

C'ville students rally to birthday spirit

By Sue Mason
staff writer

Students at Clarenceville's Botsford and Grandview Elementary Schools have the birthday spirit, that's for sure.

In the last few months they've sent hundreds of balloons skyward, put hundreds of paper candles on an inedible birthday cake, made floral arrangements and planted a tree, all for one very special reason — their school district is 150 years old.

The activities have been a prelude to the grand finale, a three-day celebration later this month of the Clarenceville School District's sesquicentennial.

"The kids have been involved in it since the balloon launch in January; it's one way of getting them involved in the school and the community," said art teacher Barbara Bakewell.

At Grandview second graders have earned special badges and cer-

tificates for learning to spell sesquicentennial and Clarenceville, no easy feat for youngsters who are used to dealing with smaller, simpler words.

Their fifth and sixth grade counterparts have been busy with glue and paper to make flowers for 50 centerpieces for the sesquicentennial dinner/dance June 26.

Sixty-five students, armed with construction paper and glue, dressed up boxes to look like Clarenceville buildings and landmarks that served as costumes for a sesquicentennial pageant.

THE STUDENTS made the costumes during three weeks' worth of art classes and lunch hours.

Janet Gaffie and Bakewell wrote the dialogue for the pageant, while Frank Hickey taught some youngsters square dancing to show off what Clarenceville youngsters learned for free at the Botsford Inn

during the 1930s.

The costumes will be donned one more time for the June 27 sesquicentennial parade. The students will be joined by other Grandview youngsters, who will ride decorated bicycles or pull wagons made into floats, Bakewell said.

At Botsford each and every classroom door displays a bit of Michigan history and a banner in the cafeteria carries on the theme.

The idea was to combine the state sesquicentennial with the school district's birthday in classroom studies and, according to principal Dan Cypher, the end result was great.

"We tried to incorporate Clarenceville and Michigan history in classroom studies and it worked out real well," Cypher said. "It's been fun

and the students really enjoyed it."

Second grade teacher Bev Scavone had the task of getting, and keeping, teachers enthusiastic about the activities. Through a lottery, teachers were assigned topics that were translated into door decorations, quilt blocks and the pieces of the cafeteria mural.

One door, decorated as the entrance to a fort, is guarded by a soldier; another promotes the state's major colleges and universities.

SCAVONE DESIGNED the central square of the quilt, a counted cross stitch map of the state, but the piece work was done by parent Barb Roddy. It was unveiled last month during Michigan Week activities at the school.

The students also presented short

Michigan minutes — skits, stories and factual accounts of the state — over the public address system each morning.

Varying sizes of cardboard boxes were decorated to resemble a cake and each student made a birthday candle, which they signed and then glued to the 8-foot tall cake.

"Everyone was excited from the beginning, but I did have to keep reminding them this was suppose to be fun," Scavone said. "We got a lot of support and cooperation, and I'm already being asked what we're going to do next year."

The children also observed the sesquicentennial in a special way. Thanks to a donation from parent Jim Uren of Jim's Green Thumb Nursery, they helped plant a white

pine in the school courtyard and raised the national, state and sesquicentennial flags.

Like the Grandview students, the Botsford youngsters also will be participating in the parade and the results of their work — the mural, quilt, birthday cake and door decorations — will be on display during an open house at the Clarenceville schools.

"A lot of time and effort went into this," Cypher said. "The children learned about the sesquicentennial and some can even spell it."

carrier of the month Farmington



Jennifer Banish

Jennifer, 12, has delivered the Observer in Camelot Courts subdivision since 1985.

The Our Lady of Sorrows sixth grader's favorite subjects are math and spelling.

She enjoys playing softball in the South Farmington Softball League and made the All-Star Softball team. After high school, she plans to attend college.

Meeting new people and earning money are what she likes most about her route. Learning responsibility and saving money are what she feels she has acquired delivering the Observer.

Jennifer is the daughter of William and Rosemary Banish. She has one brother, Greg, 15.

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C'ville celebrates its 150th birthday

There'll be plenty of reminiscing and just plain fun during Clarenceville's sesquicentennial celebration June 25-27.

Residents, alumni, former staffers and current students are being invited to join in the celebration.

The district covers portions of Livonia, Redford Township and Farmington Hills. For more information about activities, call 473-8900.

