

For services rendered

Lover of music, educator earn Rotary awards

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

His lifelong love of music prompted Farmington Hills resident Harold Vroman to become one of the driving forces behind the three-year-old Metropolitan Youth Symphony.

Farmington School District's learning-disability consultant, Florence "Dinghy" Sharp has been associated with the renowned Bucket Brigade, a one-on-one tutoring program which uses volunteer teachers.

Both Vroman and Sharp were recently honored with vocational service awards by the Rotary Club of Farmington.

"These people have done a lot above and beyond the call of duty," said Harold Wolkind, Rotary president. "These are two prime examples of what Rotary believes in."

ALTHOUGH WOLKIND said "vocational service doesn't really have a definition," the award is given to people who have given something to the community without compensation.

A certified public accountant by profession, Vroman's love is music. But busy with a career and family, Vroman put aside his music for years until his daughter, Kelly, began playing the violin about six years ago.

Then in May 1982, Vroman and about eight other families decided to form the youth symphony.

That summer, Vroman said, the families incorporated the youth symphony for a non-profit status, hired three conductors and found Southfield-Lathrup High School as a place for the three symphonies — string, concert and symphony orchestra — to practice.

Today about 250 students from throughout the Detroit area, particularly Farmington and Farmington Hills, belong to the youth symphony. Vroman has been on the organiza-

tion's board of directors since its beginnings. He now serves as the financial and fund-raising vice president. The organization has successfully furnished students with 12 scholarships a year.

"It's been a real labor of love for me," Vroman said. "It's compensated with the love we get from these kids."

VROMAN IS active with the North Farmington Kiwanis as well as the Nardin Park Methodist church. In past years, he served in every office avail-

able in the local Kiwanis organization. Sharp's work with the Bucket Brigade is known not only in the Farmington area but is used in about 37 states and 29 foreign countries.

The program is a way of teaching learning-disabled children through fun learning games assembled in a colorful bucket brought by one volunteer adult partner.

Volunteers, many parents, play games with elementary students during school hours. The games are de-

signed to help students in math, reading, handwriting or any subject in which a student needs help.

Sharp's interest in children has led her into leadership positions in the Boy Scouts and Girl Scout of America, the Little League organization and Youth for Understanding.

A 22-year veteran of the Farmington School District, Sharp brought the Bucket Brigade to the district in 1970 when she noticed there wasn't enough one-to-one assistance to children with

learning disabilities.

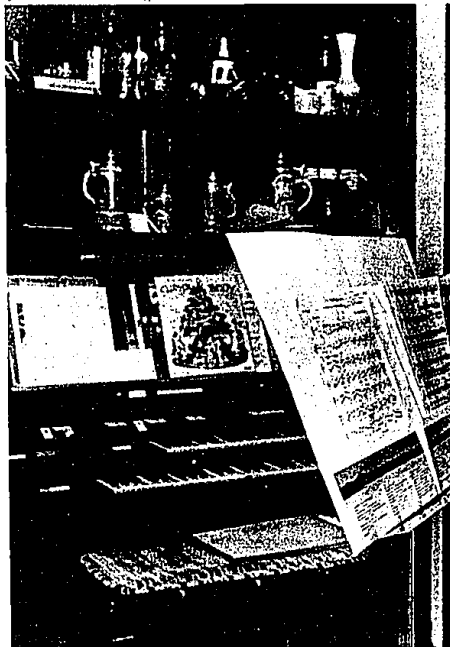
From that point, she has enlisted the help of volunteers, whom Sharp taught, and exported the brigade to other school districts, states and countries.

"The bucket has become quite an international cliché," said brigade volunteer Ruth Martin, in honoring Sharp.

Sharp's four publications on learning and teaching the learning disabled are written under her nickname, "Dinghy." That's the name she was given as a child because of her love for sailing.



Florence 'Dinghy' Sharp honored by Rotary



Harold Vroman, honored by the Farmington Rotary for his musical service to area youth, helps daughter Kelly through a violin lesson.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

TRACY DRAKE and Lisa Gioia of Farmington Hills, seniors at Detroit Country Day School, have been selected as semifinalists in the 1985 National Merit Scholarship competition. They must advance to finalists standing in order to continue in the competition for some 5,500 Merit Scholarships, valued at \$20 million, to be awarded nationally in the spring of 1985. Semifinalists become finalists by documenting high academic performance throughout high school, receiving the recommendation and endorsement of the headmaster, confirming their earlier scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and providing information about their school and community activities and achievements as well as their interests and goals.

