

Veteran educator

Retiree looks forward to time up north

By Tim Smith
staff writer

Coming full circle is Farmington Hills' Bob Case, who recently retired after more than 30 years as a teacher, principal and administrator in Southfield Public Schools.

When the 58-year-old Case took his first job with Southfield schools in 1956 after graduating from Wayne State University, he said he wanted to move from the city to a more rural setting.

"In 1956, Southfield was country to me," Case said at a recent school board meeting, when he was honored with a resolution saluting his career. "Obviously, things have changed over the years."

Now he's leaving primarily to spend more time — you guessed it — enjoying outdoor activities such as golfing, fishing and swimming. Recently, the retiring pupil services supervisor reflected on his accomplishments over the years and looked ahead to the future.

"IT'S BEEN a long, healthy career and it's time for me," said Case, whose Southfield career began teaching elementary physical education in 1956-57. "I feel good, but there are other things out there to do."

Case said he had been contemplating retirement for at least six months.

He emphasized that his decision had nothing to do with the changing school administration. New superintendent Marlene Davis took over the district reins July 8.

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— Bob Case
retiring educator

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Along the way, Case was a Birney Middle School teacher, administrative intern (1965-66) and longtime principal at both Vandenberg Elementary School (1966-76) and Thompson Middle School (1976-88). His long career was twice interrupted in its early years by military service. Case was stationed in Germany from 1957-58 and 1961-63, the latter teaching physical education and science in the Army Dependents Schools.

CASE SAID he and his wife, Eleanor ("Ellie"), might entertain notions

of returning to Europe, perhaps in a year or so. The couple have three children, Ted, Rob and Megan.

"We enjoyed it because it was such a contrast in lifestyle. You get a better feeling of yourself, your country and what you're all about by living in a foreign country."

One possibility includes teaching or being an administrator in Europe, he added. "I'm sort of leaving it open-ended."

But for the first months of his retirement, Case said he intends to relax at his family's Upper Peninsula cabin and enjoy his favorite hobbies. Besides outdoor sports, those include membership to a club that restores vintage Volkswagen Beetles and the National Ski Patrol.

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Scouts enter science lab, encounter everyday life

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said that science and mathematics were their best subjects in school.

Jessica Flemming, 14, a student at Clawson High, plans to study science and is aiming for a career with the CIA or FBI. Nicole Runnels, 13, of Oak Park is looking at becoming a veterinarian, her lab mate Anne Pieper, 13, of Grosse Pointe wants to be a doctor.

"A lot of us are going into science oriented fields," said Anne. "I'm interested in this because it's hands on. A lot of science classes in schools is what you read from books."

Sarah Sherman, 13, of Livonia is maintaining a wait-and-see attitude about a science career. Her lab mate, Marchelle D'Anna, 12, of Farmington Hills, like Anne, wants to be a veterinarian.

Sarah, a straight A student at Emerson Middle School, said her decision will depend on "what I learn here," checking the temperature of the simmering grape juice.

"I learned a lot about science in school, about flowers, frogs and things, but it doesn't have to do with the stuff I'm learning in here," she said.

Sarah has found the camp fun, but there is one drawback — the safety glasses — a feeling shared by most of the girls. The glasses, they said, "are ugly and you can't see through them."

MARCHELLE, A student at Power Middle School, has been a scout for about six years and hasn't been disappointed with the science camp.

"It's fun," she said, adding that she likes the scouting is fun because of "all trips and stuff."

The clock on the wall of the lab was hovering around 12:30. It's Wednesday; the girls are at the halfway point of the summer camp and putting the finishing touches on the last experiment of the morning.

Armed with sterile beakers, pipettes, a graduated cylinder and hot plates, they're working on "Today's food for Bacteria. Tomorrow's Snack for You." The byproduct — the laboratory version of yogurt.

How well they did the recipe won't be known until Thursday when, after adding a touch of pie filling, they get to eat their concoctions.

"The point I want to make to them is that they use science everyday," said Parsons, calling to a student to put on her glasses. "They need to know about science because this world is getting more and more technical."

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