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The Community Crier

Vol. 24 No. 11

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April 16, 1997

Three to run for school board seat

ROLAND THOMAS



CAROL BOLLMAN



SUZANNE DERSHAM



BY BRYON MARTIN

Three members of The Plymouth-Canton Community will vie for the trustee position opening on the P-C School Board in the June 9 election.

Plymouth resident and former board president Roland Thomas, Canton resident Carol Bollman, and Canton resident and bond election committee member Suzanne Dersham comprise the field of candidates.

The position, the only to open this year, was previously held by long-time board member David Artley.

At the March 25 board meeting, Artley announced he would not seek another term after spending 14 years on the board.

Thomas was the first to file for candidacy for the trustee position, returning his petition March 31, about the same time he petitioned the board for a recount of the March 22 bond election votes.

Thomas said his candidacy, "is not just about the bond, not just about the election," but that he is concerned over a number of board processes.

Thomas last served on the board in 1995, after holding all the positions from president

to trustee since 1982.

A return to the board was something he always planned, he said.

"I decided when I walked away that I needed time with my wife and family," he said.

Concern for current board practices, in conjunction with skills recently learned at his job with Ford Motor Company, inspired a return quicker than he'd thought, he said.

Originally in finance, Thomas' focus at Ford has shifted in the last six months to working with information technology. He said he wants to bring what he has learned back to the schools.

"I've got a fire in my belly to communicate with people and meet their needs quickly," he said.

According to Thomas, communication technologies used at Ford, similar to the schools' Dyancom system, facilitate quick-action response plans for problem solving.

"I don't see why it wouldn't work here," Thomas said. "We've got to make quicker

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School votes recounted: bond stands

BY BRYON MARTIN

Wayne County's board of canvassers recounted the ballots from Plymouth-Canton schools' contested bond election Tuesday and found little change — one more "yes" vote, one less "no." The board certified the election.

"I think it shows there was not a problem with the voting equipment, relative to tabulation," Dan Herriman, the first P-C resident to petition the board for a recount said. "All votes seem to be fully accounted for. I'm satisfied."

Herriman said he will continue to pursue his second petition, and will request a special election for those whose votes were lost. "I would allege the equipment is deficient. I remain concerned with the equipments interaction with humans."

Plymouth businessman Norman Ruehr dead at 62

Lifetime Plymouth resident lead change in lay of downtown

BY W. EDWARD WENDOVER
and BRYON MARTIN

Norman Reinhold Ruehr, life-long resident of Plymouth, died Saturday at the age of 62.

Mr. Ruehr lived a full life and a style that gave him much joy — this is how Emily Ruehr has summed her husband's life.

Unconventional, uncompromising, Ruehr was a pioneer downtown Plymouth businessman and reveler in a life considered varied and exotic by many.

The llama house

It was in 1961 that Ruehr bought Stonecrest with four friends from high school. The group, proud in their aspiration to protracted bachelorhood, lived their young mens' lives at the cottage-like home at the northwest corner of Beck Road and Ann Arbor Trail.

Built around 1927, the house described by one Realtor as "English Rubble," is singular among Plymouth's historic architecture: It's roof of brown, undulating wood-shingles and walls of white-stucco suggest a mushroom. Embellished since Ruehr bought the house, the walls bear frescoes of the colored peacocks that live on the hills around the house.

The Black Shouldered peacocks aren't lonely, however.

They share the yard with Polka Dot sheep (to eat the grass, prevent cutting), three dachshunds, three llamas and, at times, black swans and horses; two guard geese, too. (They chase any- and everybody).

Ruehr's would-be petting zoo began when a friend needed to get rid of a dachshund, Emily said. Ruehr took the pooch in, and in doing so set a precedent for coming years. A retired race horse was next. More horses. Eventually, the collection grew, living around the home and its greenhouse.

"Yeah, he liked animals," Emily said, and so did passersby. "We get notes from people about how they stopped to look at the animals, or to pick flowers — one guy did that on the way to see his wife in the hospital. They'd leave a note saying, 'Thank you. You made my day.'"

Others were sometimes less understanding. Across Beck Road at Hill Top golf course, players' concentration were sometimes thrown-off by peacock crowing. "People move out to the country to get closer to trees and



Norman Ruehr. (Photo courtesy of Emily Ruehr).

Cultural Center zamboni damaged by unknown, charging hockey player

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

Two-minute minor for spearing the Zamboni. Police are looking for a hockey player with a broken stick. The man skated away unidentified after attacking a Zamboni that drove too close to him.

Fred Sanchagrin, 21, of Plymouth Township, told Plymouth Township Police he was cleaning the ice April 5 after a hockey game when he spotted a player from the earlier game. Sanchagrin asked the player to move several times, but the player refused.

After stopping for a moment, Sanchagrin decided to move forward because the Zamboni water would melt the ice if it sat in the same place for a long time, police reports state. As he drove forward, the player swung his hockey stick at the Zamboni, causing \$150 in damages.

Sanchagrin told police by the time he looked back, the man was gone. Police have the name of the team, but the player remains elusive.

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Kid leader

P-C student travels to D.C. for summit

See Friends & Neighbors pg. 6

Genius bagels

Einsteins opens Plymouth location

See Getting down to Business pg. 10

Soccer's up

Canton & Salem play through weather

See Sports pp. 28 - 29

Vico Products workers seek UAW organization; goal is fair contract, not strike

Slipping morale and concern for work force alleged after change in management

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

Employees at Vico Products in Plymouth Township are attempting to organize with the United Auto Workers. An organizing vote is set for tomorrow.

According to employees working at the plant, they are organizing to improve the company and gain a fair contract, not to strike.

"We're just working to help secure a contract for the

employees," said UAW organizer Jim Juracek. "We feel the workers will pull together and vote April 17 to gain representation."

Randy Yoe, a Vico Products employee, said they want the company to make a commitment to the work force.

"It's been a good place to work," Yoe said. "The company has always done right by the work force, but we see that philosophy decaying."

Yoe said company morale has declined since management of the company changed hands from Bob Schultz to his son Curt Schultz.

Curt Schultz, the president of Vico Products said he would not comment on the UAW organization until after the election.

"I hope we can sit down at the bargaining table to gain a fair pay scale and seniority rights," Yoe said.

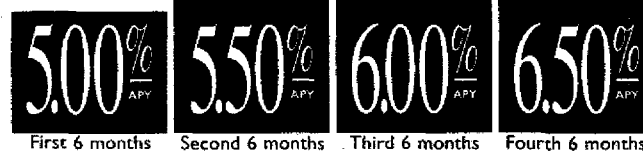
The company, which has been in business for more than 50 years, makes calipers for automobile brake systems.

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Wilkes held on new charges after wife's testimony

Judge Lowe finds 'clear evidence he was trying to kill her,' in preliminary exam

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Darrell Lee Wilkes was bound over for trial on charges of assault with attempt to commit murder, as well as assault with attempt to commit criminal sexual conduct Friday.

The added charge was based on testimony presented by Wilkes' wife, Arlene, during Darrell Wilke's preliminary examination Friday.

Arlene Wilkes appeared visibly shaken and unsteady as she took the stand to give her account of what allegedly happened on March 22, 1997, when her estranged husband slit her neck with a knife.

According to Arlene Wilkes, she went to the house at 11 am Saturday morning to have Darrell Wilkes fix her car. She had been living somewhere else, and filing for divorce, she said.

They two had been talking in a friendly manner in the kitchen, then Darrell Wilkes went outside to fix the car, she said.

Arlene Wilkes was sitting in a chair in the family room when Darrell Wilkes finished fixing the car and came to her and held out his hand.

"I stood up. I thought he was going to give me a hug," she testified. "He said

jokingly: 'Do you want to go to bed?' I said no."

When Wayne County Assutant Prosecuting Attorney asked Arlene Wilkes what she thought her husband meant when he asked if she wanted to go to bed, she replied: "To have sex."

Arlene Wilkes then testified that her husband put his arm around her and walked her to the kitchen. He then grabbed her hair and pulled her down the hallway that walked from the kitchen to the bedroom.

In the bedroom, Arlene Wilkes said, Darrell Wilkes became angry. He closed the door and told her angrily to take off her clothes, she said.

"I said, 'why are you doing this?' and I think he hit me first, so I started taking off my clothes," Arlene Wilkes said. "I didn't want him to hit me any more."

Then, according to Arlene Wilkes, Darrell took out his knife from pocket. Answering questions from Frazier, she described the knife as pearl handled, and with a blade about three inches long.

"He said that I must think he's crazy that he would work all his life and end up with nothing."

Arlene Wilkes broke down as she described her estranged husband cutting the right side of her neck, and Darrell Wilkes would occasionally let out loud, heavy sighs and shake his head as she shakily described what happened next.

"I think I kicked him—I was on the bed at that point. I know he hit me. There was nowhere to go," Arlene Wilkes said.

"I was talking about how I could come back, we could go to counselling together and asking him 'why was he doing this?'"

When asked by Frazier why she said she'd come back and accept counselling, Arlene Wilkes said: "Because I was afraid of him and wanted him to



Darrell Wilkes, held on a variety of charges of violence against his wife, hangs his head as he listens to his wife's testimony at the 35th District Courthouse Friday. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

stop." Wilkes then cut the other side of her neck, she said. "I just remember holding my neck and it was warm with blood. I touched his face and said: 'I don't care about me, but only about Melissa (the couple's 16 year-old daughter.)'"

Then, according to Arlene Wilkes, Darrell Wilkes got a rope from the closet and tied her legs. "He said he needed some time to get away," she said. He then washed up in the bathroom, gave Arlene a wetted towel to clean up with, made sure the phone was dead, and left, according to Arlene Wilkes.

Frazier was trying to add a charge of assault with attempt to commit criminal sexual conduct to the charge of assault with attempt to commit murder. She stated that, while Wilkes had not actually demanded sex from Arlene Wilkes at knife point, there was sufficient evidence to show that was one of Wilkes' intentions, she said.

Under cross examination, Marc Lakin, Darrell Wilke's court-appointed attorney, attempted to show that Darrell Wilkes never intended or tried to kill Arlene Wilkes but instead, only wanted sex.

"His objective was to have sex, not attempt to kill her," he said. "He gave her a towel to clean up with, and allowed her to leave. It's not what she felt, but what he intended."

"The victim believed he was trying to kill her," Frazier said. "I think there is clear evidence that he was trying to kill her. He cut the phones and tied her up."

Judge Ron Lowe agreed, and bound Wilkes over for trial on both counts, saying that he was satisfied that all elements and probably cause were there.

Lowe also refused to lower Darrell Wilke's bail, or allow him to be placed into the custody of relatives, at the request of Frazier.

"Clearly letting him out of Wayne County Jail offers no protection to the victim," Frazier said. "He's a danger to society and he belongs in jail."

Together, the two charges against Darrell Wilkes are punishable by life in prison.

Lakin refused to comment on the preliminary hearing, saying he didn't think it was fair to the people involved.

American Girl proud to win, proud to read



DELRHEA BYRGE, 11, of Plymouth, was the winner in the Little Professor on the Park's American Girl Doll drawing. The American Girl book series features characters in historical fiction stories, and Delrhea is a fan: "I like them because you kind of travel back with the stories." Delrhea's mom, Elka, said she likes them as well, and accompanied Delrhea Monday when she picked up her doll, Samantha Parkington. (Crier photo by Bryon Martin).

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- The League of Women Voters in cooperation with CARE, Class-size Action Partnership, P-CCS Legislative Action Committee and the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will host a town meeting to discuss school issues such as Proposal A, class size, schools of choice, with P-C-N legislators Gerald Law, Robert Geake, Deborah Whyman, Loren Benet and Eileen DeHart. The meeting will be held at Pioneer Middle School from 7 - 9 p.m., Thursday. All are invited.

WEEKEND

- Northville Parks & Recreation offers an all new flag football league for 12 - 9 graders, at Meads Mill Beginning Saturday. Cost is \$20 per person for six weeks.

NEXT WEEK

- Secretarys' Day is Wednesday, and the Plymouth Chamber is having a \$16 dollar lunch accompanied by a fashion show. It will be held from 12 - 1:30 p.m. at the Water Club Grill. Call the chamber by Friday for reservations.

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Doing much business in Plymouth, Canton and Northville? Check the Business to Business section for tips, pgs. 14 - 21.

School board candidates with various backgrounds seek single trustee seat

Continued from pg. 1

responses to people's problems."

The problem presented by the redistricting of Bentley elementary's boundaries first brought Suzanne Dershem to board meetings, she said.

Dershem's son, Scott, attends second grade at Bentley. A Canton resident since 1994, Dershem went to her first board meeting to voice misgivings about the redistricting, she said. Subsequent meetings brought increasing involvement.

"When I saw the schools were directly touching me, I got involved. I stood-up and spoke," she said.

Superintendent Charles Little wrote a letter to Dershem inviting her to join his legislative action committee. Since then, she said, she has been involved in a series of committees and roles.

Dershem said school finance and equity among curricula are her primary-areas of interest.

"We've got to get the best education we can with the money we have," she said. "All programs at all levels are important."

By trade, Dershem is a chemical engineer working for Castrol at General Motors. She

said her strongest asset as a candidate is her dedication and competence in achieving goals. She did not vote in last June's board election.

Her position on the status of the contended March 22 bon, which Thomas opposed, is optimistic, she said. "I hope the recount satisfies, and that it doesn't tie-up the bond for too long."

Carol Bollman, of Canton, has run for the board in previous races, most recently in 1992. Her past campaigns have included "pay-to-play" stances on after school activities, and has been an opponent of "doom and gloom" approaches to school reform.

Bollman has been a registered voter in Plymouth-Canton since moving to the community in 1979. She voted in last June's board election.

Bollman has worked for Coca-Cola, the University of Michigan and the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

Thomas and Dershem each said they were in the beginning stages of organizing their respective campaigns.

"I'll be working on some flyers soon," Thomas said, indicating campaigning was less his concern than was the job itself: "It's all about the kids. I love the kids."



Public notices

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1997

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present. Resolution declared adopted.

Mrs. Massengill amended the minutes under New Business, Item J.1, on page 5, by striking "Ordinance No. C-97-03" and inserting "Ordinance No. C-97-01", and striking the entire last paragraph on page 6 and inserting "It was reported that the Board of the Plymouth Canton Community School District at their meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 1997, discussed their participation in the special assessment fees for the Powell/Ridge paving project for their property located at the corner of Powell and Ridge Roads. The item was tabled to a future meeting. Mrs. Massengill then moved to approve the minutes as amended for the March 25, 1997, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

Mrs. Massengill amended the agenda by adding under New Business Item J.6 Policy Recognizing Part Time Hours and Item J.7 Open Window Retirement Program. Mrs. Massengill then moved to approve the agenda for the April 8, 1997, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees as amended. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. Ayes all.

