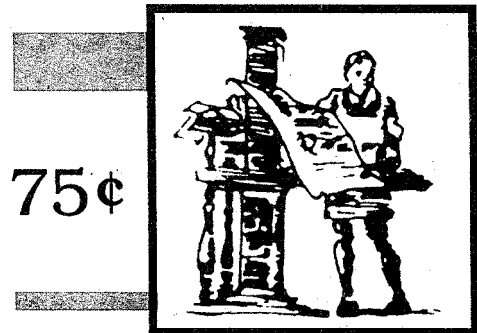


CANTON POLICE TO INVESTIGATE PAIR OF DEATHS, pg. 2

9-23-98



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Community Crier

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September 23, 1998

Investigation of Mayor tangles City

BY BRYON MARTIN

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Plymouth's City Commission found itself politically and legally on shaky ground Monday. It tried and failed to keep private its investigation of Mayor Don Dismuke's alleged inappropriate advances toward a City employe.

In a move which circumvented the state's Open Meetings Act, Commissioners met separately in two groups of three Saturday afternoon to talk with the employe and her union representative to question her about the alleged events.

A quorum of the Commission was not present in City Hall at any one time during the questioning, City Manager Steve Walters said, adding that it was for scheduling reasons.

But Michigan Attorney General opinions and several court cases say that splitting a public body into two "non-quorum" sizes violates the Open Meetings Act.

The Commission had also scheduled a closed-door meeting to discuss the allegations Monday night, but was advised by attorneys for The Community Crier and the Michigan Press Association that there was no legal right to do so and voted to strike the meeting from their Monday agenda.

City Attorney Sarah Osburn concurred and advised the Commission that there was no legal foundation to close Monday's session.

The Commission voted 5 - 2 to remove the closed session from its agenda, with dissenting votes cast by Commissioners Stella Greene and Dennis Shrewsbury. (Shrewsbury is the commission's only lawyer and has championed the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Acts in the past.)

By calling for a vote on the agenda before the closed session was removed, Shrewsbury tread the tender turf of politics and forced commissioners to go on record as for or against holding the meeting at all.

After the meeting, Shrewsbury refused to comment on his actions.

Please see pg. 17



Salem's Homecoming...was fun for many, but only Erica Healy can call herself 1998's Queen after she was crowned Friday with King Mike Spencer (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.).

Whyman to appeal defamation ruling

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

State Rep. and Canton resident Deb Whyman (R-Canton) will appeal last week's court decision that she defamed the Triangle Foundation in 1996 campaign literature.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Susan Borman ruled last week that Whyman defamed the organization by claiming that the organization supported pedophilia.

Whyman said the the ruling was politically motivated.

"Susan Borman ruled against me so that she can curry favor with homosexual voters," she said. "(She) has enjoyed the support of the homosexual extremist group Pride-PAC in a previous election. Now as a candidate for the Michigan Supreme Court,

