

School Development History is Reviewed

Historical Background and Development of The Farmington Public School System.

By KATHRYN BRIGGS

When the early pioneers came to this part of the "Michigan Territory" from Farmington, New York in 1824, they brought with them the idea that "reading, writing, and 'rithmetic" were necessary. So in 1830 the first school in the community, a tiny log hut, was built. It stood on what is now Shawnessy Avenue, but was then just an Indian trail. Farmington's first schoolmaster was Nathan Power, and the first school was "Miss Mary Ann Wood."

In 1835 Nate Power was authorized to build a new school and was granted \$575 for the building. It was on the hill above the creek, and it became known throughout the district as "The Little Red Schoolhouse." When this was outgrown, Mr. Power also built the next school in 1838, this being a two-story frame building. It might need to where the present Farmington Junior High School stands today. This building served as a school until replaced in 1868.

By 1877 there were ten district schools in the township, all of them with one room school buildings except in District No. 5 (Farmington village) where there were two departments, a higher and a lower, respectively in charge of a male teacher and a female teacher. The terms added up to forty weeks per year. The annual salary of the male teacher in the village was one thousand dollars, and that of the female teacher was four hundred dollars. The other districts employed male teachers only in winter, the other terms being taught by females. The remuneration of the former was thirty-five to fifty dollars per month, and of the latter two dollars and fifty cents per week.

The school building which was erected in 1888 was known as the Union School and was used until destroyed by fire in 1918. The older unit at the Farmington Junior High School site was then built, and has been continuously since then, although the interior has been remodeled many times.

PREVIOUSLY to 1888 the school was ungraded, but after that date there were more classes in Farmington High School. However, one alumna states: "I went to high school only two years. I had covered so much, and my standards were so high from my district school that I finished in two years at the age of 16." In another letter, another alumna tells about organizing as a Junior Class on April 21, 1897, as Seniors on December 19, 1897, and graduating in June, 1898.

There were three members in the first class to be graduated in the new "graded" set-up, holding their exercises in June, 1898. (There are approximately 511 Seniors this year, 279 at Farmington Senior High School, and 241 in the first graduating class at North Farmington High School.)

For many years, the district schools outside of the village (later city) of Farmington provided education through the eighth grade. If a student wished to continue his education at a high school, he, per agreement between the Boards of Education, could attend as a tuition student. Some of the rural school districts would pay the entire amount — in other cases, it would pay part, and parents would make up the difference. The parents provided transportation, or the students walked or drove. They did not have to pay for their education, high school and could choose the one which was most convenient, or had room for them. Consequently there were many schools attending not only Farmington High School, but also Northville, Redford, Walled Lake, Pontiac, and even Detroit.

BY 1944 there were six school districts (in addition to some fractional parts that were parts of other systems such as Clarkston or Walled Lake). There were the Farmington High School and Farmington Grade School at the present Farmington Junior High site; the Noble District with the Noble School on Middlebelt Road between Nine and Ten Mile Roads and the William Grace School on Shawnessy Road near Middlebelt Road; the Bond School District with the original German School on Middlebelt Road between Nine and Ten Mile roads and the Bond School at Orchard Lake Road and 13 Mile Road; the Fairview School District with its one-room school on West Grand River; the West Farmington School District having its building on Twelve Mile Road and Halsted

Farmington Adult Education Classes Double In Enrollment This Year Over '62

Since taking over the direction of the Farmington School District Adult Education Program in January of this year, Richard Tyler has already witnessed an amazing growth in the number enrolled and in the course offerings for Farmington adults.

The Adult Education Program currently is serving nearly 400 people in Farmington.

Girl Scout News

Southeast Farmington Girl Scouts have gotten off to a busy start. At their first meeting they held a Used Uniform and a Equipment Sale. It was a huge success with only a few Brownie girls left over. There is now a busy store, and the latter houses the Mayfair Nursery School. The Noble School was recently remodeled and contains the offices of the Special Education Department. In 1956 the two-room William Grace School was torn down and a modern twenty-room building was erected on its site. The Fairview and Nichols buildings are used for storage.

