Honors at Madonna In Convocation

June Sulewski, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Sulewski of 30501 Marimoor, was among students distinguished at the recent honors convocation at Madonna college, Livonia.

June, a freshman, received second scholastic honors for having maintained an honor-point average between 3 and 3.24.

She has also been elected to serve as treasurer of the campus sodality for the 1960-61 school year.

In DG in Missouri

Susan Verkerk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Verkerk, 6848 N. Clunbury, has been initiated into the Delta Gamma sorority at the Univeristy of Missouri.

Makes 'Bottom'

Edgar A. Guest III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar A. Guest, Jr., Bingham Farms, is playing the role of Bottom, a weaver in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," May 3-7, at Denison university, Granville, Ohio.

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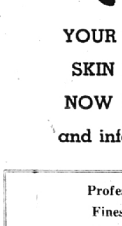

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ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Answering the Call

Birmingham firemen hose down the remains of the wood shingle roof at the home of H. E. Greenwalt, 1386 Willow Lane, after answering the call Sunday morning. Chief Park Smith estimated the damage at $11,000. Firemen blamed the fire on the lack of a chimney spark screen.

Teachers Key To Improvement

See story, page 1-A

Garvin Bawden, Jr., is the most recent candidate for the Birmingham board of education. He made the following statement when he announced his candidacy for the board:

Our community must not, through lack of information or misinformation, get the impression that our schools are "good enough", our teaching staff adequate or that we are spending too much for education.

Birmingham has maintained good schools for years by continuing to build new schools, hire new teachers, evaluate curriculum and increase salaries to keep up with our growing population and the increasing general level of teacher salaries. Our school building program has kept up, but we are not keeping up in our teachers' salaries. It's beginning to show.

BIRMINGHAM IS one of the most prosperous communities in the nation, with a highly intelligent population. I am sure that the majority of Birmingham people would wholeheartedly agree that we should continually work to improve our nation's schools, and specifically to increase the pay and status of our nation's teachers.

I am equally sure that, properly informed and assured that their school tax dollars would be spent efficiently to bring about improvement in the Birmingham schools' education product, voters would support the School Board's request for additional funds. I strongly recommend passage of the 1.9 mills increase requested by the school board.

Our nation and our community have prospered through competition. Our children must be educated to stay in competition. Birmingham schools cannot continue to turn out a competitive educational product and pay our teachers as we do now—less than such communities as Ecorse, Highland Park, Royal Oak, Inkster, Grosse Pointe, Van Dyke and twenty other Detroit suburban communities.

A successful competitor does not achieve success merely by spending more money, but by spending more where it will get results and less where it won't.

I AM A CANDIDATE for the Birmingham school board because I believe I am well qualified for the board, by education, interest and willingness to work. As a member of the School Board I would work for improvements or revisions in our school system in the following areas:

1) Teachers salaries—

a) Encourage more men and career women to join and remain in our faculty by increasing the maximum salary that we pay our teachers, so that it is at least competitive with that of surrounding areas. Our maximum teachers' salary now ranks 27th among 38 suburban Detroit communities.

b) Encourage our teachers to work and study to make themselves better teachers by increasing the pay differential given to a teacher who receives an M. A. degree (21 of the 38 Suburban Detroit communities pay their teachers with M. A. Degrees a greater differential than does Birmingham), and also by increasing the additional pay differential for teachers completing a specified number of credit hours of study beyond the masters degree.

c) STUDY METHODS of merit increases in salary. A research group working under the P.T.A. council has prepared such a study and has recommended a system of merit increases. The present annual increment system tends to give a teacher an annual raise just for growing a year older, and can result in the cost of our teachers' salaries increasing annually without any increase in the quality of our teaching staff.

d) Investigate the possibility of getting the maximum out of our tax dollars and a higher quality and more stable faculty by keeping our starting salaries at a competitive minimum, and luring new teachers to Birmingham with the changes suggested above, specifically the higher maximum salary, higher pay for M. A. degree and credit hours beyond the M. A. degree, and a merit increase system.

2) Administration—

a) Dr. Ireland's resignation gives the board the difficult job of finding a man to fill his shoes. It is as important that we have a strong and able superintendent as it is that we have a strong and able school board. In replacing Dr. Ireland, the school board should not make the mistake of hiring a Casper Milquetoast in counter-reaction to the recent breach between the superintendent and the board.

WE WANT neither a rubber-stamp school board nor a rubber-stamp superintendent.

b) Definite steps should be taken to mend the breach between the school board and the administration which resulted in Dr. Ireland's resignation.

Both the school board and the superintendent and his administration should have clearly defined and understood areas of activity and function. Differences of opinion and attitudes between individual board members and the superintendent are not necessarily unhealthy. But, confusion and inconsistencies resulting from a lack of understanding or recognition of functional limits by either the Board or the Administration is costly and unnecessary.

c) Until recently there was in our School Administration an Assistant Superintendent in charge of personnel. Since Mr. Mark Caress, who held this job, left Birmingham about a year ago to take another post, no replacement has been hired.