Please see pg. 2

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Salem back on track

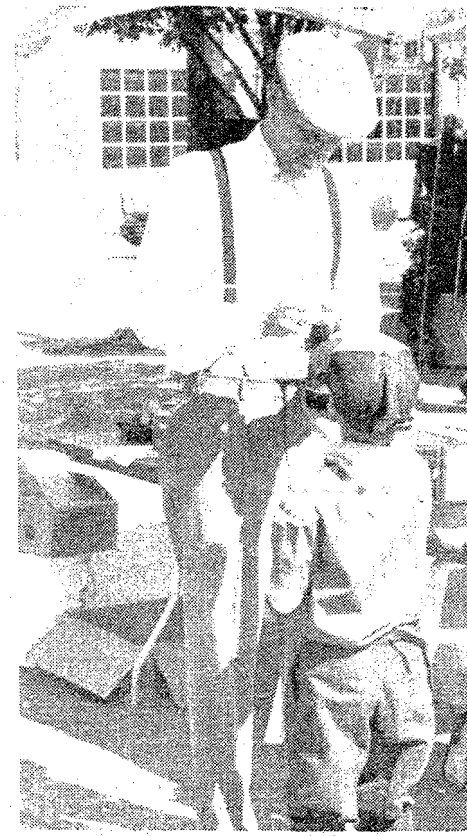
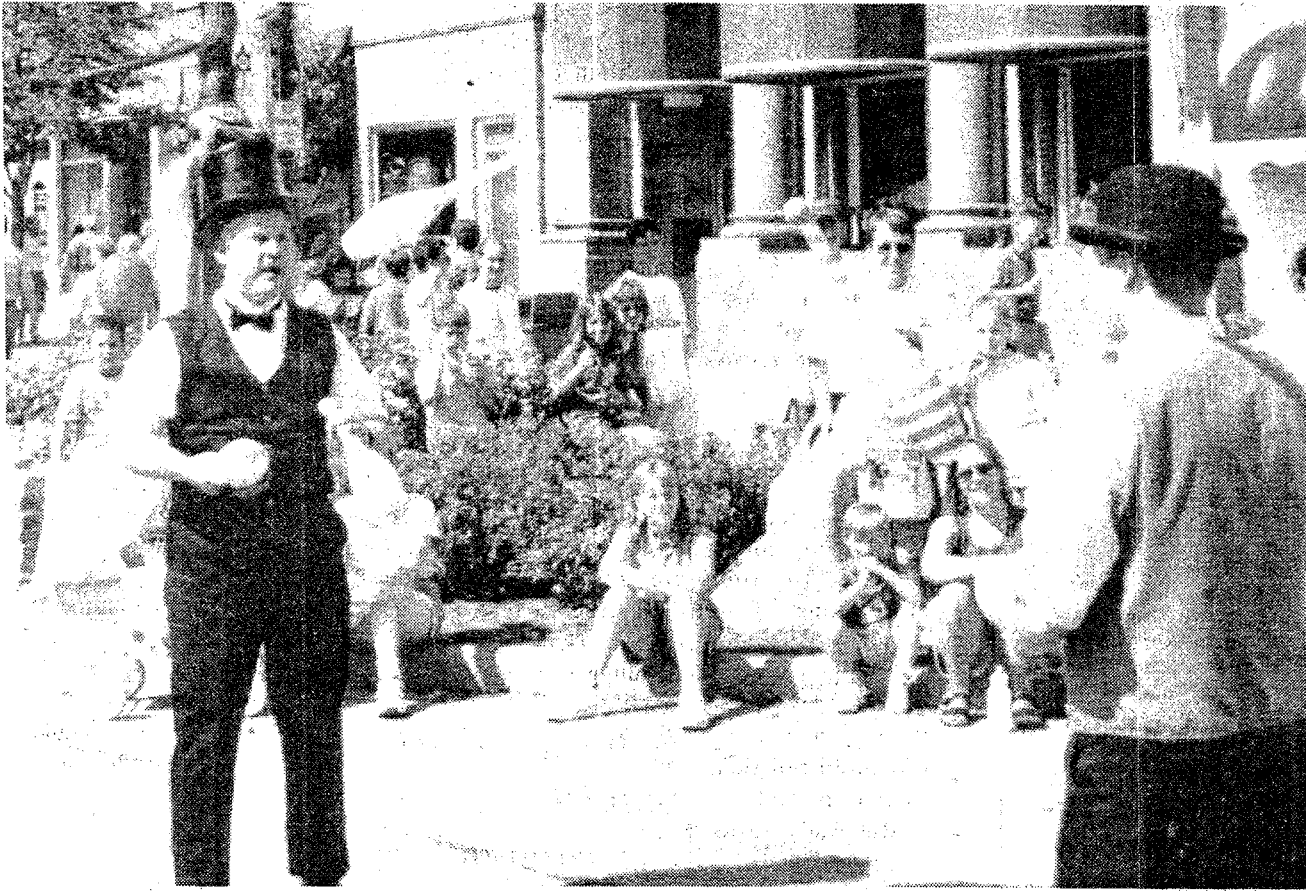
Girls tennis drops Farmington after Wed. loss to N'ville

See Sports, pg. 19

A look
back at
N'ville's
Victorian
Fest

Photos on pg. 5

A look back at Northville's Victorian Festival



The Victorian Festival is a time for history buffs and residents alike to dress up in period costumes (above). Downtown Northville provides the perfect backdrop to cycle around, Victorian style (below). (Crier photos by R. Alwood, Jr.)

