

Big words intimidate

Board mistrusted, candidate says

FARMINGTON—Peg Wright said she didn't become interested running for the board of education until she participated in the PTA Council's "coffee and comments" in February.

Mrs. Wright said she wrote the PTA's brochure "Did you Know?" with Tom Bock, Mary Lazarson and Helen Prutok, and served as moderator of one of the coffees.

"This is how I got involved...I got interested in the comments of the people," she said.

THE MAJOR ISSUE she sees facing the board is a lack of credibility and mistrust by the community. And part of the reason for this attitude, she insisted, is the board's treatment of their constituents.

"One of the things that bothers people is the board's use of long words to intimidate," she said. "The

board is always complaining that people don't come to their meetings and say what they want. Why should they?"

They have to leap up like a puppet, give their name and address and then the board talks to them like that...it shouldn't be that way."

People don't want to be treated like that, she said, and that is why so many stay away from board meetings.

But, it isn't all the board's fault. "You'd be surprised how many people are cowed by just teachers. If you did a study of how many people in this community are college educated, I think you'd be surprised."

Often, she said, this leads to a feeling of inferiority.

"Some people have told me, 'I'm dumb' or 'I can't say anything to the board' or 'I wouldn't be able to write that down.' One of my friends had a nervous stomach when she went in for her kid's conference."

As long as people aren't going to come to the board, then some effort must be made to elicit opinions from the community, she said.

"I THINK the coffees did accomplish a lot in that direction, but they weren't broad enough."

Hostesses tended to invite other women with children similar in grade level to their own, neglecting to include unmarrieds, grandparents and men.



PEG WRIGHT

"Students don't know what to go into these days. Since we have an employment problem, students should be more concerned about what could be had from his schools in the way of vocational training."

PARENTS, she said, think that way, too.

"One of my neighbors told me it's more important for her daughter to get some practical training in driver education than that the schools be cleaned every day."

Many are aware they won't be able to send their children to college and are therefore concerned more about vocational education than philosophical class subjects.

Mrs. Wright, who lives at 3381 Therman Mile Road, has three children in Farmington schools. Her oldest is a senior at North Farmington.

She has a son, 14, at O.E. Dunciel Junior High School and a daughter, 8, at Kenbrook Elementary School.

She is a representative to the board from the Kenbrook PTA.

After graduation from Missouri Valley College with a BA in psychology, she attended Pestalozzi-Froebel Teachers' College in Chicago. She received her elementary teaching certificate and subsequently taught grades five through eight in a country school in Glen Ely, Ill.

She and her husband moved to Grand Rapids where she taught for a year at Eastern-Orthopedic.

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Oakway Symphony marks 2nd year of performances

On Wednesday, June 4, the members of the Oakway Symphony will celebrate its second birthday in conjunction with the group's annual meeting in University Hills Christian Center on Farmington Road north of I-96.

The event will get under way at 7:30 p.m.

All are invited. Come and bring your friends. Nelda DUBasi, who speaks for the 82 members who contributed to the society's success in the past two years.

The meeting, called to elect new members to the board of directors and the general membership, will be followed by a musical program, staged by members of the symphony.

FOLLOWING on the heels of the first organizational meeting in June two years ago, articles in the local community newspapers "brought out

an unbelievable number of musicians requesting an audition." Mrs. DUBasi said.

Auditions in August were followed by the first rehearsal in September. In October, the first of four subscription concerts was performed at Merry High School Auditorium with 84 musicians in the orchestra.

During its first year, the symphony also performed student concerts in Farmington and Livonia. In May, the first annual Cabaret Concert was presented. In the summer, Oakway played at the Southfield Festival, at Oakland Community College as part of the Farmington Symposium and appeared in the Music Under the Stars series in Livonia.

ALMOST simultaneously with the first June meeting, the society's Women's Association was formed and that group has just held its annual

meeting and luncheon where the members presented Francesco DUBasi, conductor of the symphony with a check for \$500.

Attractions for the women in the coming season will be a Pops Concert with Sunny Eliot; a performance by violinist Ida Kavalian; Verdi's "Requiem" with the Kenneth Jewell Chorus; a visit to the Livonia Civic Ballet and the Michigan Opera Theatre; and a Germain Spectacular, with Dance Detroit and pianist Ruth Burczyk.

Mrs. Daniel Plesko has been installed as president of the women's group for the coming year. The Farmington Hills resident will have Mrs. Orville Lobb of Royal Oak as her vice president.

Other officers are Wanda Henke, of Farmington; Mrs. Earl Demet of Plymouth and Mrs. Jack Hansen, of Farmington.

Skillman is president of Auto Club

FARMINGTON HILLS—The new president of the Automobile Club of Michigan is William M. Skillman of Farmington Hills.

Skillman, who was named at a recent meeting of the club's board of directors, will head the organization for two years.

He replaces Louis J. Asman, who died of a heart attack on April 28. Skillman, a certified public account-

ant, stepped up from the office of first vice president of the Auto Club. He has a background of 30 years of experience in auditing financial institutions and corporations of Michigan and foreign firms.

Travel is one of Skillman's greatest interests. He and his wife have visited 30 countries. They recently qualified as members of the Circumnavigators

Club, limited to those who have circled the world in one trip.

Skillman is treasurer of the William R. Angell Foundation, a trustee of the Arnold Home, Brighton Hospital and Olivet College and is on the board of directors of the Boys Clubs of Detroit, the Detroit YMCA, the First State Bank of Charlevoix and the AAA National Advisory Council.

Fron takes lawn mower race

Dick Fron captured the Orchard Meadows lawn mower race by about half a length over Jim Hoover in the subdivision's second annual competition.

George Oakley said Fron drove his mower, an eight horse power Craftsman, to its second victory. Oakley won last year on the same vehicle.

The race, about a half mile along Gary Drive and Karen in the subdivision near Thirteen Mile and Drake, was the first in the area, Oakley said. After last year's race, other groups held similar competitions.

Next year, Oakley said, the subdivision hopes to have companies sponsor mowers with the money going to charity. Fron will have his name engraved on a traveling trophy for his win.

When asked if there were injuries from the eight mowed race, Oakley quipped "nobody went to sleep and fell off their tractor."



WILLIAM SKILLMAN

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Budget hearing is tonight

FARMINGTON HILLS—A public hearing on the Farmington Hills 1975-76 budget is scheduled for 8 p.m. tonight in the city hall, Eleven Mile west of Orchard Lake.

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