

# Students reveal talent in local history contest

The Farmington Historical Society recently named Anna Clark the first place winner of the Society's 12th annual Lee S. Peel Historical Research contest.

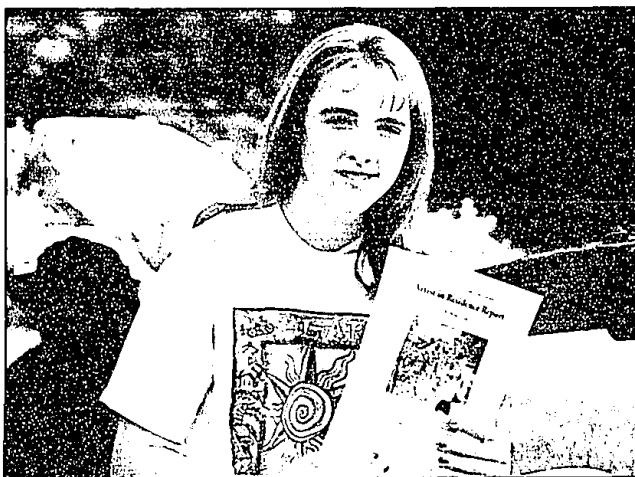
The contest encourages original research and writing on Farmington area history. Named after the local educator, historian and author, it is conducted and judged by senior members of the Farmington Historical Society with prize money provided by the Farmington Area Arts Commission.

This year's winning entries were announced recently at a special ceremony held at the Farmington Historical Museum on Grand River Road.

Clark, a Power Middle School student, won for her paper, "Farmington Area Arts Commission Artist in Residence Report." She received an award certificate and a check for \$100.

Her original paper describes the history of the Artist in Residence program from its beginning in 1976. Clark lists nomination procedures, judging, awards and winners from 1976 through last year. She also explains how each artist in residence donates a creative gift representative of their specialty to the Farmington Area Arts Commission.

Clark's paper lists each of these artistic gifts and gives the locations where they can be viewed. She used interview material to give additional detail on two of the artist in residence winners, including her grandfather, Joe Clark, a photographer who won in



**Family ties:** Anna Clark won first place in the Farmington Historical Society research contest. She interviewed her grandfather, Joe Clark, for background information.

1976. She also interviewed Monte Nagler, a photographer who won in 1987.

Clark also describes the founding of the Farmington Area Arts Commission through an interview with charter member Kay Briggs. A booklet based on this paper is

planned for publication by the Farmington Hills Historical Commission.

Second prize was given to Michelle Roberts, a Power Middle School student, for her paper, "What People Like to Do in Farmington." She received an

award certificate and a check for \$50.

Roberts interviewed people from three different age groups — under 10, teens and 21 and over — listing the popular recreational activities for each group. These activities included video games, reading, drawing and watching

television. In her snapshot view, Roberts also included mall shopping, dining out and exercising.

Three best in age category awards were also given for two papers and one video tape presentation. Each winner received an award certificate and a check for \$25.

The Best in Age Elementary School award was given to Carol Apol's third grade students at Highmeadow Elementary School for their video tape presentation "The Power Family: From New York to Michigan." The tape is based on the students' study of pioneer life and local history as well as a visit they had with Philip Power, owner and chairman of the board of Suburban Communication Corporation, the parent company of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

The tape re-enacts the Power family's 1824 trip from New York to found present-day Farmington and it illustrates the difficulties of the trip as well as the hardships encountered in pioneering a new location.

Duplicate awards were given for the Best in Age Middle School category for two papers which were judged as a tie.

Amanda Weston, a Power Middle School student, won for her paper, "Farmington Civic Theatre." It describes the 1940 opening night as well as the background of the Civic's founder E.J. Hohler. Changes in the theatre's business and its fortunes over the years are described as well as its eventual purchase by the founder's son Greg Hohler in 1973 and the changes he made recently. The paper is based on newspaper

articles and an interview with Greg Hohler.

The other Best in Age Middle School award was presented to Kim Yoder, a Power Middle School student for her paper, "Life at 33305." This paper tells the story of the three Himmel-schach sisters as they grew up in the 1930s and 1940s at their house at 33305 Oakland in downtown Farmington.

Their early life experiences helping with the family business, going to school, playing games, attending dances and playing with pets are described. The paper is illustrated with numerous original photographs. Yoder's paper is based on interviews with the three sisters.

Also, 10 honorable mention certificates and prizes of \$10 were awarded. The following students from Power Middle School won in this category: Stephanie Batkie for her paper, "The Underground Railroad: Myth, Legend or the Truth?" Sarah Baxtreaser for her paper, "The Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington," D. Justin Celko for his paper, "The Founding of Farmington," Kim D'Anna for her paper "Highmeadow a National Exemplary School; Dan Duffey for his paper, "Farmington Hills Police Mike Goettlicher for his paper, "The Rex Cawley Story 'Nice Guys Don't Always Finish Last,'" Tim Rais for his paper, "Farmington Research Report — What Did the Farmington People Do For Fun in the 1800s and 1900s? Nothing?" and Evan Roehm for his paper, "Farmington's Indian History."

Other honorable mention winners include O.E. Dunckel Middle School students David McKercher for his project, "Farmington Historical Calendar 1996 and Bryan Stanbridge for his paper, "History of Troop 179."

Copies of these papers will be presented to the Farmington Library History Room for inclusion in the collection of award winning entries.

During the awards ceremony the Farmington Historical Society members thanked the students for their hard work; teachers and parents who helped encourage and direct the researchers and the Farmington Area Arts Commission, which donated the money for the contest awards.

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**SELF-IMAGE**

Improve all of us are intensely aware of our image. We evaluate our appearance each time we mirror, apply makeup, and work out. We are aware of our physical strengths and weaknesses. In a look in the mirror or the reflection of another's face, we may find a certain dissatisfaction with how we look. Usually half of us would like to change some feature about ourselves. Today, plastic surgery brings increasing surgical procedures into the realm of possibility for the average person. As long as there is medical need or sound judgment for changing a person's appearance, the plastic surgeon will consider performing a corrective procedure. The purpose of this column is to make information available that may help in the decision process.

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**HINT:** The word "plastic" comes from the Greek word meaning "to shape."