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Plants help Mrs. Vernon Vickland of Farmington Hills with a therapy project at Woodcreek Elementary School.

Hills woman uses plants for therapy

By SUSAN AVERILL

People who have green thumbs should use them to help other people grow, said Mrs. Vernon Vickland. Mrs. Vickland, a Farmington Hills gardener, has used garden therapy to help hard of hearing youngsters at Woodcreek Elementary School and groups of institutionalized adults in Detroit.

Plants, she said, seem to instill a sense of quietness and tranquility, besides providing an interesting pastime.

"PLANTS ARE a perfect tranquilizer, they're so peaceful."

The windows of her home on Mul-lane are outlined with greenery. Her patio is decorated with potted plants and she keeps several garden plots in her backyard.

"Every morning after I send my husband off to work, I take a walk around the garden to see how everything has grown."

Mrs. Vickland's work with garden therapy stemmed from a similar project begun by her garden club, Hill and Dale. More than 16 years ago, the group heard Alice Burlingame, a well-known Birmingham gardener, speak on the concept.

Afterward, they decided to adopt it as a club project. Members of Hill and Dale now work in nursing homes, veterans hospitals and in senior citizens' housing complexes.

They recently won a national garden club award for their work in garden therapy, receiving 20 of 100 possible points. The one point was subtracted because the group worked with Farmington children only twice a month instead of every week, Mrs. Vickland said.

As part of their hearing handicap, Mrs. Vickland said her Woodcreek stu-

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Mrs. Vernon Vickland

dents have no trouble understanding her. They lip read.

"The children start attending school when they are five years old, and immediately begin speech therapy."

"I HAVE NO trouble communicating with them at all. Most of them are at their regular grade level and have a speech impediment. After all, they can't hear."

Some of the students are integrated into regular classrooms for topics like math where their handicap is not as evident.

Hill and Dale members work with 190 children in special education and five or six of those are Mrs. Vickland's charges.

Every other week she will bring in the materials for a project. All the materials are natural, she said.

The students have made corn husk dolls, calendars of dried flowers and bird feeders of peanut butter, seeds and pine cones. They have made Valentine cards with dried flowers and written verses for the inside.

They have an opportunity to take cuttings and grow plants throughout the winter in portable greenhouses owned by the garden club.

Come spring, Mrs. Vickland supervises plantings of herbs and tomatoes and the cuttings which survived and rooted.

"The little ones like plants that flower like impatiens and begonias," she said. Not only is it easier to watch the plants progress, but it's more colorful.

She also works once a month with an adult group in Detroit.

"MOST OF THEM have had some kind of mental or institutional life. Some have no relatives. They seem to be a rather lonely group, living from day to day."

Meeting at Moross House, the group will have tea and cookies and look at

slides or work on a craft project. They have been working a small vegetable garden and planted petunias around the house.

"Maybe through gardening we can start something really new for these persons who really have no future," she said.

One woman in the group who had never participated in any Moross House programs suddenly started working with the petunias, to the amazement of her co-workers.

Mrs. Vickland adds a note of caution for these would-be therapists. "They can tell who cares and who doesn't care. You shouldn't do it because you think they need you. It's something you have to want to do, something you'll like and be genuinely interested in."

Of course, interest in plants has been spreading through the rest of society.

"It's fascinating to see how plant interest has come along. Teenagers and even youngsters are interested."

Both of her daughters grow plants and make macramé plant hangers. Often they exchange plants as gifts, she said.

She attributes her own interest to her Nebraska childhood.

WE HAD A five-acre garden we used to have to keep up. I didn't like it then. I guess because it was a duty. But it became imbedded in me to work outdoors.

"I remember my dad used to love to walk through the garden with his hands behind his back, looking at everything."

Her 100-member garden club meets monthly at the Farmington Community Center. They make handicrafts of their garden harvests and sell them at an annual "boutique." They also held Christmas walks and teas.

Mrs. Vickland is an engineer for Ford Motor Co. They have two daughters and two sons.

Farmington area PTA activist prepares for move to Brazil

By SUSAN AVERILL

The Farmington area will lose a little of its sparkle when Vivian Jurosek leaves for Brazil in August.

She, her husband Max, and two of her three sons will pack up and transport almost their entire household to Sao Paulo, where Max Jurosek will be vice-president of Ford of Brazil.

