



Ten years later, Renee Juengel-Doran (left) and Scott Dilworth return to Gill Elementary to look over the contents of a time capsule they buried 10 years ago.

STAFF PHOTOS BY ANN HEALEY

Time sharing

Past meets present with capsule opening

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

George Orwell's year in a nutshell: The Roar of '84 and Reagan's rule. It was also the time when Big Brother was overshadowed by the onslaught of "baby on board" car window signs.

Gill Elementary fifth-graders visited that period when the Detroit Tigers dominated on the diamond, excavating a time capsule put there by kids 10

years ago.

Some of those now Generation X folks — many of whom are in college or working — returned to mark the occasion Dec. 16.

So did teacher Vana Hoekstra, who came up with the original assignment.

"It was marvelous to see them," said Hoekstra, who retired in 1984. "Their profiles were the same. Their smiles were the same. They're just more mature and adult . . . They had

GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

more confidence in themselves."

At the time, Hoekstra had kids put together the time line so they could appreciate progress made during the past century.

Students discussed the Industrial Age, both world wars and wondered what would be needed in the future.

They compiled various artifacts pertinent to the '80s. In-

cluded were typical timely items such as newspapers and TV guides.

Some wrote letters. Others included currency. One student put in two plums, showing that man did not always control nature.

Another put in a pair of blue jeans.

"I didn't get that," Hoekstra

said.

The time capsule particularly hit home with parent Diane Heisek.

In 1984, her son Joe Goudeseune (his mother remarried) was in Hoekstra's class. She was also pregnant with her daughter Jillian, 10, who is part of the fifth-grade class contributing 1994

articles to the capsule.

"I'm done," said Heisek about the chances of having another fifth-grade child reopening the

capsule in 2004.

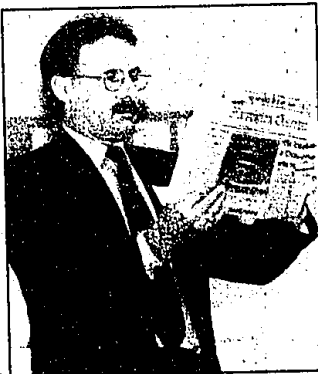
Joe, a student at Eastern Michigan University, returned for the event.

"My sister was going to school, and she asked me to come back," Goudeseune said. "I don't get a chance to see her much. It's something I thought I could do for her."

"It brought back a lot of memories," he said. "Everything that was there I can vividly remember putting them in there."



Looking ahead: Above, Gill fifth-graders Colleen Lockhart (left) and Julie Goettlicher hold up a book of predictions to be buried in their time capsule. At right, Gill Principal Mike Duff examines a 1984 Farmington Observer fresh from the time capsule.



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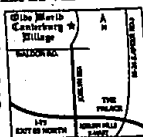
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