

# Test Problems For C'ville: Math, Reading

**By MARIE MCGEE**

The state educational assessment, evaluating fourth and seventh graders in the Clarenceville School District held few surprises for its administrators.

The state-ordered tests showed a composite weakness in math and reading, a fact recognized by administrators even before the testing began.

But unexpected strength in vocabulary and English expression and a fairly good attitude toward school offset the weaknesses, leaving school administrators reasonably content with the overall educational outline the tests project.

"THERE IS evidence that there is work to be done. We accept the challenge and must get about the job," commented David McDowell, superintendent of schools.

The board learned of the test results at its Sept. 23 meeting from Mrs. Patricia Vickery, elementary consultant and test coordinator.

Further amplification of test results came from Dr. Richard Watson, director of program evaluation for Oakland County

schools, who has been working closely with the Clarenceville district.

Mrs. Vickery declined to reveal exact percentages for publication.

**TESTS RANKED** Clarenceville in three classifications: in the state of Michigan, in Region 1 (Oakland-Macomb-Wayne County), and as an "urban fringe" area — or school district that has a metropolitan core or city as an economic focal point.

Factors measured were: socio-economic status, attitudes and aspiration, human resource factors, financial resource factors, educational outputs and composite achievement based on the averaging of all other outputs.

The test results showed that Clarenceville seventh graders, in comparison with all of the seventh graders in the state, score high in socio-economic status; are average to high in attitudes and aspirations; high in pupil-teacher ratio and experience; high average in other school human resources; average to high average in school financial resources; above average in vocabulary and English expression and below average in reading, math and the composite score.

In comparison to Region 1 districts, the seventh graders scored average in socio-economic status, low average to high in attitudes and aspirations, low in school human resources, average in financial resources and slightly below average in achievement.

The "urban fringe" data indicates that Clarenceville scored above average in socio-economic status, average to high average in attitudes and aspirations, low in school human resources, slightly above average in financial resources and average to below average in achievement.

Reading scores in this category were noted as being "quite low."

Even though the math ratings were low, the state assessment tests in January were encouraging in that they showed some improvement over the tests given by the district the previous October, Mrs. Vickery said.

**HIGHLY** critical of the "instrument" — educational jargon for the test — Mrs. Vickery said educators needed better answers from the state on what the tests actually measure.

A recent meeting of Oakland County school test coordinators

with state officials failed to provide the answers, she said. "We were told the information was forthcoming," Mrs. Vickery added.

She said she personally was unhappy with the test because it had not been field-tested and because it was drawn up by an out-of-state firm, perhaps unfamiliar with Michigan standards.

She also felt the "climate" for the test was wrong. The tests were given late last January — just before final exams — and had to be completed by Feb. 1, explained Mrs. Vickery.

## More Light For C'ville Grid Field

A bright note was added to Clarenceville High School's football program at the recent Board of Education meeting.

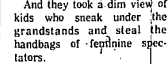
The board accepted a proposal to add an additional battery of lights to the football field.

And they took a dim view of kids who sneak under the grandstands and steal the handbags of feminine spectators.

Closing off certain areas should help break this circuit, board members hope.

Nor did the board "re-use" a request to mend a fence at the far end of the field where young trespassers charge in without paying.

It follows then that currently the battle cry for Clarenceville's illustrious football team is "Socket to 'em."



TRUMPETER BANGO WITH BIBLASI

## Area Trumpeter In Orchestra Post

A Clarenceville 10th grader, whose trumpet teacher describes him as making "tremendous strides" with his studies, has auditioned and been accepted for membership in the Detroit Youth Symphony.

It's Tony Bango, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Bango, 2045 Maplewood, Livonia. The pupil of Francesco Diblasi of Livonia for only 1 1/2 years, Tony is one of six trumpet players accepted for the Detroit Youth Symphony from a total of 40 who auditioned.

The Detroit Youth Symphony,

under the direction of Paul Freeman, has a membership of 110. Those who auditioned totaled 380. The group each year presents two major concerts, one in January and the second in April.

So far in his musical career, young Bango has earned 11 Division I ratings in high school solo, ensemble and band competition. Diblasi said he is among one of the youngest members of the Youth Symphony whose members are accepted up to age 23. The group rehearses each Saturday.



**CHRIS NICHOLSON**, Clarenceville High School senior, has been named a semifinalist in the 1970-71 National Merit Scholarship program. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Nicholson, 19942 Maplewood, Livonia, Chris is one of the nation's 14,750 semifinalists selected from some 710,000 students, representing 17,000 schools.

## C'ville Gets A Prize

Clarenceville isn't exactly the garden spot of Oakland-Wayne County.

But they try — or rather the Botsford Garden Club tries its best to enhance the tiny district.

Most evident is the work the garden club has done to beautify the Board of Education offices on Eight Mile Rd.

For its efforts, the 12-member club recently won a \$250 first prize in a national contest — and promptly used the prize money for the school board office project.

For this, board member

Samuel Prisk suggested a letter of appreciation be sent to the club — with a postscript saying the board hopes to do its part by erecting a sign over the front door, identifying the building.

**Beef Buffet**

Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middle Belt, Livonia, will sponsor its annual beef buffet from 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3.

Tickets are \$1.75 for adults and \$1 for children. The public is invited.

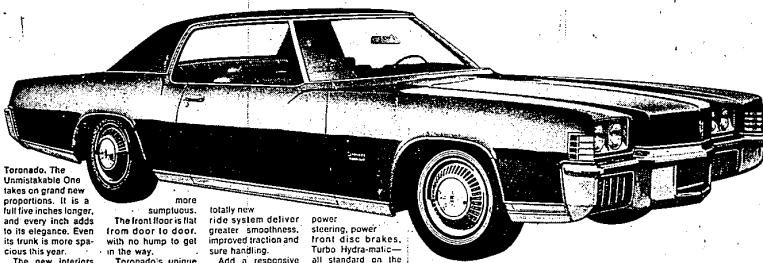
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