

# For his son

## Scholarships keep memories alive

By Carolyn DeMarco  
staff writer

The evergreen wreath on the back door of the Lampe home in West Bloomfield's Westacres subdivision lasted longer than expected, but it's brown and drying now.

The decoration was placed there at Christmas by members of Boy Scout Troop 160. They've done that every Christmas since 1981. That was the year 15-year-old Chris Lampe, a member of the troop, died.

Young Lampe was a freshman at Walled Lake Central, an enthusiastic if not exceptional athlete, a member of the track team, a benchwarmer in other sports. During gym class on May 1, the hurdler was being timed for sprints.

Given a chance to better his best time, he accepted. His persistence killed him. He collapsed and was taken to the hospital where he died of heart failure.

The annual wreath is one memorial to Chris Lampe. The Chris Lampe Memorial Scholarship and the Central Scholarship Funds which grew out of it are others.

"It began in wanting him to be remembered," said his mother, Pat Lampe. Immediately following Chris' death, Lampe family members and friends rallied to organize

**Personal satisfaction is what motivated the Lampes after Chris' death. 'Today it's the same personal satisfaction. I think of Christopher, one person, and what this has become because of one 15-year-old.'**

— Pat Lampe  
Christopher's mom

a scholarship for a graduating senior to keep Chris' memory alive.

"We're a family that likes to get to college," said his father, Seth Lampe. Since 1981, eight additional scholarships providing 11 grants in memory of deceased or retiring community members have been added to a list of scholarships now being administered by the non-profit Central Scholarship Funds.

BERNIE STAFFORD, well-loved teacher/coach at Walled Lake Western, died of cancer in 1983 after a long battle. His widow, Diane Stafford, on the advice of the two high school principals, approached the Lampes for advice in establishing a memorial scholarship.

A collaboration was begun and Lampe sat down with a book of IRS regulations "and started writing." In typical bureaucratic fashion, consolidating the two funds and obtaining nonprofit status took ages, Lampe said, until Congressman William Broomfield stepped in.

"It was an interesting way it turned out," Lampe said. "The IRS called one day and said, 'Please don't have your congressman call anyone. Your wishes are granted. We've sent out a letter.'"

Lampe asked if the tax exemption was retroactive to the time the first scholarship was established.

"They said, 'It doesn't say so in the letter going out today, but it will in the letter going out tomorrow,'" Lampe said.

Today members of the nine separate scholarship committees of Central Scholarship Funds number more than 100. Two dozen volunteers comprise the core. Total annual expenses are less than \$75. Most of the work is done in the Lampe home or in the Pontiac office of Lampe Communications, an industrial public relations firm owned by Seth Lampe.

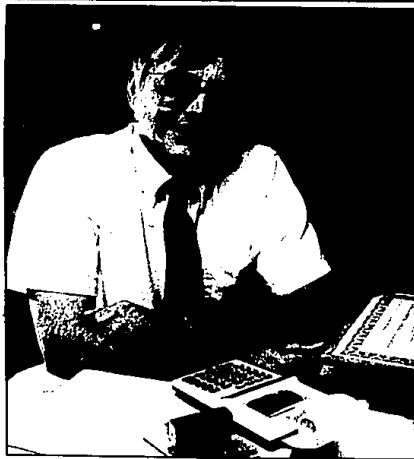
OWNING THE small PR firm has allowed Lampe the time and talent to spend on the scholarships administration. "This is not a chrome-plated firm," he said.

"I'm a writer and everything has to be written," Lampe said of the link between his vocation and his vocation, "beginning with invitations to the annual meeting. I sit behind the word processor and drive 100 miles per hour."

Financially Lampe gets nothing from his "labor of love. Actually the business bottom line suffers. Nobody ever asks where the stamps come from."

Lampe wasn't surprised by the rapid growth of the Central funds. "In 1981 I envisioned it growing. It seemed like an idea that couldn't be stopped."

Fund principals are never touched but are invested to provide



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Seth Lampe is using the knowledge gained in creating a memorial scholarship in memory of his son, Chris, to help others who want to found memorial scholarships.

the interest for the scholarships. The principal has grown at rate of \$10,000 per year. This year individual grants ranged in size from \$300 to \$900. They represent one-time gifts to graduating seniors who have met eligibility requirements. They are used to defray educational costs.

