

This machine helps some kids find a job

By NANCY STEIN

Practically an employment agency in a box, that's the project VIEW (Vital Information for Education and Work).

A very modern day vocational aid, it belongs to the Farmington School District and is kept in the counseling office of Farmington High School.

It's the baby of Bob Lekovish, a guidance-counselor who thinks it's very good and hopes eventually to see one in each high school.

VIEW is a veritable ton of current, constantly updated vocational information, placed on a form of microfilm called microfiche.

It is so compact that the microfiche reader, which is a kind of self-contained viewer or projector, and the accompanying looseleaf binder, which contains written information and the actual microfiche cards, fits easily on a desk top.

"I'VE TAKEN it around to classes on several occasions," explained Lekovish.

Like other high school guidance counselors in Farmington, Lekovish has between 325 and 350 students to counsel.

One of the things they want to know about is career information. That's where VIEW comes in. It has over a thousand "scripts" describing jobs currently available in Michigan.

"Mostly, these are jobs that require less than four years of college, which is where we've lacked information in the past," said Lekovish.

The "scripts" are eight little squares of information that wouldn't cover an eighth of the space on a three by five card.

When they are inserted into the microfiche reader, the student has enlarged before him a complete description of the particular job he is interested in.

It tells him what kind of education he or she needs, plus physical and psychological type of requirements.

FOR EXAMPLE it says a bank teller needs no college, but must be able to work while standing; be tactful and patient; and also bondable.

Extremely practical in its ap-

proach, it gives both advantages and disadvantages.

For example a bank teller's job is considered quite stable and secure and offering good benefits, but it also points out that one seldom advances beyond the teller level.

The scripts are dated so that when the wages are stated, either they are current or the students know exactly how out of date they

are. By dating it, the same applies to known job opportunities.

KEVIN PARDO, a senior, learned to use the microfiche recently. It took him about three minutes.

He hasn't made any career decisions yet, but he drops by the counseling center at his convenience and looks over the job situa-

tion with no assistance, which is the whole idea of microfiche.

"The real beauty of this," explained Lekovish, "is that the scripts are constantly being updated."

"The scripts were created by financing from state funds by the Michigan Department of Education. We own the viewer and the binder, but the district purchases the scripts for us."



Bob Lekovish and Kevin Pardo work with the new VIEW system. (Evert photo)

How Gerald Ford gets ready for a visit

(Editor's note: U.S. Vice President Gerald Ford has been invited to speak at the Farmington Sesqui-centennial dance, but has not yet responded to the invitation. His expected appearance in Southfield was the basis for this article.)

By ROBERT KIPPER

When he was just minority leader of the House of Representatives, Gerald Ford traveled the way he liked.

Using commercial flights rather than an always available Air Force jet of his own, he journeyed without a lot of fuss, without a large staff and following of newspaper reporters and with no Secret Service protection.

Those were the days before the resignation of former Vice President Spiro Agnew, before President Nixon embraced Ford as his new vice president, before the comings and goings of Gerald Ford became "big news."

Now, when Ford descends from an airplane, he is surrounded by an entourage of the press, Secret Service and staff.

ON THE GROUND are still more press, Secret Service and staff to greet him along with the usual group of local dignitaries, possibly a hometown band and, in numbers that have been increasing with his popularity, a cheering crowd.

This week, the scene will be repeated locally as Ford arrives for two days of handshaking, picture-taking, speechmaking, question-answering and birthday-celebrating; and local communities get a glimpse of the complexity and panoply of a vice presidential visit.

On Tuesday, the vice president will attend a by-invitation-only reception for U.S. Rep. Robert J. Huber (R-18) at the Troy Hilton, followed by a press conference, followed by a dinner with the Oakland County Young Republicans.

The next day he will join Gov. William G. Milliken and others to celebrate the birthday of long-time friend U.S. Rep. William S. Broomfield (R-19) at an 8 a.m. breakfast at the Raleigh House in Southfield.

Like most vice presidential visits, there won't likely be a motorcade, a speech or a bite of food during these two days that wasn't planned weeks, sometimes months, in advance.

ALTHOUGH FORD'S arrival will appear as the beginning of things, for many it is more accurately the end. Regardless of how taxing the actual visits are on Ford personally, once he has landed, much of the hardest work has been completed.

That is the work of his staff and the Secret Service, who pour weeks of preparation into each vice presidential visit.

The work begins in the vice president's hectic office of scheduling.

Each day, the office receives as many as 100 letters and 150 phone calls asking for Ford's presence. Six secretaries and an auxiliary pool of three others for busiest times, do nothing but answer 95 per cent of these requests that the vice president must turn down.

The rest are screened and prioritized and sent to Ford for a final decision.

TOP PRIORITY is given to trips

the President requests Ford to make. Next, any duties related to Congressional matters are important.

Third are visits like those he will make this week in Michigan, when he is asked by political friends and fellow party members to appear at fund-raisers.

Fortunately, for all involved, Ford likes traveling and meeting people. It is estimated that he has traveled at least 40,000 miles since becoming vice president in December, visiting at least half the states in the union.

According to staffers in Washington, working with the vice president is enjoyable because he is also an agreeable person. Unlike Agnew, who had a specific jet and crew ready to fly at all times, Ford travels in whatever jet with whichever crew is available at a given time.

His staff says some of Ford's few personal demands are that the number of press conferences at each stop be kept at a minimum and that he give some time off to spend with his family and to be alone.

BILL ROBERTS, press spokesman, says that Ford often grows impatient because of the large numbers with which he is now required to travel. Even on his recent ski vacation in Colorado, Ford was accompanied by 17 Secret Service agents.

"If he's lucky, and the trip is a short one, the smallest entourage Ford has is seven agents."

Once Ford's staff has selected which visits he will make, the nitty-gritty of making arrangements begins. In addition to countless conversations over the phone, at least two teams of advance men are dispatched days before each visit.

A team of Secret Service agents investigates all places Ford is to visit to determine if anything poses a threat to his security. Close arrangements are made with local police departments, and the quickest routes to hospitals are drawn in case of emergencies.

Meanwhile a team of staffers performs a different task: They scrutinize the schedule of activities to determine if the vice president has been overscheduled.

THEY CLOCK, to the minute, how long activities should take and trace

step-by-step all the routes Ford will travel. Often, adjustments have to be made.

"Sometimes people forget that the vice president has to sleep and eat and rest," says a member of his staff. "They forget he can only do so much in a day."

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THE APPLE HEAD doll collection now on display in Gill Elementary School was created by Girl Scouts from Troop #177 who researched out authentic costumes of 150 years ago to dress the funny-faced creatures. The 9-12 year olds in the junior troop are led by Mary Smith and Joan Barker.