Ms. Arnold moved to approve Resolution No. 97-04-08-16 scheduling the Public Hearing of Necessity for the Dunn Court Paving Project for April 22, 1997. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. The entire resolution is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Roll call:

Ayes: Arnold, Curmi, Griffith, Mueller, Edward, Massengill, Keen-McCarthy
Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted.

Mrs. Mueller moved to award the contract for the Hilltop Golf Course Irrigation Improvements to Wissco Irrigation, Inc. in the amount of \$25,749.20, and authorize the Supervisor an Clerk to execute the construction contracts. Seconded by Ms. Arnold.

Ayes: all

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve Utility Easement for Keith R. and Janet M. Rolston located on Rolston Drive. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. Ayes all.

Ms. Arnold moved to approve Resolution No. 97-04-08-18, amending the Building Department Budget. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS the Township wishes to improve access to Building Department records and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 1997 Budget for the Building Department within the General Fund be increased by \$40,000 to \$595,355.

Ms. Arnold further moved to authorize the administration to enter into a contract with the lowest, qualified bidder, within budget constraints, to scan and index the Building Department paper file backlog to be compatible with the Township's document imaging program. Seconded by Mr. Griffith.

Roll call:

Ayes: Arnold, Curmi, Griffith, Mueller, Edward, Massengill, Keen-McCarthy
Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted.

Mrs. Mueller moved to approve Resolution No. 97-04-08-17 granting the request to transfer ownership of a 1996 Class C licensed business at 14830 Sheldon and 44011 Five Mile, Plymouth, Michigan, Plymouth Township, Wayne County from St. John's Holding, Inc., to St. John's Golf Club, Inc., and add space to include 44011 Five Mile Road, Plymouth. Seconded by Mr. Edwards.

Roll call:

Ayes: Arnold, Curmi, Griffith, Mueller, Edward, Massengill, Keen-McCarthy
Nays: None

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the Policy regarding inclusion of the full-time equivalent of part-time hours worked for purposes of calculating length of service for vacation and retirement eligibility. Seconded by Mrs. Arnold. Ayes all.

Mrs. Massengill moved to authorize a limited Open Window Retirement Program for full-time, non-represented employees with eligibility, enrollment and benefits. Seconded by Mr. Edwards. Ayes all.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy requested that a Board of Trustees work session be schedule for Tuesday, April 15, 1997, commencing at 7:30 p.m., for the purpose of discussing proposals for the Chief of Police search.

Discussion was held concerning the Board of Trustees holding one Work Session a month. Mrs. Massengill moved that the first Tuesday of each month, beginning Tuesday, May 6, 1997 be established for Board of Trustees Work Sessions. Seconded by Mrs. Mueller. Ayes all with Mr. Griffith voting no.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy commented on the inaccurate article that recently appeared in the Observer Newspaper. The Supervisor stated that she gave a copy of WTUA's "Proposed Business Plan to Address Wastewater System Capacity Needs" to the City of Plymouth and spoke of the potential separation of Plymouth Township's sewer flow from Wayne County and the effect that action could have on the City of Plymouth because of the combined flows.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy stated she has requested a monthly utilization report on Hilltop Golf Course from American Golf Corporation.

Trustee Curmi asked for an update on the Litigation Quarterly Reports. Attorney Cronin stated it should be available in a few days.

Trustee Arnold asked for an update regarding false alarm collections. It was reported that 37 businesses have been invoiced with fees ranging from \$50 to \$7,150.

Trustee Curmi commented that there seems to be a lot of activity regarding tobacco and alcohol sales to minors and recommended that businesses convicted of selling to minors be listed in the newspaper.

Mr. Griffith moved to receive and file Resolutions as listed. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

It was moved by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Arnold to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Ayes all.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth
Kathleen Keen-McCarthy, Supervisor
Charter Township of Plymouth

The foregoing is a synopsis of the Board of Trustees meeting held on April 8, 1997. The full text is available in the Clerk's Office for perusal. They will be submitted for Board approval at the next regular meeting on April 22, 1997.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township Meetings to individuals with disabilities at the Meetings/Hearings upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the following: Supervisor's Office, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone number: (313)453-3840 x 200. TDD users: 1-800-649-3777. (Michigan Relay Services)

Publish: April 16, 1997

Chief Berry leaves Twp. police Friday; no new chief

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

In less than one month, Plymouth Township Police Chief Carl Berry will retire. Now the question becomes: Who will take his place and when will they take over?

According to Plymouth Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen-McCarthy, the search for a successor is on.

"Right now we're identifying executive search companies who will help us find a police chief," she said. "Once we find the search firms, we'll take it to the board for a vote."

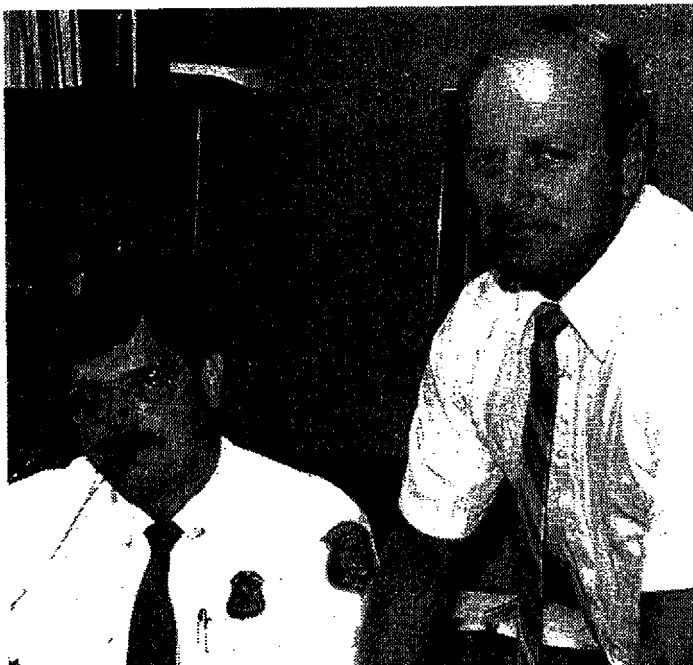
McCarthy said a new chief will not be in place when Berry retires on April 18. "I would anticipate that Lt. Smith will be named acting chief," she said.

McCarthy said although different search firms use different criteria for choosing candidates, the community will likely be involved in the final decision making process.

"Most firms suggest that a community member or members be involved in the interview process to make sure the candidate will be a good fit," she said.

In a letter to the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees and McCarthy, Berry said his participation in the selection process for the new chief will be limited.

"I announced, more than one month ago, that it was my intent to retire and pursue another career," Berry said. "I further stated when it came to the point I was having a problem mixing the two careers, I would have to leave the police department. I felt, at the time, I would be able to stay and assist in the selection process of a new chief. I now find my new career is taking a large portion of my time and I am not able to devote my full attention to the



Carl Berry (right) with former City chief Ralph White. (Crier file photo).

police service which I believe is a disservice to the community and the members of the department."

Berry retires after 35 years of Township and City service.

Plymouth resident, businessman led exotic, varied life

Continued from pg. 1

flowers and animals. They didn't get it," Emily said. "They must've had money on the game."

Modern design

Originally, Lowertown — later named Old Village — was the place to do business in Plymouth. Ruehr's flower shop, working with his brother Bill, was located on the east side of Mill Street; the building was purchased by Ruehr's father from its original owner and his boss, Carl Heide.

When the time came to expand the florist shop, Ruehr moved in a direction that others would follow, and that would change the look and lay of Plymouth.

"In the '60s he said, 'Business has to move uptown to be modern,'" according to Emily. So that's what he did.

It took three submissions to the city commission before his plan was accepted. When it was, Ruehr built a modern brick and glass floral shop at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Harvey Street. Much like his home, the building had a design not repeated in Plymouth. It remains one of a very few structures

without the traditional, colonial look of most of Plymouth's buildings.

At the time Ruehr opened his shop on that corner, there were still occupied houses on Ann Arbor Trail between the shop and Main Street. Customers in the shop were greeted by a dachshund named "Noodle."

Living the life

Emily met Ruehr at one of the Stonecrest parties, while the house was still filled with bachelors.

It was a Halloween theme party, "The Tell-Tale Heart," Emily said. "They had this big beef heart sitting out. When you walked in, there was a coffin with a book on top where you had to sign your name and phone number." Less an instance of record keeping and more a tribute to single men's ambition, that party registry was the start of Emily's relationship with Ruehr.

In 1965 the two were married.

Ruehr traded-in the bachelor's life for that of the businessman and husband. The zeal for hosting parties, for enjoying company, however, was kept.

According to Emily their house was the site of gatherings, occasions and unabashed shindigs.

"He was a guy who had a quest for life that was unparalleled," said Steve Mansfield, the owner of Heide's since February, 1974.

There was an after-opera (which he helped sponsor) celebration, attended by the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and their instruments. Every five years, there was a pre-reunion get together for Ruehr's classmates and buddies from the Plymouth High class of '52. And there were others, more parties than to be counted, Emily said. "He liked to have a good time."

There was also a great deal of travel.

After years in the floral business,

Ruehr made a change. "He said, 'I'm tired of being on my feet.'" Emily said.

"He built a great foundation for our century-old continuing business in downtown Plymouth," Mansfield said. "He took great pride in Heide's Flowers until the day he died," said his successor. And although he left the floral business, he remained on his feet, traveling worldwide.

Trips took them to Asia, South America, Australia and New Zealand, and "Europe more times than I can count," Emily said. Mostly it was pleasure, but their travels eventually led to an importing business.

His last trip was to Italy, in December.

Ruehr was diagnosed with lung cancer two years ago; a year later it moved to his spine. Instead of the hospital, Emily said, Ruehr chose trips around the world.

"I'm not just going to lay here and get sick," he said, according to Emily. In Barbados the cancer kept him in bed, unable to walk.

After returning he cancelled his hospice, and, except for the trip to Italy, remained at Stonecrest.

He died there late Saturday evening.

"The dachshunds knew what was going on," Emily said. "They stayed in the room with him all day."

Ruehr is survived by brothers Otto and Bill, several nieces and nephews and many friends, as well as his wife Emily.

He was respected by many. And he was not fully understood by many, because his life was complex; by definition, complex things are hard to understand.

And so when Emily Ruehr speaks of her husband, she keeps it simple and hits the major points:

"Norman lived a full life and a style that gave him much joy."



Ruehr in Barbados. (Photo courtesy of Emily Ruehr).

**HUNGRY
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2. Who is the
Canton Clerk?

3. Who is City of
Plymouth Police Chief?

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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

The Tandy Corporation and Radio Shack announced the 1997 Tandy Technology Scholars Prize recipients. For outstanding math/science/computer science: **Angkana Roy, Elizabeth E. Oatley**, both from Canton and students at Canton High School, **James Chapman**, from Canton, student at Salem High School. Recognized as being in the top 2% of graduating seniors from Canton High School: **Matthew J. Ammons, Mary H. Anderson, Sarah M. Carson, Patrick J. Connolly, Brian Godfrey, Kelly L. Maltese, Laura A. Martiere, Elizabeth E. Oatley, Kimberly M. Reynolds, Angkana Roy and Christopher G. Trevarthen**; from Salem High School: **Vanessa R. Bodnar, William G. Chapin, Mark D. Dettling, John R. Donahue, Emily A. Fiegenschuh, Joshua A. Filiater, Jeffrey B. Reed, Neha D. Shah.**

The program is funded by Tandy Corporation and administered by Texas University to recognize students who achieved excellence in the areas of mathematics, science and computer science, as well as outstanding scholars in other areas. All above students received certificates of merit.

Diane Cheryl Klemann, a Plymouth resident, graduated from Youngstown State University with a BS in Applied Sciences during the winter semester of 1997.

Youngstown State University is in Youngstown, OH.

Canton and Salem High Schools are holding their class of 1987 10-year reunion November 1, 1997 at the Novi Hilton.

Contact Reunion Works, (313) 397-8766 or email: rwunderl@rust.net

Bette Warren, of Plymouth, a mathematics professor at EMU was honored with the Michigan Association of Governing Boards of States Universities 1997 Distinguished Faculty Award.

The MAGB awards are given to "the best of the best" and are generally selected by the Dean's Advisory Council and the Faculty Council from the list of Eastern's Distinguished Faculty Award winners. They are given in the categories of teaching, research/scholarship activity and service to the university.

Student gets taste of government

Future leaders meet politicians, ammend laws, and save the free world

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Future leaders of the word unite! Ammending laws, meeting senators and saving the free world from a Russian ultranationalist—not a bad week's work for anyone, let alone a teenager.

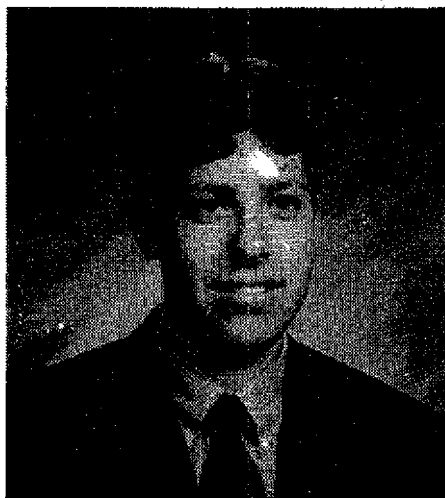
That's just what 350 outstanding National scholars did last month at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.

Aleksandr Kokoszka, of Plymouth, was chosen for the week-long seminar along with high school students from all over America.

"My group had kids in it from Canada, Columbia, and Alaska," Kokoszka said. "It was a lot of fun."

Kokoszka learned a lot during the conference, which was set up as "a day in the life" of a politician in all phases of government, he said. Kokoszka went to judicial and cabinet seminars, and took part in activites designed to give students a glimpse at what a politician does in a normal day.

"The conference provides the opportunity for students to distinguish themselves as tomorrow's leaders," said Michael Lasday, director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, which sponsored the event.



ALEKSANDR KOKOSZKA

One of the activities Kokoszka took part in was "Model Congress," a mock legislative session in which his group assumed the role of United States Representatives and debated, ammended and voted on proposed ammendments to immigration law.

"We were supposed to eliminate the federal mandate for costly bilingual education," he said.

Other highlights of the conference included listening to remarks from the

floor of the US House of Representatives, and meeting with the students' senators and representatives.

Kokoszka, a junior at University of Detroit Jesuit academy, met with Rep. Lynn Rivers (D-Ann Arbor). "That was neat," he said. "I was the only one from her area, and I got to meet her personally and talk with her one-on-one."