With the development of many subdivisions and the houses being built in clusters rather than on existing main roads, the building policy of the Board of Education has changed. From the placement of elementary schools on main arteries and intersections to the present policy of choosing sites in the center of the neighborhood, this provides for better walking conditions and keeps the schools away from congested high traffic areas, as well as giving the citizens the feeling of having a neighborhood school.

THE FARMINGTON School District has been in the field of Special Education since the 1920's where were "Opportunity Rooms" where the slower-learning, later-elementary students were given individualized instruction and remedial work in the basic subjects. With the depression and the loss of administration, these were discontinued.

In 1955, Special Education, as we now know it, began with itinerant speech correctionists. Through the years more and more services have been added until now it is a department with a director, seven speech correctionists, four itinerant teachers, two school diagnosticians, a teacher counselor of the physically handicapped and one for the mentally handicapped, seven who have rooms for the mentally retarded, five who work with the orthopedically handicapped, a teacher of the pre-school deaf children, and three teachers of the adjusted study program. This is a complete program, and there is close cooperation between Farmington and other surrounding districts.

THE PHYSICAL development of the pupils is provided by physical education teachers from the elementary schools as well as for the secondary schools. Intramural and competitive sports provide other outlets for physical activity, growth and development.

The above-average and brilliant students have not been neglected. In the secondary schools there are accelerated and advanced courses available in the Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies, and Drafting departments. Many of the graduates have entered college with advanced standing.

The high schools have been in the news recently, having participated in the American Field Service and Michigan Council of Churches Foreign Exchange Student Program since 1952. So far, twenty foreign students from Mexico, Indonesia, France, Switzerland, Germany, Chile, Costa Rica, Holland, Finland, Belgium, Japan, and Sweden have spent time here at Farmington. Present visitors to Farmington High School are from Italy, Germany, and Finland and the present first exchange student to North Farmington High School is from Cairo, Egypt. To date nineteen students from Farmington have lived during the summer with families in Turkey, Mexico, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Finland, and Spain.

Because of the burgeoning enrollment due to the development of many subdivisions in the township and city, new schools and new personnel are constantly being added. The following statistics will help emphasize the great growth that has taken place since 1944. At the time of consolidation, there were 1,807 students from kindergarten through the

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which is more than double the total number of adults who were enrolled in courses during the two semesters of the 1962-63 school year.

This semester there are 23 courses being taught with the response so great for two of the courses, bridge and short-hand, that two classes had to be set up to accommodate all of the people who enrolled in each of those courses.

The size of each class is held to a maximum of 30 students to allow the instructors an opportunity to work individually with each person when necessary. As few as 15 persons or less are generally made up an Adult Education class.

ADULT EDUCATION Director Tyler hopes to see the program expand to take in many more persons and cover an ever-widening variety of courses and subjects.

The facilities of the School District can easily handle further expansion for this self-supporting program, Tyler pointed out, and use of the local building during the evening presents no problem since maintenance crews are on duty during that time. The normal costs connected with having the classrooms made available for the Adult Education Program are assumed by the Board of Education.

The Adult Education Program is attempting to meet the following needs:

1. Assist adults at various life-development stages to fulfill the differing roles in worthy home membership — including that of the older adult and of the retiree.
2. Stimulate civic consciousness and the exercise of effective citizenship responsibilities, National, State, and Local.
3. Promote the worthy use of leisure through opportunities to acquire recreational, cultural, and appreciation abilities.
4. Offer a program whereby both young and old drop-outs can finish their secondary education.

Registrations will be accepted on the night of the first class, Tuesday, November 19, at 7 o'clock, at Farmington Senior High School. Mail registrations will be accepted until November 15. For further information call Farmington Adult Education, 476-0810.

Mail registrations not accepted after November 15, 1962.

REGISTRATION BLANK FARMINGTON ADULT EDUCATION SKI PROGRAM

32000 Shiawassee - Farmington, Mich.

Name _____
 or Names _____
 Phone _____
 Address _____
 No. Street City Zone
 (check one) \$10.00 individual
 \$15.00 married couple
 \$25.00 family

Make checks payable to Farmington Public Schools

Junior Troop 1003 was busy hosting Boy Scout Troop 238 at a Hal- loween party at Clarenceville Junior High. Mrs. Richard Schullins and Mrs. Oneil Nelson are the leaders. The girls are looking forward to becoming a mounted patrol when they are senior Good Scouts, girls of the celebrating Juliet Lowe's birthday at their meeting Oct. 22. They also had a Cookout on November 5. The signed Skis by Joe, Snow on the Mountain, Fruit Kabobs and Kool Aid.

