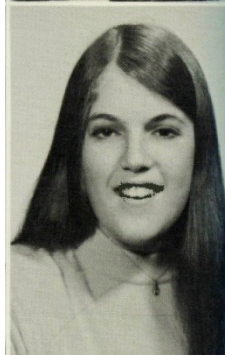


**Diane Margaret Bruetsch**, daughter of James John (1929-1986) and Evelyn L. (Armstrong) (1928-2004) Bruetsch, was born 9 April 1953, Saline, Washtenaw County, Michigan. She graduated in 1971 from Okemos High School and furthered her education with bachelor and master's degrees from Michigan State University.



*Lansing State Journal, February 2, 1969*



This bevy of Pink Ball flower girls includes (foreground) Bathy Bettman, and (clockwise from left) Rose Ann Verderese, Nancy Shewell, Debbie Langhart, Laura Adams, Cheri Marks, Sue Altobelli, Katie McCarthy, Lisa Long, Jeanne Nolen, Judith Snyder, Laurie Grammatico, Diane Bruetsch, and (center) Nancy Fortino.

Diane became a passionately dedicated 30 plus year elementary school teacher in the Fowlerville Community School system, Fowlerville, Livingston County, Michigan.



Diane never married. She died 22 November 2015, Ingham County, Michigan.

*Livingston County Daily Press and Argus, December 16, 1992*

## Students in Russia behave well

By Laura Bailey STAFF WRITER

**FOWLERVILLE**—Diane Bruetsch, a second-grade teacher at Smith Elementary in Fowlerville, shared her experiences in Russia for the Fowlerville Board of Education Dec. 1.

Bruetsch and eight other teachers recently returned from a two-week trip, organized by the Livingston Educational Service Agency. The group stayed in St. Petersburg at the Gornyi Institute—it was the first time a group of pre-college instructors has been invited to stay there.

As promised, Bruetsch filmed Russian students while in the classroom.

Immediately, it is noticeable how well behaved the students are. All stood to answer, were very polite and showed obvious respect for the teacher.

Bruetsch said classrooms aren't equipped like American schools, but the people are very proud of the equipment they do have.

What was surprising, she said, was that not many people spoke English. In fact, most that did were educated in one English-speaking school.

Along with English-speaking schools, children are sent to hobby schools, she said. These take the place of day care, and specialize in one area, such as music or dance. This is a free service.

"If they show an interest in art,

they will be going to art school," Bruetsch said.

Though a lot has changed in Russia in the past several years, Bruetsch said she still felt as though the group were tracked.

"I think there is still a lot of watching going on, and we were watched very carefully," Bruetsch said. "They didn't allow us to go alone, and I don't think any of us were eager to do so."

To sum up, Bruetsch said despite differences, teachers are teachers wherever you go.

"It's the same tone of voice wherever you go, when a teacher is talking to a student," she said. "Standing in the hall I could have shut my eyes, and it would have been the same as being home."

*Livingston County Daily Press and Argus, November 1, 1998*



Photo by ALAN WARD

Teacher Diane Bruetsch receives a call on the classroom telephone at Fowlerville's H.T. Smith Elementary.

## Fowlerville rings in new phone system

**Diane M. Bruetsch** passed away November 22, 2015 at the age of 62. Diane was born in Saline, MI to James and Evelyn (Armstrong) Bruetsch. She retired after more than 30 years as a teacher from the Fowlerville School District. Diane always had a passion to be a teacher and loved the students so much that their lives often became intertwined. During her career, she was awarded Teacher of the Year for the State of Michigan. She loved theater, concerts, the Beatles, and she travelled extensively. She was a generous person who never met a stranger. She was preceded in death by her parents and her two dogs, Ebony and Daisy. Surviving are her sister, Joan (Mark) Tharp; niece, Jolaine (Jeremy) Davis; great-nephews, Dominick and Lucas Davis; many friends, fellow teachers, extended family, and dear cousin Dawn (William) Meyer. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, November 25, 2015, 10:00 am at Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes, 1730 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, MI with Pastor Dale Arnett officiating. The family will receive friends Tuesday, November 24, from 2-4 and 6-8 pm at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Diane may be made to the American Diabetes Association, Michigan Office, 300 Galleria Office Center, Ste. 111, Southfield, MI 48034, or the Ingham County Animal Shelter, 600 Curtis Road, Mason, MI 48854.



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