Talking computer makes school easier for Greg Young

By AMY HEIDEN

A request for a case to replace a broken one turned into a gift as exciting as a Christmas present for Laker sophomore Greg Young.

He was recently presented with a new Toshiba laptop computer with a voice synthesizer and two printers by the Pigeon and Elkton Lions Club, a gift that will make his homework and reports a lot easier.

Last year, he requested a new case from the Elkton Lions to replace a broken one, and members asked if he needed anything else. His answer—a portable talking computer to take to his classes. Thus, the project for Greg’s computer was born.

The Elkton club found the price of the computer and the printers would cost more than they could afford, so they asked the Pigeon club to join them in the project. And the response was enthusiastic, says Pigeon Lions President John Walsh. “The answer right off was ‘let’s do it now.’” Walsh said.

Young, the son of Diana and Gary Young of Elkton, has been blind since birth and because of his speed with reading and writing Braille, his grades have been good.

Before the computer, Young took his notes in class on his portable Braille reader. His homework or tests were also done on the Braille and given to Joanne Zang, a Huron Intermediate School district consultant, to translate. Her translation was handed back to the teacher for grading by Zang. Once the paper is graded, she translates back into Braille for Young to learn his grade.

All that will change now. Young’s new talking computer will allow him to write reports and homework, speaking each letter as he types it. When his work is done, he can review it and make whatever corrections are necessary, then print a hard copy to hand to his teacher. This can be done right at school, with the portable ink-jet printer, or at home, with a larger dot matrix printer.

The computer also includes a hard disk drive, allowing Young to change programs for whatever class he’s happening to be attending. The IBM-compatible computer will also interface with the IBM computer Young uses in his data processing classes at the Huron Area Skill Center these days of the week.

Laker High currently has an Apple computer with a voice synthesizer, but it’s a bit too big for Young to take to classes.

Young is understandably excited about his new computer. “I’m anxious to get it. In fact, I’m sort of over-anxious,” Young says.

Jim Rich, president of the Elkton Lions, Ralph Lacktie, project coordinator, and Walsh presented the computer to Young last week, but since the interface cords weren’t available, Young will have to wait a few more days to actually give his new computer a thorough workout.

Laker girls #3 in the state—See Sports Pages—

NEW COMPUTER: Laker sophomore Greg Young shows his new portable computer, along with Joanne Zang, left, of the Huron Intermediate School District, and his mother, Diane Young. The Elkton and Pigeon Lions Clubs purchased the computer and two printers for Young’s use.

AMY HEIDEN PHOTO

Gembarski is area’s Voice of Democracy writing winner

WINNERS OF this year’s Voice of Democracy scripture writing contest sponsored by Pigeon’s Top of the Thumb Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary No. 2238 were recently announced by Contest Chairman Eleanor Tros.

ABOVE LEFT: Pigeon school winners, shown with VFW Officer of the Day Donald Barret and Mrs. Tros, with Casiweley English teacher Mary Kay Quinn, are first prize winner Kelly Gembarski and third prize winner Dan Bennett. Each prize winner won a certificate and a check. Top prize winner will be published in a future Progress-Advance, ABOVE RIGHT, also shown with Mrs. Tros, and Barret and Laker second prize winner Melissa Koler with English teacher Mike Terrill.

The subject for this year’s contest is “Why I’m Proud to be an American.” Each student wrote a script, recorded it on a tape, and submitted it to the local Post. The entries may now go on to district competition.

AMY HEIDEN PHOTO

INSIDE: Wanda gets mugged, Kate looks at phrases, George remembers and Duane hunts...
Beckett, Kauffman named to Lions’ All-State Band

Laker basketball seniors ROB BECKETT and STEVE KAUFMANN have been selected to the All-State team for the 1990 Michigan High School Coaches Association. The two were selected from a pool of the 100 most outstanding senior basketball players in the state.

Laker basketball

By PATRICK ESSEJ

Although there were plenty of justifications for long-term investing, over the long period, most investors focused on the stock market. But during the 1990s, many investors turned to non-traditional investments, such as real estate, art, and collectibles.

Money in mutual funds

In the euphoria of a run-away bull market, many investors purchased mutual funds with unrealistic expectations.

By ROBERT T. KAHN

In 1990, the financial markets were characterized by a run-away bull market. Investors poured money into mutual funds, assuming that they would earn high returns. However, as the market began to decline, many investors were disappointed with the performance of their mutual funds.

Integration project

An integration project for the Windham Savings Bank in Windham, N.H., was completed in 1990. The project involved the development of a new system to improve efficiency and customer service.

FINANCIAL

Making money in mutual funds

...in the euphoria of a run-away bull market, many investors purchased mutual funds with unrealistic expectations.

How did the five big groups of mutual funds compare to the overall market in 1990? This graph shows the performance of these groups compared to the overall market.

The five groups included:

1. Growth
2. Income
3. Balanced
4. International
5. Money Market

Overall performance

The overall market performance in 1990 was down by 15.8%. This chart shows the performance of each group compared to the overall market.

The five groups performed as follows:

1. Growth: -10.5%
2. Income: -11.2%
3. Balanced: -13.7%
4. International: -12.3%
5. Money Market: -17.5%

The performance of the mutual funds varied widely, with some performing better than others.

Keep in mind that these figures reflect the time frame when the market peaked and then fell back to the level of the previous year. This isn’t a representative of the long-term performance.

These mutual funds had a long-term investment horizon, and their performance was not affected by the market downturn.

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