

Hail FHS 'Green Beret' In Vietnam

(Ed. Note: The following is an eyewitness account from South Vietnam concerning Sp. 4 Richard Weston, a wearer of the Green Beret from Farmington Township. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Weston, 33385 Glen Cove, and was graduated from Farmington High School in 1962.

By JOE MAGGIO
Combat Correspondent
U.S. Press Mission

BA XOAI, SOUTH VIETNAM — The night of March 25 saw the "bac si" (Vietnamese for doctor) from Farmington perform the first major operation of his young but rapidly growing medical career.

Whatever operating table he shall lean over in the coming years, this future surgeon will never forget the hopeful look that came from an 11-year-old Cambodian girl as she lay on a makeshift table under the tin roof of a Ba Xoi's one-room thatched hut that serves as a hospital.

Suffering a gunshot wound that had penetrated her left lung, the child had been in a deathly state unless a young medic could perform the needed operation.

I HAVE SERVED with this young

'Cutter' Walkout Is Ended

Production was resumed Monday, June 3, in the Farmington Township manufacturing plant of the Star Cutter Co., 13 weeks to the day after approximately 200 hourly employees walked off their jobs in a strike called by Local 985 of the UAW.

Despite settlement of the strike through agreement on a new three-year contract, the economic toll exacted by the walkout was heavy.

Prime evidence of this was seen in the fact that when work resumed Monday less than 50 of the strikers actually were called back to their jobs. A company spokesman said others will be called "when sales justify the production."

The three-month dispute also deprived the area of an estimated payroll of more than \$500,000.

This was Star Cutter's second major struggle with the membership of Local 985 within three years. A nine-week strike was precipitated in 1965, and it was at the expiration of the contract signed following that walkout that the recent work halting came about.

Details of the settlement worked out between union and company negotiators with the aid of state mediators were not disclosed.

However, none of the parties issued any "victory" claims, saying only that terms of the new agreement fit the "pattern of the industry." The company, located at 34500 Grand River, manufactures industrial cutting tools and at the time the strike started was the largest single employer in the township.

It will be up to the four remaining elected members of the council to appoint Peterson's successor.

A familiar and popular downtown figure, Peterson is owner of the barber shop at 3321 Grand River. He is a past president of the Farmington Exchange Club, and a member of Groves-Walker Post 346 of the American Legion.

He informed the council that shortly he will be moving his residence to Livonia, although continuing in business here.

The council accepted Peterson's resignation "with regret" Monday and also made a series of lesser appointments.

Fred M. Seibert, William Burke and Charlotte Bruce all were reappointed to three year terms on the planning commission.

medic and the men of Special Forces A-421 for the past three weeks at this lonely outpost of freedom nestled in the mountains on the Cambodian border.

The Green Berets are superbly trained, highly motivated and extremely dedicated, even in the village of Ba Xoi, none is more highly respected than "bac si" Rick Weston.

During his morning and afternoon rounds the familiar broad shoulders of "bac si" Weston can be seen going from home to home as he treats, cures and advises the people of his village.

Mustached and clad in camouflaged uniform, he is hailed by children and adults wherever he goes. He has seen in this area more ailments than most third-year medical students, or even some doctors, ever will hope to see.

His gentle touch and availability to these people, regardless of the weather or sudden appearance of the enemy, assures them that someone cares.

Following him around the thatched hut village, I saw in the eyes of all the respect and hope that he brings to them. In a land of dirt, death, destruction and hate, Rick Weston brings the hope for a better day.

"THE PROBLEMS ARE MANY," he told me, "but we keep going. My biggest problem is that most of these people still practice old Chinese methods of witchcraft. Regardless of my assistance or results they stick to the old."

On the night of March 25 when the Viet Cong hit the village, and the "bac si" faced the prospect of operating on the little girl, his only professional assistance came by radio telephone.

