

A Good Story About A Fine Teacher



DIANE ROSENTHAL

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Movie stars may get fan mail but very few teachers do.

Perhaps because he is an administrator at Schoolcraft College, perhaps because he knows what a thankless job teaching can sometimes be, Ronald J. Monfette of 20125 Fernhill, Farmington, has written a letter full of praise to his daughter Cathy's second grade teacher at Bond School, Diane Rosenthal.

HE TELLS MISS Rosenthal: "Most likely you will have a lifelong effect upon my daughter's future. My wife and I feel that Cathy (our most prized possession, our first daughter) has learned a great deal under your guidance and direction." Miss Rosenthal doesn't think she deserves these accolades,

She says she's just doing her job.

AND the most important part of that job, she believes, is to present an intellectual challenge to bright youngsters like Cathy. "Children like Cathy are bright and eager to learn," explains the teacher. "Bright kids like this need to be challenged. The interest level is higher in these youngsters."

Miss Rosenthal chose to teach second graders for just this reason. "Second grade teaching is more work, but it is the most important grade in school life. It is the point where they are eager to learn."

MONFETTE MENTIONS the second graders "Purple Press" in his letter.

The "Purple Press" was Miss Rosenthal's imaginative idea for a project when the

pupils were doing a unit on newspapers. It was designed as a typical community newspaper and carried world news, as well as school and local news, and earned its name because the school ditty machine turns out purple printing.

One of the Press' features was Contact 12, "a name chosen to teach the children that superstitions are silly," says Miss Rosenthal. A convincing sidenote was the fact that summer vacation began Friday the 13th.

MONFETTE also mentions in his letter his astonishment at Cathy's space projects and "her real space comprehension."

Miss Rosenthal notes, "We did an encyclopedia of space and the kids did such an outstanding job of it I was sur-

prised myself."

At the risk of editorializing, it might be said that children have to be stimulated to do "outstanding jobs."

Again Miss Rosenthal takes no bows. "I simply scavenge constantly -- every book, magazine, paper I can find, I have a notebook for projects that I have kept for two years."

ON ALL OF IT, this teacher who receives fan mail, credits her youngsters more than herself.

"They are great at this age," she comments. "They come up with the darndest things and always keep it on your toes."

(As Monfette put it: "In this day of negativity and test negative votes," it's nice to have a positive story to tell about schools and school teachers.)



CATHY MONFETTE

Born Again Sunday

Renovate Historic Site

The old Children's Free Hospital at 30405 Folsom Rd., Farmington, which has been closed for almost 20 years, will begin a second life June 22 when it reopens as the Farmington Nursing Home and Extended Care Facility.

The stately hospital buildings designed by Albert Kahn, famed Detroit architect, have been completely remodeled inside to meet rigid state standards for extended care.

On the outside, the buildings retain their state roofs and deep maroon brick. Only an occasional bubble skylight above a dormer window gives any hint that the buildings have been remodeled.

As the Free Hospital and later the Sister Kenny Polio Hospital, the buildings could take care of 300 children. Wheel chair ramps led from floor to floor and there was an interior swimming pool for hydrotherapy.

One hundred and seventy adults with long term illnesses can be accommodated in Farmington Nursing Home. The old gymnasium has been turned into a crafts room and the children's cots have been replaced with hospital beds.

THE PLANNING of the conversion to a nursing home took more than five years and the actual renovation took more than two years. Cost of renovation exceeded \$2 million.

Joseph Mash, president of the Michigan Nursing Home Association is executive director of Farmington Nursing Home.

Financing of the project was arranged by Advance Mortgage Company and sponsored by FHA. Ralph Miller and Martin Miller of Miller Bros. Realty Co., Detroit, the owners of the property, have been instrumental in its development.

Kendall Construction Company is the general contractor for the renovation. Luster Electric Company completely rewired the buildings and the home-like atmosphere of the interior was created by Kuhnauer Enterprises, Inc.

FARMINGTON NURSING Home is at the intersection of Folsom and Tusk near the junction of U.S. 96 and Grand River Ave. It is located on 34 wooded acres.

There will be no purposelessness or boredom at Farmington Nursing Home, says Mash.

Each patient will be evaluated by his physician to determine his physical and occupational therapy needs. In addition a planning supervisor will conduct a full time program of activities and entertainment for all patients able

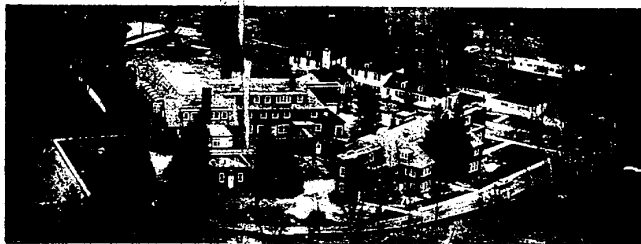
to participate. Trained consultants discuss problems with individual patients.

