



# Interviews help gain access to person's past

## Good interviews always include good questions

By Victoria Day Mallor  
special writer

**A**GROWING, popular form in journalism and literature is the personal interview. The personal interview, which is simply two people talking, provides the reader with a treasure trove of vital memories and information. It is one of the simplest, most direct and interesting of all journalism forms.

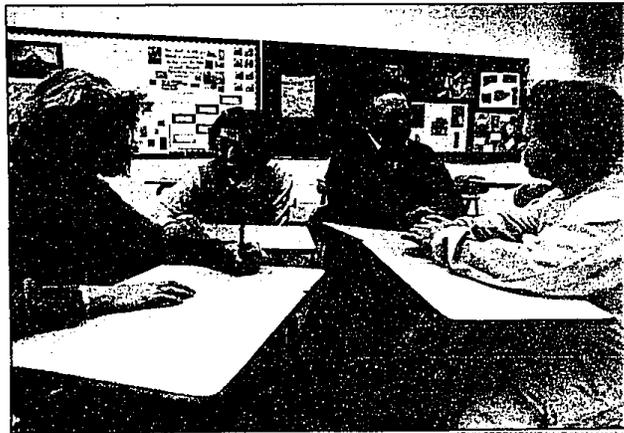
Information is easily organized in Q & A (question and answer) form, bringing much detailed information to the reader in an easy, quick-to-read format. Magazines and newspapers alike are running the Q & A personal interview more than ever before.

In the book, "Local Color" (McGraw-Hill, 1982), William Ferris has assembled a collection of interviews of Mississippi folk artists, most of whom are senior citizens. Their recollections preserve their place in American history. One of the artists, Ethel Mohamed, said about age: "Seventy is nothing to dread; at 70, you can be the age of whoever you are talking to."

By Allison Strell  
special writer

An interview with Arnold Galm:

Q: When and where were you born?  
A: Feb. 7, 1912, in Detroit.  
Q: What was your first job?  
A: F.W. Woolworth as a stockboy.  
Q: What were some of your interests as a teenager?  
A: Band, track, school.  
Q: What did you do for entertainment when you were growing up?  
A: School was the main entertainment. Most of my time was spent working when I wasn't in school.  
Q: How old were you when you got your first job?  
A: 14 years old.  
Q: Why did you get a job at such an early age?  
A: I had a rather large family, two brothers, one sister, one cousin, grandmother, and Mom and Dad. We could always use the extra money.  
Q: Did most kids your age have jobs?  
A: No.  
Q: How much money did you make a week?  
A: 25 cents an hour, \$7 a week. \$5 went to my mother to help with expenses, \$2 for me. Things were much cheaper. For example, bread was 5-10 cents and milk was about 10 cents a quart.  
Q: What do you think the biggest change was in the metro area?  
A: Transportation. It started out with walking, then streetcars, then cars, bus and super highways, then airplanes and space shuttles.  
Q: What do you think is the most important invention since you've been living?  
A: Probably transportation like cars, buses, jets, etc. But I've lived such a good life. I've seen so many different things. I used to walk to school. There were no cars. I remember when we just had ice boxes, no refrigerators. The lightbulb and electricity was invented; we used



Power eighth grader Allison Davis (left) and chat with eighth grader Brandon Cagnon her grandmother, Margaret Davis of Belleville, (right) and his grandfather, Paul Pintar of Novi.

candies or gas lamps mostly. I've seen radio and TV come. We didn't have anything like that. The technology of cars, planes, and other transportation has changed so much.

The cost of products has risen greatly. When I was 13, lunches cost 12 cents, new cars cost \$300. Also, there was no bus service available; we had to walk three or four blocks to school. There were no telephones. Cars were not heated and the house was heated by a pot-belly stove, which took a great deal of time to heat.

Q: What were some changes you liked and disliked?  
A: The conveniences of living. Like heated cars and houses, dishwashers, refrigerators, etc. The things that I disliked were the quality of a lot of products. They seemed to fall. They are not made of heavy-duty materials anymore.

By Allison Davis  
special writer

I interviewed my grandmother, who happens to be over the age of 70:

Q: Many changes have occurred since 1910. What are some of the differences that you have noticed throughout the years?

