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Wanted: Santas For Africa

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

This is a story about a conclusion.

How the story ends may depend on the good people of Farmington -- the clubs, the service organizations, the businesses, fathers and mothers, anyone who might want to help out.

The story concerns books -- and how to get the books to Sierra Leone, Africa.

THESE ARE NOT just ordinary books. They are textbooks collected by the Longacre PTA at the request of Gayleann Smith, a former student teacher at Longacre, now with the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone.

Miss Smith is well aware that books are the tools with which men build. She has been doing her best teaching the young Africans with only four different textbooks. Library books are non-existent because there is no library.

Knowing this, the Longacre PTA managed to collect 1,500 textbooks from a school in Redford Township.

That was months ago. Since September, the books have been sitting on the front porch of the PTA president, Mrs. William Corliss, at 34708 Grand River.

The problem is money -- the cost of mailing the books to Sierra Leone. They must be sent regular postal rate in 11-pound packages at \$1.39 per pack.

This adds up to about \$400. No PTA can lay its hands on \$400.

Sysak said he might have some news in two to three weeks. He is working on a plan to get government permission to ship such books as Farmington's at the library rates of two cents per pound. He doesn't hold out too much hope.

THEN WE CAME closer to home. We talked to Jack McDonald, who was shocked at the expense involved in sending books like Farmington's overseas. He pledged that he would talk to officials at the State Department to see if the books couldn't be shipped as that agency's merchandise.

Meanwhile, the books are still sitting on Mrs. Corliss' front porch.

AND THE SCHOOL in Sierra Leone that needs the books will be finished in January. And the African children that will go to the school that needs the books will have only those four books Miss Smith has managed to find.

The Enterprise & Observer has talked to several business leaders in Farmington. Bob Chesley of Chesley Industries has said that he will contribute \$50 toward the \$400 needed.

The Rotary Club of Farmington is considering making a contribution, as are Thompson-Brown and Alexander Hamilton Insurance Co.

AS WE SAID in the first paragraph, this is a story without a conclusion.

It will be up to the people of Farmington whether the story has a happy ending.

MRS. CORLISS investigated

every possibility to find a cheaper means of sending the books to Africa.

She spoke to the Peace Corps, to the military services, to World Medical Relief, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross.

She wrote to Congressman Jack McDonald. A friend, who is former Pentagon liaison for the House Armed Services Committee, couldn't help out.

As she said after months of effort, "Walter Jablonski (Longacre principal) and I are thinking of renting a canoe and taking them ourselves."

THE ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER tried to find a way.

We talked to the national headquarters of the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C. They were very sorry but they had no funds for such things as sending books to volunteers.

We talked to the east coast director at the Naval Supply Center, Norfolk, Va., because the Navy has an "Operation Handclasp," which transports such things as books overseas.

No luck. The yearly cruise to Africa has been canceled.

WE TALKED to the Commonwealth School Book Fund in New York. No luck.

We talked to the Darien Book and Magazine Aid Plan in Darien, Conn. No luck.

WE TALKED to Walter Sysak in Mineola, N.Y., a private individual who has already sent one million books to Peace Corps workers overseas.

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ARRESTED IN FLIGHT—These textbooks, collected by the Longacre PTA for a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa, have been sitting on Mrs. William Corliss' front porch in Farmington since last fall. The problem is that the PTA hasn't the \$400 needed to send the books to Africa.

(Evert photo)

Hearing's Tuesday

Report Due On Drug Education

The public will have an opportunity to contribute to the drug education plans of the Farmington Public School District at a meeting Tuesday, Dec. 2.

The Substance Abuse Task Force of the Family Life Education Committee will hold a public hearing beginning at 8 p.m. in the Farmington Junior High at 33000 Thomas. The task force will make a short presentation, then open the meeting to questions and comments from the audience.

"The meeting will be a public forum for the task force to hear the public's concerns, attitudes and suggestions in the areas of substance abuse -- drugs, tobacco, alcohol and others," says the chairman of the task force, Rev. Carl Kallreider.

THE BOARD of Education appointed a committee to study the integration of family life education into the present school curriculum.

The committee divided into three subcommittees -- substance abuse, minority groups and sex education. The substance abuse group is the first to hold public hearings.

Kallreider expressed the substance abuse subcommittee's concern with the pressing need for education because of increasing problems with substance -- drugs, tobacco, alcohol and others.

"We don't have any more time," the Lutheran minister added. "We've had kids become infected because of dirty needles used shooting hard stuff."

The "emergency problem" exists not only in Farmington, he adds. The Detroit News told recently the story of heroin addiction of teenagers in Grosse Pointe, and Kallreider said Farmington has problems similar to Birmingham, Southfield and Grosse Pointe.

Kallreider hopes to have a program of substance abuse instruction in the Farmington district by next September. The first proposals for the program will be presented at the public hearing Tuesday night, then given to the school board the following Monday.

THE SUBSTANCE Abuse Task Force met Wednesday night to approve three suggestions. All three concern the K-6 grade curriculum. Suggestions for junior and senior high programs will be presented next spring, Kallreider says.

Tuesday night, "the committee will make a brief presentation reporting to the community the work done to date -- the three adopted resolutions outlining methods in which substance abuse can be taught in grades K-6," Kallreider says.

One suggestion is the substance abuse program in elementary schools be divided into two grade categories.

In kindergarten through third grades, the emphasis will be on substance awareness, Kallreider said this program is now included in the health program in such warnings as "Never play with medicine."