The City of Northville returned to its roots this weekend with a festival devoted to its Victorian heritage and atmosphere. The streets were blocked off, no cars were allowed and strolling (and cycling) performers entertained fest-goers with Victorian-era antics.

Krakat and Kellerman (above) entertain the crowds at Northville's Victorian Festival with tricks of hand-eye coordination; Mary Ellen Clark (below left) shows young Kathryn and Robert Gern the magic of puppets. (Crier photos by R. Alwood, Jr.)





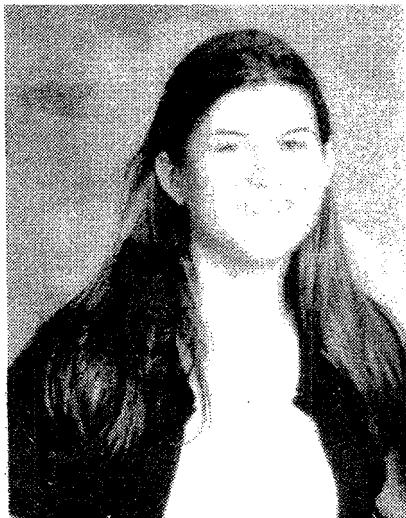
Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

Edward L. Gascoyne of Plymouth will be elevated to the 33rd Degree by the Scottish Rite Freemasons. The award is given for outstanding achievement within the fraternity or for contributions to others reflecting credit on Freemasonry.

Kevin Gerard Globke of Canton, has been awarded a college scholarship from the American Cancer Society Foundation, Great Lakes Division. Globke is one of 40 college bound Michigan or Indiana residents to receive a \$1,000 college scholarship through a new program offered by the American Cancer Society Foundation designed to help young cancer survivors rebuild their lives and pursue an ambitious future through higher education.

He is a graduate of Salem High School.



Angela M. Frost (above), a graduate of Canton High School, has been awarded a scholarship by the Associated Food Dealers of Michigan (AFD). Frost plans to study biology/pre-medicine at Michigan State University.

Frost was on the principal's honor roll and a member of the National Honor Society. She was on the girl's swim team all through high school and received an athletic scholar award and a Plymouth Women's Club award.

Michele Splan, daughter of **Robert M. and Johanna R. Splan** of Northville, has graduated from the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Advanced Camp at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, WA.

A concert for the ages

Dearing Concert Duo trace the history of music Sunday at PCAC

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

First stop, the Plymouth Community Arts Council, next stop, the recording studio.

Plymouth's Steve and Abha Dearing are performing their first official concert Sunday, a classical guitar and flute duet which traces the history of music.

Calling themselves the Dearing Concert Duo, the couple hopes to raise funds toward an upcoming recording session.

"It's our first official concert," Abha said. "We've always talked about it but never felt like we were ready. Because we both work, it's hard to get motivated to practice at night."

The duo currently performs at weddings and other events, as well as teach their respective instruments: Steve at Macomb County College, and Abha at Detroit Mercy High School, where she graduated.

Most of the music they'll play is considered classical, according to Abha. They plan to trace styles of music chronologically from the Renaissance period, through the Romantic and Baroque periods into the 20 century.

They will also pause during the performance to tell the history of the composer or music they are playing, to give the audience a better appreciation of the music, she said.

The hardest part may well be choosing which songs to play.

"There's an amazing wealth of music for our type of performance," she said. "We have an eight hour repertoire to



Abha and Steve Dearing are performing this Sunday at the PCAC.

choose from. It's very varied."

Abha has been playing the flute since she was four, she said. Steve had a slightly later start. He began playing the electric guitar when he was 16, and began his career playing heavy rock in bars. The classical music is quite a departure — from Faith No More to Paganini and Faure.

"I was still looking for my focus and I

wanted to get out of the bar scene," he said. "I was always drawn to the texture of classical music, and I liked the challenge of it."

The concert starts at 3 p.m. Sunday at the PCAC building on Sheldon Road just south of M-14. Tickets are \$8 for students and seniors and \$10 for adults. For more information, or to make a reservation, call the arts council at 416-4ART.



