

## Hawk Debaters Seek State Title

FARMINGTON Harrison High School debaters have enjoyed a successful season by finishing the season in first place in the Wayne-Oakland Debate Association.

In its second year of competition, Harrison debate team also took two out of a possible six speaker trophies. James Abowd took a first place trophy and David Abowd a fifth place trophy.

The Harrison team has also survived district debate competition and will enter the state regional tournament today (Saturday) in Ann Arbor.

Other teams in the league are Rochester Adams, Clarkston, Cranbrook, West Bloomfield, Birmingham Groves, Milford, Northville and Lake Orion.

OTHER HONORS achieved by Harrison debaters this season were:

Two outstanding speaker awards and the most awards by a single school at the

Student Congress in September.

The first affirmative team award at the Edmund Champion debate tournament sponsored by the University of Detroit.

And a fifth place finish at the Gold Cup Tournament in which 69 other teams competed.

The latest honor achieved was advancing to the state regional debate by winning four of six debates in the district tournament.

The state debate elimination is held each year and is similar to the state basketball tourney with teams advancing a step at a time until the state champ is determined.

The state regional tournament, which begins at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 12 in Ann Arbor Pioneer High, will involve Harrison, Traverse City, Birmingham Groves, Ferndale Dearborn, Belleville and Sterling Heights Stevenson.

A VARSITY debater spends an average of 20 hours weekly on research, practice and tournaments.

The varsity team is composed of only one senior, James Abowd who transferred to Harrison when Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic High School in Farmington closed last year.

David and Elizabeth Abowd are also varsity debaters at Harrison. Douglas Ellman, fourth varsity debater, is the most improved debater at Harrison, although he and Elizabeth Abowd are only sophomores.

Dennis King, debate coach, says a large portion of this successful season is attributed to the strong performance of the underclassmen in addition to the team's bulwark, James Abowd.



MICHAEL J. HAND



SUZANN JACOBSEN and her dad, Roy, sculpture clay as part of the emphasis on creative art experiences for the daughters and dads night sponsored by the Fairview Elementary PTA.

## Hand Recalls Beginnings As Friends Pay Tribute

FARMINGTON Should you ever face judgment in Farmington District Court, it won't hurt if your name's Flaherty or O'Flynn.

For underneath that black judicial robe sits a nephew of Ireland's poet laureate. His father was an IRA chieftain who skipped Ireland with a price on his head. And a cousin now is chief of staff of Ireland's regular army, not to be confused with the IRA. His wife is the former Eileen Gallagher. And his children are named Patricia, Sheila, Mary Kathleen, Michael, Eileen and Brian.

That's Judge Michael J. Hand, ruddy, genial, witty and as wrapped up in politics as the next Irishman.

HAND's friends and supporters are honoring him this month with a testimonial dinner in the Botsford Inn.

The occasion will give Hand the chance to reflect back on a long career as an attorney and a term as district judge which began in 1966.

Hand was the 11th district court's first judge and completes his initial term this year. Before that he served as municipal judge of the City of Farmington.

Hand was in private law practice before becoming a judge and was senior member of the firm of Hand, Kiefer, Allen and Ryan. The firm's practice covered general law, but Hand engaged mostly in corporate and trial work.

HAND'S FATHER, being minus a passport, shipped to Canada when he left Ireland, where a \$500, dead-alive bounty had been placed on his head. He wanted to come to the United States, but lack of a passport prevented it. As soon as he could, the senior Hand did come to this country and "filed his application for citizenship the second day he was here," his son chuckled.

Judge Hand was six years

old when his family moved to the United States. He was educated in Detroit parochial schools and earned his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Detroit.

He was in his first year of law school when the draft began for World War II and his number was in the second batch called to service. He began as an Army infantry private and quit the service five years later as an Air Force major, after service throughout the Pacific.

At one time he was in charge of 38,000 men in the adjutant general's office. "That's where I learned organization and how to deal with people," Judge Hand said. "You learn fast under conditions like that."

THAT'S ALSO where he learned tolerance, the judge declared.

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**Land Plans Examined**  
FARMINGTON The future land use of Farmington Township and the City of Farmington will be

examined at the Feb. 22 meeting of the West Bloomfield-Farmington Area League of Women Voters.

The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Trinity Episcopal Church at 26880 LaMueria, Farmington.

Claude Coates, planning consultant from Villan-Leman, will describe the master plan's future land use for the township and John Allen will discuss the city's land use plan. Allen is a city councilman and city planning commissioner.

The township's future land use plan will be on display, and Coates will answer questions. The meeting is part of a continuing study on planning and zoning by the League of Women Voters.

The meeting will begin with a petite luncheon served at noon and the public is invited. Baby sitting arrangements may be made by contacting Mrs. David Russell of 6804 Post Oak, Birmingham.

SUSAN ROBINS of Farmington finished first in girls class I competition with a time of 51.1 seconds in competition held by the Schaller Race Camp at Timber Lee Hills in Traverse City.

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