Farmington Nursing Home has facilities for dining outside in the summer time, for relaxing on ample sun decks and for walks on landscaped grounds completely free of vehicle traffic.

The home will have a therapy pool, closed circuit television and more than 800 square feet of space per patient making its proportions among the most ample in the nation.

No patient will be more than 30 seconds from a nursing station and each patient will have an audio call and a light to summon a nurse.

There are intimate dining rooms for small groups of patients and many small lounges decorated and furnished to resemble a gracious home rather than an institution.



HISTORIC CHANGE — A historic landmark in the Farmington area, the old Children's Free Hospital, will undergo a change June 22 when

it reopens as the Farmington Nursing Home and Extended Care Facility.

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JAVELIN/AMX

Federal Funds Approved For City Police Expansion

The Farmington City Council was informed Monday night that the federal grant for the Department of Public Safety has been approved.

Word was received from Congressman Jack McDonald who says formal written notification will be forthcoming later this week.

THE GRANT provides \$42,800 for the city to expand its police force by 25 per cent by recruiting four new public safety officers.

The primary duties of the recruits will be in the area of accident investigation and traffic control but they will also be available for other police and fire functions.

The funds also allow the department to acquire an ambulance to provide service on a 24-hour day basis when commercial ambulances are not available.

The vehicle will be fully equipped with first aid and res-

cue equipment and will also be used as a patrol car.

Farmington was one of the first communities in the state to receive funds from the federal program and is believed to have received one of the largest grants in the state.

City Manager John Dinan noted the City of Detroit is presently preparing to submit an application under the same program for \$400,000.

THE COUNCIL commented Director of Public Safety Robert Deadmond for his work in applying for and obtaining the funds.

Deadmond said he hoped to hire the recruits in time to send them to school starting July 14. To date he has received between 20-25 applications.

The city will soon have its ambulance vehicle also as the council accepted bids for that purchase Monday night.

Accepted as low bidder for a

1969 Ford station wagon ambulance vehicle was O'Green Ford with a bid of \$2,768.02 which was under the \$2,900 budgeted.

The city will be responsible for only one-half the costs of the vehicle, explained Dinan, with the other half being picked up when the federal grant is funded.

IN SEPARATE action, the council agreed to sell 1.85 acres of city property near Farmington Rd. and Freedom Drive for \$39,800 to the U.S. Government for a new post office.

The U.S. Postoffice reports present facilities are totally inadequate and a new facility will have to be built to handle future needs.

Postal officials feel the only area meeting their requirements is within the city on Farmington Road north of the Huron River Hunt and Fish Club. By combining city property and parcels owned by C.R. Kel-

ly, the post office will have a parcel 260 by 510 feet fronting on Farmington Rd. Cost of the new post office has been estimated at \$1 million.

The post office will hold an option on the property until June 1, 1970. The option will expire should the post office be unable to get the proper zoning.

THE COUNCIL denied a request from Shell Oil to construct a sign 55 feet high and 360 square feet at the corner of Grand River and Halstead.

Other bids accepted were: low bid of \$6,200 from R. Santia & Son for residential water taps; a bid of \$37.50 per 1,000 bags from Perfection Packaging for plastic garbage can liners; a low bid from Mobil Oil of 22.07 cents per gallon for the city's gasoline requirements; and a low bid from Rogers Perch of \$2,572.57 for a pickup for the Water Department.

'Center' Director Selected

Mrs. Alberta Taylor of Birmingham has been selected as Community Center director effective sometime in August--when final plans on the center's opening are complete.

The first week in September has been set as a tentative opening date.

Community Center officials are now outlining programs and have extended an invitation to the community for suggestions and advice. Mrs. Hope Nashob,

program chairman, (474-1992) is coordinating all ideas.

Mrs. Taylor will assume many of those responsibilities when she is officially appointed. She will also be expected to initiate ideas, to supervise planning and maintenance, and to manage employees.

"We'll be starting out with a modest program," admits John Allen, center chairman. "But we hope to expand as we go along."

In the works now are community group meetings, social and entertainment events, and educational lectures.

Mrs. Taylor has a background in civic planning with the YWCA and was with private Y's club in Birmingham. In addition she has worked with department stores in New York City and Detroit. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Minnesota.

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