

North graduate tells of life at West Point

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And it's a time, he added, when the soft-hearted are sorted from the hard.

"You need to be able to organize your time," he said. "If you can't, or don't, you're going to fail out. A lot of guys don't make it."

Like the time when he first arrived at the school and was subjected to frequent upperclassmen scrutiny and chastising.

"It didn't really mean that you had done something wrong," Bindon said. "It's all designed to prepare you to think clearly under stress. And (upperclassmen) add a lot of stress."

He remembers having to memorize newspapers' contents, dinner menus and old generals' letters, not talking until spoken to and not casting his eyes up that whole first year.

He remembers, wincing, the procedure for eating in the dining hall: sitting erect, plate and glass in designated spots, knife and fork at right angles to the plate.

PLEBES are given five chews per mouthful, Bindon said. And the fork and knife must be returned to their respective positions and hands must be down at the sides before chewing begins.

"You lose a lot of weight that first year," he said. "You really don't have much time to eat. If you do chew more than five times, you'd better hope that a second or first classman doesn't start talking to you when you have food in your mouth."

Bindon hesitated to talk to his parents about the first-year episodes. One of nine children, he said his

mother had enough to worry about without having to hear the stories of life in the military for some of the nation's most academically gifted students.

A 4.0 student before he graduated from North Farmington, Bindon boasts two metal stars on his uniform collar, signifying placement in the top 5 percent of his military class.

What got him into West Point is what kept him there, he said.

A former National Honor Society student and track and cross-country ski team member, Bindon took advanced placement courses in school.

BINDON GRADUATED valedictorian in 1985 and entered West Point that summer.

"I came because I wanted a well-rounded education," he said. "I like the part where it develops the whole person, not just your mind, but your body as well."

He is majoring in both aerospace engineering and engineering management.

Degrees in those fields, he said, will virtually guarantee him a civilian job once out of the Army.

Physical exercise is stressed as much as academics, he added.

His daily curriculum might include anything from wrestling, swimming, racquetball or karate.

Less than two years from graduating, Bindon considers himself lucky, not just for making it past the first year, but for being selected to join the elite of West Point.

It's changed him, he said, in style, manner and outlook.

Sitting erect, chin held high, he looks a model of West Point training.

He knows now why he chose to go, and why he's glad he stayed. "Self-discipline," he said. "And to graduate, that's the end goal."

Walker is chosen for library seat

Long-time Farmington resident and former library employee Barbara Walker was appointed to serve as Farmington's representative on the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees. Walker will fill the unexpired term of James Wibby, who has served since 1980. He retires from the position Dec. 31. His term ends in 1990.

Walker, who expressed interest in the position during the Farmington City Council meeting Dec. 21, said she has "always wanted this kind of job."

"I've always been involved with the public library," she said. "I used to be a former library page for the Farmington public library when I

was in high school. From that job, I knew I always wanted that kind of job."

Walker said she has kept abreast of new library technology.

A FORMER Farmington Community Library employee and head of the film and video library for the Wayne/Oakland Library Federated Library System (WOLF), she received her master's degree in library sciences from Wayne State University.

She currently works for the Wayne County Intermediate School District as head of technical services.

Her work with WOLF, she said, best prepared her for her new role as library board member.

"This new role will give me the opportunity to have some kind of impact on the library system," Walker said.

The 36-year-old lives in Farmington's historic district. She and her two children use the library facilities frequently, she said.

Gravesites will be moved



LAURA CASTLE/staff photographer

Twenty gravesites at this historic Hills cemetery will be moved to make way for road widening and renovations

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ments, reinterments, purchasing the necessary vaults and caskets, lowering and raising vaults, setting new vaults and executing the necessary permits, all required by law, the city report said.

Because of the age of the sites, Thayer-Rock has estimated it will need to purchase 11 vaults and replace at least seven caskets.

It is important the city get immediate permission, according to city manager William Costick, since it is possible the city may widen the Haled/12 Mile intersection next summer.

Bibeau estimates the cost order will take 60-90 days to obtain.

The moves are expected to take two to three weeks. Work will begin next spring.

Rezoning is denied

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rebound. I'd like to see us give it a chance to remain residential," he said.

He noted that there are a lot of residents fixing up or renovating houses in the area.

A neighbor adjacent to the property on Orchard Lake Road spoke out against the rezoning, saying he did not want to have a possible 25-foot tall building next door.

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