

No Grading Board OKs New Marking System

By WYLIE GERDES

A new report card system, an experiment last year in some elementary classes, will get a full year of trial in all elementary schools.

The Farmington Board of Education Monday night at their regular meeting approved a plan which allows detailed evaluation of elementary students without assigning letter grades.

IN ADDITION, secondary grade reports were reduced from six to four per year and a grade on citizenship added. The "ungraded" report cards for elementary students were adopted on a trial basis for this year at the request of the board's curriculum committee.

Beechview and Alameda students used the system last year, as did one room in each of the other elementary schools.

Gary Lichtman, chairman of the curriculum committee, said the new report card system, as tried last year, "gave more freedom and latitude to the teachers to express more definitely the progress the child was making in school."

The new elementary cards contain over 50 items which will

be discussed in expanded conferences with parents.

INSTEAD OF assigning a letter grade in a subject, the teachers' evaluation of the pupil's performance in specific parts of a field will be listed on the new cards. Report cards for kindergarten children will be more simplified than those for upper elementary grades.

Lichtman made it clear that the expanded parent-teacher conferences is a major part of the new system of reporting to parents on the progress of their children.

"The new system is a professional tool to be shared by both teacher and parent," he said.

During the week of Nov. 10, parents of elementary students above kindergarten will have three afternoons to meet with teachers.

The second conferences will be held in the week of March 16. Two afternoons in that week will be set aside for conferences.

Five days during the weeks of Nov. 10 and Jan. 23 will be set aside for conferences be-

tween kindergarten teachers and students' parents.

THE ONLY opposition to the proposal came from John Washburn, who voted against the elementary card change after saying he felt the children need goals.

"In about everything else they do outside of school, they are striving to reach a level," Washburn said.

Washburn suggested the board consider using the present card with letter grades but with "a couple of categories to show why the grade was given."

In addition, Washburn objected to the number of categories to be evaluated. He asked if parents would understand the form and if teachers would be able to make the evaluations in all the categories.

Lichtman said the idea of a new system is to get away from students "working for an A and not learning."

WHILE ADMITTING the new cards will take more of a teacher's time, Lichtman said, "Teachers have the time and want to take the time to do the job more professionally."

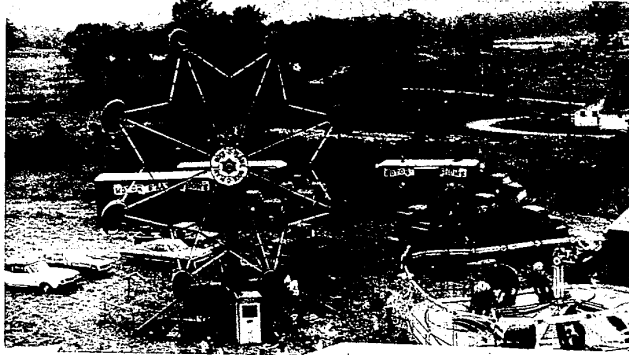
Trustee Richard Frankel added the system "forces the teacher to take a good hard look at each child."

Although noting he is more comfortable with the letter system, Trustee Kenneth Perrin said "if it is well marked, there would be benefits to me as a parent to have the added information on this card." He commented the system will be thoroughly reviewed after its year of operation.

School Board Secretary Aldo Vagnozzi said the system appeared not to be "simply a checklist" and the conferences were scheduled for a better time of the year. Conferences held early in the year are not as meaningful as those held later, he said.

A SAMPLE OF the new card will be sent to parents of elementary students before the end of the first grading period, Frankel said.

The board made few comments on the secondary changes. However, Frankel commented the citizenship grade "is not intended to see to it that they all cut their hair the same way."



COMMUNITY FUN — Hundreds were drawn over the weekend to Grand River and Drake, the site of this year's community fair sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees to raise funds

to support its community projects. It was fun day for all, especially for Larry Hart (below) of Farmington who got his first ride on a cycle Saturday. (Evert photos)



Farmington Socially Speaking

By KATHY ZISKA GR. 4-7261

Bring your best Spanish vocabulary with you for the first annual Gourmet Dinner "NITE IN SPAIN" in the Farmington Country Club will be Saturday evening, Sept. 27. Wine tastings and hors d'oeuvres are scheduled for 7 p.m., and the Spanish cuisine is promptly at 8 p.m.

There will be Spanish mood music, all to enhance you to join the group for a magnificent eight-day Spanish Fiesta on the Spanish Riviera. "Nite in

Spain" dinner reservations can be made through Phil Clapp at 421-6430. He can also give you the details on the March 27 group departure. Ron Payne, of the Connoisseurs Club, Inc., at 352-4590 will also fill you in on the details.