Another activity, "If I were President," groups of students role-played the President and members of the cabinet during an internatinal crisis involving Russia.

"In our scenario, it was September of 2000, Vladimir Zhirinovsky attacked the Ukraine," said Kokoszka, who played the part of the chief of staff. "We had to figure out how to save them. I organized a covert operation to get rid of their nuclear weapons while we were dealing with them diplomatically."

Kokoszca is unsure whether he's going to follow a career in politics. "I was thinking of studying liberal arts or science," he said, "but I liked a lot of what we did there. I liked the congress aspects of it, and other branches like the CIA."

"It was good to see what happens behind the scenes."

Ivy league preacher comes to town

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

From Lancaster to Boston to New York City to the hallowed halls of Princeton, the Rev. Tamara Seidel has followed a calling.

The calling took her from her small town in Pennsylvania to Wellesley College outside of Boston. It tugged her to New York City, where it began to take shape, then pulled her to Princeton University, where it sharpened and defined itself.

Then the calling took her to the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, where she is now associate minister.

"It was a mutual calling," she said, describing the computer-dating-like process of finding a calling—the Presbyterian term for finding a position at a church. "I sent my personal information form into the Presbyterian USA and the church sent a church information form into the mainframe."

The mainframe crunches numbers, matches positions and people, and ministers with churches.

"With churches, there's a sense of the Holy Spirit involved," she said. "Not just anyone can be called to a certain church."

Seidel said she felt the calling at an early age. "It was a long call process," she said. "I first started to feel the call in high school."

But it was an itch she couldn't quite scratch then, she said. She wasn't sure quite how to answer the call. It took her to Wellesley College, where she earned a BA in religion.

"I went through a rebellious stage," she said. "I took a year off and went to New York."

While working for the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, Seidel felt the calling again.

"I was exposed to human need on a huge scale," she said. "I would walk around and see crime and poverty right next to incredible wealth. It was a huge shock."

The shock sent her to Princeton Theological Seminary, where she graduated with a Masters of Divinity and then a Masters of Theology in 1996.

As associate minister, Seidel's duties include helping with pastoral duties, counseling and adult education, as well as giving one sermon a month.

"I love it. You work with text, talk

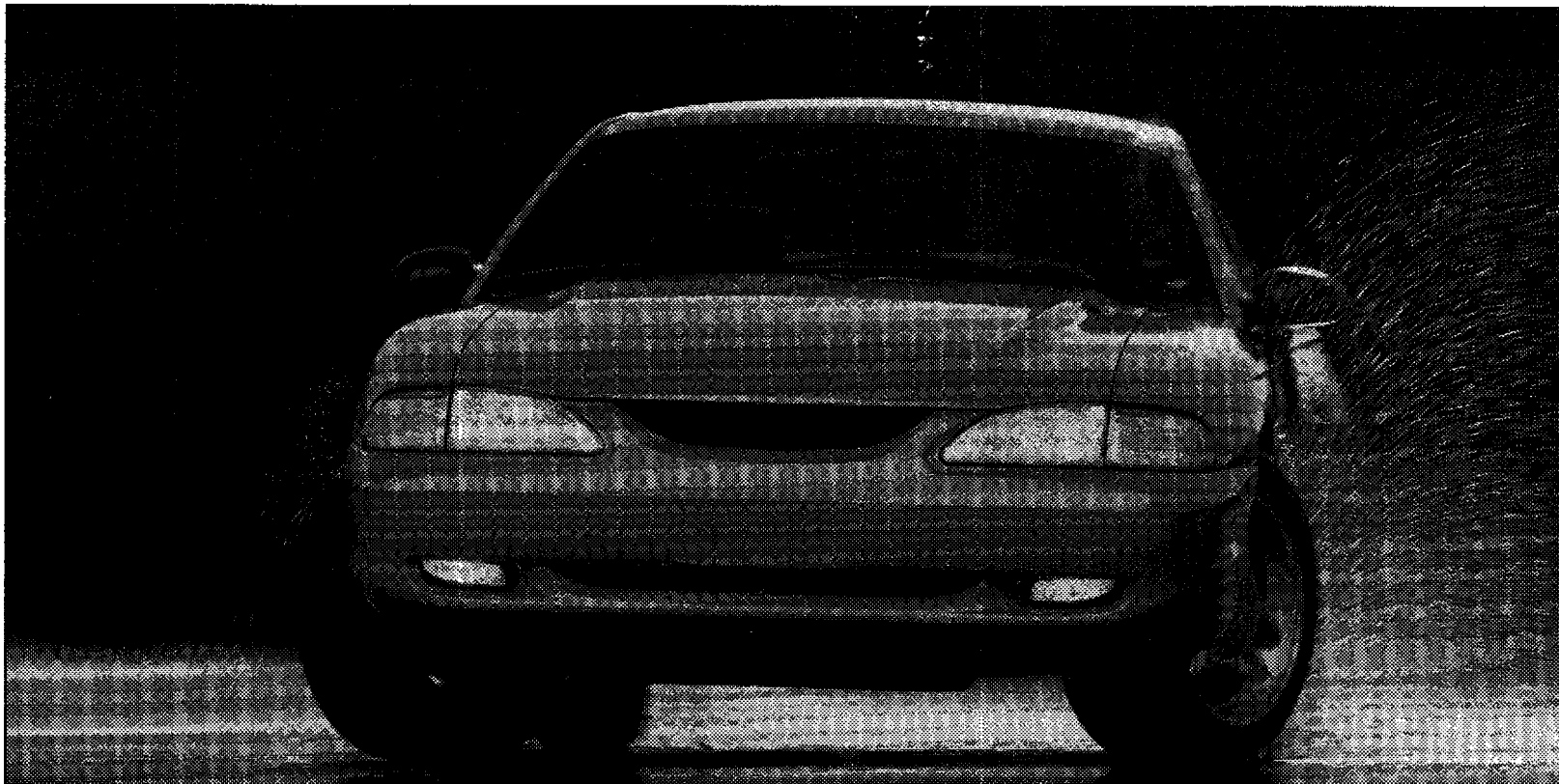


REV. TAMARA SEIDEL

about what's going on in the world; you can toss in humor or stories about people. It's a really creative process and I really enjoy it that way."

She's looking forward to doing more, though.

"With all the growth in the area, the church is also challanged to grow," Seidel said. "I'd like to be a part of helping to establish the church's identity with all of the growth around us."



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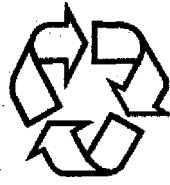
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What's Happening

To list your group's event in this calendar, send or deliver the notice IN WRITING to: The Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170. Information received BY NOON FRIDAY will be used for Wednesday's calendar (space permitting).

Health...

THERAPIST REFERRAL NETWORK

People with mental health problems can call 1-800-THERAPIST to be directed to a licensed professional or mental health agency.

SENIOR VAN

The Plymouth Community Seniors van is available for transport to any destination in the city or township five days a week, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The van will also assist Plymouth seniors in getting to medical, dental and other appointments, and makes planned trips to Westland, Livonia and Laurel Park Malls. Phone 459-8888 for info on this free service.

RESPIRATORY DISEASE ASSISTANCE

For those with respiratory diseases. Second Wednesday of each month at the Arbor Health building in Plymouth from 2-3 p.m. Free of charge. For more information, call 712-5367.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

Available twice monthly by appointment at Plymouth Township Hall. For more information, call Frances Rudd at 455-7526 between 1-4 p.m. weekdays.

SMOKE STOPPERS

In combination with the "patch," or by itself, this program can help win the battle against smoking. Group and individual sessions available at St. Joseph Mercy Health Building, Plymouth and Ann Arbor. Call 313 712-4141.

LA-LECHE LEAGUE

La Leche League of Plymouth-Canton, a non-profit, information and support group for breastfeeding mothers meets monthly the second and fourth Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., respectively. Call 397-0197.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HANDBOOKS

A 40-page handbook containing current domestic violence laws, women's rights, a list of community resources and other information is now available in Arabic. Copies can be found at the Arab-American and Chaldean Council, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, the Wayne County Department of Public Health clinic in Dearborn and the Wayne County Prosecutor's office. English and Spanish versions are also available. Call (313) 224-6994.

NEW BEGINNINGS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every Monday at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon Rd., just south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth. Anyone who is grieving a loss because of death or divorce is welcome to attend. There is no charge. For more information, call 453-7630.

Upcoming...

BERRY OPEN HOUSE

The Charter Township of Plymouth will hold an open house in honor of Police Chief Carl Berry's retirement from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. **April 18** in the Township Board Room.

STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

U.S. Representative Lynn Rivers (D), who represents the 13th Congressional District, has announced she will launch an art competition, exhibition and reception for high school students. The exhibition will take place **April 15 to 19** at Washtenaw Community College's Art Gallery, located in the Morris Lawrence building, 4800 E. Huron River Drive. Call 722-1411.

TOWN MEETING

A town meeting to discuss issues including Proposal A, vouchers, special education funding and schools of choice will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. **April 17** in Pioneer Middle School's media center. The event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters, I CARE, Class-size Action Partnership, P-CCS Legislative Action Committee and Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The Ladies Auxiliary 6695 and Our Lady of Good Counsel are co-sponsoring a senior citizens' luncheon. The event will take place noon **April 24** at 1420 S. Mill, Plymouth. Reservations: Millie Drake at 453-3586 or Dolores Dalski at 459-5547 before April 18.

FELLOW'S CREEK MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE

Canton Parks and Recreation Mens Golf League will begin **April 23**, 5 p.m. at Fellow's Creek Golf Course. Registration has begun, cost is \$400. League is limited to 36 golfers and restricted to Canton residents unless league fails to fill by March 31.

POST OFFICE OPEN HOUSE

The Plymouth Post Office will host an open house for all customers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **April 24** at the following locations: 47526 Clipper, 44895 Helm Court and 860 Penniman. Call 453-6110 for more information.

CHORUS SPRING CONCERT

The Plymouth Community Chorus will present its spring concert with "Yesterday Once More" at 8 p.m. **April 26** and 4 p.m. **April 27** in the Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 455-4080.



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Getting down to business

Neighbors in business

Plymouth native Polly MacIsaac has been named senior director of marketing and product development at Learning Curve International.

MacIsaac will be responsible for strategic direction of and supervision of marketing, and product development of brands at the Chicago-based manufacturer and marketer of children's developmental products.

MacIsaac's parents, Patricia and Don, still live in Plymouth.



POLLY MACISAAC

James Harless, president and CEO of Plymouth-based Techna Corporation, testified yesterday before the U.S. House of Representatives committee on small business.

Harless holds degrees in chemistry; his expertise is in environmental consulting including regulatory compliance and contaminated site assessment. Techna is an environmental consulting firm that has completed more than 2,000 projects in more than 15 states.

United Home Health Services Inc. of Canton was awarded accreditation with commendation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare organizations.

United Home Health Services offers a range of home care services including nursing, speech, occupational and physical therapy.

Plymouth's TolTest, Inc., has appointed Carla Jean Lange lead scientist/hydrologist in the company's Plymouth office.

Lange will perform a variety of duties at the engineering, consulting and testing services provider.

New restaurant offers quick, healthy sandwiches

Einstein Bros Bagels new to Plymouth, first with drive-thru service

BY BRYON MARTIN

They've got a genius for fast, healthy, trendy food.

Einstein Bros Bagels, a national bagel restaurant chain, is gearing up for the opening its Plymouth location Monday, April 21 at 640 Ann Arbor Road.

Keying in on the '90s bagel buzz, Einsteins is one of a growing number of chains to specialize in bagels, bagels sandwiches and espresso-based drinks; Bruegger's Bagels, in Canton, and Edward's Bakery in downtown Plymouth and Northville, fit the bagel-bite bill, too.

And while the Plymouth location is Einstein's 10th site in the Metro-Detroit area, it will be the first in the state, and the only in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community to offer drive-thru window service.

According to manager Scott Douglass, this drive-thru is what will help distinguish the Plymouth Einsteins from its peers. "That, and the bagels themselves have a lot of appeal," he said.

Einsteins serves-up 18 different kinds of bagels with ingredients such as raisins, nuts and whole blueberries. Toppings include 11 choices of cream cheese spreads. A variety of espresso drinks, regular-brewed and flavored coffees are also offered.

Einsteins' bagels are steam baked; without cream cheese, most have one gram of fat or less. These simple, healthy menu items make Einsteins an obvious breakfast choice for those on the go, Douglass said.

This is particularly true of professionals on the morning commute, he said. "If they're on their way to work or a meeting, they can pull in and grab an egg-topped bagel, or a bunch of bagels to take in with them," he said. "Our drive-thru is unique. We'll have quicker service than most."

A variety of vegetable and deli meat toppings and condiments makes Einsteins great for lunch, too, Douglass said.

Apparently somebody agrees. Since 1995, when Einsteins was born from the combination of Brackman Brothers, Inc., Bagel & Bagel, Inc. and Offerdahls Bagel Gourmet, Inc., the company plan has been to grow and spread across the U.S. In 1996, Einsteins acquired Noah's New York Bagels, Inc., which operates more than 260 stores in 26 states.



Scott Douglass, Einsteins manager, prepares his store for its grand opening April 21. (Crier photo by Bryon Martin).

Douglass is solely focused on his Plymouth store, though. He has scheduled Doug Jacobs' Red Garter Band to play on opening day and will honor coupons for three free bagels with any other purchase.

He wants Einsteins to be a neighborhood place, he said. "That's the plan."

Live music, free bagels — no holes to be found in that plan.

Clips & Clamps Industries grabs Chrysler's Best



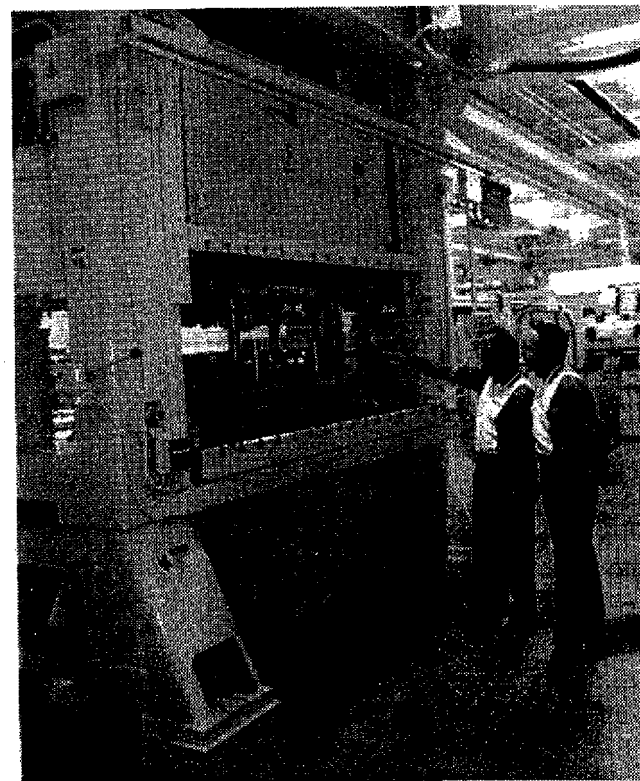
Chrysler Corporation awarded Clips & Clamps Industries of Plymouth its Gold Pentastar Award for the 1996 Model Year.

