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Sesqui Flag

Sesquicentennial flags were presented to Floyd Cairns (center), and Mayor Ralph Yoder by Cindi Trorano, of the Farmington Education Assn. The flags were made from the winning design in a sesquicentennial flag contest sponsored by the association. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

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By CARL STODDARD

Ronald Geeks has been in the Navy more than 19 years.

But three years ago Geeks found himself on dry land, as a navy recruiter. He spent a while in East Detroit and Royal Oak. On July 1, he became the recruiter for Southfield and Farmington.

The job demands a lot of his time. He estimated that in an average week he works more than 60 hours. Often, he works from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, as well as part of Saturday.

For all his work, he may recruit five men a month from Southfield and Farmington. If he does, he says it's a good month.

As a recruiter, he tries to obtain a list of graduating high school seniors. List in hand, he begins to systematically call everyone on the list.

"We don't harass them," Geeks said.

THE USUAL procedure, he said, is to call to determine what the senior will do after graduation and to see if the senior has any interest in military service. If someone is interested, he tries to get them into the recruiting office at 25125 Lathrup Road.

"That's the big thing," Geeks said. "You got to get them in here and talk to them."

"If you make 50 phone calls a day, you might get five a day into the office. You might motivate only four or five a month to come in the Navy."

In his recruiting, Geeks has met some resistance from persons who simply did not like the military and from parents who apparently feared their sons would be shanghaied. But even during the height of the Vietnamese War, he said, he never encountered any bad public reaction.

Geeks is actually more of an advisor than a recruiter.

"MOST GUYS have their minds made up (about the Navy) by the time they walk through the door," he said.

His task thus becomes that of an advisor. He tries to explain what they will encounter in the Navy, what programs and options they have and what benefits are available.

"I can't tell him what the Navy is like. I can only tell him what it's like for me," Geeks said.

He also tells the prospective recruits about the various lengths of duties available.

There is the naval reserve which includes four to ten months of regular training followed by five years in the active reserve and one year in the inactive reserve. As a

Ms. Schad Graduates

Mary Schad of Farmington has received an Associate degree from Cleary College in Ypsilanti.

Ms. Land Graduates

Patricia Land of Farmington has received an Associate degree in Business Administration from Cleary College in Ypsilanti.

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