Lampe would like to see the non-profit organization grow larger. "We have several good people who are doing their share, but we aren't out there talking to administrators, drumming up business. It's not cash we need but more accounts. People tend to think of memorial funds in times of tragedy."

## Wide variety of scholarship funds available

Central Scholarship Funds Inc. administers nine separate scholarship funds, including the original, the Chris Lampe Memorial and the Bernie Stafford Memorial which led to formation of the non-profit corporation. Other available scholarships are:

• Capt. Michael Thompson Memorial Scholarship — established in 1984 by family and friends for a varsity athlete. A 1973 Walled Lake Western graduate, Thompson participated in several sports, including football at Taylor Uni-

versity in Indiana and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Thompson was killed in 1984 while participating in training exercises.

• Harold Estep Scholarship — established in 1987 by his friends upon his retirement from 30 years of service as a Walled Lake teacher, for a student with interest in science. Estep taught at Walled Lake Junior High for three years, was transferred to Walled Lake High School, and was assistant principal of Walled Lake Central from

For more information on the scholarships, write to Central Scholarship Funds Inc., 3095 Westacres, West Bloomfield, 48033.

1969 until his retirement.

• Gale M. Seedorf Memorial Scholarship — established in 1986 by family and friends for a liberal or fine arts student. Seedorf was a poet who formerly lived in Commerce and retired to Florida. She was struck and killed by a drunk

driver. Her sons, former Walled Lake students, established the scholarship as a reminder to the dangers of drinking and driving. Their father was killed by a drunk driver in 1967 while changing a flat tire.

• Floyd Chownen Memorial

Scholarship — established in 1985 following the death of the longtime educator. Chownen was the first elementary principal in the Walled Lake district. He served as teacher and principal for 29 years.

• George M. Wallace Memorial — established in 1985 in honor of the retirement of Wallace after 30 years in education, 16 of them as principal of Walled Lake Central.

• David Dursi Memorial Scholarship — established in 1986 by family and friends of Dursi, an only child who was killed in his junior

year at Walled Lake Central in an automobile accident. He was a member of the swimming and diving teams and the choir.

• Brian Florkowski Memorial Scholarship — established in 1988 in honor of the Walled Lake Central senior who died this spring, for an enrollee in the culinary arts program at South West Oakland Vocational Education Center.

For more information on the scholarships, write to Central Scholarship Funds Inc., 3095 Westacres, West Bloomfield, 48033.

## Funnel clouds reported over Farmington area

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

None of the funnel clouds reported over the Farmington area at the height of a late afternoon storm Friday touched down or caused injury or damage.

Officers on the road at the time could not confirm any of the three funnel cloud sightings.

Officer Joe Schornack of the Farmington Department of Public Safety was near Nine Mile and Grand River, on the Farmington Hills border, when a Skywarn spotter reported a funnel cloud in that area at 5:30 p.m.

"There were some nasty-looking clouds but as far as funnel clouds or clouds that were circling, I saw nothing like that," he said.

Oakland County Emergency Management Service said that funnel cloud was moving northeasterly at 30 mph.

CITIZENS REPORTED other funnel clouds at 12 Mile and Haggerty, on the Farmington Hills-Novi border, at 5:20 p.m. and at Eight Mile and Tuck, on the Farmington Hills-Livonia border, at 5:40 p.m.

A tornado warning was in effect from 4-6:30 p.m. in Oakland County. A tornado watch extended to 9 p.m.

Both the Farmington Hills Fire Department and the Farmington Department of Public Safety had firefighters on standby during the tornado warning, a regular practice.

"We try to be ready for the possibility of a severe weather run," said Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin. "You just never know."

"There won't necessarily be one big incident. There could be a lot of little incidents. It's better to know who's available ahead of time for emergency runs."

Firefighters in both cities remained on standby until the threat of tornadoes passed.

## School committee suggests architect

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A Farmington school board committee has recommended one architect for two major projects in the district.