Junior Troop 986 held its investiture on Thursday, October 31. Kathy Adams, Nancy Armstrong, Denise Frick, Kathy Proctor, Laurie Rogers and Pam Silver were invested. They also hosted Troop 1069 at a Halloween party.

We regret that Mrs. Leon Hibbs has been ill with Rheumatic Fever. She is able to be up and around after her 6 weeks in bed but will not be able to continue with her troop for some time.

MRS. LEONARD ELIAS is proud to announce the arrival of Leonard Robert who is now 3 weeks old. Mrs. Elias is leader of Troop 1069. The girls of Troop 1069 wish to thank Mrs. Shaw for having the troop at her home for a Halloween party.

For those who so graciously gave of their time and talent working at Day Camp, we wish to extend our sincere thank you. Through an omission this failed to be included in our write up. We do appreciate your time and toil.

Mrs. Erickson reminds us that meetings are the third Wednesday of the month this year, at the K of C Hall all on Middlebelt near 9 Mile Rd. Neighborhood programs are designed to assist Leaders in their work. November's program will be a workshop on Christmas projects given by Mrs. John Maiz. See you then!



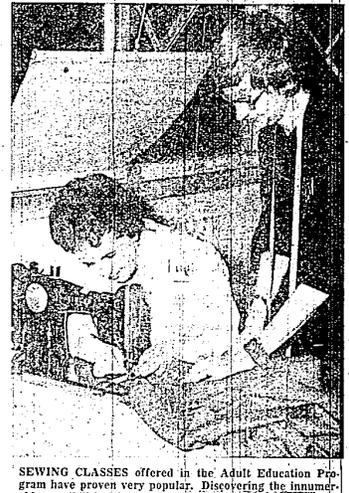
ADULT EDUCATION DIRECTOR Richard Tyler (R) is inspecting the craftsmanship of the woodworking course where virtually all the necessary tools and machines are available to them.



SEWING CLASSES offered in the Adult Education Program have proven very popular. Discovering the innumerable possibilities that exist in making full use of a sewing machine, with a more complete knowledge of how best to operate one, never fails to impress students. Instructor Mrs. Richard Galley looks with approval on the work of Mrs. Phyllis Brilliance in the above scene.



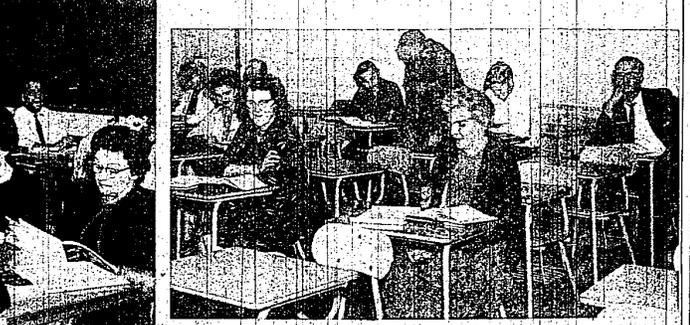
THE COMELY LADIES pictured above all seem to have the ideal assets that go into making a good secretary and when they complete the Adult Education course in shorthand will have even more to their credit. Instructor Steve Branz is pictured above during a class session, where use of ear phones aids students in picking up dictation from records or tapes.



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ANOTHER POPULAR COURSE offered in the Adult Education Program is the water color painting class taught by Richard Schilling of the North Farmington High School faculty. A pupil receives some good-natured bantering from Instructor Schilling above as he inspects her work during one of the class sessions.



ADULT EDUCATION classes offered in the Farmington School District are always small enough that each individual can receive personal attention from the instructor when necessary. Mrs. Lucille Gingerich, who teaches the business English course offered at North Farmington High School on Monday nights, is pictured above assisting one of her students. The course is designed toward improving writing skills, vocabulary and grammar.

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