



WINS BY A 'HAIR' -- Frank K. Bodenmiller, of 19032 Gilman, Livonia, won first prize in the hair-shaping contest at the North American Beauty and Fashion Show in Detroit. Bodenmiller has been a hair stylist 11 years and has won the Mid-American hair-cutting championship. He is at Master Hair Stylist, 27473 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Janice Drennen, of Livonia, is his model.

The Teacher As Politician

MEA Chief Reflects On Union's Role, Goals

By MARTHA MAHAN
Teachers and the "educationally oriented" must jump feet first into politics if the quality of schooling and of teaching are to be improved, in the opinion of the head of the state's biggest teacher union.

"If school needs are going to be articulated to the public, it will take more than public relations," declared John Ort, president of the 80,000 member Michigan Education Assn. (MEA). "A sound educational point of view must be stated openly and bluntly."

Ort, 41, is a counselor at Franklin High School in Livonia, a city whose politics already is teacher-loaded.

A SCHOOL principal is police commissioner. A teacher is president of the city council. Another councilman is a school principal. One of the two district judges is a former teacher.

The president of the Livonia Board of Education is a Northville elementary school principal. Another trustee is a university law professor. Another member's wife teaches.

In Livonia also, is Schoolcraft Community College, a five-district institution that boasts five educators among its eight trustees. One or more educators sit on each of the school boards in Overland. These are accidents of elections rather than legal requisite.

The Michigan Legislature now counts 22 of 148 members who either are teachers or who have had teaching experience. The Republican minority leader-elect is a former school superintendent. Another 16 legislators can be counted among those Ort calls the "educationally oriented," either as past school boards trustees, members of college or university boards of directors or active in PTAs.

ORT WOULD like to see more.

"We don't want to dictate what happens, but we want our say as practitioners," he declared.

He would like to see:

• Certain state funds earmarked for research and development. "One of the biggest businesses in the country spends so little on functional research," he mourned.

• Increased pensions for teachers who retired before Social Security benefits were available to them and those retiring when salaries were still relatively low. (MEA

directors recently lifted retirement benefits to a top legislative priority.)

"It would take about \$825,000 initially to take care of those," Ort said. Of the 28,000 retired teachers in Michigan, probably three-quarters are drawing \$3,000 to \$4,000 annually or less, he estimated, and some as little as \$1,800.

Real concern paid toward the "humanization" of young people. "You don't have to be an ogre and turn kids off to be a good teacher," he insisted. "You can start by accepting the kids."

POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT of educators and concern for more sensitive programs for students were Ort's chief talking points during his campaign for the MEA presidency, a post which culminates 14 years of teacher union activity.

Articulate, innovative, personable and forceful, Ort also expects to be a delegate to next summer's convention which will write the National Education Assn.'s (MNEA) first constitution. It now operates under a congressionally approved charter and by-laws.

Since the 1965 passage of Public Act 379, which gives public employees the right to bargain collectively, teacher pay in Michigan has increased about \$3,000 for beginning teachers and \$6,000 for the top of the scale, Ort said. There is still a wide geographic variance, however.

MEA membership potential in K-12 grades is just about used up, Ort said. The greatest potential remaining is among university educators and the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 teachers belonging to the Michigan Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO).

WITH AN AGENCY shop already written into about half its 500-odd contracts, the MEA's foremost long range, pragmatic goal is to secure binding arbitration of grievances, frowned upon by many local boards of education as reducing their powers. (The agency shop requires teachers either to become union members or to pay union fees.)

Chief goal of the National Education Association, with which the MEA is affiliated, is a \$25,000 annual teacher salary, Ort said.

Short range MEA target is reduction of class size.

"Failure to have reduced class size in Livonia last year or the year before definitely would have brought a strike," he asserted.

Another aspiration: "Job satisfaction. It's pretty intangible, but if a teacher was paid \$50,000 a year and didn't feel he'd accomplish something, it would be worth nothing."

"If a teacher was paid \$40,000 a year and didn't feel he'd accomplish something, it would be worth nothing."

-- John Ort



JOHN ORT

HE DISPUTES the contention that the field is now oversupplied.

"It's a can of worms. Some people say there are so many applicants that we don't need to raise salaries. Some college people say there's a surplus in some fields."

"But Wayne State University reported it placed 92 per cent of the graduates from its College of Education last year, and those who weren't placed didn't want to leave the metropolitan area. Moreover, if they really staffed schools as they should, we'd have tremendously more hiring."

Ort said he'd also "be amenable to looking at teacher tenure in terms of ways it could be improved."

THE TENURE law, as now written, gives the beginning teacher a two-year probationary period which can be stretched to an "absolute" maximum of three years. Once tenure is granted, the teacher can be fired only upon proof of incompetence or immorality.

Firings are rare and critics insist the law protects a large number of incapable teachers.

Ort, however, blames retention of poor teachers on failure to train administrators how to evaluate instruction.

