

Raider spirit



Longtime teacher Mary "Ma" Barker addresses students over the public address system as part of the 30th anniversary celebration, telling them to "maintain the Raiders great tradition."



photos by JOHN DISCHER/staff photographer

North Farmington principal Debbie Clarke leads the schools' marching band through the hallways during a Friday celebration of North's 30th anniversary.

Celebration marks North Farmington's 30th

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Thirty years must seem like an eternity to the students of North Farmington High School.

Many are half that age. But for teachers and staffers who have worked at the Farmington Hills school since it opened on Sept. 7, 1961, and to others who have moved on or retired, those years have just melted away.

A visit to the school last Friday brought back pleasant memories of a school so dear to so many. Student musicians marched through the halls, student council leaders decorated with balloons and served lunch, while those with ties to the district's second oldest high school reminisced about the past 30 years.

"I was really impressed with the attitude of the faculty and kids — I see some new things there," said retired assistant superintendent Lynn

"There really is a rich tradition and history in this school. I felt it was important we pay attention to the accomplishments here. There's a tradition of excellence that's been going on for years."

— Debbie Clarke
principal

Nutter, who taught and was an administrator at North from 1967-76 and served as one of its principals.

Nutter was at North during what he called the "turnoff of the '60s" when times were different and the school was bursting at the seams.

What he sees in 1991 is "kids going about the business of education."

"You have a lot of memories when

something has been a part of you," he added.

Longtime teacher Ralph Temby came to North in 1967 after teaching in the Clarenceville district. He recently retired, but has stayed on as an assistant football coach at North.

Why didn't he ever transfer or leave? "I guess, as long as you're satisfied," he said.

Current principal Debbie Clarke said Friday's events, which included a special lunch for returning visitors, "turned out to be a great success."

"There really is a rich tradition and history in this school," she said. "I felt it was important we pay attention to the accomplishments here. There's a tradition of excellence that's been going on for years."

"Most of the people (visitors) stayed the whole day. You could tell this was a really special place for them."

A RESEARCH paper by North Farmington sophomore Keely Jones highlighted Friday's festivities. Jones did the project while a student at O.E. Dunckel Middle School, researching and writing the history of North Farmington using articles from the Enterprise, personal interviews, yearbooks and historical accounts available at the local library.

North Farmington teachers used the paper during third hour Friday to discuss the history of the school.

According to Jones' account, a \$3 million bond issue was approved by voters to build what was to become North Farmington, two new elementary schools, and to renovate existing school buildings.

Harold Humble, an assistant principal at Farmington High, was named first principal. Later principals included Nutter, Clayton Graham, currently principal at Harrison High, Don Cowan, currently director of building and student services for the district, and Clarke.

Shortly after school opened and the football season got underway, the nickname "MacKenzie's Raiders" was coined. It was a take-off on a then popular television show by the same name, and because the football coach was named Warren McKenzie.

The Raiders name stuck.

OTHER NOTABLE people in

Jones' historical account include: the district's athletic director Ron Holland, who served 22 years at North, coaching football and track and leading the Raiders to two state football championships; first band director Larry Haver, who composed the school's fight song and alma mater, James Hunt, the school's first choir director who began a tradition of student productions of Broadway musicals; and art teacher Dick Schilling who created scenery and props for the musicals and was an award-winning gymnastics coach.

"We just had a real committed, spirited, group of kids," said Holland, recalling his many years at North. "There was a lot of parent support and involvement and expectations." The school has the same aura today, he said.

"It's still a warm, friendly school. There's no division. No levels of administration and teachers. I still sense that today."

Buckets o' blood

Red Cross regular Carr shoots for much-coveted 20-gallon pin

By Tom Bear
staff writer

Bruce Carr gives blood . . . well, sort of like cows give milk: contentedly and on schedule.

Superdonor Carr, a 52-year-old Farmington Hills resident, is such a regular at American Red Cross headquarters in Detroit that he real-

ly should have his own personal cot, cookie supply and orange juice glass.

Instead, he has (or soon will have) that coveted 20-gallon pin from the Red Cross. That's almost how much blood he's donated — 154 pints — over 32 years. Twenty gallons equals 160 pints.

"There's definitely a need and I'm able," said the social studies teacher at Detroit's Mackenzie High School. "The good Lord has given me health and I'm happy to share it."

Carr donated his first pint of A negative as a 19-year-old student at Anderson College in Indiana to help an ailing professor. He's been a consistent donor the past 15 years.

"I know several people, including my own father, who would not be alive today without the gift of blood from so many Red Cross donors," Carr said.

know your neighbor

THESE DAYS, when Carr gives blood, it's likely to be through a technique called pheresis, which comes from the Greek word "pheresis," meaning "to withdraw selectively."

Pheresis, according to Carr, involves hooking up the donor to a machine which separates blood into component parts (white cells, platelets and plasma), extracts the desired product and returns the rest to the donor.

A leukemia patient might only need white cells or platelets, but he/she might need a lot of them. In some cases, only platelets from a closely matched donor can be used.

One pheresis donor is able to give as much of the needed blood product in 60-90 minutes as up to 10 people who donate whole blood in the usual manner, Carr said.

"Normally they won't call someone for pheresis unless there's a need," he added. "It's very expensive and time-consuming."

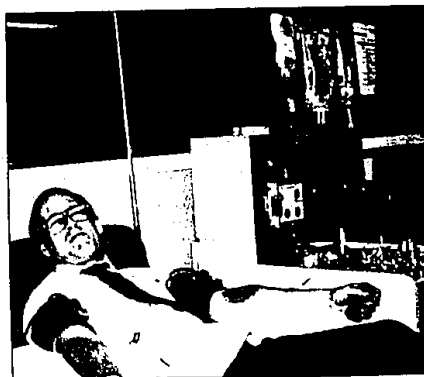
CARR DONATED blood through pheresis for the 100th time recently at Red Cross headquarters on Mack Avenue.

A teacher in the Detroit Schools for 28 years, Carr has coordinated many a successful blood drive at Mackenzie High (where he's known affectionately as Dracula and Dr. Blood) and at his church, Covenant Baptist in West Bloomfield.

With almost 30 years logged in classrooms, has Carr given any thought to retirement?

"Well, I might retire if I could find an appropriate second career," he said. So how about a position with the Red Cross?

"The thought has crossed my mind," he said.



Bruce Carr of Farmington Hills donates blood through the pheresis method for the 100th time recently at the American Red Cross headquarters in Detroit. Carr is shooting for the Red

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