

HILLSIDE

FROM PAGE A1

engrossed in the stories about the early fur trading business between Native American tribes and French explorers and missionaries.

In 1634, Dunn said, Jean Nicolle first came to northern Michigan looking for the mythical Northwest Passage, an all-water route to China.

He was followed by French missionaries, who wanted to bring Catholicism to native tribes. The natives traded beaver, otter, skunk and other animal pelts, but the beaver were the most valuable, Dunn said.

Why? Because beaver were becoming scarce in Europe, but the demand for their pelts continued to grow.

Dunn showed off his three-corner beaver felt hat, which he said was "as popular back then as blue jeans and Nike tennis shoes are today."

Erick Chamberlain and Autumn Kyles were called forward to try a little trading demonstration, with Autumn offering a woolen coat allegedly worth four beaver pelts to Erick.

"Before we shake on it," said Bohl, "we want to make sure we have the highest quality goods."

Now, while the coat seemed a little worn in spots and stained, the pile of beaver pelts was one short.

Even though the deal was tarnished a little on both sides, each decided it was fair and shook on it anyway.

"Now, shake hands and say, 'See you next winter,'" Bohl advised, explaining that was the art of one-on-one negotiating.

The re-enactors explained the construction and demise of Fort Michilimackinac, which was built as a fortified fur trading center, to keep the British out.

It later burned to the ground, but has been reconstructed as a historic site.

Bohl, who wore typical voyageur garb including a knit cap, told students 12 men



BILL ESKELER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

British Soldier Brian Dunn asks the class if Heather Gallett and Nick Williams should continue to wear the heavy clothing until the end of the presentation.

would ride and portage a canoe hundreds of miles to trade for furs of animal pelts, which were about 90 pounds each. The longest portage — which involved carrying the canoe and bales on land — was about 20 miles, he said.

The four of history included an opportunity to try out clothes from the colonial era. Students learned, as is the case today, certain pieces of clothing represented status among settlers.

"Most of the things we're wearing are not that different from what you're wearing," Dunn said. "It just takes us a little longer to get dressed."

Bohl created the smoke

with a demonstration of fire-starting in the days before Bic lighters or even matches.

"We've got to make fire the old-fashioned way," he said, striking a piece of flint and steel together.

The sparks ignited a piece of "char cloth," which would glow and be placed with a bird's nest or other tinder in order to start a fire. Bohl didn't get quite that far, so as not to set off the school's fire alarms.

Students are also preparing for a weekend trip May 17 to Mill Creek, just outside Mackinaw City.

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**Carole J. Miller**  
Services for Carole Jean Miller, 56, of Farmington Hills, were held April 12 at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville with the Rev. Dr. James McGuire officiating.

Mrs. Miller was born Aug. 6, 1946 in Chicago, Ill. and died April 9, 2003 at University Hospitals in Ann Arbor. She worked in financial services for DaimlerChrysler and was a Sunday School teacher at Ward Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by her husband, Patrick; sons, Michael (Brenda) Miller, Daniel (Roxanne) Miller and Christopher (Dawn) Cox;

daughters, Colleen (Phil Lewis) Clappison; mother, Irene Burr; brother, Richard Burr; and grandchildren, Alicia, Paige and Patrick. She is preceded in death by her father William.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. Arrangements made by Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

OBITUARIES

**Eugene A. McAdams**  
A memorial service for Eugene Armand McAdams, 87, of Farmington, will be held at 12:45 p.m. today, April 13 at Newburgh United Methodist Church in Livonia with the Rev. Terry Allen and Rev. Barbara Welbaum officiating.

Mr. McAdams was born May 19, 1915 in Wichita, Kan. and died April 3, 2003 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. He owned and operated Terry Printing for 40 years and assisted in the development of Stylecraft Printing. He was a member of United Methodist Men and the Ham Radio Club of Farmington. He enjoyed gardening.

He is survived by his wife, Olive; sons, David and Richard (Betsy); daughter, Shirley (James) Bailey; brothers, Gilbert and Howard Jones; sisters, Harrietta Griffith, Lodina Christener and Vina Yarbrough; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Arrangements made by

Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

**Ivette Thompson**

Services for Ivette Thompson, 73, formerly of Farmington, will be held at 11:30 a.m. Monday, April 14 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Sand officiating. Burial will follow at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia. Visitation will be held 2-9 p.m. today, April 13 at the funeral home.

Mrs. Thompson was born March 1, 1930 in Redfox, Ky. and died April 9, 2003 in Walled Lake.

She is survived by her son, Jerry; daughter, Sandra (Matthew) Wegzyn; grandchildren, Michael, Holly, Ashley, Lindsay, Jaylynn and Zachary; six sisters; and three brothers. She is preceded in death by her husband, Sherman.

Memorial contributions may be made to Henry Ford Hospice.

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