

How A Neighbor's Fence Led To Patents And A Business

By W.W. EDGAR

Doing a favor for a friend can sometimes lead to some very interesting results.

Take the case of Donald De War, a mechanically minded fellow of 29534 Hemlock who became an inventor and head of his own company after lending a helping hand to a neighbor.

"About four years ago," he said, "my neighbor started to install a chain link fence. It was early in the spring when the ground was frozen and he couldn't get the auger to take hold when trying to drill the post hole.

"He called me. When I saw what was happening, I got the idea for a new type of cutter. The auger was cut-

ting vertically and it couldn't be frozen earth.

"So I concocted a drill that would cut horizontally and it was amazing how quickly we had the holes dug."

That was the start. And it gave him an idea.

During the long nights as he labored in the shops of the Star Cutter Company on Grand River Avenue, he envisioned a whole new cycle of drills for all sorts of jobs. He not only envisioned them, he started to make them. Today he has four drills patented, another patent applied for, and he's working on a cutter that will go through an eight-inch poured concrete wall.

The four patented drills now are on display at a sem-

inar in New York City and then, with a slight smile, he'll tell you, "I am working on another invention that must be kept secret until I apply for the patent."

From his small start three years ago, De War now has customers and outlets in all parts of the country. Only recently he was informed a company drilling for oil in the frozen areas of Alaska is using his horizontal cutters.

Talking about his start with the neighbor he recalled that once he fashioned the horizontal cutter they dug four post holes, about a foot apart, and each took only about 30 seconds.

As he sat in the kitchen of his modest home, De War kept his eye on a cement

block through which he had cut a hole.

"The builders, for years, have been forced to use air hammers and other bits of powerful equipment to go through concrete. Often they'd break off big chunks and leave holes that had to be filled."

"This drill went through an eight-inch poured concrete basement wall in seven minutes. There was no breakage."

Since he formed the D&W Company little more than two years ago he has handled more than 400 horizontal cutters.

"I don't machine them myself," he added, "I'm not quite ready for that. So I

farm out the work to the various shops around here and depend on advertising in contractors and builders' journals for sales."

The horizontal cutter is filling a big gap in the De War family.

"I've been moonlighting," he said, "I don't have too much time to work on inventions. We have nine children - seven of our own and two of my brother-in-law's youngsters. His wife died and left four children. We took two of them."

He admitted that things could have been much different if he hadn't been called upon to do a favor for a friend.



DONALD DEWAR shows the tool bit that will cut through a concrete wall. (Evert photo)

Times Are A-Changing

Counselors Are Modernizing

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON

The red letter date in the history of high school counseling is 1938. That was the year Sputnik went into orbit, and that was the year everyone worried that the United States was falling behind the Soviet Union in technological development.

Educators suddenly realized then the importance of vocational guidance and counseling if the country was to keep pace with Russia.

Harrison High School along with many others in Oakland County, once again focused attention on its counseling staff and their services recently.

Counselors play important

but not always easy to define: roles in the lives of the students.

Gerard Sklare and Jill Turley, Harrison counselors, set about defining their responsibilities while students in the outer office tried the punch and cookies, part of the counseling office all-day open house.

"The big thing in counseling, now, is career education," Sklare said.

Miss Turley described the "View-Deck," a kit recently added to the office inventory which has proved to be a valuable career education aid.

Students fill out several forms about themselves, a temperament check list, questions on what kind of per-

son they are, the level of education they expect to attain, the kinds of activity and working conditions they prefer.

Overlays which match more than 650 jobs to the answers are used, from this, Sklare says, "The answers will tell him what kind of jobs fill all the needs he has indicated."

From there the counseling office can provide relevant material on to the jobs suggested. Sometimes counselors will arrange to have a student experience "a career for a day" situation by visiting a job situation that interests him.

Sklare is also excited about a special project where students will interview

parents about their jobs, write a report and then make an oral presentation in class.