The '96 award is the third received by the company, which manufactures metal stampings for the automotive industry.

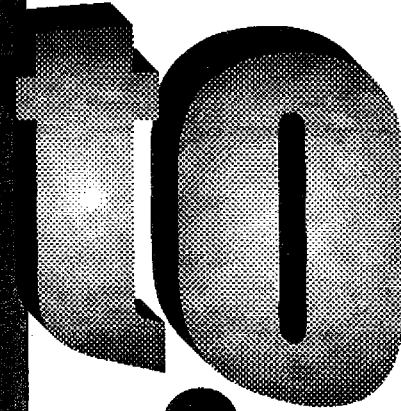
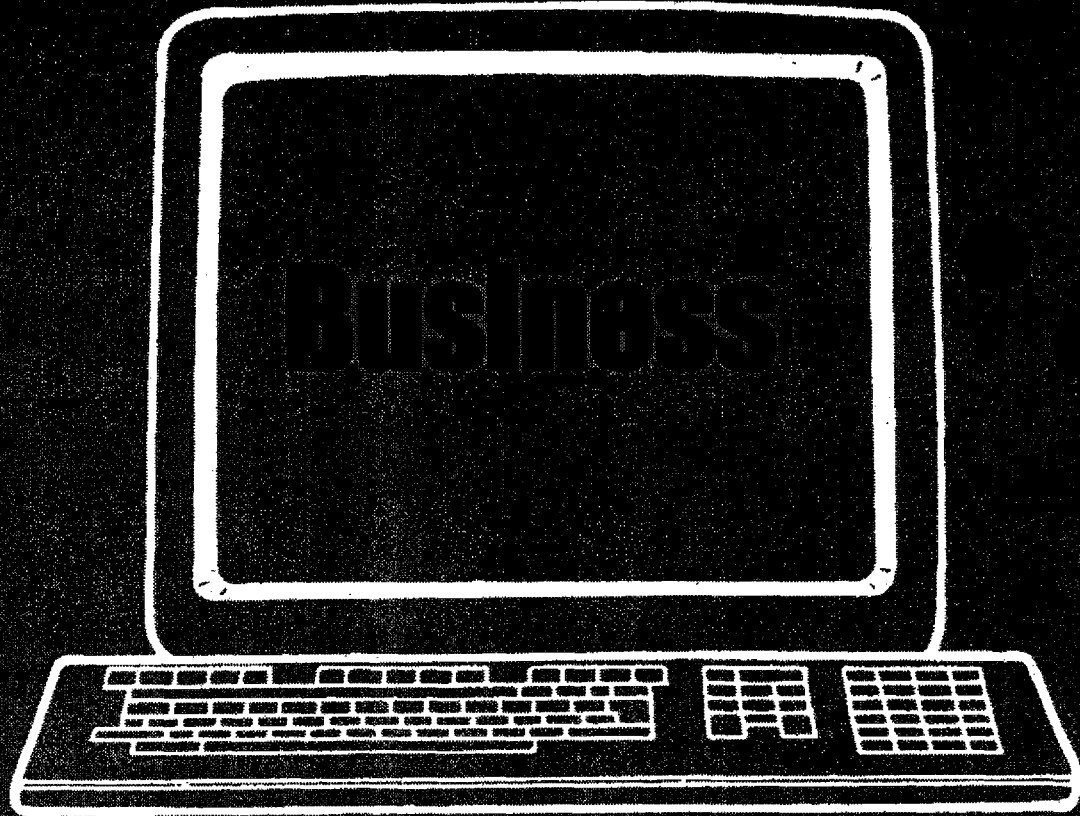
The Gold Pentastar is awarded to Chrysler suppliers whose ratings in quality, delivery performance, warranty costs, cost reduction effort and engineering support categories is found to be excellent.

Founded in 1954, Clips & Clamps now employs 55 people, who took time out from their workday to receive their Pentastar plaque, banner and polo shirts (above).

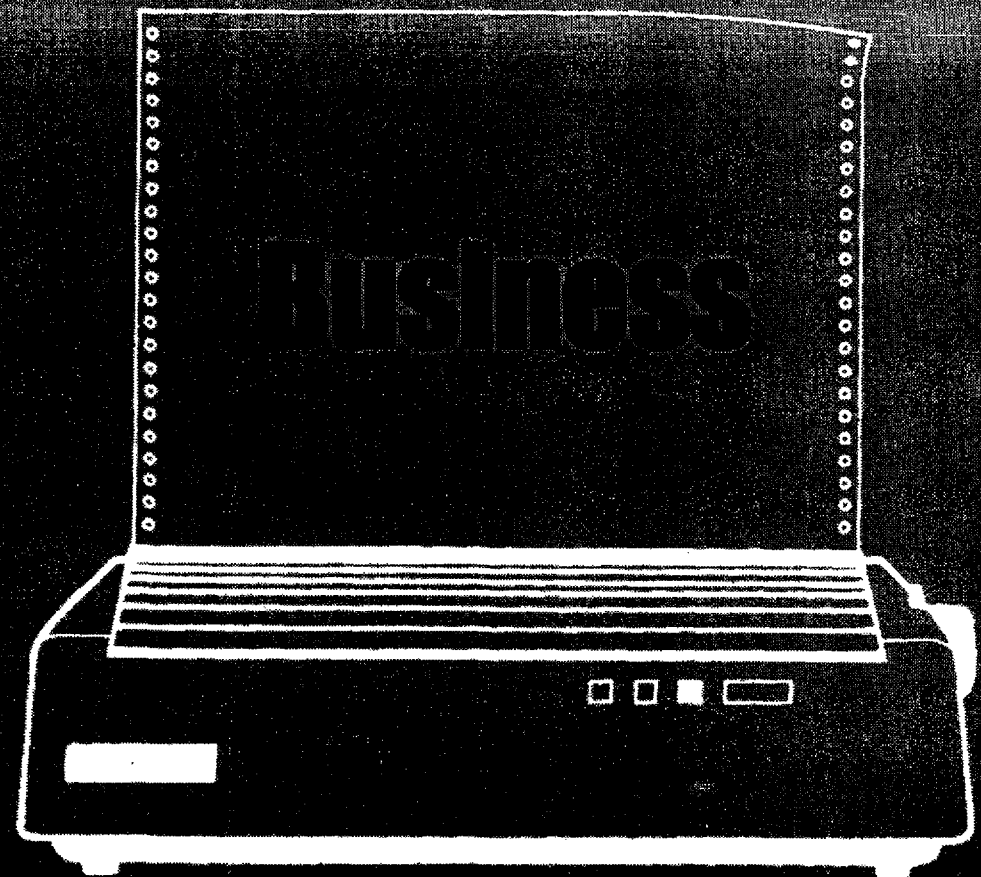
Clips & Clamps President Mike Aznavorian shows Chrysler's David Stevens features of a new, high-tech press at his company's facility, located in the Metro West industrial park (right). (Crier photos by R. Alwood, Jr.).



Spring, 1997 ■ The State of Commerce in ■ Plymouth-Canton-Northville



The Crier
PLUS





Woman-owned print shop doubles in size

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

Disappointed with the lack of job security in the printing business, Plymouth Township resident Kimberly A. Price had an idea.

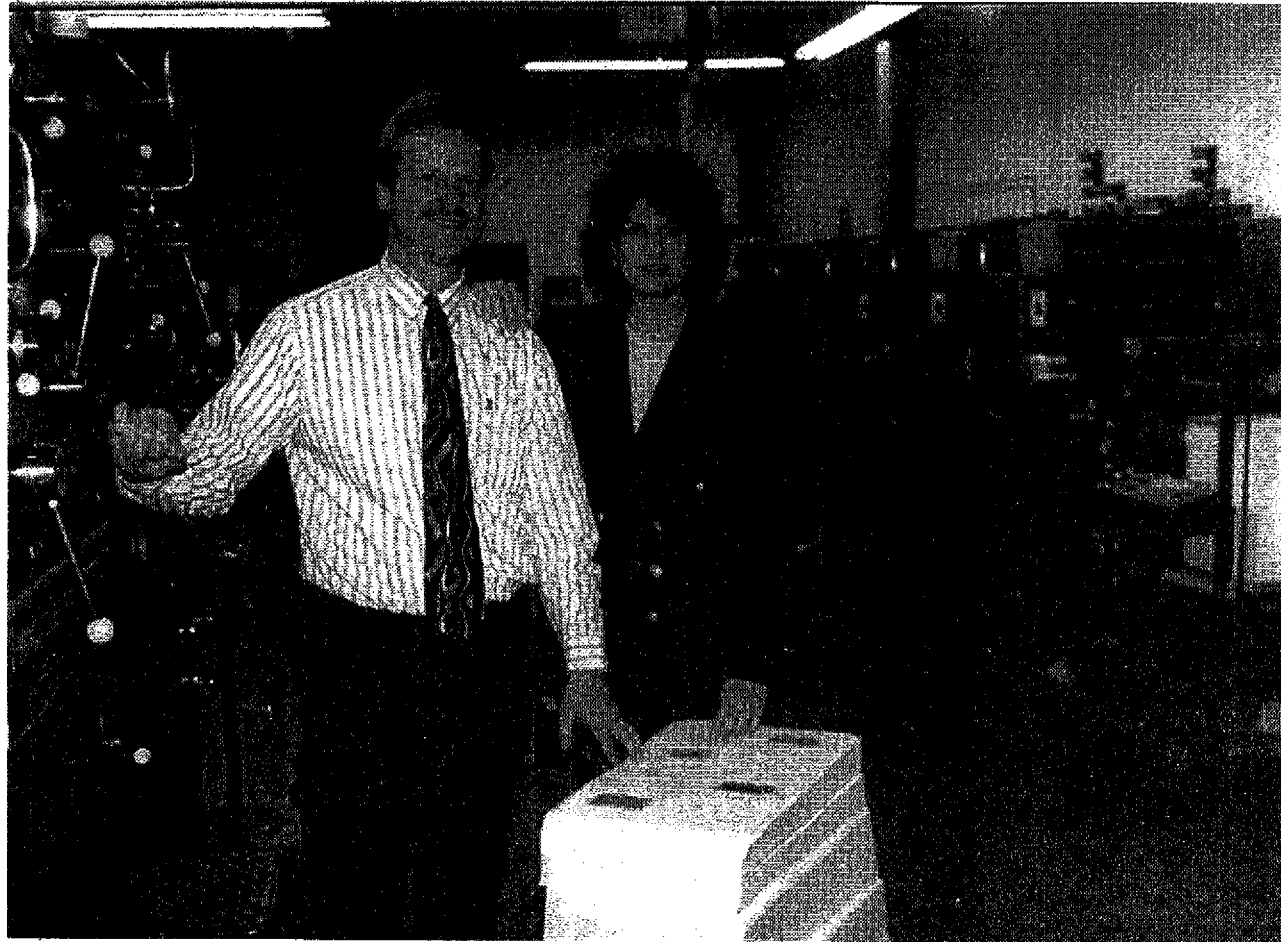
After losing three jobs in a row to downsizing, in 1989 she decided to take a gamble and build her own company, Progressive Printing in Plymouth.

"I had just had it with employers that don't provide security," said Price, president of the printing company. "It's also the American dream to own your own business."

Eight years later, the full-service print shop flourishes. The woman-owned business handles more than 100 clients and has built itself into a \$1 million-dollar operation. Customers range from one-man design firms to Fortune 100 companies.

Price started Progressive Printing with two employees and one-third of the

Please see pg. 13



Plymouth Township resident Kimberly Price, shown above with husband Bruce, has owned Progressive Printing for eight years. In that time she has seen her office space double in size and her staff grow from two to 12 employees. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)



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Printing company flourishes after eight years in business

Continued from pg. 12

equipment she currently owns. The business has increased sales consistently each year and now employs 12 people. Her husband, Bruce, joined the company in 1993.

In an effort to meet increasing customer demands, Progressive Printing recently doubled its size to a total of 10,000 sq. feet.

The business operates with two- and five-color Heidelberg presses in addition to electronic prepress and imaging equipment. The expansion will also allow for additional investments in electronic prepress and bindery/finishing operations.

"It's not just ink on paper," she said of the business, adding the electronic age has made it possible to improve design, film and press techniques. "I love the excitement of putting people's ideas and creativity into a piece they can tangibly see and promote themselves with."

One thing no one can question about Kimberly Price is the dedication to her printing company. With two of her four children, she gave birth on a Saturday and returned to work the following Thursday.

'It's not just ink on paper. I love the excitement of putting people's ideas and creativity into a piece they can tangibly see and promote themselves with.'

— Kimberly Price

"I've been called a 'Woman of the '90s,'" she said, adding she couldn't have done it without help from those around her. "I have a good support system whether it be at work or at home."

For Price, promoting her company's services provides the most excitement.

"Selling is helping others get what they want," she said. "We're here for the client and their needs."

She also enjoys the long-term relationships she has developed with most of her clients.

"Printing is a product where service is the key," she said. "You build friendships over the years."

"I have a passion for printing. Ink is in my blood."

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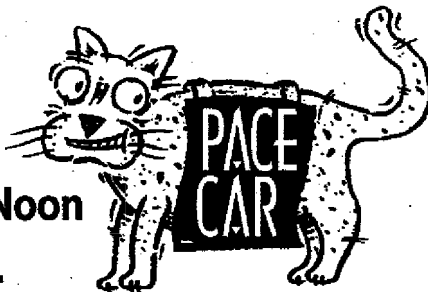
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Kellogg Park



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Pre Registration by May 1st - \$15, Register Day of Race, \$20

This ad Courtesy of
Jim McKeon

plus

Into the future:

Internet providers give businesses the (leading) edge

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Looking to establish a presence on the internet but not sure how to do it? The answer may lie in your businesses backyard.

Several local firms, like Netheadz and Desktop Integration Service Corporation, are emerging to help technically nervous companies find their way along the information highway.

Netheadz is a new company dedicated to establishing web pages for businesses, according to Todd Benner, owner/operator of the Canton-based business.