DOUGLAS J. BRECKENRIDGE, son of Michael and Sandra Breckenridge of Farmington Hills, has received a two-year U.S. Air Force ROTC scholarship. He was selected for the scholarship on the basis of comprehensive tests, high school scholastic achievement and extracurricular activities. The scholarship covers full tuition, textbooks, laboratory fees and pays a monthly subsistence allowance. Douglas is a student at Michigan State University.

DIANE POMPEI, daughter of Judith and Vincent Pompei of Farmington, was one of 11 students admitted to MSU's Honors College fall term. Admission to the Honors College is open to students who have demonstrated outstanding scholastic ability. The students may enroll in graduate courses, independent study projects and special honors courses which require intense study.

MONTE NAGLER is one of 10 local and nationally known photographers whose work will be featured in William Feltner Gallery's premier show. A reception for the photographers, from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, opens the show at 213½ South Main, Ann Arbor. Nagler is an Observer & Economist columnist and teacher of photography in Farmington Community Center whose work can also be seen in Ibbowse Bookstore, Northwestern Highway, east of Orchard Lake Road, through December.

THE WINDBAGGERS have a winner. Al Hajjar, a resident of Farmington Hills and a member of the less-than-1-year-old Toastmaster Club, represents the local group this week in competition against other winners from Ohio and Ontario in the district's Impromptu Speech Contest. The Wind-

baggers was put together by Phyllis Sullivan for residents in this area who wanted to improve their toastmaster know-how. She can be reached by calling 455-1835.

PFC. TIMOTHY PARKER, son of Robert and A.J. Parker of Farmington and a 1983 graduate of Farmington High School, has completed basic training at Fort Knox, Ky.

THE EXCITEMENT of live television and the satisfaction of volunteer work combine for metro Detroiters who participate in the Channel 58 pledge drives. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Winterfest fund raiser Nov. 24 to Dec. 9. Volunteers have the all-important task of answering phones during day and evening hours of the pledge drive. A short training session prepares volunteers to take pledges from callers. In addition, volunteers are in the WTVS studios where the pledge breaks are taking place, giving them an opportunity to see a live television production. For information call Carolyn Meldrum at 873-7200, ext. 203.

MICHELLE LOHAY, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lohay of Farmington Hills, has graduated from the Kistner Institute of Technology in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., with a 4.0 point average. Michelle is the first woman to graduate from this institute. Her goal is to further her education and eventually work in the aerospace industry. She is a former student of Harrison High School and Oakland Community College.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ART TIBBITS of Farmington Hills, who shot a hole in one at the El Dorado Country Club on Oct. 22. He made the ace on the 11th hole using an 8 iron. Tibbits is a retired automobile designer.

BETTY NICOLAY, president of Farmington Families in Action, and Jane Williams of Farmington Area Advisory Council were among 11 people from Farmington who attended the Michigan Parents Conference on Drug Awareness. The conference, held last month in Kellogg Center for Continuing Education in East Lansing, was sponsored by Michigan Communities in Action. Persons representing 85 communities in Michigan took part in discussing issues concerning youth drug and alcohol involvement and parent peer organizations. Speakers at the conference included Mitchell Rosenthal, Sis Wenger, Otto Moulton and Michael Winchester, all from P.R.I.D.E. The purpose of the conference was to provide parents, concerned citizens and community leaders with information on alcohol and other drug issues which affect youth. Michigan Communities in Action is in Birmingham at 470 North Woodward.

NOVEMBER IS OMEGA MONTH



GET INTEREST FREE FINANCING FOR 10 MONTHS

Now is the time to buy your Omega watch, and the interest free financing we offer is just the beginning. Every Omega comes with an extended two year warranty and free engraving, for a personal touch. Take advantage of our interest free financing at all stores, now through the end of November.

Here's how it works: buy any Omega watch over \$1000, put 20% down and pay for your watch in 10 equal monthly installments — without any interest. Act now and get all the advantages of Omega month. Styles will vary by store.



CHARLES W. WARREN

JEWELLERS SINCE 1910

WILMIST MALL, (313) 969-5611
EASTLAND—WESTLAND—BIRMINGHAM—LANSING
FAIRLANE—TWIN FALLS—PORTLAND

Use our new E-Z Card for no-charge American Express, Visa or MasterCard.