"Many kids don't know or understand what their parents do," he said.

Miss Turley says the View-Deck is a strong motivating factor to get young people thinking and talking together about possible careers.

Gov. Milliken and state officials have been encouraging career education in Michigan schools.

"The college boom is still with us, but they want us to get into vocational counseling, too," she says.

Sklare quotes figures given to him this week: "Two-thirds of all students in the country do not go on to college. Out of the one-third

who do, only half graduate. That means 80 per cent don't have college degrees."

While much of the counseling service affects the future, a good portion is "now" type help. Some of it is getting the student to the right source for help - nurse, speech therapist, social worker or student tutor, for instance.

"Now" problems run also to scheduling classes, personal counseling, classroom adjustment, occupational counseling and telling a student what his test results mean.

Miss Turley says a lot of time is spent in parent and family counseling and conferences involving parents and teachers and sometimes just teachers.



COUNSELOR Jill Turley interviews Jeff Watzman during counselors' week. (Evert photo)

Farmington High Band Plans Trip To Mexico

FARMINGTON

Thirty Farmington High School musicians head out for Mexico April 23 to take part in music competition and have fun.

The occasion is a Mexican international music festival sponsored by the National Tourist Council, the Ministry of Public Education and the Instituto de Seguros Sociales, all of Mexico, and International Festivals, Inc. of the United States.

More than 500 U.S. choristers and bandsters will compete in categories such as choral ensembles, stage bands, symphonic bands and marching bands and will be judged and rated by a panel of music experts. Awards will be made.

Farmington will perform for adjudication at the Oaxtepec Theater on Thursday, April 26. The students are entered in the symphonic band category.

Besides taking part in the festival itself during their week's stay, the 30 Farmington young people will spend four days in Mexico City, giving a concert at one of the high schools there. They also will attend a performance of Ballet Folklorico where they will see world famous national folk dances, and visit as many points of interest as time and energy will permit.

They also are scheduled to give a performance in Cuernavaca on one of their free afternoons.

Oaxtepec, where the festival is headquartered, is a vacation center designed for cultural groups and closed to tourists. It lies approximately 50 miles south of Mexico City.

"Our aims are to participate in the festival and

enjoy people and places in Mexico," said Harold S. Kanacek, director of instrumental music at Farmington High.

"They will have an opportunity to listen to foreign performances as well as their own accustomed national style."

"They will have many opportunities to meet other young musicians from other states and from Mexico. Their performances will be judged by experts in the musical field."

"In colorful surroundings and festival atmosphere they can learn a tremendous amount while enjoying themselves and gaining a sense of reward for their hard work."

Our aims are to participate in the festival and

Donor Cards Are Urged

FARMINGTON

The Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary is conducting a campaign to impress residents with the importance of signing uniform organ donor cards.

The card authorizes use of certain organs for transplant in the event of death.

The campaign is tied to observance of National Kidney Month.

Posters advertising the donor cards have been placed by the auxiliary in 125 Farmington area locations. Cards and a sticker for drivers' licenses identifying the bearer as a potential donor are with the posters.

"There is still a tremendous need for donors as thousands of lives are lost every year and others suffer because of lack of donors of kidneys, corneas and other tissues," said Carole Keller, co-chairman of the drive with Nancy Dittmar.

Dean's List Names 2

Two Southfield area residents have been named to the dean's list at Adrian College.

Those honored were: David Anderson, 18487 San Jose, LaPort Village, a junior political-science major; and Shirley Nichols, 24589 Green Valley, Southfield, a senior biology major.

To achieve the honor the student must maintain a 3.25 grade point average on the basis of at least 14 credit hours.



DR. JOHN RICHARDSON, (center), Farmington, helps the Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary's promotion of National Kidney Month by signing a uniform organ donor card. Witnesses are Ron Holko, Farmington Township director of public safety, and Carole Keller, co-chairman of the auxiliary campaign.

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