"Netheadz is for any business trying to use the internet to their competitive advantage," he said. Any business can benefit from it, he adds, citing clients from Canton to northern Ohio.

Benner, a self-styled website craftsman, is quick to point out the depth and quality of his web pages. A lot of companies just put up the equivalent of billboards on the internet—static pages, big on pictures but light on graphics, he said, but firms like Netheadz and Desktop Intergration Corporation offer more.

"We sit down and get the essence, personality and culture

Continued on pg. 17



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In Canton, the chamber's executive board includes President Mike Gerou, Past President Janet Volante, President-elect Pat Williams, Vice President-Operations Bob Carrigan, Vice President-Membership Development Carol Felker, Vice President-Economic Development Ray Mierzejewski, Vice President Government Development Kaye Woodbeck and Treasurer Scott Koll.

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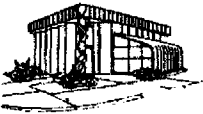
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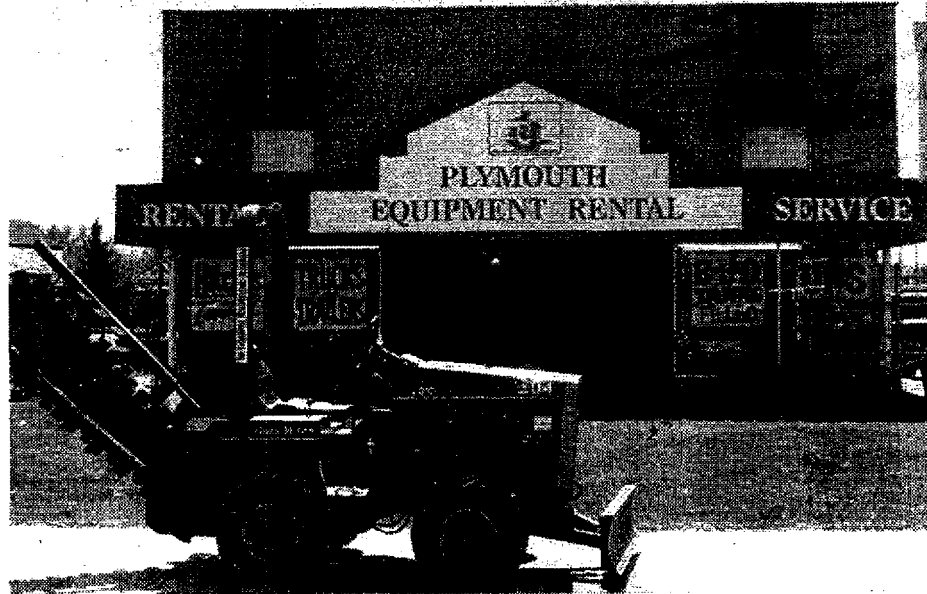
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Area growth leads to rise in rental business



Since it opened in 1968, Plymouth Construction Equipment in Canton has seen an increase in local construction and rental sales. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman)

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

If you need something, and don't have it or can't afford to buy it, chances are you can rent it from Plymouth Construction Equipment.

One of Canton's original businesses, PCE opened in June of 1968, when Everett Koers bought the land from a sod farm.

"There wasn't much here then," said Jack Koers, Everett Koers' son and current owner of PCE. "Just Julien's, and that's about it."

To Koers, who grew up in Plymouth and graduated from Plymouth High School in 1963, Canton was the perfect place for his type of business.

"There's always a lot of building going on," he said, and the township is good to deal with. The police and fire departments are A1."

A simple answer from a business that provides a simple service, and a simple, hard-work philosophy.

"People rent things from us," he said. "They can rent everything from air compressor to trucks; personnel lifters for roof work."

PCE works with both businesses and non-businesses alike, according to Koers. "I can't think of anyone that we wouldn't serve," he said. "Everyone's going to need something sooner or later, whether they're business people or not. We rent generators for when the power goes out; pumps for flooded basements—all types of emergency equipment."

PCE rents other types of equipment for homeowners, too, according to Koers. Whether it be lawn and garden equipment, like lawnmowers and snowblowers, and all types of gardening supplies.

"We also repair lawnmowers and snowblowers," Koers said, "and fill propane tanks. That's a good service."

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Please see pg. 17

local growth helps business

continued from pg.16

Koers thought briefly about franchising, but dismissed it. "We decided to stick with one place," he said, "it's hard enough to run one. All the growth in the area is keeping us busy enough as it is. If we need to grow, we can always build on our land here. We've got enough space."

Growth in the area is one of the things that keeps PCE hopping, according to Koers. "Subdivision contractors all know about us because we've been here for so long," he said. "When they get a job in the area, they call us. We have enough to do with just the 25 mile circumference of the area," he said.

Koers is sure he won't have any problem keeping up with area growth. He will continue to do the things that kept him in business so long.

"Give a good service, and don't bite off more than you can chew," he said. "Keep digging for more business, and don't get lazy. Don't give up and just keep growing, which we will do."

New businesses have high-tech edge

continued from pg. 14

of a corporation and craft it into an online presence," he said. "It's not just a yellow page ad on the internet."

Benner prefers to design dynamic sites, ones with more than page to them, that feature updated business information and helpful tips for those visiting the site.

True, dynamic sites cost more, but they accomplish more, too, Benner said. "If people find information they can use, they'll visit the site again."

Dennis Long, of Desktop Integration Services Corporation, agrees. Desktop Integration Services Corporation offers a wider variety of services, including intranet and internet applications, as well as hardware and software to support them, according to Long.

While Netheadz is designed more for Web page setup, Desktop Integration is more concerned with application development, according to Long, and is more software based.

Designing Web pages, both static and dynamic, is a fairly recent part of their corporate services.

"We create dynamic Web pages with their own databases," he said, "they're much more sophisticated than a static Web page, more proactive. You can key in data and interact with it."

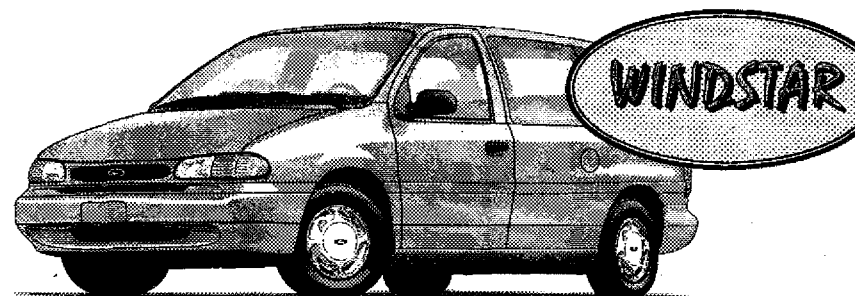
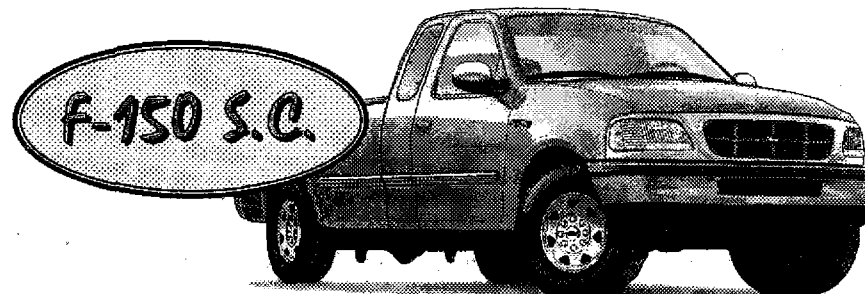
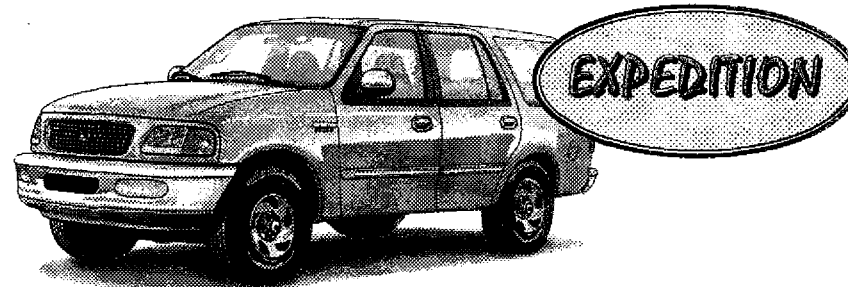
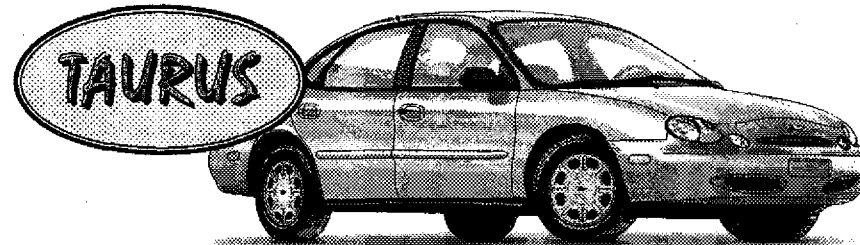
Static Web pages don't interact with people according to Long, and are primarily there for browsing. Dynamic Web pages can change with the data input into it.

"Typically, static Web pages don't accomplish what corporations want them to," Long said. AA more sophisticated, dynamic Web page is needed.

For example, on Desktop Integration's Web page, a Web browser can view job openings, according to Long. The database automatically changes and updates the web pages

Continued on pg. 21

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While the findings are not scientific, they provide one way to tap into the community's needs and opinions.

Categories include:

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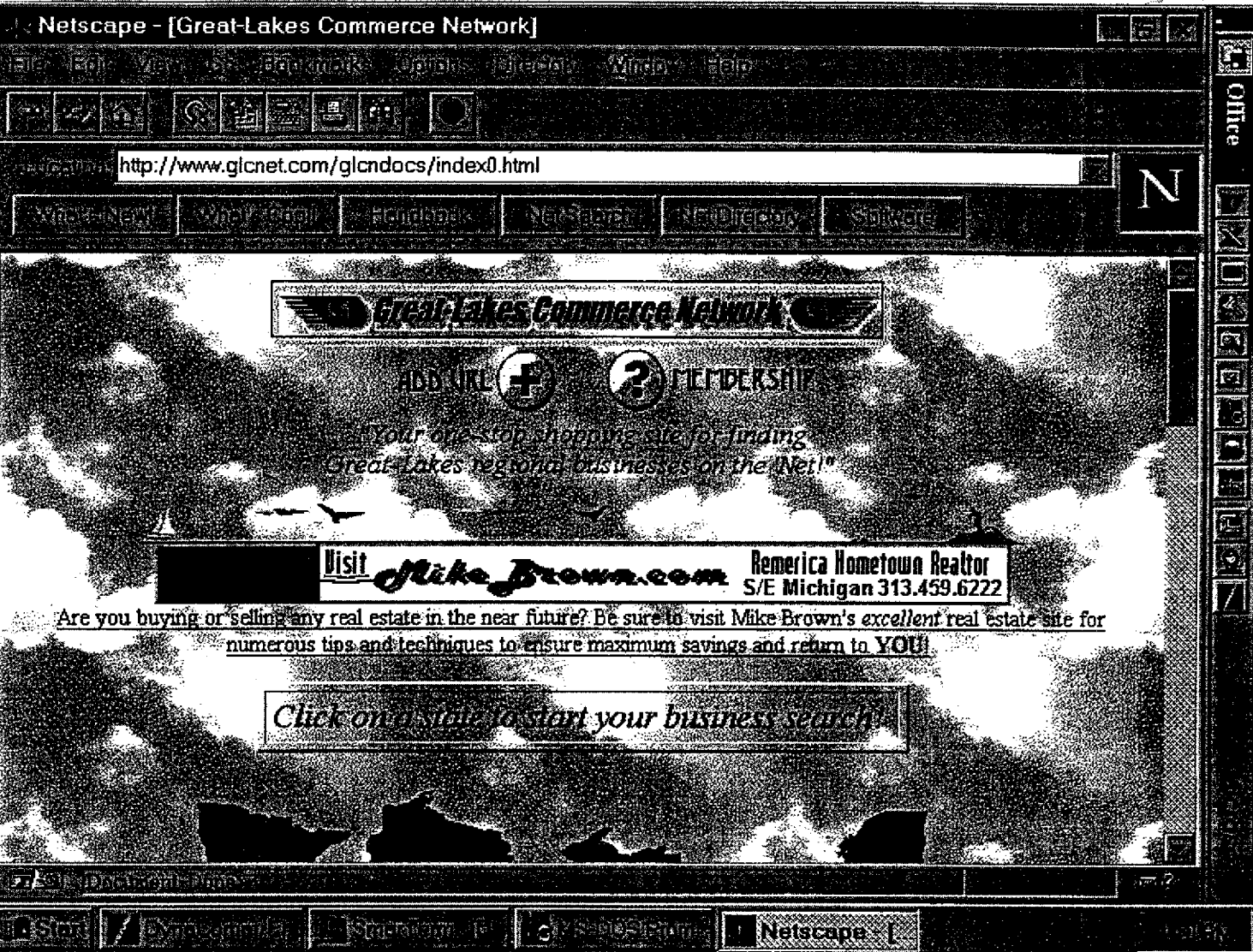
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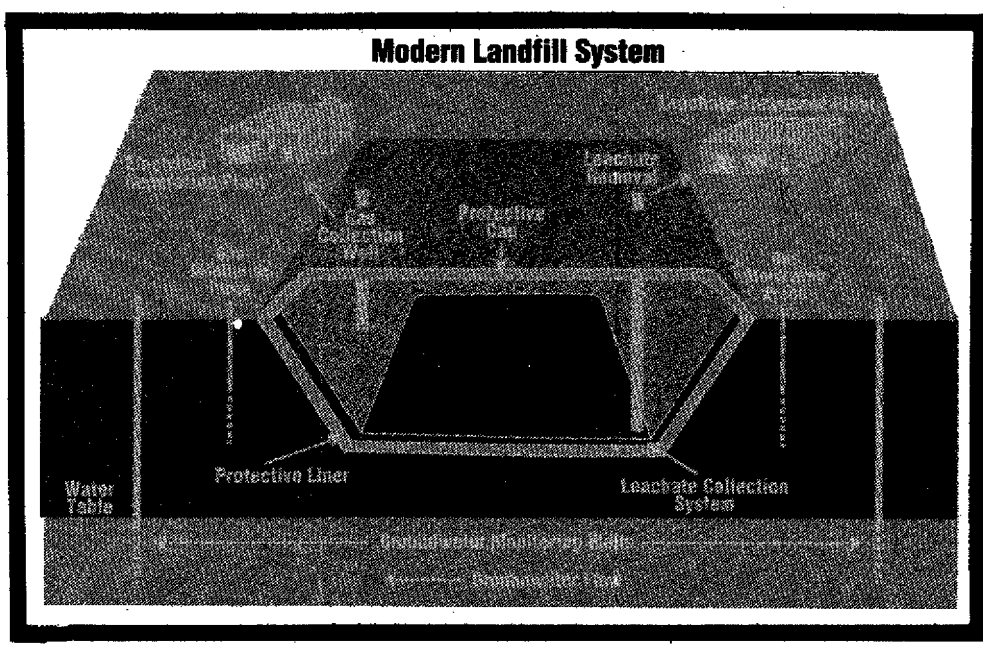
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A sample Web page from Netheadz. The company name appears on the screen. The Web browser can reach other pages by moving the mouse around and clicking on certain areas of the screen to go to other pages with information that can be automatically updated for every Web browser.

