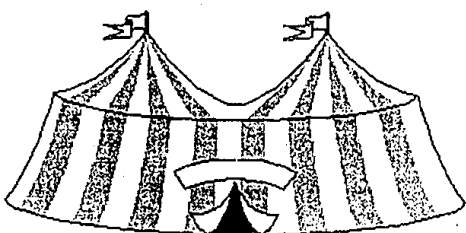


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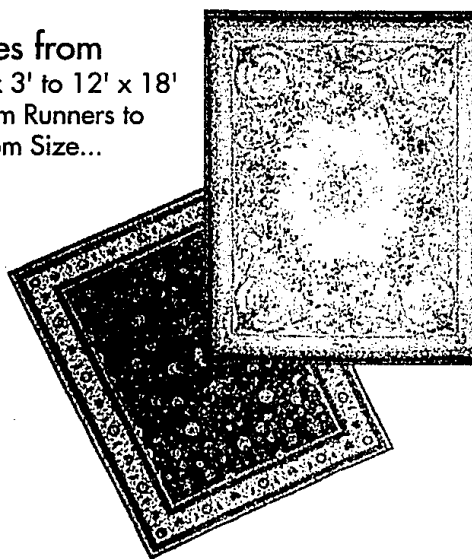
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Gerald Harrison, high school's namesake, dies at age 95

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Gerald V. Harrison, for whom Harrison High School was named in 1970, died Aug. 15, 2002 after a short illness.

He was 95. Harrison's daughter, Nancy Wiersma, said her father was a man of compassion with a "heart-warming smile."

"He was a loving father and grandfather," said Wiersma. "He was a man of integrity, a mentor, a friend and an educator." Born Feb. 17, 1907 in Rose City, Mich., he graduated in 1924 from Lincoln High School in Ferndale. He attended Ohio Wesleyan College and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Michigan in 1928.

Harrison's profession as an educator began as a math teacher in Ferndale and then at Detroit Institute of Technology. He moved to Northville where he became the high school principal, then moved on to become principal of Farmington's combined junior and high schools located on Thomas Street. In 1956, Harrison was appointed assistant superintendent of Farmington Schools and was appointed superintendent the following year. He retired in 1967.



Harrison

when he was coach in the 1960s.

Holland said, "He ran a very tight ship. He was very fiscal in terms of dollars and cents for the district."

Holland was a teacher and football coach at North Farmington High School.

Holland remembered when he was among a group of coaches who asked Harrison for a raise in pay. Harrison's response was, "Well coaches, I don't know, how can I do this without giving raises to the bus drivers and custodians?"

"He was fair, kind, and an old-time school man," Holland said. "Everybody revered him and thought the world of him. Being that he was old school, he was very fair."

Harrison was active on the Farmington YMCA board, was executive director of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce and president of the

Farmington Exchange Club. He served on the Farmington Township Industrial Development Commission and the Oakland County Board of Community Mental Health Services.

He was a member of: the Michigan Education Department, Association, the National Education Association, Michigan Association of School Administrators, American Association of School Administrators, Phi Delta Kappa and Phi Beta Kappa.

Harrison and his wife, Mary, were members of First United Methodist Church of Farmington, located on Grand River, where he served as chairman of the board. Mary was the organist. They moved to Florida in 1972 and enjoyed the past 30 years at Westminster Woods Retirement Community. The couple were faithful, active members of their local church.

Besides Mary, his wife of 72 years, he is survived by daughters, Mimi Foust and Nancy (Richard) Wiersma; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Westminster Woods Aug. 18. His body was donated to the University of Florida. sbuck@homecom.net | (248) 477-5450

OBITUARIES

Eino C. Salo

Services for Eino Carl Salo, 83, of Novi, were held Sept. 14 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Dr. Elmer Llimatta officiating. Burial took place at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

Mr. Salo was born Feb. 2, 1919 in Rudyard, Mich. and died Sept. 10, 2002 at Huron Valley/Sinal Hospital in Commerce Township. He worked as a general manager for Burroughs Corporation (now known as Unisys) and was a World War II Navy veteran. He was a member of the VFW in Northville. He is survived by his sons, William (Dawn), Richard, Clifford (Linda), Robert and Raymond (Mary Beth); daughters, Carolyn Hairston and Sherry Lee (Ron) Bierbaum; sister, Sylvia Hack; and grandchildren, Douglas, Daniel, Eric, Christopher, Katie, Angelica and

Elizabeth. He is preceded in death by his wife, Helen. Memorial contributions may be made to Special Olympics.

Charles H. Adkins

Services for Charles H. Adkins, 87, of Farmington, were held Sept. 14 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Dick Schmidt officiating. Burial took place at Oakland Hills Cemetery in Novi.

