

Dorothy Knight: love of children motivates her into Big Sisters



SETTING THE TABLE are Big Sister Dorothy Knight and her Little Sister, Melodie Anderson.

Dorothy Knight works with children all day as a reading program instructional aide at Campbell Elementary School.

She has raised two children of her own.

It would therefore be understandable if she chose to not be involved with children once she leaves school each day.

But Mrs. Knight doesn't see it that way and for that reason she is a Big Brothers-Big Sisters program volunteer.

She has been the Big Sister of Melodie Anderson, 7, since January, 1979.

She had another little sister before then and has been involved in the program a total of more than two years.

She chose to become involved in the program, "I guess for the same reason I

have worked at the school for 14 years, I love children. Children are very good company and are very good morale builders."

"Children are very important little people," she added later in the conversation, "because some day they get to be big people."

At age 7, Melodie isn't quite as talkative, but when asked if she liked having a Big Sister, replied "yes" with a smile.

The youngster lives with her divorced mother and brothers, Danny, almost 9, and Chad, 4, in a mobile home. The family moved to Cass City from Caro, where Melodie had had two Big Sisters (one at a time).

She was matched with Mrs. Knight, whose first Little Sister, age 10 or 11, had moved to Caro.

Melodie has been fortunate in that she hasn't had to wait long for a Big Sister, but her brother Danny has been waiting for a Big Brother for about a year.

For that reason, Mrs. Knight took Danny along when she and Melodie went swimming at Horseshoe Acres near Bad Axe and to the Shrine Circus in Saginaw.

Melodie is a second grader at Campbell Elementary, so usually she goes home with Mrs. Knight, who lives on Leach Street, one night a week after school or sometimes on a Sunday. They usually get together only one day a week.

At Mrs. Knight's home, they may watch television for a while, play Monopoly -- "She's trying to teach me how," Mrs. Knight said -- bake some cookies and prepare dinner.

Occasionally, they will go to McDonald's in Caro to eat dinner and sometimes do something else. In addition to the circus and swimming, previously mentioned, they once went to a mother-daughter banquet at Mrs. Knight's church.

Monday, they plan to go to the Tuscola County Big Brothers-Big Sisters Appreciation Week banquet in Caro. If Mrs. Knight is going to Bay City, she sometimes calls and asks if Melodie wants to go along.

The requirement is that the Big Sister or Brother spend a minimum of one hour per week with his charge, but for Mrs. Knight and Melodie, it usually is 3-4 hours a week.

The adults aren't supposed to spend much money on their Little Brother or Sister. Giving of gifts, for instance, can only be done at Christmas and on birthdays and they must be small gifts.

Big Brothers usually have fatherless boys as Little Brothers.

In contrast, Mrs. Knight explained, it's common for Little Sisters to have their mothers at home, but not their fathers. Little Sisters in such instances "need some extra special attention" from a special friend.

Mrs. Knight's own children are Susan, a student at Michigan State University, and Tim, an administrator there.

She describes the Big Brothers-Big Sisters program as "very worthwhile."

What does her Little Sister, Melodie, think of the program?

"Um hum," she replied when asked if she thought it was a good program.

Asked if she thought she and Mrs. Knight would be friends for a long time, she smiled and replied, "Yes."

Program needs more adults

In Tuscola county, there are 39 boys waiting for Big Brothers and 21 girls seeking Big Sisters.

That includes, from the Gageton-Cass City-Kingston area, seven boys and four girls.

Presently, there are 35 Big-Little Brother matches in the county and 36 Big-Little Sister matches. Ten (of the 71) are in the Gageton-Cass City-Deford area and two in the Kingston area.

The BB-BS office is located at 129 E. Burnside Street, Caro, telephone 673-6996.

In addition to volunteers, the organization needs funds.

One of the year's big fund raisers takes place Saturday with the county bike and hike.

Hikers will walk six miles bikers will ride 10 miles.

Starting place is Van Geisen Road, just off M-81 at the west edge of Caro. Coming from Cass City, turn right at the bank time and temperature sign.

Registration is from 9-10 a.m. Would-be participants must have a minimum of five pledges. Pledge sheets are available at schools and the BB-BS office in Caro. The fund raising events are open to everyone, not just children.