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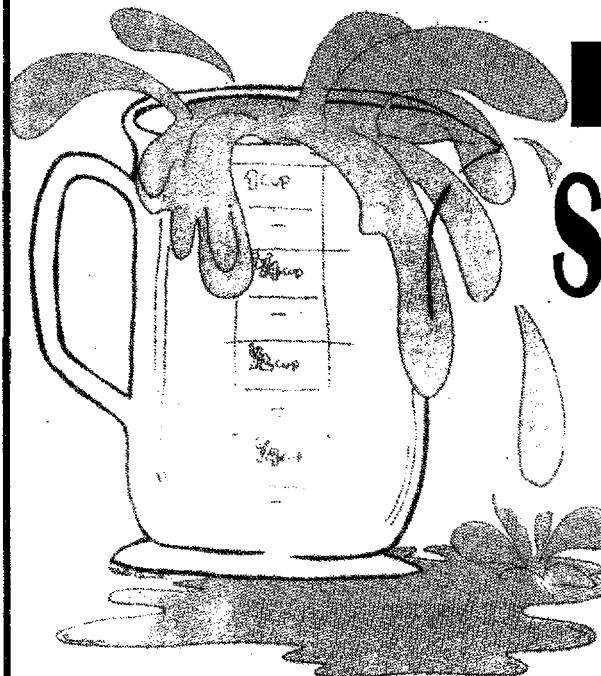
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plus

Internet companies grow

Continued from pg. 17

as positions are opened or filled.

"A lot of companies are posting job openings on the Web," Long said, and if your site is dynamic, a prospective employee can send their resume right to the site."

Benner has the experience to back up his goals. Four years ago he helped start up Micanet, an internet access provider, but left to seek a more creative side of online service.

The result was Netheadz, which has been in operation for more than a year. "It's going a little slowly," he said. "But we're reasonably priced and just sweating out the details."

Benner hopes to be able to bring in more people, because he's had lots of referrals, he said.

Every business, from a large corporation to a small 'mom & pop' store can benefit from their own online presence, according to Benner.

"People who think a web page could not help their small business are increasingly finding they are wrong," he said, "you can use them to get information before you contact them, and they show up in internet search engines."

One such small firm, Mike Brown, a Canton Realtor, had a Web page set up through Netheadz. He had 2-3 out of state hits on his page a week, and eventually sold a house to someone in Southfield within two weeks.

Benner also has larger clients, like the Rudolph Libbe corporation, a general contractor from Ohio trying to break into the Canton market.

Desktop Integration services has been around longer has a few years head start, however. The company, about four and a half years old, has been in Northville since July of 1995.

A Microsoft partner, they employ 35 people, with 25 technical positions and 10 non technical. Plus, being partnered with Microsoft, "We have the latest and the greatest tools," Long said.

A new service Desktop Integration Services is starting is called Site Walk, a program designed to gauge the success of existing Web pages, according to Long.

"It's the first in the world of it's kind," Long said. Site Walk evaluates existing Web pages. It measures how many hits on a Web page, and takes different measurements of the Web page, like how long it takes to come up, according to Long, and weighs them against the internet average.

"If you have a slow site, people aren't going to come back," Long said. "It's good to have an outside entity evaluating your site, because it sees what other people sees.

"It's a fairly new product, and we're very excited about it," Long said.

With the internet expanding, and more and more businesses are joining the swell of technology, companies like Desktop Integration Services and Netheadz are eager to help them realize their full online potential.

Anyone can do an online billboard, Benner said, "But content is king."

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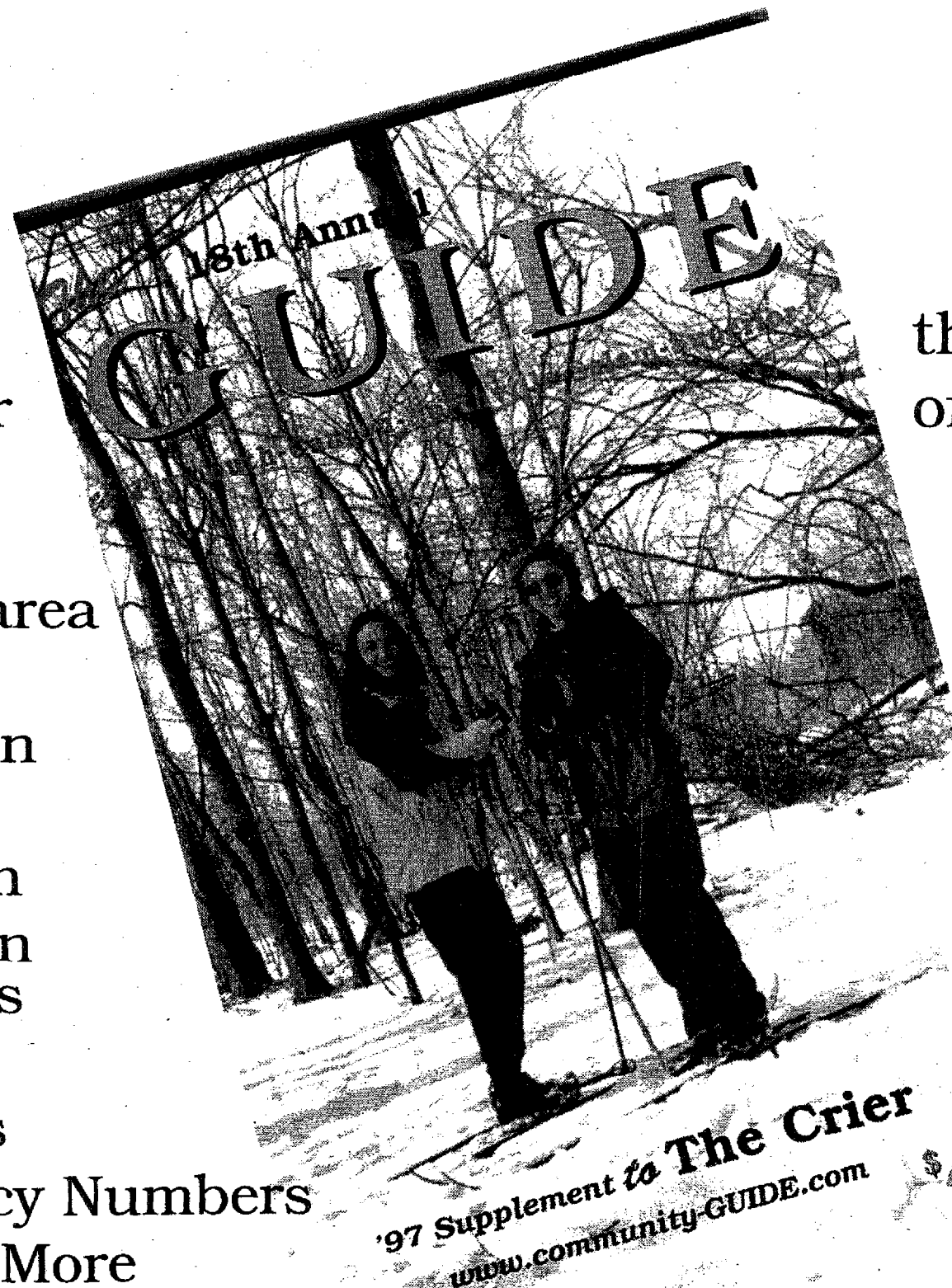
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**IT'S A
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Beanie Blitz



Beanie Babies are still all the rage in Plymouth, as residents line up outside Plymouth Marketplace for the little treasures. In some cases, police were called to direct traffic, as was the case at McDonald's Friday. (Crier photos by Jack Armstrong and Lias Lepping).



Community deaths

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director or call (313) 453-6900

GERALDINE E. RIPPER

Geraldine E. Ripper, a Westland resident, died April 10, 1997 at the age of 57.

Mrs. Ripper was born Nov. 11, 1939 in Ann Arbor. She was a dispatcher for Detroit Edison.

She is survived by her husband, William S. of Westland; daughter, Kelly Ripper of Canton; sons, Sean Ripper of Port Huron, Randy Ripper of Westland; sister, Suzanne Pollard of Blur Bell, PA; brother, Dave Coon of Ann Arbor.

Arrangements were made by and services were held at Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home and St. Richard's Catholic Church with the Rev. Leonard Partensky officiating. Burial was at Washtenong Memorial Park in Washtenaw County. Mass offerings can be made or memorial tributes given to Karmanos Cancer Institute, 3807 Monroe Street, Dearborn, MI 48124.

RUBY F. NORTH

Ruby F. North, a Farmington Hills resident, died April 12, 1997 at the age of 92.

Mrs. North was born Aug. 4, 1904 in Ludington, MI. She assisted her husband, the late Rev. Robert A. North in various capacities, including choir member, soloist, teaching and supervising children's departments, coordinating missionary councils, directing Christmas pageants and Vacation Bible schools.

She is survived by her sons, Robert (Frances) North of Shawnee, KS, Richard (Patricia) North of Portsmouth, OH, Paul (Eileen) North of Warren; daughters, Beth (Richard) McCoy of Farmington, Joan (Michael) Harmon of Bath; sister, Beulah Olson of Aptos, CA; 19 grandchildren and 35 great-children.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 16 at the Detroit

First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. Stephen Anthony officiating. Burial will be at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Arrangements were made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial Contributions can be made to Plymouth Church of Nazarene in memory of the Rev. Robert A. North and Ruby F. North.

MARJORIE E. ACKERMAN

Marjorie E. Ackerman, a Plymouth resident, died April 13, 1997 at the age of 77.

Mrs. Ackerman was born March 28, 1920 in Bryan, OH. She was a teacher-aide for the learning disabled students at Salem High School. She also taught in Grand Rapids and Portland, OR. She was a member of F.I.S.H. and delivered Meals on Wheels for many years. She enjoyed cooking and was a gourmet cook.

She is survived by her husband, Wilbert "Bill" Ackerman of Plymouth; sons, Peter (Willy) Ackerman of California, Jon (Jan) Ackerman of Novi; daughter, Christine (James) Bryson of Albuquerque, NM; sisters, Betty (Fred) Schroeder of Maryland, Charlene Leatherburg of Virginia, Sue (William) Freshour of Frankfurt, MI; grandchildren, Alexandra and Jennifer Bryson, and five step-grandchildren.

Services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, April 19 at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. Arrangements were made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be given to Arbor Hospice Building Fund, 3810 Packard, Suite 200, Ann Arbor 48108.

NORMAN REINHOLD RUEHR

Norman Reinhold Ruehr, a Plymouth resident, died April 12, 1997 at the age of 62.

Mr. Ruehr was born Nov. 20, 1934 in Plymouth. He was a florist and importer.

He is survived by his wife, Emily; brothers, Otto and Bill; many nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Private services will be held. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

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Quote: Never give an anniversary gift that
has to be plugged in. - Jules

LUCKY drinks too much wine in Canton.
It's a dog's life.

Bob - I guess I better be careful - never
know who is reading these!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Vince!

ALLEN and **GENEVA** are stars.

MEG, MIKE, SALLY: Wine and beer
making may be fun, but it can be
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Curiosities

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The web-the net-has laced our local and
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that has quite a bit of atmosphere. It's travel
with "Charley" in what feels like a glass
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JIM PENN can tell you how to lose "a
pound of flesh" in less than two weeks but
he does not recommend it.

Linda & Maura say a big "Thanks a Lot" to
whomever got them so sick!

Giovanni gets older again soon!

Whew - The 15th of April is Past!!

Josh Steiniger collects autographs from
Wings & Whalers.

Birthdays are coming up for Sissy & Josh

Alexandra Marie visits -
what a nice surprise!!

BEAUREGARD eats Waterclub crab cakes.

NANCY V. IS OLDER: ha-ha-ha-ha
--Beauregard

RICHARD: You're supposed to have a
date with you when you run out of gas.

TERRI: where are you?

THANKS FOR ALL the Northville calls last
week! --The Crier Staff

GAIL AND DAVID - Thank you for
including me in the celebration of your
Dad's birthday (Jack Murdock). Loved
every minute of it - Gail especially!

GAIL M - Would you ever consider giving a
program on computers for those who are
absolutely uninformed? (313)453-6900

SANFORD GETHROUS - Nee Allen Odell.
Top billing is yours. However don't expect
to be pursued by autograph hunters after
your stint on local television. You were
pretty bad and your companion was worse.

JUDY AND RAY TIGOZZI - Welcome to
Plymouth. Come Back!

I thought Ellie quit having birthdays - She
says that she is 29. (Sound familiar?)

He is now to be addressed as **SIR** Curtis.
It must be his winning smile.

We now have a couch to sit on while we
listen to our Surround Sound.

Jack, Jack, Jack!

Curiosities

It's the difference between just existing and
really living! -Geneva

DEAR MARTHA ET AL - If anyone had
ever told me that I could have any interest
in Baseball, I would have thought they were
crazy. However, I attended the regular
meeting of the Plymouth Historical last
Thursday night only because the members
are so dedicated to the museum and work
so hard. My experience with baseball went
no further than a "Baby Ruth Candy Bar",
and that was it. I received the surprise of
my life. The program was super. Hot
dogs-cracker jacks-peanuts for supper,
then an extremely professional presentation
by David Martin, Asst. Baseball Coach at
E.M.U. and a lovely, warm touch,
his mother, father, sister, baby nephew and
other friends and relatives were recognized.
I really am a small town person at heart.
Wish you could come to their programs.
They are very good.

A VERY ANGRY AND EXCITED

PEDESTRIAN just came in my office and
asked what it would take to have the city do
something about the traffic at Penniman
and Main Street, and then again the
crossing at Ann Arbor Trail and Main Street.