That's Entertainment!

Stanley Kovacheff, Publicity Co-Chairman of the Plymouth Community Chorus, packs his trunk with 1999 Entertainment books.

Selling the books is one of the PCC's major fundraising activities. The books are stuffed with coupons from local, regional and national businesses.

For information on purchasing a book or to find out more about the PCC, call Stanley at (734) 459-6829.

The phone call

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following transcript of a taped phone call made Sunday, Sept. 6 was provided by Plymouth City Manager Steve Walters in response to a Freedom of Information filing by this newspaper. The spaces are blanks left in the transcript as supplied by City Hall. Mayor Don Dismuke has admitted making this call — he is identified as "caller" here. Several editing decisions have been made, shown in parenthesis to protect the identity of the City of Plymouth employe.

PHONE RINGS

Dispatcher: Plymouth City Police,

Dispatcher _____

Caller: Hey, _____ How are ya?

Dispatcher: Hey, what's goin' on?

Caller: I'm rockin' and rollin'.

Dispatcher: Cool.

Caller: Hey do you, uh, have

_____ 's number or is she working today?

Dispatcher: Yeah, she's working. Hold on.

Caller: She is working?

Dispatcher: Uh, huh.

Caller: Oh, that's no big deal, I was just, umm, if she wasn't working, I was just going to stop by and see what's going on.

Dispatcher: Umm.

Caller: But, she's working.

Dispatcher: Yes.

Caller: All right.

Dispatcher: She's (in City Hall) now...

Caller: Is that right?

Dispatcher: Yes.

Caller: OK, transfer me over there.

Dispatcher: OK, one second.

CALLER IS PUT ON HOLD

Employee: (City Hall location)

Dispatcher: Umm, you have a stalker, _____ on the phone, and he goes — he goes — "Is _____ working or what's her number?" Like I'm gonna give out...

Employee: Don't you dare give my home phone number to him.

Dispatcher: I wouldn't. He is bizarre. He goes, "Well, I was just gonna stop by her house." I go, "Well, she's working," and he goes, "Well, is she (in City Hall now)?" and I go, "She's in (City Hall)."

Employee: Is he still on the phone?

Dispatcher: Yes.

Employee: OK, I'm out of (City Hall) right now, OK?

Dispatcher: OK.

Employee: Bye.

Dispatcher: Bye.

CALLER BACK ON PHONE

Dispatcher: _____, I thought she was (in City Hall) and she's not.

Caller: She's not? Well, that's cool.

Dispatcher: OK.

Caller: No big deal man. We'll talk to ya.

Dispatcher: Ok, thanks.

END OF CALL

Mayor: 'a witchhunt'

Continued from pg. 1

The Commission was scheduled to hear the tape recording of a telephone call Dismuke made on Sunday Sept. 6 through the City Police general line requesting the employe's phone number, a source said.

The Community Crier requested a copy of the tape Monday under the Freedom of Information Act and was given a transcript of the conversation.

No names are included in that transcript, but the caller is quoted as asking the dispatcher "do you have (the employe's) number... I was just going to stop by and see what's going on."

The dispatcher then contacted the employe by telephone.

"Don't you dare give my home phone number to him," the employe responded, according to the transcript.

The employe has filed no charges or complaints against the Mayor, according to Walters. In a letter she wrote to the City Commission, she said "the problem has been resolved to my satisfaction. I did not and will not make a formal complaint against the Mayor.

"Any further action which would make this issue public will be against my wishes."

According to Walters she has been an employe with the City for more than a year, the duration for which employes are considered probationary.

According to a source, the request caught on tape is not the first time Dismuke sought the employe's telephone number or address. He is said to have visited the Police station later that night, and to have approached the employe at the Fall Fest earlier this month.

"It's a witchhunt," Dismuke said. "They want to make it into something. There's nothing to it."

"The facts are innocent and perhaps foolish on my part... nothing more than that," Dismuke said.

Commissioner Dave McDonald echoed Dismuke's denial, saying "there's no story. Where there's no smoke there's no fire."

Based on the employe's request for privacy City Commissioners have said little about the tape or the intended Monday meeting.

