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WESTLAND LIONS CLUB officers and members were on hand Thursday morning to greet Elmer John Bennett (third from right) and his new Leader Dog, Gus, whose training was financed by the Lions Club. On the steps of the Westland City Hall for the event were (right to left) Lions President Samuel Smith; Mayor Thomas Brown, Donald Hooper, Jack Courtney, Dallas Dagenais, Francis Rogers, and Thomas Fitchett.

Westland Man Gets Leader Dog

Westland's Elmer John Bennett, of 35720 Hazelwood Street, has a new and permanent companion in a Labrador Retriever named "Gus."

The companion and his master, who is blind, were formally welcomed Thursday morning at the Westland City Hall by the Westland Lions Club which sponsored Bennett during a four-week training program at the Leader Dog

for the Blind School in Rochester.

Club President Samuel Smith pointed out that Gus is the first graduate Leader Dog sponsored by the club which will mark its first anniversary in September. Also on hand for the occasion were other Lions members, including Mayor Thomas H. Brown, Jack Courtney, Dallas Dagenais, Donald Hooper, Francis Rogers, and Thomas Fitchett.

Bennett never got lost and he enjoyed the trips through various department stores.

Gus was donated to the school by a friend of the Lions and spent 10 days in quarantine before entering the actual training program.

After six weeks of obedience and basic training, Gus spent another six weeks training to recognize such hazardous conditions as moving traffic, pedestrians, curbs, low hanging branches, awnings, puddles, and anything that might be dangerous to the dog.

Bennett discovered that using a Leader Dog requires only the ordinary application of common sense and that since he knows where he is going, he only has to direct Gus to the destination with commands as forward, right and left. It is then Gus's job to guide his master safely to that destination.

A spokesman for the Leader Dog school in Oakland County pointed out that it will take four to five months of "seasoning" before Bennett can entirely eliminate minor problems and distractions that might occur in these new circumstances.

DIT Honors 9 From Area With Degrees

Nine area students are among 188 June graduates of The Detroit Institute of Technology.

Graduates from Farmington are: Jack E. Lewitt, 2384 Wesley, BBA; E. Carter, 2318 1/2 Bu. 2912 Utley Rd., BBA; Chris P. Simonoff, 24069 Colchester, BBA.

Livonia graduates are: James S. Cavagnini, 14920 Cavell, BBA; Gerald W. Lukomski, 36285 Jamison Dr., BSME; Eugene W. Andrews, 14158 Cavell, BBA; Russell J. Kauffman, 37618 Summers, BSME.

Valerian R. Sineo, of 11321 Morgan, Plymouth, received a BBA.

James O. Barry, 2908 Manchester, Westland, received a BBA.

Cleanest City Contest? Who Cares

"I am disappointed, I will admit."

This was the comment of Mrs. Sofia B. Anderson, chairman of the Mayor's Committee, Keep Livonia Beautiful, about the results of the spring beautification campaign.

The committee had sent letters to about 800 organizations, churches, and service stations with suggestions for beautification projects and information about submitting photos and reports to Mrs. Anderson for entry in the National Cleanest Town Contest.

From the 800 sources contacted, she received two responses.

Mrs. Anderson had contacted the leaders of all youth groups in Livonia, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls. About 400 groups received suggestions for clean-up, paint-up, fix-up, and landscaping activities.

"Would you believe I received only one letter? It was about a few Girl Scout troops which had planted a tree and painted some school-ground equipment.

The other response grew out of a suggestion to organizations which use school facilities to donate to the school flats of flowers which the children could plant during Michigan Week. The only such project she heard about was beautification of the courtyard of Roosevelt School.

The committee sent letters to every clergyman in Livonia and received not one response from a church.

Mrs. Anderson said the committee had planned to publish a Youth Beautification Scroll in the Observer Newspapers, but they couldn't very well publish such a list when they received only one response from a youth group.

A scrapbook will be sent to Washington, D.C., in the fall for entry in the national contest. Mrs. Anderson said the scrapbook is rated 30% on publicity, "but you can't publicize projects you haven't heard about."

Mrs. Anderson deplored the apparent disinterest in beautification: "Maybe a few

people could wake up to the fact that the responsibility is theirs," she said. "It would be a shame to get directions from the state on beautification matters that should be the city's responsibility."

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