

Schools formed district-wide band

FARMINGTON—When lack of money prevented the district's high school band from attending festivals and competitions, Paul Barber went to work to make sure good students had the opportunity to display their talents.

By forming an honors band of 30 students from each of the three high schools, Harrison High School's band director hoped to put on a memorable concert.

"It was just a thought that here was something we could do at no cost to the district to make their (the seniors') last year something to remember," Barber said.

The school board's ban on field trips and lack of money for competition entrance fees prevented the students from competing in festivals during the 1974-75 year.

A tradition in most schools, festival competition gives young musicians a working goal and a chance to assess their musical development in comparison to other schools.

'We just picked all the bloody tough ones and had a couple of rehearsals'

—director Doug MacQueen

WITH HELP from North Farmington's band director, Doug MacQueen, and Hal Kacanek, his Farmington High School counterpart, Barber hastily assembled 30 of the best students from each high school.

Two and a half rehearsals later, the honors band performed a concert for the community.

The rehearsals took place in Harrison High, but cost the district nothing. Each band's parents' organization contributed to the custodial cost for two days' use.

"We used Harrison High School for two reasons. First, because I have direct access to the band room from the parking lot so we don't have to go through any halls or dirty any

other part of the building," Barber said.

"Second, the program was going to be given here anyway, so it made a lot of sense not to move people around."

THE QUALITY of the group tempted the directors to use many difficult selections. With only two rehearsals, the musicians barely had a chance to iron the difficulties out.

"We practically sight read our concert," said MacQueen. "We just picked all the bloody tough ones and had a couple of rehearsals. On the day of the concert, we just ran through three of the pieces and then played them at 3 o'clock. It was kind of fun."

Some of the music was Broadway selections, but not the usual easy material.

"I conducted the overture to Candide, which has all kinds of misplaced accents and meter changes. Most Broadway music is pretty nifty, but by comparison to this," MacQueen said.

Kacanek conducted a suite of American dance songs and Barber directed the band as it played the Dama Firle by Ginastera.

It was a success from both musical and community aspects, Kacanek said.

"I think it was good experience to put some of our better musicians together. In some cases, they might find a little higher quality than they're used to, and the competitor would be good for them."

It also served to broaden community relationships.

Whittler's hobby

(Continued from page 1)

eral years. He also paints in oil and acrylic.

Lately, most of his free time has been spent painting.

He explains he is the type of person who can't sit still with his hands in his lap. He has to be busy, preferably with some form of art work.

THE WHITTLING just sort of hap-

pened. He found a small piece of white pine in his pocket was the answer to the boredom problem.

He also makes the elaborate bases on which the ships are mounted.

Moffitt has his name on the list of applicants for the Farmington Artists Club and said he has been going to the meetings for several months.

He is complimented that several club members have praised his carv-



SUE RILEY



MARY ANN DALY

North students take forensics honors

FARMINGTON HILLS—Two students from North Farmington High School took first prizes recently at the

Michigan High School Forensics Association competition held in Ann Arbor.

Sue Riley and Mary Ann Daly took first prizes in informative speaking and story telling.

Miss Riley, a sophomore, spoke on the controversial drift theme. Miss Daly told the story of "Rikki Tikki Tembo."

Miss Daly is a senior who plans to major in theatre at Michigan State University in the fall.

Debbie Magalan also attended the competition. Dean Cobb is the North Farmington coach.

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