He had almost been hit by a Lincoln
Continental and the driver had not stopped.
Even a ticket at these crossings is not ade-
quate when you consider the fear and dis-
comfort the victim goes through. A "paltry"
ticket does not seem a justifiable answer.

Ribar Floral - Easter Flowers still look
great! They're the Best! -K.H

Jenny Horton is 11! Happy Birthday!
Love, Grandma & Grampa

Geneva (the Star) has become so rich that
she can now buy Pooh-Bears for
unsuspecting floor moppers. You're a
hunny! Love, Maura

Mark Cady, Sr. - Can your read this??
(This week)

Rob - How's work going?? Hope it's O.K.

Thanks for all of your hard work and
dedication. Plymouth just won't be the
same without your presence! -Maura
Gerry, Jack & Lisa M. are addicted -
Although they won't admit it!

LOOK OUT! Judy & Claire are taking
lessons. I think it's golf?

This weeks quiz -
Who can name the TWO PIN PITTAM?

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The golden voice of Allen O'Dell!
What a star!

APOLOGY: Some Ply. Twp. friends did not
understand that JOKING quote about a
future retiree...IT WAS A JOKE (not even
out of context). SORRY if it wasn't clearly
a JOKE. --Ed

Curiosities

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Knees has class

She could use a new pair of jeans
(That's a hint DAVID)

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girls. We Love You!! Angela & Sammy
Sweetheart - Happy Birthday!! You get
more beautiful every day. I Love You!
Gerry

The impact of graphics

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Canton police liason sees results

After two months, new position opens communication lines

by JILLIAN BOGATER

Two months into his new job, Canton Youth Liaison Officer Mike Steckel says he's seeing results.

The Canton Township police officer works as a go-between for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Canton Parks and Recreation Department, probation officers and youth service agencies.

Before this job existed, communication between these agencies were difficult and sporadic. "Now we are on the same page and we help each other out," he said.

The youth liaison position was recently created as a recommendation of the Public Safety Education Coalition, which formed four years ago to develop preventive strategies in an effort to reduce youth crimes.

"This is an-extension of our community policing," said John Santomauro, director of Public Safety in Canton Township. "We were doing a number of things with local youths but there was no single person to work as a liaison for youth activities."

Cops Ahead, a federal government grant designed to put more police officers on the street, funded Steckel's position.

A typical day for Steckel consists of spending several hours at the two high schools and interacting with the teachers and students.

"I spend a lot of time walking around and talking with the kids, being a positive role model for them," he said. "I'm having a lot of fun."

He also visits Growthworks youth agency once a week, provides student backgrounds to probation officers and teaches children in preschool and elementary schools the importance of not talking to strangers, wearing a seat belt and how to use 911.

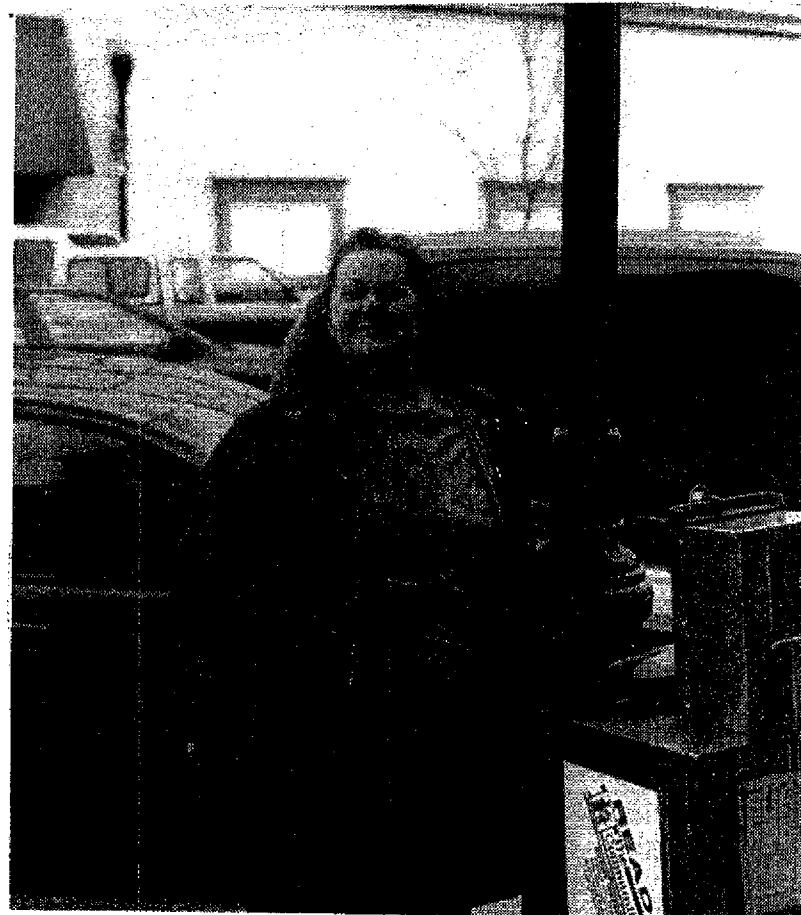
Tara VanValkenburgh, the newly-appointed probation supervisor at 35th District, has already consulted with Steckel regarding local youths.

"Working with the schools, the youth liaison officer and the community policing teams gives me access to a great deal of information about youths who are coming through the courts," she said.

Community involvement displayed by the coalition will lead to positive results, she said.

"When parents see the police department, courts and the schools working together, they have hope that there is outside help available to them," she said.

The newly-created position remains in a constantly-evolving state, Steckel said. He will continue to meet with the Public Safety Education Coalition twice a month to discuss how well it works.



DIANN MICOL of Plymouth, who is looking forward to the birth of her first great-grandchild this year, got another great gift last week when she won \$5,000 on the Michigan Lottery television show, "Road to Riches." (Crier photo by Bryon Martin).

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Sports

Sports shorts

The Canton baseball team lost Monday, 4-1, to Farmington Hills Harrison. Jason Mortiere pitched six innings for the Chiefs, allowing four earned runs on five hits, walking six and striking out four. The Chiefs, who took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning, had 10 hits. Pat Van Hull and Pat Noonan went two for three. David Kwiatkowski had Canton's lone RBI.

Little Caesars Baseball Federation is forming girl's fast pitch softball leagues. Two divisions: 12 and under, and 14 and under will start playing June 1. For league information, call Gregg Lenhoff, league director, at 455-0793 or 455-1295.

Registration begins May 20 for the second session of men's, women's and co-ed leagues at the Canton Softball Center. Games begin July 7. There is a \$100 deposit for each team (\$80 for Monday AM league). For more information, call 483-5600, ext. 2-3.

City of Plymouth Adult Softball registration is currently being held for men's, women's and co-ed leagues. League play begins in early May. For more information, call Tom Willette at 455-6620.

Olympic Gold Medalist swimmer Sheila Toarmina will be speaking at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. For details and directions, call the church's Youth Office at 459-9609.

Canton Parks and Recreation Services is offering adult tennis lessons at Griffin Park beginning the week of April 28 for ages 16 and over. Certified professional Kristen Harrison and her staff will conduct this six-week program for beginners and advanced participants. Space is limited. For registration information, call 397-5110.

Detroit Whalers Coach Peter DeBoer and goaltender Robert Esche were named 1997 Third Team All-Stars by the Ontario Hockey League. It marks the sixth consecutive year a Whaler coach or player has been named an All-Star. DeBoer, a Windsor, ON native, led his mostly rookie club to a 26-34-6 regular season record, capturing fourth place in the West Division. This season, DeBoer guided the Whalers to their sixth consecutive playoff appearance.

Esche finished the season with a 3.81 goals against average in 58 games, a 24-28-2 record and two shutouts. He is a sixth-round draft pick of the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes and played for Team USA in the World Junior Championships during the holidays.

Salem, Canton soccer teams battle weather, opponents

Rocks pummel Rockets, 8-0; lose to Novi, 4-1

To say the least, it's been a strange beginning to Don Landefeld's coaching career at Salem.

The first game of the season on April 7 versus Northville was canceled because of a power outage. Then, the Rocks crushed Westland John Glenn, 8-0, last Wednesday but lost to Novi, 4-1, two days later.

While Mother Nature was to blame for the season-opener, Landefeld attributes the latest outcomes to inexperience.

The Rocks lost six starters from last year's squad, which went 13-4-1, and they have three freshmen starting this year.

Novi exploited Salem's weaknesses with an aggressive style Friday at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. "They used a direct style," Landefeld said. "They hit the ball long and they had good overall team speed."

The Wildcats, who were ranked in the Class A top 10 last year, led 2-0 at half-time.

Jenny Storm scored the Rocks only goal with 15 minutes left in the second half on a cross pass from freshman Christen Shull.

Canton has 2 of 3 games canceled; ties Stevenson, 0-0

With 16 returnees on a team that went 18-4 and won the Class A state championship last season, the Canton girls soccer team has to be considered a favorite to capture the Western Lakes Activities Association title.

That is, of course, if they can play their games. The Chiefs' 0-0 tie with Livonia Stevenson last Wednesday at



On a blustery April Friday night, Salem lost to Novi's improving soccer team, 4-1. The defeat came two days after the Rocks crushed John Glenn, 8-0. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Salem didn't have any trouble scoring last Wednesday, though. The Rocks went up 2-0 in the first half on goal from Storm and senior Julie Katcherian. "It was our first game. We were feeling our way through a lot of different things. But we played pretty good. We scored some

goals in the second half."

Yes, they did. Six to be exact. One a piece from Katcherian, Mia Sarkesian and Missy Simons and two by Shull.

The canceled game versus Northville will take place April 25.

home was bookended by cancellations Saturday versus Troy and April 7 against Walled Lake Central.

Fortunately for Canton, goalie Kristin Lukasik was spectacular against the Spartans.

She made 13 saves against one of the state's premier teams with little previous game experience. "It was her first big

game in the net for us," said coach Don Smith. "She really stepped it up."

Especially in the first half when Stevenson outshot the Chiefs, nine to three.

"It was a pretty good ballgame for us," Smith said.

"We needed a good ballgame. But they came to play. They were ready."

Salem softball drops both ends of doubleheader to Ann Arbor Pioneer

No surprises on this early spring day in April, the season opening week for the Salem softball team (0-3). The weather was terrible and their opponent — Ann Arbor Pioneer — was state-ranked.

"They're always state-ranked, as they are this year," said Salem coach Bonnie Sutherland.

And like years past, Salem's pitching struggled in the 9-5 and 8-2 losses. "Pitching has always been a problem for us for many years," said Sutherland.

The Rocks led, 5-4, in the fourth inning, but Pioneer rallied against junior pitcher Shannon Coultres, who allowed six hits, walked 12 and struck out three in the game. Six players had one hit a piece — all singles — for Salem.

The Rocks challenged Pioneer in early in game two also. They

were tied, 2-2, in the third inning before Pioneer scored six unanswered runs. Senior Becky Hattle pitched a complete game for Salem, allowing nine hits and walking 10.

Junior catcher Stefanie Volbe had a triple, double and two RBI for the Rocks. Becky Esper went two for two with two singles.

Despite the losses, Sutherland says her team's depth, and strong defense and hitting should keep the Rocks competitive until the pitching woes are cured. "I think we can be contenders," said Sutherland, whose team was 16-12 in 1996. "We've just got to get our pitching down."

CANTON:

The Chiefs opened the 1997 season with a 10-3 win at home Wednesday versus Westland John Glenn. Sarah Carson and Gretchen Hudson combined to throw a one-hitter.

Track times

Kingslien leads Salem boys past Churchill

It wasn't a good day for Livonia Churchill.

The same day Salem's girls track team ran wild over the Chargers in a 102-26 victory, the Salem boys track team beat Churchill, 88-49. "They're getting better," said Salem coach Geoff Baker said about the Churchill team. "We're still a little too strong for them. But we did a pretty good job. I'm happy with our performances."

Especially, Scott Kingslien. He won two individual events, the 100- and 200-

meter dashes, and also finished first on the Rocks' 800 and 1,600 relay teams. Jon Little also had an outstanding day. He placed second in the 1,600 run and completed the 3,200 run in 10:21.

Rob Hawley won the 300 hurdles in 42.7. Andy Briggs and Ian Searcy tied for first (52.4) in the 400, and Adam Thurteill continued the Rocks' track dominance over Churchill with a time of 2:11 in the 800.

Salem swept the relay events. Lawrence Nunn, Mike Shaul, James Chapman and

Dave Clemons finished the 400 in 47.1. In the 800, Nunn, Shaul, Chris Mason and Kingslien combined for a time of 1:37. Kevin Conte, Charlie Schmidt, Searcy and Kingslien won the 1,600 in 3:38.5. Briggs replaced Kingslien in the 3,200, which Salem finished in 8:48.6.

The Rocks won only one field event when Mike Discher cleared the high jump at 6 feet. Rob Hawley was second (18'5 3/4") in the long jump. Despite playing on a tender ankle, Karl Brandenburg threw the shotput 39 feet, good for second place.

The early returns seem to imply that Salem (1-0), the defending Western Lakes Activities Association champions, will be difficult to dethrone.

"The kids are working hard," said Baker. "We have a strong group of juniors, so if it's not this year, it'll be

Salem girls run past Churchill

It was quite a way to open the dual-meet track season.

The Salem girls pounded Livonia Churchill, 102-26, winning all but two events. "We had a pretty good opening outdoor meet," said coach Mark Gregor. "We ran at the Spartan Relays (April 5), so it was nice having a little experience coming in."

The Chiefs' individual leaders were Lisa Maul and Rachel Jones; they each won two events. Maul won the 100 (16.1) and 300-meter hurdles (50.0). Jones won the 100 (13.0) and 200 (27.0) dashes.

The Rocks took three out of four field events. Kristin Kosik won the high jump, soaring over the bar at 5 feet, 2 inches. Senior Jessica Ash won the shotput with a throw of 34 feet, and Tiffany Grabaugh set two freshmen records during the meet, including her throw of 111'7" in the discus.

In the relay events, Katie Bonner, Kristie Giddings, Mari Disbrow and Ruth Viforeanu won the 200 in 1:51.5; Angie Sillmon, Aleshka Marquez, Jones and Candace Lynett won the 100 in 52.7; and Maul, Viforeanu, Disbrow, and Giddings won the 400 in 4:15.7.

Evelyn Rahhal was the best (5:28.5) in the 1,600 run, and Nicole Bolton took the 3,200 in 11:40.1, a state-qualifying time. Ellen Stemmer won the 800-meter dash in 2:28.7. Gregor likes his team's chances of improving on last season's record of 4-1 in the Lakes Division, and 5-2 overall. "We have a lot of talented athletes," he said, "that participated in cross country last fall. And they had a really good season. They continued to work hard in the winter, and it's payed off."

