

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1992

FARMINGTON NOTES

'Days of Caring'

For the third year in a row, Michigan National Bank is opening its Farmington Hills headquarters to 30 homeless individuals and their families for one week through Sept. 27, said bank chairman and CEO Robert J. Mylod.

During the program, called "Days of Caring," more than 250 Michigan National team members volunteer their time to assist their 30 guests — homeless men, women and children from the South Oakland Shelter (SOS) in Royal Oak.

Besides offering overnight shelter, the team members during the day prepare and serve breakfast, distribute bagged lunches, drive the temporary residents to their places of employment, job searches or the SOS office.

The Michigan National volunteers also bring the homeless people back to the bank headquarters, launder their bedding and personal clothing, prepare and serve dinner, provide activities and offer a sympathetic ear.

"Without these caring individuals, there is no SOS," said Lillian Melville, director of the eight-year-old South Oakland Shelter. "We are really a 'homeless' shelter for homeless people, because we rely on the generosity and goodwill of community volunteers . . ."

One of Michigan National's objectives in the "Days of Caring" is to motivate the private business sector to join the food and shelter program, according to Mylod.

The bank will expand activities for its homeless guests this year, he added. This week's agenda includes a presentation by a bank trust officer on establishing and managing a basic budget and developing a savings plan, a workshop by Alcoholics Anonymous, a chicken dinner provided by Kentucky Fried Chicken, 45 cases of pop donated by Pepsi Bottlers, salads and vegetables from Meijer Thrifty Acres and paper products and staples provided by K mart.

A bank spokeswoman said that last year's homeless guests included some welfare mothers and their children, senior citizens on fixed incomes, working poor who found it difficult to make ends meet.



By CANEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

It was four months after the opening of Flanders Elementary when Bob McLean set foot in the school, ready to teach his first class.

That was nearly 30 years ago, and he never left.

As the southside elementary celebrated its 30th anniversary with the opening of school this year, McLean recalled how, that first year, the building wasn't even complete when school began — "and now we're starting to remodel the school," he said.

McLean recalls with bittersweet memories the many friends he has made at the school, including some who have retired or died.

Today, the school remains a small, close knit, cooperative building with the same type of neighborhood surrounding it, say those who have watched the school grow over the past 30 years.

"In many ways, things are the same," said former principal Frank Delewsky. "It's a very close knit community there. They always helped me and I felt comfortable."

Weidon Petz, who served as Flanders principal from 1973 to 1981, recalled when the staff turned a classroom in a country schoolhouse, complete with teachers in costume who took turns giving lessons there. "That room was used throughout the year," Petz said. "The students even had to leave the class-

■ 'We're a neighborhood school and we want to continue the neighborhood concept. We've always been a community of neighbors.'

Mary Joyce Readler
school principal

room to get water."

Petz called the staff "pliable" and said Flanders was always known for lessons both inside and outside of the classroom. "I have very fond memories of Flanders," he said. "It just seemed to be the type of building we had many, many years ago."

Current principal Mary Joyce Readler said she gathered a lot of Flanders history when she took the post by, literally, digging up the history. "About all I did was clean the closets — and you really learn a lot doing that," she said.

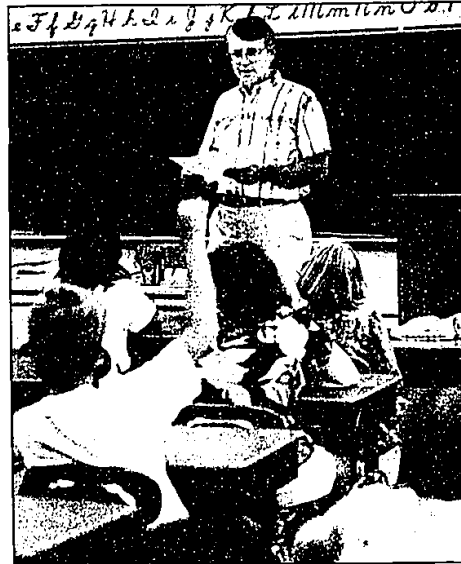
Readler said she was welcomed to Flanders, which is surrounded by the Tall Oaks and Farmington Meadows community. "We're a neighborhood school and we want to continue the neighborhood concept," she said. "We've always been a community of neighbors."

See FLANDERS, 16A

Milestone

Flanders School celebrates anniversary

They're celebrating the 30th anniversary of Flanders Elementary School in Farmington. After all these years, the school and surrounding community remain close.



Flanders fixture: Bob McLean, shown teaching a fifth-grade class in 1989, has been at Flanders Elementary almost since its opening.

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