The annual "pilgrimage" of Farmington residents to the Stratford Festival in Ontario Canada, took place recently. Mr. and Mrs. George Nabstoll of Locust Drive, Mr. and Mrs. David N. Mills, their daughter Amanda and son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Mills of Deerfield, Ill. and friends of the Mills, from Erie, Pa. were in the party.

Also enjoying "Hamlet", "Gladius VII", "Measure for Measure" and "Partridge" were Christine Harris and her son David of Pleasant Valley Drive, Ann Burgess of Franklin Village, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin G. Schaefer of Mrs. Road and their children, Christine, Paul, Bill and Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. McGilman of Meadowview Drive and their daughters Darby and Kathleen; Mr. and Mrs. William Parsons of Ridge-wood Drive and their daughter Gina; (Gina, incidentally will be studying and participating in dramatics in Bloomfield Hills this fall), and Dr. Margaret Tracey of Ann Arbor.

When the group returned to Farmington, Mr. and Mrs. Mills entertained all those who didn't have to depart for other sections of the country, in their home on Locust Drive.

Mrs. Lucille Gingrich and her son John, joined the party at the Mills as did the Carr family from Grosse Pointe -- friends of the Younger Mills. Mrs. Gingrich brought with her a charming young visitor from Japan who has been attending Michigan State University and is now returning to her home where she teaches English.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Whiting and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frankel, who usually join this group on their outing to Stratford, made the trip earlier in the year.

Girl Faces Treatments For Rabies

A seven-year-old girl faces the possibility of a series of rabies treatments after she was bitten by a rat Sunday in Farmington.

Debra Sweeney of Wayne was bitten early Sunday afternoon while visiting her aunt, Mrs. Oliver Lanson at 22814 Brookdale in Farmington. Mrs. Lanson said it is probable that her niece will take the shots but it has not yet been determined.

The youngster was bitten on a finger when she tried to pet the rat in the Lanson's garage. Mrs. Lanson said the girl thought the animal was a rabbit.

Wood Assigned

Army PFC David G. Wood, 20, son of Mrs. Elmer Wood, 2103 Wheeler, Farmington, is participating in UNITAS-X, while serving aboard the guided missile frigate USS Leahy.

Levine In Action

Radoman Seaman Paul D. Levine, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Levine of 28809 SUI Valley, Farmington, is participating in UNITAS-X, while serving aboard the guided missile frigate USS Leahy.

Gets Promotion

Dennis F. Dubois, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick R. Dubois of Farmington has been promoted to Army Staff Sergeant while serving with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion of the 2nd Infantry Division's 12th Armor in Korea.

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BRAVES — The Indians took over Farmington schools this week in observance of the Y-Indian Guide program. David Coffin, Eagle School principal, pow-wows with Jeff Haase of the Cherokee Tribe, Mike Osterhage of the Comanches and Dick Oistot of the Navajos. Boys interested in joining may attend a Sept. 25 meeting in Dunckel Jr. High starting at 7 p.m. (Evert photo)



Big Hike In Traffic Death Toll

Twenty-two traffic deaths are reported for August in Oakland County, exactly double the toll for the same month a year ago.

A sustained 50 per cent annual increase in fatalities is likely, a rate far beyond epidemic proportions, if the present rise continues. The county's cumulative traffic death toll now stands at 141 for the first eight months of this year as compared to 95 for the same period a year ago.

This indicates a 48.4 per cent sustained increase so far this year.

Earn OU Degrees

Four Farmington residents have graduated with degrees in education from Oakland University.

They are Gerald F. Boster of 32363 Baintree, secondary educator; Barbara J. May of 29916 Piper Lane, elementary education, language arts; and Greta H. Steiger of 32395 Shrewsbury, secondary education, English.

Advertisement for SINGER sewing machine sale. Features: 'The biggest sale of the year', 'SINGER SALE-A-THON', 'SHOP TODAY. BRING LIVING COSTS BACK TO EARTH.', 'Biggest savings ever... \$75 OFF REG. PRICE', 'Now you can save more than ever before on the newest Golden Touch & Sew sewing machine by SINGER (model 640) in the "Bakersfield" desk.', 'YOUR CHOICE \$88', 'Take your choice of either of these FASHION MATE sewing machines by SINGER. Get the one in the "Lexington" or the "Ventura" cabinet. Or the FASHION MATE zig-zag sewing machine in the carrying case.', 'SINGER', 'And Singer has a credit plan to fit your budget. For address of the store nearest you, see white pages under SINGER COMPANY.', 'LIVONIA MALL - 476-7777 WESTLAND CENTER - 426-9500 WONDERLAND CENTER - GA 7-0011 TELL-TWELVE MALL - 353-1330'