The activities include:
Thursday, June 25

8 a.m.-4 p.m. — Registration in the high school cafeteria.

2-4 p.m. — Tour of the district and school buildings, including Central and Edgewood Schools.

All day — An opportunity to visit Greendale and the Livonia Spree, play open golf at Whispering Willows or hold class meetings at the high school.

Friday, June 26

9-4 p.m. — Registration in the high school cafeteria.

9 a.m.-noon — Scrambles gold at Whispering Willows (openings for 100 golfers).

6:30 p.m.-1 a.m. — The sesquicentennial dinner/dance at Vladimir's (some tickets are still available).

9 p.m.-midnight — High school dance for current Clarenceville students and guests as well as high school-age children of alumni. Pre-registration required.

Saturday, June 27

9 a.m.-noon — Registration in the high school cafeteria.

10 a.m. — The sesquicentennial parade. The route will be along Middlebelt from St. Martin's to the high school athletic field.

Noon-3 p.m. — Athletic contests and games for all ages.

4 p.m. — Chicken barbecue. Tickets will be sold at the time of the event.

3-5 p.m. — Variety show in the high school auditorium.

8 p.m.-midnight — Dance under the stars on the high school athletic field.

150th saluted

Several community leaders attended a party in honor of Michigan's birthday at Dunckel Middle School June 5.

According to teacher Sandi Baker, all the luncheon foods were Michigan-made, "right down to the frosting on the birthday cake." Baker's Michigan history class was one of many throughout the Farmington school district celebrating the state's 150th birthday this year.

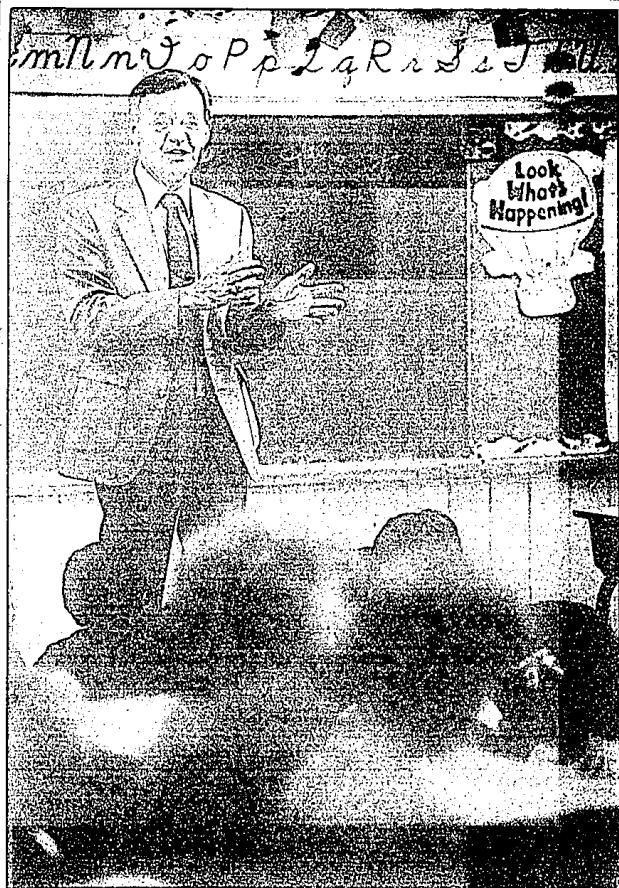
Members of the community in attendance were state Sen. Jack Faxon, Farmington Hills Mayor Ben Marks and local historians Kay Briggs, Jean Fox and David Litogot. Eva Swenarton of the district's staff development department represented the schools, as did parents and friends of the students. In all about 50 attended.

Earlier in the year, Baker's class made a public service announcement promoting the "Magic of Michigan." It was directed by a parent who works at Channel 10 and will be shown on local cable and commercial channels.

During the year, Baker's class also did an Indian report, a 3-dimensional map project, baked a cake in the shape of Michigan for Statehood Day, held a sesquicentennial T-shirt contest and did an oral history project.



Dunckel history teacher Sandi Baker (left) greets state Sen. Jack Faxon at the recent sesquicentennial luncheon.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Sharing Insight

State Rep. Wilbur (Sandy) Brotherton, R-Farmington, explains how government works to Carol Barret's third graders at Our Lady of

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