That assistance was the voice of Lt. Cdr. J. F. Ervin, who later addressed the following letter to Weston's commanding officer, Capt. J. B. Alexander:

"I would like to take this opportunity to commend your medic, Richard K. Weston, Sp-4, for the professional manner with which he managed that case several nights ago of the 11-year-old child with a severe sucking chest wound."

"With minimal instruction by me via radio, he did his first thoracotomy (surgical puncture of the chest wall with drainage of fluid) and successfully placed—without a fumble—an effective water seal suction which, I

have no doubt, saved the patient's life."

"Furthermore, he prepared the patient properly for air evacuation without loss of suction in the system."

"These chest wounds can be tough even under the best of circumstances. The important point is that he kept his cool—pardon the expression—in a life-endangering situation that was basically strange to him."

SMALL ARMS FIRE and mortar rained on the village while Weston was cutting, draining and suturing.

A helicopter was summoned and, behind a human wall of his Green Beret buddies, Sp-4 Weston carried the young girl to the "angel ship" and secured her for the trip to the hospital at Chu Duc.

A little girl rested safely that night, but it was just beginning for A-421 and "bac si" Weston. Through the dark they fought and suffered casualties. Weston not only fought; he also mentored those who were injured.

"I'm leaving Ba Xoi shortly to go to another assignment, but I'll hear of Dr. Weston in the future because men like him come from a special mold."



FAR FROM FARMINGTON — Sp. 4 Richard Weston (left) with squad of hand-picked Cambodians near the village of Ba Xoi in South Vietnam. Third from the left is another of the U.S. Special Forces, Sgt. Bowles. Weston described the squad as having "killed more Viet Cong and taken more supplies in the last two months than all the rest of the American and 'Gook' troops in the area combined."



HOME FOREVER — While one Farmington High School graduate was being extolled for performance in Vietnam (see story above), another was being buried with full military honors Monday from Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. Lying in a casket under the flag he died to defend, PFC Florian A. Bugni, Jr., killed in combat after only three weeks in South Vietnam, was carried to his grave by fellow members of the armed forces. He had reached the age of 20 at death.

Follies Tickets On Sale

Tickets for The Founders Follies, money raising event for the Farmington Founders' Festival next month, are now on sale.

The Follies will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 29, in Clarence-

ville High School auditorium. Tickets are priced at \$2 and may be obtained at the Enterprise & Observer offices on Grand River and Farmington Rd., Farmington. Insurance Agency, Sanderson Realty, the

Bon Ton Shoppe, Grimes Cleaners and 12 Mile Rd. shop, the Frank McGuire Advertising Agency, Ray Interiors, Steel Crete Pool Supplies, Pets and Particulars, Pet Shop and the Farmington Board of Commerce office in the Masonic Temple.

Millage Campaign Ups Pace

"Touch and go" was the characterization given this week by a high ranking school official to chances for passage of a proposition for a four-mill tax increase which will be on Monday's ballot in the annual Farmington School District election.

Despite the absence of an identified, organized opposition, proponents of the 10-year tax increase issue are apprehensive.

House-to-house distribution of a handbill issued as coming from "Students of Farmington and North Farmington High Schools" pleaded for a "yes" vote.

Bugging the numerous spokesmen who have appeared before dozens of public hearings to advocate millage passage is the fact that the turnout of parents for these meetings has been abysmally poor.

At the same time it was learned that the teachers, through their Farmington Education Association, contemplated distribution of 15,000 handbills of their own before Monday.

From business interests has come other support, the latest being a letter from the president of the Farmington Board of Commerce, Harry Wingert.

Septic Tanks Presently In Use are not doing the job since the clay ground in the area is too hard to absorb the sewage. As a result, it flows into ditches and collects.

The collected sewage becomes an immediate health hazard. Contact by children with infectious germs contained in the sewage comes in many ways. A dog runs through the ditch and is pelted by a child. Or a child retrieves his ball from the same ditch. Sooner or later, he wipes off his mouth and at that point, contact has been made with hepatitis, typhoid fever, dysentery, or numerous other gastro-intestinal diseases.

