

DOING THEIR PART -- Pupils at William Grace Elementary School set a good example for the rest of Farmington as clean-up season approaches. They scurried about the school grounds March 13, cleaning up winter's

debris in a spring-welcoming flurry. Two young men in the foreground disposing of twigs and branches are Donald Buss, fourth grader (left) and Bill Blackmer who is in fifth grade. (Evert photo)



LISTENING IS WORK -- Kenneth Weiss is attentive to the story he is hearing via the listening post in Mrs. Shirley Hood's transition room at Larkshire School. Learning how to listen is an important ingredient for success in early grades. (Evert photo)

### Rep. Baker Condemns UM Strike

FARMINGTON State Rep. Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) has joined other legislators condemning the University of Michigan and its president Dr. Robben Fleming.

The Farmington Republican says the university will get no help from him in its bid for additional funds to finance increased enrollment of black students.

Baker said university officials acceded to demands of the Black Action Movement (BAM) after two weeks of strikes by UM students.

University officials agreed to fulfill a promise made shortly after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King that at least 10% of U-M students should be black.

"In my opinion a student's entrance into a university should be based on merit and his abilities, not on complexion, regardless of his color," Baker says.

# Class Makes Transition Easier

Transition is the name of the game at Larkshire School.

When kindergartners aren't quite ready to face the demands of first grade at the end of a year, they join a special group known as a transition class.

Usually it is composed of those youngsters at the early end of the age scale, those who had turned five not long before the Dec. 1 deadline for entering school.

NOW IN ITS second year, the idea originated with Mrs. Shirley Hood who teaches the class. She was deeply con-

cerned about the children, who it was obvious, were destined to find first grade work beyond their powers.

"If a child acquires a sense of failure that early in his school career, it can be extremely damaging," Mrs. Hood maintained. "It can even lead to dropping out of school."

Mrs. Hood reasoned that if only children could get a better start, many later problems could be avoided. She and Al Langan, Larkshire's principal, traveled to a number of other

schools in nearby districts to observe what most of them call "readiness" classes.

From them they learned that the idea was indeed feasible, so in September 1968, they put it in motion.

Repetition and variety are the keys to Mrs. Hood's success. Knowing that attention wanders after about 15 minutes, she paces activities accordingly.

VISUAL WORK is used whenever possible as it registers better. However, quiet listening has its value as well. Many problems stem from simply not listening carefully to directions.

Most of the class work can be translated into some kind of game. A Hannel board with colorful cutouts of flags, leaves, baby chicks, etc., teaches addition and subtraction. So does a large abacus of colored beads.

Spelling and word recognition are learned with a fishing pole. It extracts one paper fish from a "school", each one wearing a word on its side and having a magnet attached to attract it to the bait.

Months, days of the week, and numbers become familiar

as students add a symbol to a giant calendar each day. In March, colored paper kites made the daily lesson inviting.

IN MORE ACTIVE sessions, gym shoes are worn and relay races take each pupil to the blackboard in a race to see which line can most speedily solve arithmetic problems.

With patient persistence and much repetition, the class moves along toward fulfilling the promise the Larkshire staff were sure they could foresee.

Last year's class of 12 ended up with three pupils actually ready to go on to second grade. The remaining nine carried out their first grade assignments with ease and were well fortified with the self-confidence necessary to face new challenges.

**Hair'n Around**  
by John Ryan

Face-mask favorite of a beautiful Mexican millonaria: squeeze juice of lemon into jar, seal tight overnight so it turns white and foamy... smooth on and let dry.

For better skin, better health, better figure: buy a jump rope and give yourself a daily 2-minute work-out before that morning shower.

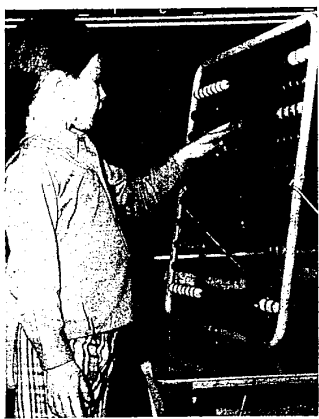
Male-capturing trick: perfume palm of hand before putting on gloves, when you draw them off the fragrance intrigues.

James first introduced the love-lock--a curl that hung on the left side of a man's chest! But by Charles, it's time, women had taken over "love-locks".

To prevent lipstick from smearing when you add gloss--add gloss on gently. Don't blot.

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COUNTDOWN -- By means of a large, colorful abacus, Bory Johnson adds interest to the process of addition and subtraction. Bory is one of 12 members of a transition class at Larkshire School. (Evert photo)

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### Brownies Plan Busy April

FARMINGTON Brownie Troop 10 of Alameda School has planned two trips for April. The Brownies will go to the theatre to see "Oliver" on April 11. On April 25 the girls will travel to Kensington Metropolitan Park for a guided field trip on the nature trails.

### North Grads Letter At WMU

FARMINGTON Three Western Michigan University freshmen from Farmington recently received varsity letters in gymnastics from the Kalamazoo university.

They are Dale General, Mark Kujawa and Rich Toohy. Each is a graduate of North Farmington High School.

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