

Librarian taking part in national symposium

Farmington Community Library branch head Clara Bohrer is one of 50 librarians nationwide invited to participate in a symposium sponsored by the Library of Congress.

The theme of the meeting, to be in Washington, D.C. Nov. 15-16, is "Learning Opportunities for Children Through Library Partnerships with Other Agencies."

The meeting is one of the final activities planned nationally to celebrate 1989 as the "Year of the Young Reader," so declared by presidential proclamation.

Also invited to participate in the

symposium are 50 representatives of national child advocacy groups, such as the Children's Defense Fund, Children's Television Workshop, Headstart Bureau, National Black Child Development Institute, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, among others.

THE LIBRARIANS will be paired with the other agency representatives to explore means of better cooperation between these organizations on the local level. Much focus has been placed on the importance

of early childhood education, as it relates to later learning.

There have been several reports from the U.S. Office of Education, such as "A Nation at Risk" and "Becoming A Nation of Readers," which reinforce the role families can play and the value of children learning reading readiness skills.

Bohrer began her library career as a children's librarian. She has maintained an active participation in the children's field, although she now has administrative responsibilities for the Farmington Community Library.

Within the American Library Association, Bohrer chaired the Public Library Association Service to Children Committee from 1985-87.

She is currently planning a national workshop, to be in Chicago in March, 1990, "How to Get the Very Best Preschool Services."

Bohrer has also served as the American Library Association liaison to the International Reading Association since 1982.

BOHRER HAS also served on the two prestigious American Library Association committees that select

award-winning books in children's literature. She was on the Caldecott Committee in 1982 to select the book best illustrated. In 1986, she served on the Newberry Committee, which selected the best written children's book, published in that year.

The Library of Congress staff interviewed Bohrer regarding the Farmington Community Library preschool services. The Farmington libraries serve as a resource model for one of the papers to be presented at the November symposium. The public library works with many organizations in the community to em-

phasize the importance of reading for children.

"Our library has had an excellent reputation for its children's services since the early 1970s," said library director Beverly Pappal. "The Library of Congress is honoring both Clara Bohrer for her personal knowledge of children's services, as well as honoring our library for its approach to this area."

Bohrer has worked at the Farmington Community Library since 1982. She has master's degrees in library science, as well as in reading and child development.

WLS plan would revive Indian education programs

By Darrell Clem
staff writer

A push to revive American Indian education programs in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District has begun, although coordinator Charlotte McKeough knows the task will be difficult.

The district includes northwest Farmington Hills.

Due to inadequate federal funding, stringent program guidelines and difficulties in identifying students of Indian heritage, many school districts have abandoned Indian education altogether.

Yet some districts remain dedicated to helping Indian students learn that just because the history books say Columbus discovered America, there's more to the story if pupils read between the lines.

That's why McKeough, on a meager budget of about \$15,000, plans this school year to solicit all the support she can to improve services for an estimated 90 to 100 Walled Lake students of Indian heritage.

Among her goals:

- Establish an after-school tutoring program to help Indian students improve their classroom skills.
- Set up a special library of books, videos and music tapes on Indian culture.
- Conduct a program needs assessment in which Indian students and their families, teachers and counselors will identify ways the district can improve in such areas as Indian art and history, field trips, cultural enrichment classes, scholar-

- ships and counseling.
 - Organize open houses at each school.
 - Plan seasonal trips in which Indian students can attend camps and learn about their culture from Indian elders and professionals, who can serve as positive role models.
- McKeough, who has some Cherokee Indian roots of her own, already has launched efforts to draw more attention to Indian education. She visited 15 public schools in the

Walled Lake district on Sept. 22 — Michigan Indian Day — to distribute materials and let teachers know about the project. And she has set up window displays at some schools to promote Indian education.

Moreover, a newsletter called "Smoke Signals" will contain Indian stories and poems, and it will keep Walled Lake schools informed of progress in the district's Indian education program.

McKeough said she receives as-

stance from a committee of parents concerned about Indian education.

Pam Dunham, the state's coordinator for Indian education, said there are nearly 12,500 students with Indian heritage enrolled in Michigan public schools, although some might have been overlooked. Officials say the Indian population also was undercounted in the 1980 federal census.

Officials said the aim of Indian ed-

ucation is to change that situation and, simultaneously, begin to combat problems such as the high incidence of alcohol and drug abuse among Indians.

"Some of the schools will offer arts and crafts classes or language classes and try to help Indian students improve their self-esteem," Dunham said. "They face a lot of pressure and negative feelings sometimes, and we want to change that."

Great Pumpkin to make visit

The Great Pumpkin will once again visit a local real estate firm.

Free pumpkins will be given away from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22, at Ralph Mannel Associates, 32961 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

One pumpkin per child is the rule — and Mom and Dad can get in on Halloween with a free pumpkin bread recipe.

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