

The Observer

Dearborn High School Dearborn, Michigan September 27, 1968

With Difficulties Overcome, Teacher Continues Plans

"I'll be with you in a minute," the young man with brown hair and blue eyes said. "I have to go to the office first."

In a minute he was back. "O.K.?" he asked.

"Fine," I answered. And off we went to the teachers' lounge.

We sat down at the second table. He put some papers into his brief case, and then got up to get himself a cup of coffee. Only two things made him different from the other teachers at Dearborn. One, he had a beautiful black Labrador Retriever at his side, and the other, he was blind.

Mr. Alan Harris, social studies teacher, first became interested in teaching when he was in high school. However, he lost his sight due to a series of accidents, one while playing football in high school. Undaunted, he went ahead with his initial plans by completing undergrad-

uate work at Wayne State University. He is now working toward his master's degree.

Difficulties in being a blind teacher? The students in his five classes take care of the attendance. As for testing, Mr. Harris prefers essay tests, "not because I'm worried about cheating, but because I don't think objective tests prove much. Besides, soon I'll know the students well enough to know their abilities."

He employs a competitive grading system and hires readers to aid in correcting tests and homework. His students, he thinks, are "absolutely fabulous. I've had no trouble so far."

He would like to see some changes in social studies curriculum, such as the acting out of history by the students. Assimilation games are of special interest to Mr. Harris.

Also very interested in wrestling, he wrestled all through college. He hopes to work with Coach Ed Lanzi and the wrestling team this year.

In spite of all the difficulties he has had to overcome to be a teacher, Mr. Harris parting words were "I'm fairly optimistic."

Dance Tonight, Seniors Set Fire

Featured from 8:30 till 11:30 will be "The Odds and Ends" playing under special lighting to create an illusion of fire. This band has previously appeared at the Grande Ballroom.

To cool things down, refreshments will be sold by members of the Senior Class in the Teacher's Cafeteria.

Although asbestos is recommended school dress is acceptable. Admission will be 50 cents with an activity ticket and \$1 without.



Photo by Bill Gardner

Contributing feminine charm to the Auto Shop is Karen Henry, 12B.

Karen is the only girl taking this course. She plans to take Auto Shop 2 next semester.

A Girl In Auto Shop?

Students Attend Unusual Classes

Oddity is not uncommon to Dearborn High. People like Gordon Willenborg, 11B, Kathy Jason, Debi Bezirium, and Karen Henry, all 12B's, aren't odd though--they just have weird streaks in them.

There is a rumor circulating that Gordon Willenborg is attempting to find the secret of Col. Sander's Kentucky Fried Chicken. Will he do it? Gordie thinks so. He is taking Cooking II at Fordson so that he may continue in his father's business as a food broker.

"I want to have all the knowledge of a chef," he said. This way he'll have a greater understanding as he follows his father's footsteps. Gordie is not the only boy in the class, however. There are nine other boys to keep him company.

Does it seem weird to see a girl in auto shop? Perhaps, but according to Karen Henry it doesn't bother her. "I liked to work on cars and besides I needed a credit," she said matter of factly.

Her father owns a gas station and she claims she grew up around cars. She plans to take Auto Shop II, and then she plans to help her father at the station as a mechanic.

Aeronautical engineering is a big word but Kathy Jason plans to tackle



Showing Riitta "the American way" are, from left to right, Riitta Vaissi, Karrie, Nancy, and Mrs. Vaughan Tufts, Riitta's American 'family'.

Riitta's Dream Comes True; Finally Arrives In America

"I thought my dream had come true. I have always wanted to come to this country," said Riitta Vaissi, foreign exchange student from Finland.

Riitta, 16, is from Hyvinka, a city of about 26,000 people about 50 miles north of Helsinki, the capital city of Finland. She flew to Rotterdam, and then sailed for ten days to New York. On Aug. 19 she arrived at her new home, the home of Karrie Tufts, 12B.

YFU, Youth For Understanding, is the organization that sent her to the United States. The American Field Service is similar to YFU.

The school that Riitta attended in Finland is a bit different from Dearborn High. The student body of about 800 ranges from 10 to 18-year-olds.

"I went to school six days a week," Riitta explains. Her classes included five languages, two math courses,

biology, religion, three social study courses, art, and gym. These were studied from Sept. 1 to May 31. Some courses were held three days per week, while others met all six days. She put in a six-hour day just like the students of most American schools.

Asked what she thought was most confusing about U.S. schools, Riitta said, "Besides the language and reading, we have to go from class to class. In my school, the teachers went from class to class."

