with an ivory vinyl insert that's impervious to spills. It's 32 1/2" square. Cherry-finished hardwood chair has a nylon seat cushion in beige neutral. Made in U.S.A. Table, \$85.99. Chair, \$35.99.

Visit our recent furniture departments for all these hard-to-find gifts such as globes, magazine racks, snack table sets, quilt stands and more.

Come into our Semi-Annual Home Sale for great savings on items for every room in your home. Sale ends March 2. In Farmington, Northland, Eastland, Oakland and Twelve Oaks.

hudson's