Mrs. Jurosek has been active in Farmington PTAs for eight years and was elected president of the Farmington Area PTA Council last year.

She has been active politically and was village clerk and council member of Quakertown for five years. When it was incorporated into Farmington Hills, she ran for a city council seat and finished 10th.

"I feel quite good that I did that well. There was only about 100 votes difference between the 10 of us," she said.

"I was going to run again in this election, but you can't hold a council seat and be in Brazil at the same time."

HER MOVE has meant that the PTA council and the Republican

Women's Club will have to find others to take over as president.

Brazilian politics will be strictly taboo for her during the few years her family will be there.

"My husband told me it wouldn't be a good idea, because you 'get kinda shot' if you get mixed up with politics," she said with a laugh.

Instead, she said she will concentrate on subjects she has always wanted to learn, such as ceramic painting.

"I'm already signed up for a course in it, and there's a group there that's just like the Farmington Players. Doesn't it sound frivolous? It's just things I've never done because I've never had the time."

The move to the tropical area will be quite a change for Mrs. Jurosek who, as a young East Detroiter, was one of several children who would "gather under the only tree on the block to wait for a bird to land."

Finding a suitable place to live was a problem. The Juroseks spent several days in Sao Paulo last month, looking for a house to rent.

"The average home is \$800,000 to a million if you're going to buy it. It

would be about \$2,000 a month to rent," she said.

"THEY HAVE AN economy like ours was in the Twenties. There are the very wealthy and the very poor. They're just beginning to develop a middle class."

The Brazilian government is taking a strong part in the development of the middle class and restricts imports to bolster economic independence.

But the import restriction has caused some difficulty for the Juroseks, who must make sure that whatever they take there will last.

"Here, I have a stove with one burner that won't work. I couldn't take a broken appliance down there because there would be no one to fix it," she said.

Furniture is at a premium in that country, but because of the high humidity, Mrs. Jurosek is reluctant to take some of her wooden articles.

Mrs. Jurosek said most of the houses are built in mansion-like proportions, which makes lack of furniture even more crucial.

"I had a brilliant idea. I was going

to get a pool table, a Ping Pong table and a trampoline and move them into the living room."

The houses have no heating or air conditioning, but are built of cement to maintain a constant temperature, she said.

PORTUGUESE, NOT Spanish, is the country's official language, and none of the Juroseks can speak it.

For the boys, it won't be a problem because they will attend an American school and may learn the language there. But Mrs. Jurosek expects to make forays into the city for food and other household items and will need a working knowledge of the language.

She has begun lessons which she hopes will give her enough knowledge to read and speak it.

Her oldest son, Michael, recently graduated from North Farmington High School and will not follow the family to Brazil. Instead, he will attend Michigan Technological University at Houghton.

He will be able to visit them twice a year, courtesy of Ford Motor Co., and may spend summer and winter vacations in Brazil.

Festival pet show hunts categories

Instead of looking for pets to compete in the regular categories of the Founders' Festival pet show, sponsors are looking for unusual categories.

The show, sponsored by the Farmington Plaza Merchants' Association, last year featured such categories as shaggy pet, pet with waggiest tail and ugliest pet.

John Richardson, veterinarian and city councilman, quipped that one of his employees suggested a category of tallest make for this year's pet show.

Winners of each category compete for the best pet in the show trophy. Winners last year were twin ducks owned by Brian Brenton of Livonia. Richardson said those with ideas for

categories should call Pets 'N' Particulars.

Trophies are awarded to winners in each class and ribbons are given to second and third choices.

Application forms will be available at any Farmington Plaza merchant after July 14. They must be turned in at Pets 'N' Particulars by noon July 21.

Categories in last year's show were: shaggy pet, tallest, largest pet, pet with waggiest tail, most talented pet, pet with longest tail, fastest pet, ugliest pet, oldest pet, ugliest pet, most unusual pet and most original costume (pet and owner).

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ALL SMILES

Dr. Smiles of Southfield was more than happy with the great response he received when the ad below appeared in the Classified Section of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He said the phone rang off the hook and he was able to sell his home with the first ad that he placed.

Beacon Square

Order Section: 6 bed room, 1 1/2 baths, library, dining room, fireplace, carpeted, central heat, central air, sprinkler, gas grill, by owner.

Call 644-1979 to place your classified ad today, and smile at the results.

Rowers rest from their exertions, taking a few moments' drift by before resuming their task. For more sports, turn to page 10.