I BELIEVE that a man should be hired to fill this vacancy, and his duties defined to include keeping our good teachers in the system, replacing teachers who are not so good, heading up an active in-service training program to constantly improve the capabilities of our teachers, and, through travel and correspondence, actively working to bring good teachers from other areas to Birmingham.

The cost of such a man's salary would be more than realized in savings in cost of our faculty turnover and in improvement of the quality of our teachers. Recent figures showed our teacher turnover running in excess of 20% annually.

d) Working through the superintendent, the school board should encourage the use of national and local citizens research on revisions and improvement in curriculum, teaching methods, teacher training, teacher salaries and facilities.

MORE EFFECTIVE use should be made of the help the school board could have from citizens' organizations. For example, the Citizens Committee on curriculum set up by the Birmingham P.T.A. council is now in the process of submitting a series of recommendations for curriculum revisions, based on two years of intensive study by a number of sub-committees, each dealing with specific areas of curriculum such as language and science.

Other organizations might be willing to undertake special studies in specific areas of interest and report to the board. The school board might find these local organizations an excellent source of information on public opinion and perhaps, more importantly, also an excellent media through which the public could be informed on the School Board policies and recommendations.

3) Curriculum—

Seventy percent of our high school graduates go on to college. We must aim our curriculum high to prepare our high school students to face successfully the stiffening competition and requirements for college acceptance. We must concurrently maintain a sound curriculum for the remaining thirty percent for whom high school is terminal education.

4) Facilities—

There has been a high rate of spending for additional school buildings in recent years. We can look for a slowing of this spending as we have now completed most of our building expansion program, and the rate of growth of our student population has slowed.

5) Economy—

We must carefully scrutinize our school budget, with an eye to an efficient economical school program. Any moneys spent, no matter how small the amount, which are not clearly necessary towards putting out well educated students, should be seriously considered for reduction or elimination from the budget.

IN CONCLUSION—the core of a good educational system is good teachers. Fine buildings, well developed curriculum, pleasant and broadening extra-curricular and non-academic programs are of value; these, however, cannot turn out educated students without good teachers.

I am not in favor of an unrestrained big spending program. We must economize wherever possible, but not at the cost of a good teaching staff and a good educational system.

The school board is a policy making body whose proper aim and duty is to give the community the best possible educational system. To fulfill this function, the board must hire and work efficiently with an able school administrator, must take advantage of all sources of information to make informed policy decisions, and must keep the community fully informed on educational matters.

Safer That Way

The YMCA Saturday morning archery class has moved outdoors, weather permitting. Dale Porter, senior at Seaholm is handling the archery range. The archery class meets from 9 a.m. to noon. The archery class ends June 11.

Michigan was the first state in the U. S. to have fully-equipped roadside parks along its highways.

Cleave means both to stick together and to part.

There are about 100,000 unknown active cases of tuberculosis in the United States.

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Citizen Committees In Midstream Now

Carefully considered recommendations on what subjects should be taught in the Birmingham schools—and how intensively each should be taught—will be in the board of education's hands around the first of the year.

That's the timetable set by the Citizens' committee for study of curriculum, so that the schools will have time to incorporate board - approved recommendations in the next year's classes.

THE CITIZENS' committee was appointed by the PTA council more than a year ago to study the special needs of Birmingham's children. Each school in the Birmingham system is represented on the committee by a member chosen by its PTA.

In turn the committee has selected well qualified men and women for the several subcommittees it has set up to study various subject areas in depth.

The committee early recognized dual responsibilities. One is to the 70 per cent of Birmingham high school graduates who go on to college. They should be offered the best possible courses to enable them to enter any college or university in the country.

BUT THE OTHER 30 per cent must also get the best possible training for their futures. So the committee and each of its sub-committees have viewed the overall picture from both viewpoints.

The mode of attack has been to work from the ultimate goal, step-by-step backward, to determine what courses are needed at each level to insure the best-prepared graduates.

"It takes time—lots of it— but it is hard to think of anything more important to Birmingham and the nation as a whole," according to the committee's acting chairman, Dr. J. B. Hinkamp, 1444 S. Bates, Birmingham.

Subcommittees and their chairmen are: Science, T. J. Carron of 1528 Yorkshire; Mathematics, R. V. Kerley or 1269 Pierce; English, Mrs. L. E. Quinn of 1380 Buckingham; Foreign Languages, Mrs. H. B. Green of 555 Hupp Cross; Social Sciences, Mrs. P. D. Marriner of 1510 Buckingham; Industrial Arts, C. A. Welles, Jr., of 1002 Worthington; Commercial, F. M. Fisher of 2122 Derby; Physical Education, Mrs. M. R. Marsh of 16964 Beeckwood; Counseling, C. F. Tanner of 1777 Sheffield; Library, Mrs. G. W. Talburtt of 612 Brookside; and Opinion Survey, L. L. Case of 1740 Witherbee.

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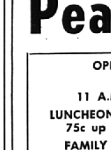

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'Y' Sets Craft Schedule for May

The Birmingham YMCA handicraft schedule for May reads as follows:

May 7—aluminum etching; May 14—utility box, May 21—Indian Medalion, May 28—Com Cases.

The handicraft class begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m. Jim O'Rourke is the instructor.

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