The City's investigation began not with a complaint from the employe, but when Police Chief Bob Scoggins overheard a conversation at City Hall about the alleged contacts, according to Scoggins.

After locating the employe and questioning her, Scoggins took the matter to Walters, who then approached Dismuke.

It was around that time — Wednesday, according to Pobur — that commissioners first learned of the alleged incidents and began to request a meeting with the employe.

Pobur said she went to City Hall Saturday "to gather information" on the matter, and spoke with two other Commissioners on the subject.

According to Michigan's Open Meetings Act, if the majority of a public body meets — four, in the case of the City Commission —

the meeting must be open to the public.

Officials say no more than three were present at any time Saturday.

In a written response to Crier inquiries, Walters said the Saturday sessions were structured and held "to obtain information from the employe only, and not to discuss the matter. It was more practical to have the two sessions than to have six individual sessions."

Mayor Pro Tem Joe Koch, Greene and Shrewsbury met first with the City employe and her rep. Then McDonald, Pobur and Commissioner Ron Loiselle met in the second part of the meeting later with the same woman and rep. Such steps around meeting with a quorum constitutes a violation of the Open Meetings Act, according to Lisa Mikalonis, a legal counsel for the Michigan Press Association who specializes in the Act.

Mikalonis cited a case in which the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that the Wyoming City Council "violated the Open Meetings Act" when they broke up into groups and met, "even though a quorum did not attend either meeting."

Although commissioners stress they wanted to honor the employe's request for privacy, violating the Act exposes the City to lawsuit, which any resident could file over the failure to obey the law.

Walters said Osburn was out of town this weekend, and did not issue an opinion on the legality of intentionally meeting in groups of less than four.

The Mayor's words

EDITOR'S NOTE: Plymouth Mayor Don Dismuke issued the following statement Tuesday afternoon.

"I understand by rumor and otherwise that I was friendly or overly friendly with an employe of the City of Plymouth. I do try to be friendly, but there is nothing more than this fact.

"I heard about that matter last Monday (Sept. 14) and responded to questions from City Commissioners and the City Manager.

"The facts are innocent and perhaps foolish on my part and, again, nothing more than that.

"The matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of the employe and to my satisfaction."

In 1979, The Crier filed suit against the Plymouth City Commission which intentionally violated the OMA and FOIA while hiring former City Manager Henry Graper.

"The steps that were taken to rectify the situation initially were correct," Koch said. "The process that continued on leaves a lot to be desired.

"The issue at hand has been blown way out of proportion and it's not so much the issue as the way the information came out," Koch said.

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Kiwanis bring Spartans to Plymouth Manor

Spartan Alumni and fans, don't wait until this weekend to dust off your green and whites.

For an hour and a half tomorrow, Plymouth Manor will be overrun by enthusiastic Michigan State fans looking forward to this weekend's big game.

The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth is holding a Town Meeting luncheon at the manor, and inviting some very Spartan guests.

Scheduled to speak at the luncheon is Professor John L. Whitwell, Director of University bands at Michigan State University. He will be followed by a performance of 14 members of the school's marching band that will be sure to wip fans into a frenzy.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$13. Public is welcome to attend (even University of Michigan fans and alumni). For more information call (734) 459-8811.



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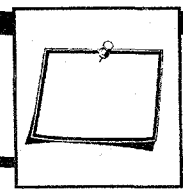
Home Improvement

Coming Sept. 30th



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).



Events

YO-YO DEMONSTRATION

Trader Jack's Sports Collectibles, at 585 Forest, in Plymouth will be hosting a yo-yo demonstration **Saturday**, from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Al Hill, yo-yo grandmaster with the B.C. Yo-Yo Company, will be on hand performing and teaching yo-yo tricks. There will be a contest for all children who show up and plenty of prizes. For more information call (734) 453-6611.

PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY LEAGUE MEETING

The Plymouth Symphony League is holding a meeting **Thursday**, from **6-8 p.m.** at the house of president Patty Perez. The meeting is open to the public and anyone who wishes to join the league is encouraged to attend. The meeting will be at 45524 Woodleigh Way in Plymouth Township. For more information call (734) 416-5293, or the Symphony office at (734) 451-2112.

