

Harrison Deserves Thanks for Years of Service

This week marks the end of Gerald V. Harrison's tenure as Superintendent of the Farmington Schools. We would be remiss if we did not pause to thank the man for his years of service to Farmington.

For the past 10 years he has served as Superintendent of Schools. Prior to his appointment he was assistant superintendent of the school district and principal of the combined Farmington Junior and Senior High.

The decade of Harrison's direction has been one of rapid growth and expansion.

Reflecting the growth of the area, the schools have embarked on a long range building program. This has included the acquisition



editorial

tion of sites, planning for the projected growth of the school population, and the construction of the school facilities.

During the past 10 years, voters of the Farmington school district have approved bond and millage questions a total of seven times. This is in a district where 85 per cent of the tax base is residential property.

Harrison's activities have not been confined to the schools, however. He is a mem-

ber of the Farmington YMCA's board of management, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Board, and is a past president of the Oakland County Superintendent's Association.

Harrison points to this with pride and cites it as a tribute to the resident's support of education. This is true, but it is also due to the leadership of the school administrators and the Board of Education.

Thus Harrison deserves a thank you from all the residents of the school district along with our best wishes for his enjoyment of retirement.

This we extend.



GERALD V. HARRISON

Exchange Student Reflects On Past Year In Farmington

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF FARMINGTON.

The time is getting shorter and shorter and I can only have stay more days to go. Pretty soon I have to leave Farmington city where I have had such a wonderful and meaningful past year.

I hate to leave Farmington, as well as I hate to say "good-bye" to my friends, to my neighbors, to my American family and to people in Farmington.

In the meantime, I am eager to go back to Saigon and say "hello" to my Vietnamese family and friends.

I am so glad that I could stay with my American family, the Atchisons, the past year. They are such a nice and understanding family to which I owed too much all through the year.

I LIKE my American family very, very much, because to me, they are the typical American family that I have ever known. More than that, the characters and happenings in this family are exactly that of an American family in a book which I have read before.

This family always shows a lot of interest in exchange program and believes in the purpose and success of the program very much.

I know that I couldn't have such a terrific year in Farmington if it was not for my American family willing to open their beloved home, to share in the pleasures and the responsibilities of it. I am very grateful for it.

My American family is the one who has given me more help than anyone. They helped me to overcome my language problem, to adjust to a completely new way of life, to do the "right" things in community and school.

In other words, they have taken a much more difficult responsibilities over me than my Vietnamese parents during the past year. I feel that I have learned so much from them.

AFTER ALMOST 11 months living with them, it is very hard for me to leave them, because now I realize that each of them has feel a special part deep in my heart which can never leave. I know I will miss them very much after I get home a few days.

I spent most of my time in school works and activities during past year. I've learned a lot about school life in community and school.

The teachers and students were very friendly and willing to help me with everything I needed. This moved me so much I did cry a few times before the school was over because I loved it and cannot stand without seeing it every day.

During the past year, I had many opportunities to go to different places and meet different people. They are hospitable and courteous. They made me feel at home right away.

way. No matter what strange place I went to, they always showed their interest in Vietnam by the questions they asked me. However, all ended up with the same type of questions. This means the people here are interested in the same type of things.

Their favorite question was: Do you think America should stay in your country? I said, "Yes, I, as well as the people I know, realize the necessity of the presence of Americans in our country during this dangerous period in history. We really appreciate the help the U.S. and its people have been giving us. We are thankful for every American who has helped us in one way or another. I personally want to say 'thank you' to everyone of you who has son or husband fighting over in Vietnam because of the great country you have. In short, we all support the American's presence in our country."

ANOTHER QUESTION - Do you think you would like to live in the U.S. because it is safer? I said, "Yes, I don't think so. Always the life is much better here and my personal safety is more guaranteed from bombs. But since Vietnam is my country, I was born and was brought up there, so I think I would want to either live or die with my country."

I have learned a lot about the United States and its people generally, and Farmington specially. I exchange my present knowledge about Farmington and its people with other exchange students on the bus.

FROM WHAT I get from them, I'll add to my own. I, myself, have had one enjoyable and unforgettable year in Farmington which I keep forever in my mind. Always, a pleasant and appreciated memory will come to me whenever I think of Farmington city and its people.

At last, may I express my sincere thanks to my American family, my local American Field Service chapter, my Farmington senior high school, my friends and acquaintances and private individuals who have contributed so much in bringing me over.

Thank you, Ta Hue Phan (from South Vietnam)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ta Hue Phan was the American Field Service exchange student from South Vietnam at Farmington High School this past year.

Kendallwood Resident Discusses Independence

Kendallwood I and Colony Park have listed off the Fourth of July celebration.

The Farmington District Library has a valuable collection on the 1967 Fourth of July celebration theme, "Virginia's Contributions to American Independence." Time spent perusing these books prompted the following essay, appropriate to our most important national holiday.

KENDALLWOOD I and Colony Park - 1967 Fourth of July Celebration Theme "Virginia's Contributions to American Independence"

by John Helgeir Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, George Rogers Clark, George Washington - all sons of Virginia, together and opposed, in concert and in disharmony, in love and in anger, in philosophy and in need, were in the forefront of that group of early Americans who welded the colonies, threw off the tyrant's yoke with blood, sweat and tears, and with the help of God, created a new and unique nation and a new hope for the world.

Each one of these great Americans, among many others, is worthy of our understanding, for in knowing them, we know America.

"WE URGE YOU to take the time to become reacquainted with these founding patriots, and their relationships with one another, by going to the library, as we did, and refreshing our understanding and appreciation of George Washington, born in 1732 and died in 1799.

George Washington's selfless devotion to cause and country, and his blameless private life, aroused almost unbounded admiration and respect among men of all lands and has often made his seem remote and even unreal.