School activities in Finland are similar to those of Dearborn High. There are various clubs--gym club, which is similar to GAA; and activity clubs, which plans dances. There is a discussion club, which is sponsored by a religion teacher. "Here we talk of all the problems we have and about the different religions. It's one of my favorites," Riitta commented.

Besides snow skiing, skating, and bike riding, Riitta likes to sing. "At home I was in a church choir for young people for a while." Here at DHS she is also in the choir.

Because Riitta is interested in languages, she plans to be "something to do with languages--maybe an English teacher."



Booster buses will be running to all away football games this year. Tickets will be sold Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday before and after school by members of the Booster Club, but will not be sold on Friday.

The school library has acquired a copying machine. For ten cents a sheet, a duplicate of any library material can be made.

Four new Supreme Court Justices were appointed by the Student Council on Sept. 17. They are: Tom Nelson, 12B, Betsey Price, 12B, and Jan Reddington, 11B. Jon Goyert, 12B, was appointed Supreme Court Chief Justice.

IN MEMORIAM

Sgt. Lawrence Louis Gambotto (U.S. Army). June '65 graduate was killed in action in Viet Nam.

Mud and Rain Plague Drivers During Senior's First Car Rally

Neither rain nor mud nor a direction blunder stopped 32 road runners from completing their course last Sunday in a car rally sponsored by the Senior Class.

Organized by Al Liebold, rally master, Steve Stockfisz, Bill Bingham, and Dave Williams, all 12B's the rally began at the teacher's parking lot at noon and covered almost 100 miles. The contestants, 36 in all, paid their \$2 fee, received their number, and at 1 o'clock began leaving at two-minute intervals. They followed directions like "R at T", "pick up Chase", and "L at first opportunity after RR crossing."

The rally, originally clocked at almost three hours, was timed from check point to check point. For example, a car leaving the parking lot was allotted 47 minutes to get to check point 1. If he got lost, which was the case with most cars, it was a race against time for demerits were given for each minute he was late.

For safety's sake, on the other hand, two demerits were given for every minute he was early. One driver was so speedy that he received 38 demerits at check point II for arriving 12 minutes early!

Difficulties arose immediately for the drivers. The brakes failed on one car as the driver attempted to leave the parking lot. Dave Kendall, 12B, had his battery go dead when he was out in Ypsilanti. At one spot during the rally, several cars following the direction "turn right at the first opportunity," "drove into an unexpected person's front lawn. Another car ended up on a shooting range. The driver of car #28 drove 20 miles into Ohio before realizing that she had made a slight mistake.

Officials at the four check points didn't have an easy time either. Rally cars often drove up alongside the officials, splashing them with mud. Or they would park ahead of the officials (which was what they were supposed to do), come running to the car, and then slip and fall in muddy water.

Three entrants dropped out of the rally and one ended up in Ohio, leaving 32 out of the 36 cars to make it home at the parking lot. The four cars with the least amount of demerits received prizes.

A trophy and \$20 went to first-place winners Mike Flegle and Pat Nowak



Photo by Bill Gardner

EXHIBITING their trophy are winners 1. tor. Mike Flegle, Pat Nowak Per Peterson, all 12B's.

12B's who drove car #23. Second-place winners Kathy Jason and Pat Schmitz, also 12B's received a trophy and \$10. Tying for third place were cars #9 and #13. Both pairs, Dan Williams, 12B, and Bill Ebling, a June graduate, plus Jim Stevens and Tim Prokopp, 12B's received \$5 and trophy for third place.

Along with all the fun and frustration, the Senior Class netted \$20.

Frenzied Feet Fly For First Finish

Once again the Harriers have shown their worth by winning the first league meet of the season against Wayne on Sept. 19.

Bob May, 12B, streaked through the grueling two miles far ahead of the pack to bring our score down to 24, as opposed to Wayne's 33. Matt Assenmacher, 12B, aided the cause by placing third and Brian Blake, 12B, took fourth.

If the team's record of three wins and no losses is any indication of things to come, the Harriers are headed for a remarkable season.

Cotton Candy and Water Prove Successful; Seniors Net Over \$170 at Southgate Game

Every penny counts! With this in mind, the seniors intend to make more money than ever before. The seniors first opportunity to prove themselves was Friday, Sept. 13, and it was a success. They sold \$170.97 worth of refreshments, about two times more than is usually made at the opening game.