"They (administrators) have little or no knowledge of how to go about documenting a good or a bad instructor, and then are not given the time to do an adequate job if they did have the training," he asserted. "I'm not censuring. It's just a gap."

"The whole bug-a-boo of tenure is the ability to implement it."

"Unnoticed" by the general public, also, are the teachers who quit voluntarily after being advised unofficially to do so, Ort said. "Many others decide teaching just isn't their cup of tea" and also leave the profession, he said.

JAMES L. TRAWICK, of 32980 Hargrove Ct., Farmington, has been appointed divisional auditor of General Motors' Fisher Body Division. He joined the GM audit staff in Detroit in 1956. He graduated from Duquesne University with a bachelor's degree in business administration.



AREA DEATHS

WILLIAM HANSHAW, Services for Mr. Hanshaw, 53 of 8389 Woodward Dr. in Westland, were held Feb. 19 in the Mary-Burrell Funeral Home in Livonia. The Rev. George Fleischer of Timothy Lutheran Church officiated and burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery.

Mr. Hanshaw died Feb. 13 in Garden City Osteopathic Hospital after suffering a heart attack while leaving the Elk Club in Plymouth.

A former Livonia resident, Mr. Hanshaw was a chemical engineer with Detroit Diesel.

He is survived by his wife, five sons, Charles, three daughters, Mrs. Alton August, Mrs. Paul Eginton and Mrs. Steve Lawson, seven sisters, one brother and two grandchildren.

VELMA H. SHAW, Funeral services for Mrs. Shaw, 73 of 32728 Hines, Livonia, were held in the Thayer Funeral Home in Farmington with cremation at Woodlawn.

Mrs. Shaw, who died Feb. 16 after a long illness, was a member of the Order of Eastern Star and the Livonia Senior Citizens Society. Survivors include husband, Charles; daughters, Mrs. Louella Hyatt, Mrs. Gloria Clegg and Mrs. Marian Titworth; son, Robert; brother, Homer Henderson; 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

ENID L. SCHENKEL, Funeral services for Mrs. Schenkel, 45 of 25745 Beeconree, Farmington Township, were held in St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington with the Ritey said in Hanesy-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Officiating was the Rev. Mr. Charles J. Malloy of St. Fabian.

Mrs. Schenkel, who lived several years in Farmington, died Feb. 9 in Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. Survivors include: husband, Roy, mother, Mrs. Rose Labrov of Southfield; sons, Gary and Steven; daughters, Lisa and Amy; brothers, Hugh, Richard and Robert; nephews, Mrs. Mary Shepherd, Mrs. Jean Hodges, Mrs. Margaret Rogers, Mrs. Donna Wilson, Mrs. Rose Humberger and Robertson.

EARL F. DESMER, Funeral services were held for Mr. Desmer, 83 of 27954 Alps Key, Farmington Township, in the Heener-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with burial at White Chapel Memorial in Troy.

Mr. Desmer, who died Feb. 7 in Tampa, Fla., had lived in Farmington for many years, was a machinist-tool maker for Vickers Corp. and a member of Forest Hills United Methodist Church. Survivors include: wife, Esther; daughters, Mrs. Wilma Kappeler, Mrs. Ima Seiser and Mrs. Thelma Eastman; brothers, Asa and Ray; sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Chaskey, Mrs. Lucy Leach and Mrs. Ruby Smith, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

ROBERT P. NICHOLAS, Services for Mr. Nicholas, 90, of 8851 Fenmore at Livonia, were held Feb. 20 in the R. G. and G. H. Harris Funeral Home in Garden City. Burial was in Catholic Memorial Gardens with Bishop Gordon Watts officiating.

Mr. Nicholas died Feb. 17 in the Dearborn Heights Nursing Home after a long illness.

He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints of Livonia and a carpenter, retired from Ford Motor Company.

He is survived by two sons, Philip and Robert K.; two daughters, Mrs. Anne Bailey and Mrs. Paul Engstrom; 19 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.



Carved wood Bishop 57 inches; circa 1480 Harris Harper Chapel, H. C. Roster, Mgr.

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A WINNER!—Tom King (left) is vice-president and general manager of Raupp Camper Center at 28859 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington. His firm took first prize for its exhibit at the Detroit Camper and Travel Show. Dan Dowsett, show director, presented the trophy.

Bottles Are Collected

Earth Alive, an ecology group sponsored by the Farmington Township Beautification Committee and the Oakland Community College Biology Club, recently opened a glass collection center on the Orchard Ridge Campus.

At the entrance to the college, at Orchard Lake Road and I-696, 3,200 gallon wood barrels have been placed to collect bottles. The bottles should be divided by color of glass, whether clear, green or amber. The labels do not have to be washed off, but lids should be removed.

The bottles will be taken to the Ann Arbor collection station or the collection station on the Michigan State Fairgrounds.