

Vacation school

FARMINGTON — The village market place — it sounds like the name of a quaint little store or boutique — but to the 170 students at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Farmington, it was the center of activity during this summer's session of vacation Bible school.

The vacation Bible school study this year centered around life as it was in the Biblical times.

Teachers and volunteers tried to create, as much as possible, a feel for those times by setting up a village market place in the church fellowship hall.

Rev. Victor Mesenbring said, "The market place was the center of activity in villages in the Biblical times, so we tried to make it the center of activity during our Bible school."

Volunteers from the congregation taught the children about ancient crafts, such as making sandals and sand candles.

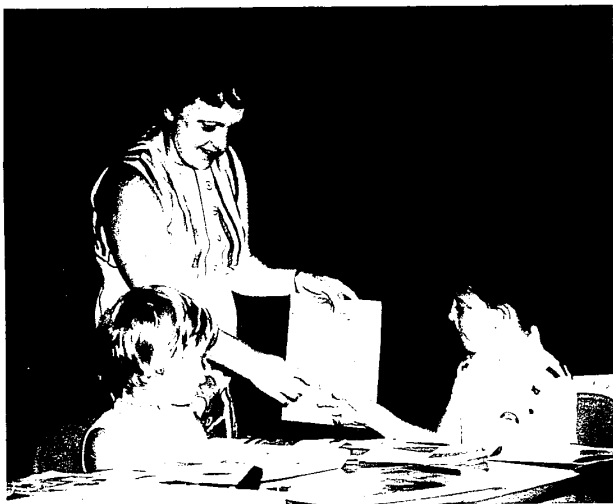
The children were also taught about ancient instruments and some attempted to make simplified versions of those instruments.

On certain days, a woman would come to the market place, who would teach the children about the grains and the wheats used in Biblical times and would bake homemade bread for them.

Although the market place was the center of activity during the Bible school session, the instructors also used other methods, such as movies, and instructional booklets, to give the children further insight into life as it was.

The Deaconess at Prince of Peace, Brenda Kasten, organized the Bible school activities and the market place.

A regular member on the staff of Prince of Peace, Ms. Kasten is in charge of the educational and youth oriented programs for the congregation.



A pioneer looks at Farmington's history

FARMINGTON—Talking to Mrs. Helen Bloomer, Miller is like talking to a Who's Who of Michigan history.

Mrs. Miller, who is the granddaughter of the first editor of the Farmington Enterprise, is either related to or has somehow met such personalities as Betty Bloomer Ford, the wife of Vice President Gerald Ford, Fred Warner, a former Michigan Governor, Governor William Milliken and Lee McPhail, president of baseball's American League.

HER LIFE HAS been full of coincidences and twists of fate that have brought her into contact with these people, most of whom were not famous when she met them.

The most recent coincidence centers around her son, Douglas Miller, and his wife, Suzanne.

The younger Millers, who moved to Farmington about two years ago, saw a pictorial display of Farmington's history in the Farmington Public Library.

In the display was a picture of Edgar Bloomer, the man they remember as Douglas Miller's great-grandfather.

They learned from the display that he had been the editor and possibly the founder of the Farmington Enterprise.

Apparently he had sold the Enterprise and moved to Sparta, Mich., where he ran another newspaper later in his life.

His great-grandchildren realized Bloomer had lived in Farmington but did not know of his connection with the early Farmington paper.

ALTHOUGH EDGAR BLOOMER died of scarlet fever in Sparta while his daughter (Helen Bloomer Miller) was a baby, she still remembers a little of his history.

"My mother said he was a marvelous wonderful person," she said.

She said that her father told her that Edgar's business in Sparta was wiped out at one point because of a mistake.

"They were running the presses one day," she said, "and a large letter A fell into the press. It was the A that they used to use on the top of the auction announcements. It was rather large and when it fell into the presses it completely ruined them and my

grandfather's business.

"My father who had been in law school had to drop out. He began working and attending business school."

EDGAR BLOOMER eventually was able to rebuild the paper and one of his daughters took it over and ran it following his death.

It was after Mrs. Miller's father dropped out of law school and began working that he met the McPhails.

Leland Bloomer, Mrs. Miller's father, went to work in a bank owned by the McPhails.

He started off as an errand boy and gradually worked his way up through the ranks in the bank. The bank was owned by a man named McPhail. He is the father of Lee McPhail who owns one of the baseball teams. In fact, I believe that he was named after my father, Leland."

After her parents married they moved to Traverse City.

THERE SHE MET William Miller. She remembers him as a young boy who used to come over to her father's house and borrow his canoe.

Her family was also acquainted with an earlier Michigan Governor, Fred Warner.

Warner, a resident of Farmington, was elected Governor in 1906.

"They used to come to visit us," she said. "In those days people did not travel as much as they do now—it was too expensive. However, the Governor and his wife were able to get around more than other people, of course, so they used to go around the state visiting their friends."

Although there are still several descendants of the Edgar Bloomer living, only two besides the Millers are living in this area.

A granddaughter of his, Mrs. Audrey Bloomer Melander, the wife of Dr. William Melander, lives in Bloomfield Hills. A great-granddaughter, Mrs. Charles Mann lives in Birmingham.

Other relatives are living on the west side of Michigan.

Among them is Edgar's grandniece, Mrs. Betty Bloomer Ford, the wife of Vice President Gerald Ford.

Hills turns down PRD zoning request

FARMINGTON HILLS — A 120 acre proposal for a planned residential development between Eight and Nine mile roads, between Halstead and Drake, was defeated by the Farmington Hills Council Monday.

The four members present unanimously turned down the request for the rezoning asked by John Rowenchuk and Thomas Vestevich from its current RA-1 zoning (single family) to RP-2.

Voting to deny were Frederick Lichtman, Robert McConnell, Ms. Joan Dudley and Ms. Margaret Schaeffer.

Planned residential develop-

ments allows a mixture of single family, multiple and open space on large tracts of land.

Other zoning requests, all approved by the council, included:

• A request from Bob Saks Oldsmobile for a change from light industry to business on property located between Drake and Indoplex Circle on Grand River.

• Lots on Grayling between Waldron and Rockwell from RA-3, residential, to LI-1, light industry, requested by Robert VanAvery.

• A change from RA-2, to RC-2, for property located on 12 Mile between Alyckay and Rolcrest, proposed by Saul Waldmen.

Parks rules to get hearing

FARMINGTON HILLS — A new ordinance allowing the Hills city council to set rules of conduct in city parks was introduced by the council Monday.

Pending a hearing Aug. 26, the ordinance would give the council the authority to set rules on hours, conduct, use of alcoholic beverages, etc., by resolution.

A hearing was also set for Sept. 9 on a proposed change in the zoning ordinance. The council is considering changes in the requirements for greenbelt plantings and berms for screening.

The changes specify what type of tree or shrub may be planted, and set a time limit on planting.

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