He was, however, a flesh and blood man, one who could enjoy the creature comforts of his times, accept the responsibilities of husband and stepfather, become furious at a

subordinate general's incompetence, get as physically tired and emotionally spent as you and I.

To understand the greatness of America, you must penetrate the myths surrounding the father of our country, at least to the extent of never forgetting that he was real, just as you and I and all Americans in all times are real.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S greatness was certainly not recognized nor acceptable to many of his contemporaries, but by degrees all political groups and all regions acknowledged him without reservation as first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

In the national memory, George Washington came to represent the Revolution, the Constitution and the United States itself.

His virtues were solid rather than spectacular. He was sensible rather than dazzling. To quote Thomas A. Jefferson: "George Washington was incapable of fear, meeting personal dangers with the calmest unconcern."

Perhaps the strongest feature in his character was prudence, never acting until every consideration was maturely weighed, refraining if he saw doubt, but when once decided, going through with his purpose, whatever obstacles opposed.

His integrity was most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known. . . Washington's was the singular destiny and merit of leading the armies of his country successfully through an arduous war, for the establishment of its independence; of conducting its councils through the birth of a government, new in its forms and principles, until it had settled down into a quiet and orderly train and of scrupulously obeying the laws through the whole of his career. . .

THE HISTORY of the world furnishes no other such example. Washington held out to every nation the hope against hope that it was possible for men of true nobility to emerge, to rule widely, and to remain uncorrupt. This is an achievement still to be marveled at and never to be taken for granted. His life and the meaning of his life became as vast as the United States itself. In time he became merged with the nation he helped create.



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READERS SPEAK: 'Deplorable' Roads

Editor:

Feeling that my views are representative of the average Kendallwood resident, I am writing this letter concerning the long standing deplorable condition of the Kendallwood II entrance and adjoining subdivision streets.

Many of my neighbors and I called the Oakland County Road Commissioner and Curt Hall as far back as the first week in April and still nothing has been done to alleviate the situation.

During dry weather, the dust rolls up in clouds at the passing of every car in this heavily driven exit, making it impossible to keep our homes clean inside or out. Anyone who has driven Kendallwood Dr. in the last two months will back up my statements, I'm sure.

I thoroughly resent the many unfulfilled promises and delays and hope that others who feel the same way will make their protests known to the Oakland County Road Commissioner and our representative, Curt Hall.

THEIR complaint is legitimate. Would you care to explain why?

HIGH SHELLEY

EDITOR'S NOTE: The letter is interesting as not more than two weeks ago one of the editorial staff members was subjected to a barrage from the assistant principal at North Farmington, along with teachers and students from that school about how the paper NEVER gives any coverage to North Farmington. You are playing favorites with Farmington High, we were accused.

In addition to this, members of the paper's staff tell us that the residents of the north end complain that all the paper carries is "news about the city and the south end happens."

We report the news as it happens. There is an old axiom in the newspaper business that if both sides are upset with the coverage a particular story then it (the story) was most probably fair and accurate.

TEENS REGISTER For Summer Job

Need your windows washed, lawn cut or someone to babysit during the summer? Farmington's Youth Guidance Committee has established a clearing center to help you find help and the teen-ager's find work.

Simply call Mrs. Robert L. Smith at 476-0937 if you need some teen-age help around the house and tell her your needs.

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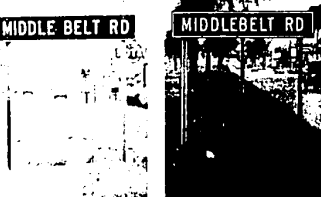
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G. E. MILLER SALES NORTHVILLE DODGE

127 Hutton St. FI 9-0660



IF THESE pictures of the two road signs on opposite corners of Middle Belt and Grand River confuse you, the sign at the left is correct. From now on, that's the way to spell Middle Belt. The matter was on the agenda of the Oakland County Road Commission last week. After spending hours searching out old records, the commissioners decided the right way to spell the road's name is "Middle Belt." Now all they have to do is get the word out to the sign department.

Middle Belt Is A 'Compromise' Spelling

Middlebelt--whoops, pardon us--Middle Belt is now officially two words.

At least, now it is as far as the Oakland County Road Commission is concerned.

When The Enterprise & Observer called Fraser Stamen, chairman of the commission last week, to ask how to spell the name, Stamen said he honestly didn't know.

After spending the day checking, he decided the county also didn't know.

And he found the new county maps also didn't know! The map incident spells it "Middlebelt." The map legend spells it "Middle Belt." County road signs spell it as one word.

SAID STAMEN, "We're compromised."

Stamen recommended to the commission at its meeting last night that it now be officially "Middle Belt."

It's also "Middle Belt" in Wayne County, which should be a comfort.

Stamen found when he checked old records, that a 1956 special assessment district designated it as "Middle Belt."

The road with the mislabeled name runs down the center of Wayne County like a belt--hence the name. It continues north through Oakland County and ends at Keego Harbor.

The name originated with land developers and was taken over by the counties. The County road commissions do not name roads.

Until all county road signs rust with age and have to be replaced, confusion will continue to reign.

One sign at the corner of the road and Grand River in Farmington spells it "Middlebelt." The sign at the opposite corner spells it "Middle Belt." You can take your choice.

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Summer's Curly Girl

Her short 'n' curly coquette curls give Summer's Curly Girl a wonderfully winsome charm. A winner from brief bangs to brief naps, this head-hugging, little-head look is big news in the hair fashion world, and it couldn't be more perfect for Summer in the country or in the city. Airy and delicate, the overall curls dissolve into tiny tendrils at the hairline. Finally, thanks to professional styling and coloring, Curly Girl's golden curls are guaranteed to gleam brightly by sunlight and moonlight.

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