

School board's distaff side speaks out

Emma Makinen weighs pending legislation

By LORAIN McCLISH

Emma Makinen is entering her last year of a four-year term on the school board and says of this experience, "If there is one thing I've learned, it is patience."

"Carrying through what you want (on the board) is not at all like planning a picnic for the family, where you plan it and then do it. You are dealing with laws and procedures and other people's money and are concerned on every issue how it affects the teachers, the kids, and hundreds of people."

She continued to say that no one ever realizes the magnitude of any job until they get into it, "but learning that things do not happen overnight (in school board goings-on) does make a difference in what you feel you can accomplish."

A BIG GAP SHE sees now is the ways and means of getting information from the legislature to the voters "because people should know what's happening at the state level. We should all be aware of our representa-

tives in the state and how they're voting."

Legislative chairmen at the PTA level, she says, has always been a tough position to fill. "Nobody ever seems to want that job and it shouldn't be that way."

She cited two examples of bills that are pending now, "both that affect the pocketbook and I wonder how many people know about them."

One bill has to do with unemployment compensation for public employees. That money is charged to the employer now, but should the bill be passed, the charge would be put to the employer. In the event of passage, Mrs. Makinen estimates it would boost the overall payroll expenses of the school district by about five percent.

Another current bill has to do with school-owned equipment inspection as a safety measure.

"I've never read so many stringent rules and we've never had anything like them before. Neither bill is a bad one, but you've still got to pay for them," she said.

MRS. MAKINEN came to her seat on the school board through the PTA circuit and at the time of her election was president of the area's PTA council.

She called it "a good way to go for a board seat. You learn pretty fast what each school is concerned about. You get a good overview of the whole system and it doesn't take long to learn that what they are doing in the north end or doing in the south end is affecting the whole community."

When the subject got around to Tuesday's millage election, Mrs. Makinen said, "Everyone who pays taxes puts in a lot of working hours to pay for those \$42 million worth of school buildings we have here. That's a lot of investment."

"Somehow or other people should learn that they own the schools and we have to protect this investment."

Some of the accessories in her home at 3217 Colony were the results of her crewel work, rug hooking, quilting and embroidery.

"I don't consider myself very artistic," she said, "but I do like to keep busy."



EMMA MAKINEN

Ann Rodewig calls for more awareness

By LORAIN McCLISH

Ann Rodewig is an advocate of anything that makes citizens more aware of the issues involved with running the public schools, or any means that could be implemented to disperse more information to the voters.

She hasn't a guess as to why school elections are unable to provoke any more than 12-14 percent of the voters out to the polls. In her campaign she met "a lot of familiar faces - very few new ones." She believes it would be "extremely difficult to determine" why the last millage proposal failed, but at the same time says, "Variable tax is very difficult to understand. The statistics are confusing and it is a hard thing to explain."

THE FINANCE END of the school board's duties is the facet which attracts her the most, a subject she first became involved with when she took a position on the now defunct Farmington School Citizens Advisory Council.

She called it a frustrating job because "all we could do is advise and we were involved with by-laws, minutes, Roberts Rules of Order - too

much bookkeeping," though she did call it "one of the best ways to get to know the schools."

The group has since been replaced with small volunteer citizen groups, which study specific issues - vandalism in the schools, the variable tax - and these are "much more effective," Mrs. Rodewig says, "because they work with fewer restrictions and the fewer restrictions the better."

It is the type of study every citizen can work on, she believes, and one which "would benefit them and at the same time be a very valid service to the board."

MRS. RODEWIG spoke from her home at 28749 Oak Pt., backed up with a natural area where she cultivates wild flowers and has developed a bird sanctuary. The background of 150 year old trees, sometimes known to house wood ducks, seems a far cry from the woman who had only recently wound up an election campaign.

She went into the campaign with no axe to grind, no big issues and no even any campaign issues.

She called a school election "something removed from a political cam-

paign. We (the rival candidates) were all interested in the betterment of the educational process. We weren't a diverse group working towards different things with different means and philosophies."

She said she guesses she had "always thought about the possibility of running" for a seat on the school board but it wasn't until her youngest got into junior high school that it became feasible.

She had moral support from her husband as well as all three children who were "sure I was going to win because they said any time they talked to someone about it, it turned out to be someone who knew me. I got a kick out of that."

THE MAIN ISSUE for the board right now is Tuesday's millage election.

"We haven't asked the voters for any new millage in six or eight years," she said, "and there is a lot of maintenance to be done (on the school buildings) we've put off for years."

"We are just going to have to dedicate ourselves to giving the voters all the information we can."



ANN RODEWIG

Anne Struble seeks agenda format change

By DIANE HUBEL

The campaign for a seat on the Farmington School Board was just the beginning of what has been a summer of almost endless activity for Anne T. Struble.

It began with her school board election and the wedding of her daughter, Karen, early in the summer. Following that she served as assistant business manager at an area Girl Scout Day Camp, and finally, she attended a camping trip to Minnesota with her own family.

"Right now I would love to lock myself up and just rest for a while," she said.

As a newly elected member of the school board, Mrs. Struble is looking forward to her term in office.

"I think I am going to like it," she said. "I am tremendously interested in education. One thing though, I think I'll take a speed reading course, there is so much to read before those meetings."

MRS. STRUBLE said she would like to see the format of the board agendas altered slightly.

She thinks the public inquiry and comment should be moved closer to the top of the agenda than it is now so residents who have attended the meeting to comment on specific items do not have to sit through an entire meeting.

She said she would also like the agenda to be more specific and detailed so the public knows exactly what will be discussed at the meeting.

On top of all of her other activities, the mother of seven oversees a miniature menagerie.

The newest addition to the animal collection is a puppy, which hasn't been named yet. The family also has a dog named Pepper, a cat named Fred, a guinea pig and a goldfish.

"Sometimes I feel like I am running a farm," she said. "My family teases me because I always say I hate ani-

mals. I complain an awful lot but when you have kids you have got to have pets. Once an animal is brought into the house we just can't get rid of it, we become too attached to it."

ALTHOUGH SHE said she doesn't have time for hobbies, she does enjoy working crossword puzzles, cryptograms and reading.

"I love to read," she said, "nothing deep, just escapism. I also like cryptograms, you haven't lived until you've learned to do cryptograms. I started off doing crossword puzzles but I graduated to cryptograms."

She and her husband also enjoy attending "treasure hunts", road rallies planned by private individuals.

The Struble family just returned from a camping trip to Minnesota where they picked up daughter Kathy from Girl Scout camp.

They traveled through Michigans upper peninsula, Wisconsin and Minnesota.



ANNE STRUBLE