The health department said the condition in Kemerton Park will remain critical until homeowners tap into the sewer.

In one of the hepatitis cases, the parents of the four-year-old boy infected by the disease is said to have attempted for weeks

Continued on Page 4 A

DeMolay Softball Team Wins, 47-10

The Farmington DeMolay Chapter's softball team scored second round wins in their June 2 opening games to last all season.

The local nine walloped Clarkston, 47-10. The most productive hitting was the seventh when the Farmington batters went up to the plate 10 times each.

Next weekend the DeMolay team will play at home against Berkley.

today's hot line

Michigan Democrats roared through their liveliest state convention in years in Detroit last weekend with Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey apparently getting a majority of delegate support.

Officially, the 102-member delegation to the national convention in Chicago Aug. 26 is uncommitted.

Backers of Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy both claimed gains in Michigan.

For a detailed account of the convention, read the reports of Observer reporters and photographs on the Public Affairs page and other inside pages.

observerland

WESTLAND — Voters in the Wayne Community and Nankin Mills school districts go to the polls Monday with identical seven-mill tax increase proposals on the ballot. There are no contests for the two open school board seats in each district. Livonia School District voters in Westland don't have to worry about tax issues but they do have to pick two board members from a field of nine candidates.

WESTLAND — The City Council Monday approved a revised budget for the new fiscal year with the tax rate set at \$10.38 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation, the same as recommended by the mayor. In the new budget are salary raises for city employees.

GARDEN CITY — School District voters will go to the polls to decide the fate of a 7.5 mill tax increase and pick two school board members from a field of three candidates.

PLYMOUTH — Mayflower Cab Company starts suit against city asking for same concessions now given to group furnishing emergency service.

REDFORD — Mrs. Virginia Alward breeched the storm gates of township elections Tuesday, filing her petitions as a candidate for township clerk on the Democratic ticket. Incumbent Republican Clerk Mrs. Dawn Rice was directed to accept the petitions via telephone by State Elections Director Bernard Apol. Apol reportedly said he is expecting a Supreme Court ruling Wednesday on clerk, supervisor and treasurer balloting this fall.

LIVONIA — Dissatisfied with the progress of their negotiations for a new contract with the city, over due since last December, the Livonia Fire Fighters Association has asked the State Labor Mediation Board to send a representative to future meetings. The stumbling block is over pay. LFFA President Ron Abraham said, with firemen's demands for a 10 per cent increase reduced, but the city's offer a widening of the gap between fire and police pay.

LIVONIA — Aiming at the estimated 8,000 to 10,000 residents who are not registered to vote this presidential election year, City Clerk Addison W. Bacon and political and civic leaders are planning a registration drive the week of June 17. There are now 39,072 registered voters on the lists.

What's Inside

Editorial Comment	Page 10A
What Happened At State Democratic Convention?	Page 8C
Sports	Pages 1-3B
Garden City West Wins Observerland	Page 1B
Baseball: Tray Wins	Page 1B
The Reader Speaks Up	Pages 9, 9A, 10C
101 Miles Interest Rate on Savings Bonds	Page 2A
Area Youngsters Join in Scout-U-Rama	Page 3A
Police Patrol Halls	Page 3A
Ann Arbor High School	Page 3A
Who's Doing in World of Women	Pages 1-5C
Activities in Area Churches	Pages 10-11B
Garden and Home Improvement	Pages 4, 6B
Green Thumb Tips	Page 6B
Roundup of World News	Page 8D
Week's Television Listings	Page 10G

IF YOU'VE LOOKED AND LOOKED

but that rocking chair you want seems to have disappeared from the market, shop the Observer Classified Want-Ads. Look under Antiques, Household Goods or Misc. For Sale. (classifications 6-10, 5-1 and 5-11). Call 2-0000 and place a Wanted To Buy ad.

