

State pride

4th graders showcase Michigan

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Forest Elementary proved once again a glove-shaped state in the young mitts of elementary school students can produce a plethora of ideas. The annual "Taste of Michi-

gan" exhibit took place in the school gym. This year, fourth graders wrote reports, baked bread and, in one case, hauled in their gerbils — all to tell Michigan's story. Usual topics were covered: Upper Peninsula, automotive indus-

try and the Great Lakes. How they tackled them was another matter.

"Some of them went all out on it," said teacher Cathy Smith.

For some, that included traveling to Mackinaw Island, Lansing and to various lakes. Others put a different spin on Michigan-made products all together.

Chris Cyrus, for example, passed out buttons and addresses of Michigan-born celebs. Buttons of Bay City-born Madonna were going like antacid tablets at a chili cookoff.

Cyrus wrote to the notables himself, receiving personal replies from Farmington Hills native and actress Paw Dawber and Detroit-born Ed McMahon. Some sent autograph photos.

Madonna replied, too. "She sent back a pamphlet for a club to join," said Cyrus, proving why she's called "The Material Girl."

Yvonne Amell and Allan Wertheimer had structurally sound projects.

Amell made a model of the Sault Ste. Marie Locks, using sliding plastic glass panels that could be moved up and down to illustrate how the locks work. "I didn't know before that there is only actual 'See Lock,'" Amell said. "The rest are canals."

Wertheimer — with help of his father — built an airplane out of cardboard boxes to draw attention to the state's little known aviation industry.

While some fourth-graders were in the clouds, others were making a splash. Andrew Stanis (Erie), Scott Hanter (Superior), Adam Tepper (Ontario), Brianna Loveland (Michigan), and Jessica Resume (Huron) explored and told the stories behind the largest fresh body of water in the world.

Julie Shulman, Lauren Levin, and Kate Ginsburg did their respective projects on Michigan education. Ginsburg exhibited some of the games children played at the turn of the century, including



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMITZKE

"Twirling the Plate."

"Coopers" were well-represented by Brianna Barnett and Rachel Klegon, who mapped out places in the Upper Peninsula to visit.

However, this whole Michigan thing was a bit foreign to Alison Gillham. She only moved to the state two months ago from Coventry, England.

Gillham has acclimated well, though. So, too, have her gerbils, Frisky and Scamp, who made the trans-Atlantic trek. The gerbils were present as part of her display on tame animals in Michigan.

Last year, parents put together exhibits. Children took charge this year.

"I think what it does is gives them a good understanding of what people were like back then and what they did to survive," said Delta coordinator Jan Martin.

All miners: Above, pretending to be copper miners, Jon Walkon (bottom) and David Major find that only a small fraction of Michigan's mines are still operating. Below, teacher Janice Martin shows Ramy Sulaiman how to spin wool.



By yourself! Meara MacWilliams holds up a Michigan child's tablet from the last century. Meara and her partner, Lori Tupper, found that there were differences between the lives of boys and girls.

Pull those strings

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority's Winter Fun Series for youngsters continues at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 25, with a performance of Brad Lowe's Fantasy E-Fox Puppets at the Civic Theatre on Grand River. Lowe's puppet troupe has been featured on television as well as in live performances. Cost is \$2 per person.

Blood will flow

An American Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills. Child care will be provided from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or an appointment, call the church at 478-7272.

All that jazz

The Harrison High School jazz band will present a benefit concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, in the auditorium of the high school on 12 Mile road between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads.

The Harrison jazz band has been chosen to represent Michigan in Europe this summer at the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Proceeds from Tuesday's concert will help with expenses.

Tickets, a \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, may be obtained in advance by calling 469-3499 or at the door.

Have a healthy day

The Farmington Area YMCA will team up with the public schools of Farmington, Novi and West Bloomfield to present the fourth-annual National YMCA Healthy Kids Day

FARMINGTON FOCUS

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Twelve Oaks Mall.

Information will be presented on: substance abuse prevention, bike/helmet safety, healthy hearts, exercise safety, poison control, nutrition and germs. The program will be held in cooperation with several Detroit-area hospitals, including Botsford General, and the Novi, West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills fire departments.

Memory Lane

From the March 24, 1955 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ A new country club, to be known as the Farmington Country Club, was planned for Haggerty Road south of 12 Mile Road.

■ Contracts were awarded for construction of the new Our Lady of Sorrows High School on Power Road north of 10 Mile. The \$330,000 building would accommodate 400 students when finished in the spring of 1956.

■ The Dollar Days sale at Dancer's Department Store of Grand River featured men's and boys' shoes for \$5 a pair.

■ Classified ad: "GOOD ROTTED horse manure, 4 yards, \$10 delivered. Farm. 0534-W2. 25811 Power."

■ Rainy weather and bad roads apparently prevented many parents from attending a meeting of the Farmington High School PTA.

■ Short item: "Wouldn't it be fun if a husband could do all the things his wife suspects he does?"

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335, faxed to 477-9722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.

Cops and kids poster contest set

During March and April, the Farmington Hills Police Department will hold a poster competition among Farmington area public and parochial high school art students.

The winning design will be printed on posters and flyers to promote the police department's eighth-annual open house, scheduled for Sunday, June 4.

All entries should be submitted on 18-by-24-inch white poster-board with a design incorporating the theme of "Children and Police." Colors should be limited to red and medium blue.

Art designs must include the following text in large print:

Farmington Hills Police Open House Sunday, June 4, 1995 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The address for the Police Department — 31544 Eleven Mile Road — must also be included.

The deadline for submitting entries is 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13. All entries are to be submitted to the Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Section, 31855 11 Mile Road.

Entrants must write their name, school, grade level, home address and phone number on the back of their entry.

An enthusiastic community response was received from area businesses and organizations which have promised donations of prize money and gift items for the awards, a police official said.

The Farmington Area Arts Commission was the first to endorse this poster competition project and their financial sup-

port will sponsor a large portion of the first place prize.

Prizes will also be awarded for second, third, fourth and fifth place entries, and five honorable mention awards will be given.

Entries will be displayed prior to the judging at a location to be announced. The final judging is scheduled for the last week of April. All awards will be presented at the Open House Showmobile at 3 p.m., on June 4.

A number of additional prizes will be awarded to non-winning entrants in a special drawing.

For further information, contact Chris Cogar, in the Crime Prevention Section of the Farmington Hills Police Department, at 473-9636 during weekday office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

NM

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