



MRS. FLORENCE BRADNER, the woman behind Schoolcraft College, is ready to leave the college scene and travel with her husband and write musical compositions.

How SC Small College Atmosphere Was Saved

By KATHY MORAN
It is said that behind every great man is a good woman — and Florence Bradner is living proof.

Mrs. Bradner is the woman behind Dr. Eric J. Bradner, founding president of Schoolcraft College who will officially retire from his post at the end of this month.

Working behind the scenes for the last 10 years, the charming grey-haired lady gave a woman's touch to the college experience.

Together the Bradners led

Schoolcraft from the blueprints to the respected college with a distinguished faculty it is today.

And part of their secret of success is due to Mrs. Bradner's deep concern about youth, which is rooted in her college experience.

AFTER GROWING UP on a large Missouri farm, she went to Illinois to study music at Northwestern University in Evanston.

"The music school was so small that we knew all the students and faculty personally," she said. "It was much better than the kids have it today. The universities are large and impersonal — even the high schools are so large now."

It was this small college atmosphere that Mrs. Bradner tried to preserve at Schoolcraft after she moved here with her husband to start the college.

She taught intermittently while raising two children and moving around with her husband as he climbed up from a teacher to an administrator.

PRIOR to coming to Livonia, Dr. Bradner headed Bay City Junior College, and Mrs. Bradner got her first taste of the responsibilities of a president's wife.

Then she moved back to a farm — the 16-acre farm that became the site for Schoolcraft College.

Leaving Bay City, she was glad to be able to leave the club memberships behind and bite into something she could shape herself.

"I belonged to a lot of clubs in Bay City," she said. "But I got frustrated with them."

"I'm not a clubby type woman. I like to get hold of something I can sink my teeth into and do something about."

And she did.

SHE CAME to Schoolcraft knowing that as the president's wife and starting a new college, "I would have to start precedents."

Even their house had to be built with her husband's position in mind, she said, pointing to the large living room that "we wouldn't have needed."

The house on Bennett Court in Livonia was designed so that a fireplace separates the living room and dining room; a large porch adjoins both rooms, and all three can be used for entertaining.

She began setting precedents by reaching out to the faculty and students and having them over to their house on a regular basis.

She invited all the faculty wives over "and let them organize."

And the students and student organizations were invited to their home.

"We wanted to know the students, and we wanted them to know us," she said. "We tried to stay as close to the students as we could."

DID HER husband ever talk business with her and share his worries?

"Oh yes," she responds with a laugh. "I was a crying towel many times."

Merchants Plan Movies

MELISSA NOLD, daughter of the Robert Nolds of 30336 Shawwassee, Farmington, was a bond winner last year in the national children's photograph contest. She had her picture taken in the portrait studio of Ward's Wonderland store in Livonia. Any child 14 or younger is eligible, and entries will be accepted after Aug. 14. Participating studios have details on how to enter and win prizes totaling \$25,000.

Bloodmobiles Will Visit Area 3 Times

A Red Cross bloodmobile will make three Observerland stops for donors next week. Times and places are:

Tuesday, June 15, St. Genevieve Church, 29015 Jamison near Five Mile and Middle Belt, Livonia, 2-8 p.m.

Thursday, June 17, Elks Club at 31117 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, 2-8 p.m.

Friday, June 18, St. Bernardine Church, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, 2-8 p.m.

Whole blood can be stored only 21 days. That's why the Red Cross is in a daily need of 450 units of blood in the southeastern Michigan region.

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Madonna Offers 'Aging' Seminar

A seminar on aging will be offered at Madonna College on the five Saturdays of July (3, 10, 17, 24, 31).

Professionals will present lectures on such topics, as physical and psychological adjustment of the elderly, environment, health care, respective role of the family, community agencies and the church, economic needs.

Sessions will last from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m. The course may be taken for 2 credits at \$32 per credit, or for non-credit at \$10 per day.

Also offered on the

same Saturdays at the same time will be an introductory catechist training course approved by the Detroit Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education.

Participants will be issued catechist certificates. The course will be conducted by a team of qualified instructors: Sr. M. Armella, CSSF, M.A. in religious education; Fr. John J. Castellet, S.T.D., S.S.L.; and Rev. John Quinn, M.A. in theology and M.A. in religious education. The fee for credit (2-3) is \$32; for non-credit, \$25 for the course; and a fee of \$2 for materials.

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