The walking and riding start at 10 a.m. At the conclusion of the event, the Knights of Columbus will provide lunch for participants.

Monday evening in Caro will be the annual BB-BS volunteer appreciation dinner.

7 candidates air school views

Continued from page one

basics of education. There is always room for improvement, noted Zmierski, who expressed concern about so much of the district's money coming from Lansing and Washington, which threatens local control of schools.

He was not the only candidate to express that concern.

Implications of the results of the state assessment tests, long-range buildings needs and maintenance, and the high turnover of teachers were some of the other concerns noted. The assessment tests, Capps noted, indicate "something is hap-

pening" after the elementary grades.

Fred Matthews decried lack of interest by adults in the schools, one indication being the poor turnout at school board meetings he has attended. "They don't seem to care how the school is run until they get their taxes at the end of the year

and then they yell their heads off."

PASTOR JOHN LANGE of the Novesta Baptist church queried the candidates about their position on athletic team practices on Sundays.

"I will not vote for Sunday practice of any kind," Loomis replied.

Allen, Matthews, Zmierski and Rev. Capps also said they would oppose Sunday practices.

The only one to express an opposing viewpoint was Albee: "I don't see anything wrong with Sunday practice as long as it is not penalized and players are not penalized (for not participating)."

Allen questioned the amount of attention paid to sports. "I do feel too much emphasis is put on sports. They are here to be educated."

Capps thought the district spends too much on sports in comparison to what it spends for other extra-curricular activities.

The committee in charge of the meet-the-candidates program, who prepared most of the questions asked, were teachers Dale McIntosh, Geraldine Tibbitts, Lyle Clarke and Don Schelke.

The candidates were given an outline several days in advance of the questions they likely would be asked.

After the program, Mrs. Tibbitts said the committee might recommend to their fellow teachers which candidates it feels they should vote for, but strongly doubted the Cass City Education Association will make a public endorsement.

O-G buys CBs

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on price, equipment used and service.

The base radios are to be installed before the end of the school year, plus probably two bus radios. The rest will be installed in August.

The radios will have slide mounts, so they can be removed each evening.

OTHER ITEMS

Permission was granted to the Owendale 75th Anniversary Committee to allow it to use school property as the site for the celebration activities.

Included in the motion was permission to erect a beer tent on First Street, which runs through the school property, as long as the tent is at least 500 feet from the school building, the minimum distance required by state law.

Supl. Ronald Erickson reported House Bill 5411, which passed the state House of Representatives, is stuck in committee in the

Senate due to the reported opposition of Sen. Alvin DeGrow, R-Pigeon.

The bill, if it eventually becomes law, will require a public vote on any property transfers once more than 10 percent of the district, based on 1957 boundaries, was transferred away.

Various lobbying efforts by the district are continuing.

Some needed electrical work at the superintendent's house, owned by the district, was approved at a cost of \$200. The work is to be done by Tom Laurie, Erickson's request for installation of an emergency generator at the house was tabled, apparently permanently.

Summer band and basketball programs were approved.

April student of the month was Julie Andrakowicz.

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Elkland boosts worker pay

The Elkland Township Board decided Monday evening which roads it will have

work done on this year.

It plans to spend a maximum of \$30,000, but the estimate received from the county Road Commission was thought to be too high so is being sent back for clarification.

Roads on which work will be done are Short Road, off Buehly Road, graveling and filling low spots; Milligan between Koepgen and Cemetery, application of layer of aggregate stone; the same for Crawford Road south of M-81; gravel where needed on Elmwood Road west of Cemetery, and spot patching elsewhere.

In addition, an estimate will be obtained for applying gravel in bad spots on Grassmere Road.

The board gave its consent to granting of Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act agreements to Stuart and Joan Merchant, plots of 80 and 79 acres in Section 16 and 40 in Section 15, and Paul Strauch, 100 acres in Section 15.

Election inspectors appointed for the May 20 presidential primary were Elwyn Helwig, Janet Bishop, Helen Lorenzen, Norma Wallace, Mary Rabideau, Pat Wells, Betty Greenleaf and Maynard McConkey.

The two precinct chairmen received a pay raise from \$3 to \$3.75 per hour. Precinct workers got a boost from \$2.75 to \$3.50.

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