However, other approaches must be added, he says.

"What does a teacher say to a girl who says 'I don't have a clean dress today because my mommy took a handful of pills and went to bed all day yesterday,'" Kallreider commented.

In grades four to six, the task force recommends a course with specific time set aside for the study of substance abuse.

The two other resolutions passed ask for in-service training for all elementary teachers on substance abuse, and parent education in the same area.

today's hot line

what's inside

Young But Good

A young Farmington boy is especially busy during the holiday season giving organ recitals throughout the Detroit area. Steven, a very talented organist for his age, is also rough and tough on the gridiron.

Page 2-A

Deny Clark Bail

A parent thinks the school board ought to assign a higher priority to busing -- an administrative intern is promoted to elementary principal -- a utility company has a couple million bills to invest in Farmington, and bail has been denied for Dr. Ronald Clark. This is what's happening in your home town.

Page 5-A

An Ancient Molar

Farmington has something very special to be proud of and today's local editorial page tells what it is. On the same page you will find letters from Farmington readers and the Den's account of a Neanderthal molar.

Page 3-A

'Tis The Season

The Christmas season starts with concerts. Three are set for Sunday afternoon and another for Tuesday evening. For the details on some top-notch musical programs right in your own neighborhood, turn to the Amusements Page.

Page 7A

Catholic School Report

There's a possibility that some Catholic schools in this area -- all named in the recent Archdiocese report -- might close. Our report is in the church section.

Page 4B

Custom Built

One Livonia church is getting a special piece of equipment -- a harpsicord built by hand. The story is in our church section.

Page 5B

Amusements	7A
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Classified Want Ads	Sec. C
Deaths and Funerals	1B
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Sports-Prep and Pro	2-3B
World of Women	8A

upcoming

"I THINK I CAN claim to have more personal experience of such matters as Song My than most of the writers who have been offering their opinions so freely in this case," says William H. Stoneman, for 40 years a foreign correspondent for the Chicago Daily News and now a visiting lecturer at the University of Michigan. Stoneman presents his analysis of the massacre in Wednesday's edition of your sophisticated home-town newspaper.

THE GIFT SPOTTER

BRIGHT GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

You'll find a treasure chest of sparkling, practical gifts for everyone on your list in the "Gift Spotter" in the Classified Section. Pick the gifts, select the store, then be off on your whirlwind shopping tour. Check it now!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS—A few of the 300 Girl Scouts who decorated the city of Farmington's Christmas tree last week crowd around the tree as they put on their handmade ornaments. The girls were greeted by Councilman John Allen and had a Christmas songfest after their gay job was over.

(Evert photo)

No Place For Offenders

Judge Pleads For Drug Addiction Facilities

Oakland County Circuit Judge Arthur Moore is campaigning for better facilities to help young people convicted for drug violations.

"Jail is inadequate and unfair for this type of person. And probation is just as bad or worse," declared Judge Moore while sentencing a northwest Detroit youth to prison last week for violation of the state drug laws.

Faced with but two alternatives, jail or probation, the judge chose a jail sentence.

THE JUDGE had delayed sentencing to protest the lack of addiction treatment facilities in Oakland County.

Moore said he delayed sentencing for two weeks to dramatize the need for new Oakland County halfway houses and more probation officers.

But after failing to hear from the County Board of Supervisors, Moore meted out the sentence.

"During my 25 years on the probate bench, from 1939-69, the judge said, '4,000 of the cases I committed into mental hospitals were for drug addiction.'"

"Users of marijuana and narcotics were a rarity indeed. These few unfortunate were, therefore, treated and hospitalized as psychiatric-psychological patients. Criminal punishment was unthinkable and never resorted to. But times have changed."

MOORE SAID 15% of the 1969 criminal arraignments before his court since Jan. 1 have involved law violations of drug use, possession or sale.

The judge said the causes are quite simple. Failure of both parents to adequately supervise, discipline and protect their children; meanwhile permissiveness encouraging undue

leniency; lack of discipline and supervision; and lack of parental child joint activity.

Problems of drug use could soon be stamped out, said Moore, if school-parent associations and youth clubs would join hands in a campaign at the junior and senior high level.

"It's high school youth, themselves, took the lead," Moore claims, "they could easily inform about and point out the users and abusers."

"Our youth are heroes and not squares or stool pigeons when they seek to help an unfortunate drug addict or track down the pusher."

BUT THERE ARE steps, Judge Moore believes, which should be taken by the county

board of supervisors. The judge suggests:

1. At least two half-way houses for care and supervision of young drug users.

2. Skilled professionals in psychiatry, psychology to treat and supervise. These are immediately obtainable and affordable, says Moore, by and out of the county's community mental health \$3 million appropriation.

3. Pooling of probation office staff for circuit court.

MOORE DESCRIBED his sentencing of the northwest Detroit youth as "inadequate and unfortunate." Jail sentences "provide only criminal isolation," he added, and "is punishment without adequate scientific treatment."

"But some measure of public protection from drug contamination is requisite; unfair, inadequate as incarceration of the drug-sick law violators may be."

"Having failed, as yet, to secure help through the County Board of Supervisors, I make public appeal to the citizenry of the county."

Moore suggests that Farmington residents wanting treatment for prevention of drug abuse write Delos Hamilton, 23210 Cass, Farmington. Hamilton is Farmington's representative on the board of supervisors.

"There are several fine members who want to promote the half-way houses," says Moore, "Your letters may urge them to do so."