

Oakland Mental Health Board Supports Director

Oakland County's Mental Health Board has reassured its confidence in Director Robert E. Walden and expressed concern for "inappropriate and unwarranted" remarks made by the board's employees.

Last week 11 of the 13 staff members of the Oakland Training Institute, the county's day school for 40 mentally retarded children, announced their resignations effective Jan. 3.

The staff members said that the resignations were due to "administrative confusion and continuing lack of leadership" on the part of the board and its director.

Support of Dr. Walden came at an executive meeting of the County Board Tuesday night.

Earlier Tuesday the board announced the hiring of Mrs. Rita Charron of Royal Oak. The board's statement asserted that:

"As part of her job, Mrs. Charron will attempt to open communication and negotiation lines for the resolution of Oakland Training Institute staff grievances, as well as serving

as an observer of the agency's operation."

Mrs. Charron is presently chairman of the Special Education Committee for the Department of Education and chairman of the Oakland County Regional Inter-agency Committee on Mental Retardation.

AT TUESDAY'S executive session the board reportedly discussed the resignation letters of the OTI staff, public statements by the staff members and an evaluation report on the services of the director.

The board stated following the meeting that the evaluation report had been established as a regular procedure in August, 1967 and was intended to be conducted on an annual basis to assess the job of the director.

No board action was taken on the report, however, the members agreed to postpone the monthly meeting until Dec. 15 to allow Dr. Walden time to study the report and discuss it with the board.

Board Chairman Paul N. Averill asserted that the evaluation report was not to be interpreted as a "punitive action taken against Dr. Walden."

"The board," said Averill, "has great affection and respect" for the director and he has "unanimous support of his professional integrity against any irresponsible attacks."

A SPECIAL committee to deal with requests of the board's employees was also set up by the County Board Tuesday night.

This committee will set up a procedure to process grievances according to the board.

In a final statement, the board emphasized that it intended to continue to operate the OTI. The 40 students enrolled in the school are ineligible for other programs. It is the only service for patients operated directly by the board.



DIES — Devere Flem ng. 76, of Livonia died suddenly Dec. 6. A charter member of the Farmington Exchange Club, Fleming has resided in the area for 45 years.

Taking Basic
David Dwyer, of Union Lake, formerly of Farmington, is undergoing eight weeks basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. He is a 1967 graduate of Farmington High School.

Dunckel To Greet Holiday With Song

The tenth annual "Christmas In Song" will be presented by the vocal music department of the O.E. Dunckel Junior High School Friday, Dec. 15, and Saturday, Dec. 16, at 8 p.m.

Under the direction of Eddy E. Ellegood, this Christmas concert will feature the 250 voices of the Mixed, Girls' and Boys' Choir.

A special feature of the concert will be the presentation of the traditional cantata, "Song of Christmas" written by Roy Ringwald. This cantata relives the glorious birth of the Christ Child in narration and song. Soloists for the cantata will be Nancy Bramlage, Marilyn Lemis, Pat Tabb, Bruce Huber, Rick Felling, Mark Kampman and Lee Sharp.

Also featured during "Christmas In Song" will be the singing and dancing of the Melodiers, Drunkettes, Boys' Ensemble, Junior Misses and

the Guys and Dolls.

Soloist Brent McArt will be featured with the Girls' Choir in an interpretation of the calypso number, "Mary's Little Boy Child."

Serving as accompanist will

be Breta Evans. Dave Catherman will serve as the narrator. Kay Kornmesser is head of the choreography, and the instrumental ensemble is under the direction of Larry Dettler.

The public, parents and stu-

dents are all invited to attend this "Christmas In Song." Tickets are 75 cents for adults and 50 cents for students. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from any of the choir members.

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Bethel 55 Elects Honored Queen

At the recent semi-annual election of Farmington Bethel No. 55, International Order of the Daughters of the King, Julie Lindbom was elected honored queen.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lindbom, of Power Rd. Miss Lindbom is a junior at Farmington High School, a member of the Varsity cheerleaders, vice president of the French Club and a member of the Farmington Falcons. She is also an active member of the First Methodist Church where she works in the nursing department.

Others elected to office were: Mary Ann Capo, senior princess; Cheryl Durham, guide; Emily Terrell, guide; and Pamela

Hoglund, marshal.

Appointments made include: Janice Reynolds, Nancy Howard, Sharon Thomas, Judy Thomas and Beverly Lough, messengers; Vicki Wilson and Diane Babon, inner and outer guard positions; Pat Stewart and Kathy Sabon, custodians.

More were: Janet Williamson, musician; Diane Sutterlin, librarian; Betty Murphy, recorder; Sue Nyquist, treasurer; Val Lough, chaplain; and Janet Groff, flag bearer.

Installation ceremonies will be held in the Farmington Masonic Temple Saturday evening, Jan. 13. The public is invited.

Becomes Pledge

Barb Blecher, 33194 Maple-nut, Farmington, has pledged Alpha Gamma Delta sorority at Ferris State College.

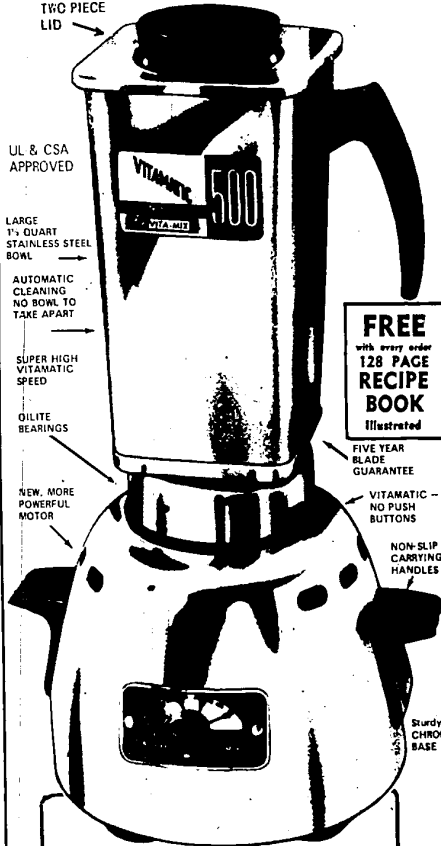
Kendallarks Fill Yule Calendar

The Christmas season has once again found the Kendallarks, Farmington's Women's Choral group, busy rehearsing their Christmas music.

They will be entertaining the Lawyers Club on Dec. 13. They will do a benefit performance for the Kings' Daughters on Dec. 19. The evening of Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m., will find the

group singing a Christmas program and carols at Demery's store, located in the Demery's Farmington shopping center.

They will be entertaining the Lawyers Club on Dec. 13. They will do a benefit performance for the Kings' Daughters on Dec. 19. The evening of Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m., will find the



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