Greiner Inc. of Grand Rapids was the architect recommended last Tuesday by committee members James Abernethy, Helen Prutow and Jack Inch. If the recommendation is accepted, Greiner would coordinate both the proposed west-side elementary school and the Farmington High School media center.

The recommendation leaves out finalists TWP Associates of Bloomfield Hills and the WBDC Group of Grand Rapids, which were also considered. The full board is expected to make its selection at a future meeting, after a tentative contract has been negotiated between the recommended company and the district.

Architectural fees are expected to be no more than \$400,000, according to committee chairman Abernethy. The new school, including an early childhood center, is estimated to cost about \$4.7 million. The media center project has been estimated to cost between \$800,000 and \$1 million.

Representatives from seven firms were interviewed before the full board in July. The committee spent three days recently visiting a variety of school projects designed

by the three finalists before discussing their impressions last week.

"I WAS very impressed with the buildings they showed, and how long they'd held up," said Prutow, giving a firm recommendation for Greiner. "Their site work was very imaginative. I was just very impressed with what I saw. They stood out for me."

Inch concurred, even though he considered giving the contract to two different architects.

"I was thinking in terms of splitting the contract, but I was terribly impressed by Greiner," he said. "I felt Greiner's buildings fit the spirit of what we're trying to do in this district. Their buildings were flexible."

Abernethy said he was leaning toward TWP, but added, "I don't think we'd be in trouble with any one of the three. Greiner's close to my first choice."

District architect Ron Aten said the Western Michigan firm promised to have a local presence here, which was a concern to board members.

TRUSTEES TOURING the different sites said Greiner's design style was excellent, and that the firm used a lot of graphics inside their buildings.

Although good points were raised about the other two finalists, there were also concerns, committee members said.

## Rezoning is sought for site by OCC

An Ohio couple wants to rezone nine vacant acres on the east side of Orchard Lake Road across from Oakland Community College from single-family residential to virtually any office or commercial use.

A public hearing on Kay and John McMahon's request is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 18, in the Farmington Hills City Council Chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

The petitioner is the McMahon's attorney, Joseph Galvin of Southfield.

The square tract, between I-496 and Rockshire, is zoned RA-3. It is planned single family cluster on the city's 1986 master land use plan.

The McMahon's are seeking rezoning to office service 1, 2 or 4; business 1, 2, 3 or 4; or expressway service.

Twice within the past few years, the planning commission has recommended denial of rezoning requests, once to office and once to commercial, said Ed Gardiner, Farmington Hills planner.

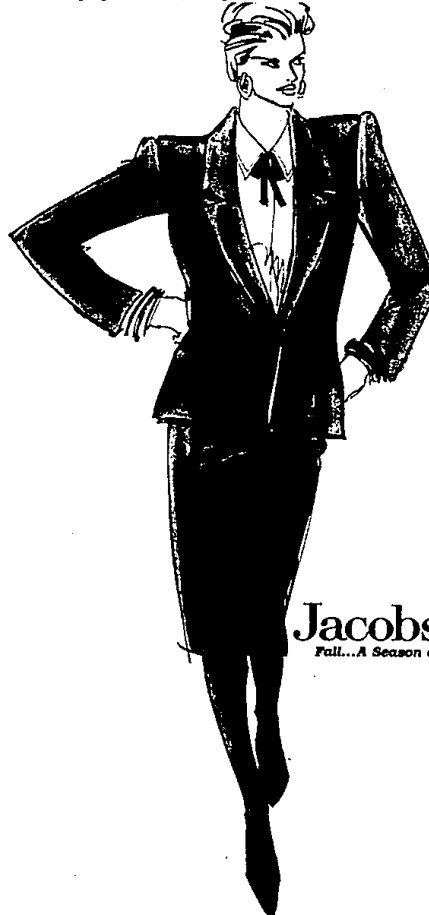
"It's a very nice area even though the highway is right there," Gardiner said. "It's wooded and Rockshire is a gravel road. It's really very pleasant."

Abutting property owners will be notified of the public hearing. The hearing also will be advertised in a local newspaper.

A "Rezoning Request" sign with a telephone number to call for details is posted on the site.

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