## inkwell

Inkwell provides news and information about Farmington-area students. The column appears monthly as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

- **SAFE LEARNING**  
The Farmington schools transportation department has scheduled fire safety assemblies to be held at most district elementary buildings throughout March. They will be conducted by AAA of Michigan.
- Special emphasis will be given to bus danger zones, seat safety, proper front crossing and an actual evacuation drill.
- Larkshire students participated this week. Other elementary school scheduled include:
  - March 15 - William Grace, Wood Creek and Gill.
  - March 17 - Kenbrook.
  - March 21 - Longacre.
  - March 24 - Wooddale and Forest.
  - March 29 - Beechview and Eagle.
- Students not involved with these assemblies will be scheduled for an evacuation drill sometime in April.
- **ART WEL-COME**  
High school students who live in the Farmington district can participate in the 3rd Annual Art Competition for High School Artists of Farmington, sponsored by the Farmington Area Art Commission.
- Works of art should be submitted for consideration by the jurist at East Middle School between 5 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24. Works will be judged and are to be picked up that evening between 9 and 10 p.m.
- East Middle School is on Middlebell, between 10 and 11 Mile.
- Entry forms can be obtained at Farmington Hills City Hall and at all high schools, and should be submitted by March 21. First place in the competition brings \$300, second place \$200 and third place \$100.
- An awards presentation is scheduled for Sunday, May 5 at the Farmington Community Center. Winners and their parents, teachers and school principal will be invited.
- **TOP-LEVEL VISIT**  
Interim state superintendent Gary Hawks and a group of bilingual educators from Lansing will visit the district March 28 to view the Farmington district's bilingual program.
- A short reception will be held at

East Middle School at 10 a.m. followed by a tour of the program in the district.

The visit was rescheduled from the original Feb. 12 date, which was canceled due to a snowstorm.

- **NEW STAFF**  
Several new employees were hired by the Farmington school district this month.
- Frieda Hindo and Dard Ivezaj will work as bilingual paraprofessionals at East Middle School, David Pasalacqua will work as a special education paraprofessional at Shawsee Center and William Robertson will work as a psychologist.
- **SHE RESIGNS**  
Julia Anderson, vocal music director at Farmington Hills Harrison High School, resigned her position with the district in February. She had worked for the district since 1985.
- **SPLIT VOTE**  
The Farmington Board of Education voted 4-3 recently to participate in a statewide pilot program aimed at strengthening leadership capacities of local school boards. Farmington was one of 20 districts invited to participate.
- Trustees approving the measure were Jack Cotton, Jack Loch, Helen Prutow and Helen Ditzhazy. Those opposing included Susan Remels, James Abernethy and Janice Holnick.
- **SCIENCE TESTING**  
Every Farmington student in grades 4, 7 and 10 will be tested in science as part of the annual MERAP testing program beginning this fall, according to information from the state Department of Education.
- The state board of education approved the measure March 1.
- Michigan Education Assessment Program testing is done in all districts statewide. Science testing will be added to a continuation of testing in mathematics and reading in those grades.
- Science testing was first introduced in the fall of 1986. Achievement scores throughout the state were very low, the department said, and the testing was discontinued while an extensive teacher training program began in 1987.
- "Science is a very important part of the curriculum," said interim state superintendent Gary Hawks. "Students need to be well-grounded in science to be able to compete in an increasingly technological society."
- Hawks said testing each student beginning this fall will give achievement data that districts, such as Farmington, need to measure

changes made in science instruction since 1988. He said he expects "modest gains."

- **KING COMPETES**  
Farmington Hills Harrison High School senior David King has been identified as one of the top 76 physics students in the United States.
- He will compete for a spot on the U.S. Physics Olympiad Team, according to physics instructor Dennis King.
- Criteria included transcripts, standardized scores, letters of recommendation and the scores on multiple choice and open response exams.
- King is one of two students from Michigan to make it to the semifinals. The final selection criteria for a place on the team will be scores on a three-hour exam that was administered this week, instructor King said.
- "David, in coming this far, has brought pride and recognition to his instructor and the entire school," said Harrison principal Clayton Graham.
- **SEVERAL QUALIFY**  
Four Farmington Hills Harrison High School students have qualified to take the second part of the American High School Mathematics Test. This is the first time that more than one student has qualified, according to information from Susan Schultz, chairwoman of the school's mathematics department.
- Seniors Neal Blatt, David King and Wes Wood, and sophomore James Cannon each scored more than 100 points on part one of the test and will now move to part two.
- **EAST SELECTED**  
East Middle School at Farmington Hills was one of 38 schools chosen to hold semifinal competitions for the 52nd Annual Lawrence Institute of Technology/Detroit News Spelling Bee.
- East's bee hosted about 30 students; winners will head for state competition March 22 at Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield. The top bee finisher will then advance to the national Scripps Howard Competition held in Washington, D.C. in May.
- **MATH WINNER**  
Farmington Hills resident Fazlur Zahurullah, a senior at Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills, was one of 100 winners in the 1987-88 Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, and one of three Country Day winners.
- They were honored at a March 5 awards program at Michigan State University. Scholarships totaling more than \$60,000 will be awarded to top scorers.



children's international



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