Mr. Adkins was born Aug. 26, 1915 in Missouri and died Sept. 11, 2002 in Farmington. He worked as a machine repairman for General Motors/Cadillac Motor Company and was a World War II Navy veteran. He was a life member of VFW Post 3941 in Livonia and enjoyed playing on a pool league.

He is survived by his daughter, Sharon (Anthony) Kolodziejczak; three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

dren. He is preceded in death by his wife, Adeline. Memorial contributions may be made to the VFW Livonia Post 3941.

Kevin L. Franklin

Services for Kevin Lee Franklin, 39, formerly of Farmington, were held Sept. 14 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Saad officiating. Burial took place at Roseland Park Cemetery in Berkley. Mr. Franklin was born Sept. 10, 1963 in Detroit and died Sept. 10, 2002 at St. Michael Nursing Center in Detroit. He worked in the restaurant industry.

He is survived by his sisters, Martha Severson, Karen Jarvis and Linda Petiprin; and brothers, Ernest, Kenneth and Duane Franklin. He is preceded in death by his parents Mary and Ernest and nephew, James.

CHURCH

FROM PAGE A1

cial complex. Because most members came into the building from the back, a new, larger entrance was created. Above that space is a newly created library, with comfortable seating. Another consideration was creating a more unified front on Grand River. The building has three identical rooms facing the main street. Windows in those rooms were redone to help complete the more visually appealing facade. Brides will appreciate a larger ladies' room on the same floor as the sanctuary; it features full length and lighted mirrors and a lot more room to allow them to prepare for their

walk down the aisle. Total cost for the project was \$1.9 million, which was a little more than anticipated due to issues that could only be found once construction began. For instance, when crews started digging, they found a patch of old fill dirt that had to be removed and replaced, at a cost of \$75,000. But the church's 575 members rose to the occasion. On "Miracle Sunday" last year, they were asked to make a one-time donation. Church officials set a goal of \$300,000; they received \$370,000. Additionally, a fund drive for three-year pledges raised \$650,000, far more than the church's \$500,000 goal. "If your cause is just and right, people respond," Carvell said.

Membership has been growing by about four to 12 people in every new member class. The church draws people from Livonia, Redford, Novi and other surrounding communities, some of whom grew up in First United Methodist and decided to come back when they had families of their own.

"They come back here because it's home," Maxwell said. "If that's what you're looking for is a place to call home, this is such a place."

For more information about the church's expansion, weekend activities or membership, call (248) 474-6572. The church is located at 3312 Grand River, across from Starbucks.

fbuck@homecom.net | (248) 477-5450

HERITAGE

FROM PAGE 1

Plural Circle, a 16-piece jazz band. All events will be held at the William B. Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. As in the past, the Festival will kick off with a "Get To Know Your Neighbor" mini-conference. This year's will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Sept. 22 and focuses on cultures, including Arab-American and Chaldean, African American, Albanian, Japanese, Latino/Hispanic and Asian Indian.

After an opening activity, participants can choose from among three break-out sessions at 1:35 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. There will also be a closing activity, Bolen said.

The festival art exhibit opens Sept. 25 at 6 p.m. with an artist preview reception. Three new prizes will be awarded in the juried show: \$500, \$300 and \$200, Bolen said. The cash awards are funded through the festival. Bolen finds Friday's

new citizen swearing-in ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m., especially meaningful.

"What does it mean to be an American? That's what's so important about the swearing-in ceremony," she said. "That's what a lot of our relatives had to go through to get here."

She hopes anyone who can will be at the ceremony. "When I was present, it gave me a new found pride in being an American. It renews your commitment to being an American."

The Costick Center will be designated a federal court building for that day, Bolen added. Kathryn Dorman of the Farmington Hills city clerk's office will be on hand to register the new citizens as voters, and the League of Women Voters provides information about elections.

Sunday's Main Festival will fill the building with music, laughter and the aromas of a broad variety of foods. Participating restaurants will include Pineland (Middle Eastern), Kowalski's, Papa

John's pizza, the 965 Deli on Northwestern, Chinese and Japanese restaurants and India Kitchen.

New to the entertainment stage will be Blackthorn, which will play Irish music, and Ara Topuzian, who plays Armenian folk music, along with a 16-piece jazz band called Ed Nuccilli Plural. A '50s dance group, Middle Eastern dancers and strolling mariachi musicians will also play.

The festival features cultural exhibits, which give people from other lands the opportunity to show and tell more about their native cultures. Sunday's festival kicks off at 12:30 p.m. with a parade through the parking lot. The festival closes at 6 p.m. that day.

"With this week, it's important that we look at all the heritages in our community," Bolen said. "That's what we're all about - being inclusive." For more information about the festival, call (248) 426-4455.