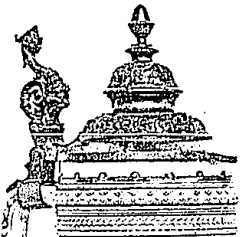


# Michigan Week

## Farmington historical museum celebrates state's history



One of the more spectacular steins in the display stands about 12 inches tall.

For the next month, visitors to the Farmington Historical Museum will be able to see exhibits focusing on Michigan history.

The museum's decorating and furnishings committee has completed the installation of several exhibits on loan from area residents.

The Farmington Historical Museum is at 33805 Grand River Ave. in Farmington. Museum hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday.

The exhibits are designed "to help make people in the community aware" of Michigan history, said committee member Ann Ritchie.

"The young people have never even seen some of these things."

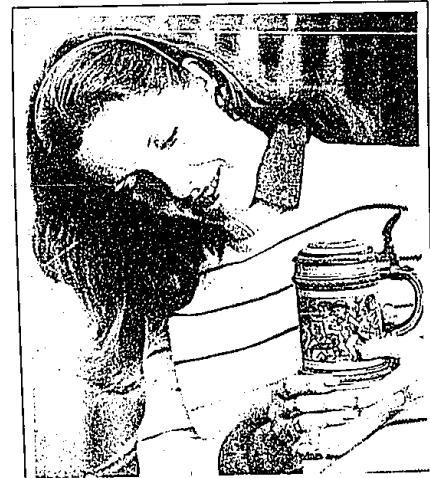
The exhibit includes a collection of Matlach steins belonging to Farmington residents Debbie and Del Cornwell.

"These were passed down to us from Virgil Cornwell," said Debbie Cornwell. The dish collection was given to her as an engagement gift.

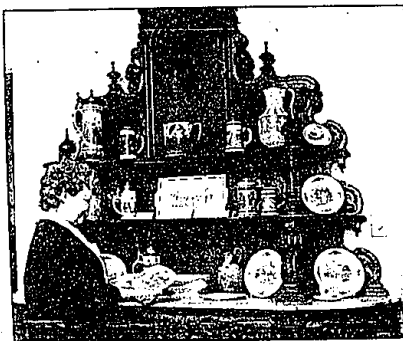
"They're from the Dodge estate," she said. "They were handed down."

Other exhibit items include a quilt collection and a variety of silver objects.

The exhibit items will be on display for approximately one month.



Debbie Cornwell examines one of the steins that was given to her as a gift.



The steins above are part of a larger collection of artifacts on display at the Warner Museum during Michigan week. Anne Ritchie (left) helps arrange a portion of the exhibition. Anne is a member of the design and furnishing committee at the museum.

## All transfers dropped except music pro's

By Joanne Mallazowski  
staff writer

Of the five Farmington School District teachers scheduled for involuntary transfers in the next school year, all but North Farmington High vocal music teacher Joan MacKenzie's transfer have been rescinded.

School officials' announcement that all but MacKenzie will not be moved from their current schools was prompted by a parent Tuesday who said he had heard a rumor to that effect.

"Those transfers were rescinded because that's the way it should work," said Robert Coleman, district personnel director.

Unlike the other four teachers, MacKenzie's scheduled involuntary transfer will remain in place because changes in registration and enrollment have not changed her situation, Coleman said.

"There isn't anything political," Coleman said, referring to a comment from a former student of MacKenzie's who told the school board the teacher's transfer "has to be politics."

For three consecutive school board meetings, parents and students have turned out in opposition to MacKenzie's scheduled transfer from North Farmington High School.

Parents and students have cited MacKenzie's work with the school's award-winning Northern Lights choral group as well as other vocal music groups at the school which have captured awards.

ORIGINALLY ALL five teachers were being transferred because of declining enrollment and expected class changes.

Administrators are forced to make decisions on involuntary transfers before student class registration because of requirements in the district's contract with teachers and the state's Tenure Act. Teachers must be notified of transfers and lay-offs 60 days before the end of a contract period, he said.

Since administrators' decision to transfer the five teachers, some unexpected changes have taken place with high school registration for classes and enrollment at one of the elementary schools, Coleman said.

The two high school teachers scheduled for involuntary transfers will be retained at their current schools because of a demand for more classes of math and drafting, Coleman said.

The middle school teacher who was to be involuntarily transferred has since received a new position within the district, he said.

And because of an increase in enrollment at one of the elementary schools, the teacher scheduled for transfer will remain at that school, Coleman added.

MacKenzie's situation, on the other hand, has not changed since the involuntary transfers were announced in April.

The need for a vocal music teacher who can also teach German is still needed at North Farmington, Coleman said.

WHILE MACKENZIE can teach the needed vocal music courses, she is not certified to teach German, he said.

Currently MacKenzie is teaching two vocal music classes at North and three classes at Warner Middle School.

Although two classes of vocal music will be offered at North in the fall, other teaching assignment changes would leave MacKenzie with only those two classes to teach, Coleman said.

"You have to fit the people to what your needs are," Coleman said, about the decision to transfer MacKenzie to another school.

MacKenzie has the choice of moving to one of four middle schools, Farmington High School or a half-time position at Harrison High School, Coleman said.

"That's a total of six things she can do," Coleman said, adding the district is trying to accommodate MacKenzie, including letting her teach in the half-time position at Harrison.

But MacKenzie must make her choice of which school she wants to teach at in the fall by the end of today, Coleman said.

After MacKenzie makes her choice, school administrators will begin calling back some of the 42 teachers who received pink slips in April, he said.

DESPITE THE explanation by Coleman and Superintendent Lewis Schulman for rescinding four of the involuntary transfers, complaints could still be heard from parents and students Tuesday.

"I think the school board should reconsider exactly what Mrs. MacKenzie has done," said Derek Hood, a former student of MacKenzie's.

Offering alternatives to keep MacKenzie at North Farmington, Hood suggested to the school board that "she can always teach study hall which I'm sure she wouldn't mind."

Schulman indicated that district administrators could not create a job or waste MacKenzie's talents on study hall.

"If you think we enjoy facing at three meetings parents and students who are upset, you are wrong. We don't enjoy it," Schulman said.

But parents continued with their criticism of the district's decision to transfer MacKenzie.

"I am extremely disappointed," said parent David Dauterman. "I would suggest we should keep superior people where they belong."

"Consideration has not truly been given to what she has done," he continued. "Ultimately what she has done will be destroyed."

Schulman replied with the same answer that has been given throughout the three meetings at which parents and students voiced opposition.

"She will still be in the district," he said.

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