



PIETRO DIGIORGIO (left) and a former student, Matthew J. Black, are hoping to put out a serious magazine of literature and the arts. It's all ready to go, but a mini-grant is needed. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

For Teacher

Self-Expression Is Challenge

By BETTY MASSON

Today's students are interested in expressing themselves. It's doubtful that anyone would quarrel with that statement, but while many would say it with a sigh, a Garden City East High School teacher regards it as both a challenge and an opportunity. According to Pietro DiGiorgio, speech and debate teacher, this urge for self-expression means "we're going to have a renaissance of interest in the arts, including poetry and literature. "Maybe, we're having it right now," he adds thoughtfully.

HE BASES HIS opinion on his students, the increase in "the number of kids showing a

real interest in literature, not for grades but to express themselves."

He and Matthew J. Black, who comes from Garden City but is now living in Detroit while he works on an MA in history at Wayne State University, are ready for this renaissance. Black is a former student of DiGiorgio's.

They'll be even more ready if a hoped-for mini-grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts comes through. With the grant, they'll be able to put out the first issue of their new magazine "Oyster."

The editorial copy is ready for their first issue of a serious magazine of literature and the arts.

"We decided that there are a lot of mazines around putting out a lot of junk and fads.

amusements

This is not what we want," says Black.

"We know that in this area there are many serious writers, and we have compiled what we think is a good first issue," he adds. Associated editor of the magazine is Floyd Edgar Opperman of Detroit, who is now in California with the U.S. Navy, but will be back soon.

THE FIRST ISSUE is devoted to poetry and contributors come from around the country, but the publishers are hoping to be able to devote more space in future issues to writers in Michigan.

pat answers and they are searching more and more. "Anyone who is a searcher is going to find an expression ... a way to express the joy of the search as well as the joy of discovery," he comments.

"We want to be right out in front to capture a lot of this energy, not for gain, but to be a part of it," is his philosophy.

DiGiorgio is also noted as an actor. He has just finished playing Big Daddy in the Will-O-Way Theater production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

Here again he is impressed by the enthusiasm which is being generated by the arts. "The number of kids who come out to contribute their time just to see something take shape is an indication to me that there is a renaissance," he says.

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