On deck

CANTON BASEBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at home versus Walled Lake Central. Friday at home versus Franklin. Saturday at home against Ann Arbor Huron (DH) at 11 a.m. Monday at Churchill

CANTON BOYS TENNIS

Matches begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at Northville. Friday at home versus North Farmington. Monday at John Glenn.

CANTON BOYS TRACK

Tomorrow at Walled Lake Western at 3:30 p.m. Friday at the Harrison Relays at 3 p.m., and Saturday at the Dearborn Elks Relays at 10 a.m.

CANTON GIRLS GOLF

Matches begin at 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Friday at the Ann Arbor Invitational. Monday at home versus Walled Lake Central.

CANTON GIRLS SOCCER

Games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Tonight at home versus North Farmington. Saturday at Adrian at 2 p.m. and Monday at John Glenn.

CANTON SOFTBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at Walled Lake Central and Friday at Franklin. Saturday at Carman-Ainsworth at 9 a.m., and Monday at home versus Churchill

CANTON GIRLS TRACK

Tomorrow at home versus Walled Lake Western at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Lady Chief Relays at 10 a.m.

SALEM BASEBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at Churchill. Friday at John Glenn. Saturday at Grand Rapids' Old Kent Field versus Saginaw Nouvel Catholic. Monday at home versus Stevenson

SALEM BOYS TENNIS

Matches begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at home versus Farmington. Friday at Churchill. Saturday at Essexville Garber at 9 a.m. Monday at home against Walled Lake Western.

SALEM BOYS TRACK

Tomorrow at home versus Walled Lake Central at 3:30 p.m. Friday at the Mansfield Relays and Harrison Relays at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Dearborn Elks Relays at 10 a.m.

SALEM GIRLS GOLF

Tee time is 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Friday at the Ann Arbor Invitational (TBA). Monday at Stevenson.

SALEM GIRLS SOCCER

Games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at Churchill. Monday at home versus Walled Lake Western.

Canton girls blast Rockets

Some events' times and results from the Canton girls track team's 75-53 win last Thursday over Westland John Glenn will likely prompt Chiefs coach George Przygodski to change his line up.

On the other hand, there were performances in other events that Przygodski shouldn't be tinkering with anytime soon. Take Brandi Bernard, for example. She won three individual events: the discus (103 feet, 7 inches), the shotput (33 feet, 1 and one-half inches) and the 800-meter run in 2:35.6.

Other Chief individual first-place finishes included: Becky Uryga (1:02.9) in the 400, Nancy Hoffman (51.6) in the 300 hurdles and Amy Sonnanstine (16.5) in the 100 hurdles. "That's about as fast as she can go," Przygodski said of Sonnanstine.

In the relays, Christiana Bradford, Sara Rucinski, Angkana Roy and Amy Klumm won the 3,200 in 11:21.3, and Alina Boydeñ, Doris Igwe, Kim Robertson and Laura Barker won the 400 in 54.2.

"This is a big step for us," said Przygodski, whose team was 6-0 last season. "This is probably the toughest opponent we've ever opened up with. They already had two meets, and we were a little nervous about how we were going to do."

Walking the line



Salem used every inch of the field Friday night, but it wasn't enough to beat Novi. The Wildcats prevailed, 4-1, and the Rocks fell to 1-1 on the season. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)



Community opinions

The things your mother (Bell) doesn't want to tell you

Once again, Ameritech's lack of proper planning and execution is especially hitting The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community.

First, the new area code zig-zagged through the community after announced plans were going to take it elsewhere — thus few Wayne County residents registered complaints or showed up at a public hearing. At that hearing, plans were changed to move the boundary into Northville and Salem Townships, but no new hearing was called for the affected Northville area or its neighbors.

Ameritech tossed out a bone to quiet the stink. It began "seven digit dialing" between the new 810 area-coded Northville and the 313 Plymouth-Canton neighbors.

Now, that's going away. But Ameritech isn't talking about it. No press releases; no fessing up.

And, on top of that, the newest area code begins May 10. Is there any Ameritech standing up on that? Is the phone company alerting residents and businesses about reprinting business cards and stationery to read "248" instead of "810"?

No.

In fact, Ameritech appears to deliberately lull local customers, if its own phone book cover — released last week — is to be believed. The map includes a large chunk of what will be "810" until May 10... but the Ameritech cover calls it all 313 and not 810, or even the 248 it becomes in three weeks. It clearly missed its own best opportunity yet to inform the public door-to-door of the

area code changes. Why?

Ameritech also still blunders by referring to the area code boundary for "Oakland County" or using "8 Mile Road" as its description. The best Ameritech will muster in response to this editorial is a half-hearted "we didn't do a very good job" repeat "excuse" of the 810 line zagging when it was announced to be zigging.

It could be worse. Ameritech could be put in charge of heart surgery if the U.S. ever nationalizes the health industry. (Clearly brain surgery is safely out of the question for this bunch.)

For the record, what Ma Bell apparently doesn't want to tell you is:

*The 810 area code in the Northville-Salem-Novi-Livonia area becomes 248 on May 10. Dialing "810" continues to work until Sept. 13, after which "248" must then be dialed.

*The 313 area code in The Plymouth-Canton Community and environs will become the 734 area code on Dec. 13, but either "313" or "734" can be dialed until July 25, 1998.

*Seven digit (no area code needed) dialing between Northville and Plymouth-Canton is being yanked by Ameritech.

Ameritech blames the rapidly-growing phone business world as culprit of the area code change. But it fails to stop marketing extra phones and phone numbers.

The real culprits are Ameritech's poor planning and execution and a lapdog Public Service Commission in Lansing.

With malice
toward none

By W. EDWARD
WENDOVER



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* Partial Coverage
All communities listed may not be indicated on map.

Find us on the Internet:
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School election recount necessary to include all district voters

Editor:

After reading the letters regarding the school district bond issue of March 22, 1997, I am compelled to respond, starting with the facts, as follows:

5,733 voters said yes to the bond issue. 5,637 voters said no to the bond issue. 716 voters went to the polls to cast ballots that did not count. (Four additional undervotes were attributed to absentee ballots.)

Dr. Little is quoted in saying that the 720 lost ballots would not have changed the outcome of the election. He also says the precincts where there was a lot of undervoting would have given OUR voters more of a margin. If, in fact, this is a direct quote, shame on you Dr. Little. Every registered voter is one of OUR voters, based on the residency in this community. Our voters are not determined based on their position on an issue put before us and whether or not it agrees with your position. These statements can go a long way toward feeding the divisiveness in this community. Good relations with members of the public are not fostered by these comments.

The letter written by Susan Kopinski in the April 9 issue of The Community Crier

is further evidence of the divisiveness that can rule our community if we allow it. Kopinski says she has no problem with a recount, but is disturbed with who is asking for the recount and the motives of Roland Thomas in particular. Kopinski says Thomas lied because he publicly announced at the board meeting that he would not challenge the election results, then asserts that he and his buddies believe that they should be running things, not our community of people. Again, Thomas and his buddies are members of our own community of people and we need to ask if Thomas is challenging the outcome because of the 716 lost votes.

It appears evident that emotions rule over logic. Thomas devoted a great deal of time and energy to this community as a member of the school board. All community members should be grateful to him and his family for the sacrifices they made for the good of the community. I personally do not believe Thomas is requesting a revote because he and his buddies want to run things. As an election worker for Plymouth Township, I too, am deeply concerned about the 716 lost votes.

How these 716 people voted is not the

issue. The fact that these people took the time to go to the polls and cast votes that did not count is the real issue. While it is possible the votes could have changed the outcome of the election, speculating will not accomplish the desired result. Instead, we need to ascertain why 716 ballots were not valid. The concern about divisiveness in our community on the part of the school board and the Citizens Election Committee make a revote absolutely essential.

The school board and all concerned citizens question why so few registered voters take the time to go to the polls and vote. One way to ensure voter participation is to encourage it. Certainly the hard work of the citizens Election Committee helped to ensure voter participation.

The local municipal clerks accomplish this by automatically sending out applications for absentee ballots for all eligible voters, including senior citizens and disabled residents. (The school board did not do this for the March 22 bond election.) In addition, we, as a community, need to ensure that all votes cast will count.

Kopinski, you say you are tired and

angry because you believe people are pitting Plymouth against Canton. I too am angry, that 716 votes did not count and that people who have worked very hard for this community are being criticized and questioned about their motives.

It is fair to say that each person who went to the polls or voted absentee shares your concern for our children. Their participation in the decision making process is to be applauded. A recount will not accomplish what is needed to put this issue to rest because it will not make the 716 lost ballots count. In the interest of our community, our future and our children, it is my strong recommendation that a revote be pursued. This is the only way to ensure that voters have been heard, regardless of the outcome. I am willing to help in any way necessary to make this a reality.

Obviously, it is very difficult to generate voter interest in the issues we face as a community. Dr. Little, 716 of our voters have been silenced. Let us not be guilty of minimizing the input and concerns of the 716 members of our community.

SANDY GROTH



Community opinions

Schools need revote for integrity, unity

EDITOR:

What's wrong with this picture?

A vote held on a Saturday.

A vote specifically designed at a time of the year when many senior citizens are out of state.

An election with no phone canvassing to citizens to remind or encourage them to vote.

A superintendent who, in essence, says that voters are dumb and that their votes doesn't matter.

A superintendent who, by the way, is paid more than the state's governor.

A superintendent who, by the way, is paid more than the mayor of Detroit.

A vote that is now very questionable concerning its legitimacy.

A teaching staff that is receiving generous raises every year.

A teaching staff where many receive wages of \$50,000 - \$65,000+ a year.

A teaching staff who, for those wages, works at the elementary level six and three quarters of an hour a day.

A teaching staff who, for those wages, works at the high school level eight hours a day — however, don't forget to take out a lunch period and perhaps a planning period.

A teaching staff who, for those wages, works 180 days per

year, which equals 36 weeks, (a far cry from the 51 weeks required of an engineer making \$30,000 - \$40,000 and 1 week vacation). However, don't forget to take out such events as snow days, etc.

A district which has money "reserved," no doubt earmarked for future raises, not students.

I do not believe the counted "96 votes which passed the millage," is a mandate, a true response of the whole community, but is a result of very clever planning, timing, exclusion, selectivity, scheming and now railroading on the part of the school board to get this through and done before the population can file the necessary complaints and petitions to take the issue for a complete re-vote to the state and circuit court. I encourage all to support both Dan Herriman and Jerry Vorva to seek a complete re-vote. This vote should not stand, and the citizens should not stand for it!

Now, don't jump to conclusions on where my point of view comes from. I have been a community resident for more than 25 years. My children have all gone through the Plymouth-Canton schools and, what's more, I am a former teacher. Let's have a complete and new election to gain credibility, legality, integrity and community unison. If not, the division that already exists will only widen.

M. JOHNSON

Missing votes inspire poetry

A Troublesome Thing

by W.H. Dean

'Twas the first day of spring, and a troublesome thing,
has divided our Township and town;
the question at hand, was the worth of a plan
to make taxes go up and not down.

Will we build a new school? Will it have its own pool?
Will we pay for it lock, stock and carrel?
Some people said yea, but others said nay, so
the school board was over a barrel.

So, the school bond measure, to everyone's pleasure,
(well, not everyone, then at least half)
was passed and approved, and the motion was moved,
until someone found one little gaffe.

The turnout was good, in each neighborhood,
and the tension dramatically mounted;
but the votes that were cast, from the first to the last,
inexplicably weren't all counted.

The reason, they found, after looking around,
was that some of the voters got sloppy;
A computer-sized glitch, a mysterious switch,
sent their votes to the comet, Halle-Boppy.

What now — a petition? Acts of Sedition?
Now let's not go off the deep end;
Sure the system seems broken, but the people have spoken!
Let's run with the money and spend!

The first thing to do, with that tax revenue,
is to buy a big box with a slot;
So the next time we vote, we need merely to tote,
to find out if we passed it or not!

Crier ad yields great results

EDITOR:

Just a short note to let you know how impressed we are with your advertising department.

We have owned a travel agency in Plymouth for one year and never previously advertised. We contacted Jack Armstrong, your advertising director, who assisted us in placing a one-eighth page Specialty Travel advertisement in your March 26, 1997 edition. The ad emphasized that Specialty Travel represents all cruise lines. The results were phenomenal!

We can't thank you and your staff enough. You better believe that Specialty Travel will be a continuous advertiser in The Community Crier.

JOHN MARSHALL

SHARON SCHNEPEL

Sign ordinance too restrictive

Editor:

For every ordinance and law that is passed by our government, more and more money is needed to enforce them. We live in a country that clearly states for the people and by the people; when did that change to just BUY the people?

The first point I would like to make is that new businesses have to get a permit to put up a sign stating what its name is and what the business is. Some of the newer businesses cannot afford this permit, so they have no means of telling people that they are in business. This is wrong because it hurts our local economy. The city should be helping new businesses, not hurting them. After all, Plymouth is a town full of small businesses and it should stay that way.

Second, our government should concentrate on regulating trade or catching and convicting criminals. Instead they are making silly ordinances that protect us from having independent contractors put aluminum siding on our houses, or they are busy making sure that a video store could not put a banner up advertising a sale. These ordinances in no way help or protect the people in our community. It's nothing more than an annoying way for our cities and townships to control us more and to take and direct our hard-earned money.

These ordinances are said to protect us when in fact it is just a way for our elected officials to control us more. It would be great if the people of Plymouth or of any city would get involved with their local government. Finally, demand from your government officials what you want, after all, they're spending your money, and you elected them.

BILL CORRIGAN

The Community Crier



THE
NEWSPAPER
WITH ITS
HEART IN THE
PLYMOUTH-
CANTON
COMMUNITY

821 Penniman Ave.
Plymouth, MI 48170-1624
(313) 453-6900

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PUBLISHED EACH WEDNESDAY
by The Plymouth-Canton
Community Crier, Inc.
CARRIER DELIVERED
\$2.25 monthly, \$27 yearly
U.S. MAIL DELIVERED:
\$40 yearly in U.S.A.

Member



Printed on
Recycled
Paper

Comma
COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

345 Fleet St.
Plymouth, MI 48170-1656
(313) 453-6860

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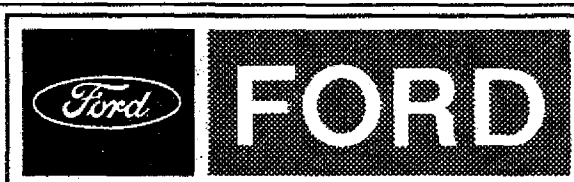


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