Popcorn, Tootsie Roll Pops, Pepsi, cotton candy, and a special treat, water, were sold. Water was brought to the fans for a penny a glass.

Bill Jacob, 12B, is in charge of senior selling, but the entire 25 member Senior Council works with him. These seniors will be selling refreshments at all home football



FRIENDSHIP is lending your steady to your best friend for Homecoming.

EMBARRASSMENT is taking your gym towel to your next hour class.

RELIEF is your mid-term grades being lost in the mail.

FRUSTRATION is taking a centipede shoe shopping.

HAPPINESS is a substitute who doesn't know a thing about the course.

MISERY is a pajama party on Homecoming night.

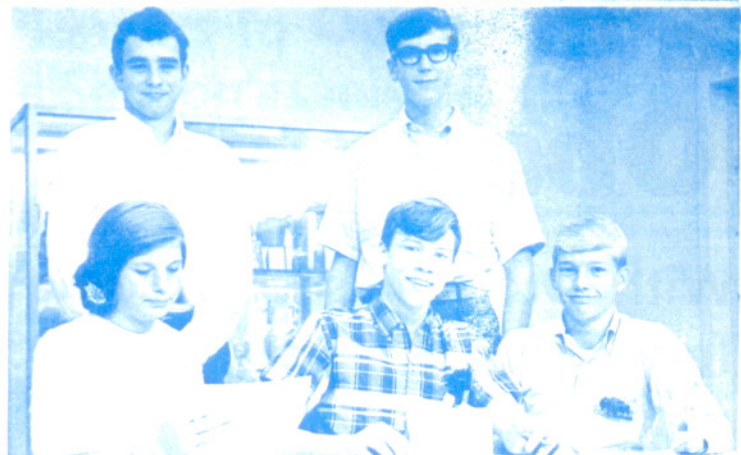


Photo by Bill Gardner

OUR representatives in Lansing, members of the Dearborn High Discussion team are (from left to right) Nancy Lenhart, Jeff Pepper, and Mark Eastman, all juniors, Senior Jim Ziegler, and Tom May, also a junior. Not pictured is Richard Huff, a junior.

Dearborn Goes to Capital; Congress Hears New Voices

The Dearborn High discussion team is going to Congress. The team is going as a result of a conference held last spring, in which Dearborn High participated, and won the privilege of attending the meetings at Lansing this year. The Lansing Student Congress members are comprised of deserving speech students from various Michigan schools.

Dearborn High shares the honor with Kalamazoo Central of being the only two attending schools having a full representation of six speakers. As their coach Mr. William Valentine said, "You can be sure that the Congress will know when Dearborn takes a stand."

Representing us at Lansing will be senior Jim Zeigler and juniors Mark Eastman, Jeff Pepper, Tom May, Richard Huff and Nancy Lenhart. Nancy was the top qualifier at the spring conference and is the only girl representative attending from DHS.

The group will depart today for their two day stay at the Lansing legislative assembly. They will be asked, "how the United States can best maintain manpower for an effective defense system." While in Lansing, the team, along with Mr. Valentine, will stay at the Capitol Motor Lodge. They will hold committee sessions and legislative meetings at the Capitol Building.

Governor George M. Romney is expected to address the group at their opening meeting.

Extra Point Plagues Dearborn; Team Closes Ranks for Wayne

After Bentley handed Farmington a 51-0 defeat in their season opener, worse last Friday when they visited the Livonia field. Despite the pessimistic outlook, Booster Club managed to fill the stands and show Bentley our school spirit.

An air of excitement reigned as Bentley received the opening kickoff. The Pioneers were later able to place 6 points on the scoreboard early in the first quarter. Failure to score that extra point after the touchdown, however, proved fatal. Bentley, on the other hand, using their foreign exchange student, who just happened to be a star soccer player, kicked their all-important extra points.

With about two minutes to play, (it was 14-12) Dearborn had the ball on

the five-yard line. The ball was fumbled, destroying any hope of scoring a major upset.

Having had two games to toughen up the squad, Dearborn is now prepared to look at their mistakes and correct them. The Pioneer gridders will take on Wayne at 4 o'clock today for their first league game. Last year Dearborn defeated Wayne 32-0 in an impressive early season game.

Despite an 0-2 record, Coaches George Arrick and Dave Frye have expressed pleasure with the fine performances they are receiving from seniors Doug Szopo, Dan Savu, Tony Schimizzi, Mike Kovachevich, and Dick Gass. As one player put it, "our squad is working as a team and that's what will win ball games."

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