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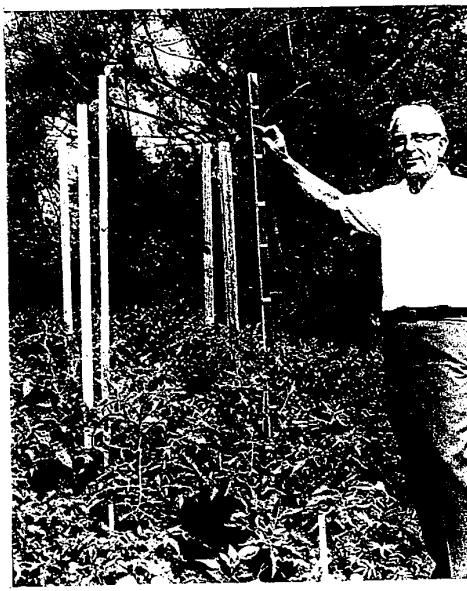
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Farmington Man Retires From U-D Engineering College



GARDENER—Dean Jasper Gerardi is enjoying his retirement from the U-D. He grows healthy tomato plants, among other things. (Observer photo by Fran Evert)

FARMINGTON
A Farmington man whose career at the University of Detroit spanned nearly five decades retired at the end of June.

Jasper Gerardi, 28730 Lorikay Dr., Farmington, spent 48 years at the U-D as a student, teaching assistant, and then full time instructor, professor, and finally as an administrator and dean.

He left the university June 30, having been the associate dean of the school's college of engineering.

Often styled as the "circuit-riding dean," Dean Gerardi yearly visited colleges throughout the nation, interviewing pre-engineering students, reviewing records and admitting qualified students on the spot.

He began with the university in 1927 as a student, became a student assistant in 1929. He taught classes until 1936, then became involved in administration.

During World War II he worked on stress analysis for the government, laboring among other things, helicopters. Gerardi explained some of the important changes in the engineering field during a recent interview.

"The changes have been phenomenal. We saw a change in engineering from a concern with material things such as the design of automobiles and refrigerators to the design of

systems which involve social, economic and political disciplines," Gerardi said.

Engineers no longer are concerned solely with the design of products, but now must be aware of the effects the product has on the society, he said. "We (at the U-D) are training students to look at the long range implications of a product, or a system," he added.

"We want our engineers to know a lot about a lot of things—or know where he can research the subject, or where he can find someone who can do it for him."

"At one time an engineer didn't know about government. Now he had better."

Gerardi said students were doing a lot of work involving complete systems. They are heavily involved in medical systems. Ecology is also a concern, but not a new one to engineers, he said. "We always fought to get government to treat sewage before they dumped it in a river," Gerardi noted.

Gerardi's counseling function was a complicated operation whereby he traveled to 25 schools all over the United States, talking with students about the U-D program.

But it was not simply recruiting. He also had to act as a consultant in engineering to the schools who did not have engineering programs and look to the U-D to take their students.

"I had to work with each student, and his curriculum. And we have co-op education, in the true sense of the word. Students must work three months of the year, including the three prior to their entrance into the university. And they work for engineers."

Dean Gerardi has written numerous papers in his fields and received high distinctions within the profession. He headed the school's graduate department for a time, and worked on engineering standards for the auto industry. He helped develop standards of tolerances on designs and parts that are now internationally used. He has worked with Detroit Edison and several other firms doing civil engineering work.

Now that he has left the U-D his plans include "doing as little as possible" during the next four months.

He expects to devote some time to gardening. Gerardi has discovered the fun of growing plants under fluorescent lights, and in a typical systematic way, has researched the subject thoroughly.

Talking about the general shortage of funds for all schools, he noted that it wasn't always bad to be out of money. "It forces you to use your ingenuity, and I'm not sure I'm sorry about that. Edison started in his basement. It's amazing what you can do if you've got a brain," Gerardi said.

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Marathon Is Saturday

A 10 mile nine-marathon sponsored by the YMCA proceeds the parade Saturday.

Contestants must be at the Township hall by about 4:30.

The race is organized by the Michigan Association of the American Athletic Union. Trophies and medals will be awarded to winners.



GLEN J. McVEIGH of Livonia has been elected to the board of Livonia National Bank. A senior vice president of Michigan Bank, National Assn. McVeigh is a certified public accountant with responsibility in corporate planning and portfolio management.

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