MSU BAND AT TOWN MEETING

The Kiwanis Club of Plymouth is holding a town meeting **Thursday, Sept. 24** from **Noon to 1:30 p.m.** at the **Plymouth Manor**. The speaker will be Professor John L. Whitwell, Director of University Bands at Michigan State University. The meeting will also feature a performance by 14 members of the Michigan State University Marching Band. The cost of lunch is \$13. for reservations or more information, call (734) 459-8811

PLYMOUTH THEATRE GUILD

The Plymouth Theatre Guild proudly presents, *The Nerd*, a play directed by Sandy Rosenberger. The show plays **Sept. 25 & 26; Oct. 1, 2 & 3 at 8 p.m.** There will also be two Sunday Matinees at **6 p.m. Sept. 27 and Oct. 4**. All shows will be performed at The Water Tower Theatre on the campus of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital. Tickets for the shows are \$8 in advance and \$9 at the door. For more information or group rates, call (248) 349-7110.

LIBRARY TOUR

The Women's Club of Plymouth will be hosting a Know Your Community Luncheon at noon on Oct. 2. The event will be catered by the Penniman Deli, and feature a tour of the Plymouth District Library by the library staff. Tickets for the event are \$15. For more information call ticket hairperson Rita McClumpha at (734) 453-2065.

THIRD ANNUAL ART & CRAFT FAIR

The Old Village Third Annual Art & Craft Fair will be held **Oct. 3-4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** in Old Village. Come enjoy the great music, food and fun. For more information call (734) 454-1314.

PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY

The Plymouth Symphony has announced its 1998-99 concert season. The season opens **Oct. 17, 1998 at 8 p.m.** at the Salem High School Auditorium, and will feature a performance by Flutist Deborah Rebeck Ash. **Nov. 21**, guest conductor Anthony Iannaccone will perform, as will vocal soloists Glenda Kirkland and Conwell Carrington. For more information, or to order tickets for these or other symphony events, please call the symphony office 451-2112.

GLASS BLOWING CLASSES

Don Schneider of York Street Glassworks is offering glasses on how to blow glass beads and ornaments. The two-day bead classes will be held **Oct. 11-12; 25-26; Nov. 1-2 and 15-16**. Ornament classes on **Wednesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21 and 28; and Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25**. For more information call (734) 459-6419.

HALLOWEEN DANCE

St John Neumann Singles will be holding a Halloween Dance Oct. 24, at 8 p.m. Pop, pizza and other treats will be provided, over 21 B.Y.O.B. Admission is \$8. For more information call (313) 277-6083; (734) 454-4269 or (734) 480-7830.

USED BOOK SALE

Friends of the Plymouth Library will hold a special used book sale on Oct. 1-3 during regular library hours. For more information call (734) 455-0782.

GUIDE to Entertainment

Go P.C.N

Your GUIDE to commercial entertainment in the Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community. Also note community and non-profit groups' events, listed in this Crier under *What's Happening*.

BOULDERS

734-459-4190; Wed. and Sun.: Karaoke. Sat.: T. Turner and Company

CANTON CINEMA 6

734-981-1900. "There's Something About Mary" "Snake Eyes" "Blade" "Rounders" "Rush Hour" "One True Thing"

CENTER STAGE

734-981-5122; Fri.-Sat.: Dance to alternative music and more.

CROWS NEST

734-459-4020; Wed.: D.L. Turner Thurs., Fri., and Sat.: Benny and the Jets

ERNESTO'S

734-453-2002; Mon.-Thurs.: Strolling Musicians; Tues.-Sat.: Live Music in Piano Bar.

GENITT'S HOLE IN THE WALL

248-349-0522; Live Interactive Dinner Theater; "I Do...I Think."

KARL'S COUNTRY CABIN

734-455-8450; Thurs.: Live music: *Twistin' Tarantulas*

MARQUIS THEATRE

248-349-8110; Live Musical Theatre "Raggedy Ann & Andy."

PENN THEATRE

734-453-0870; Now playing: "Dr. Doolittle"

PLYMOUTH COFFEE BEAN

734-454-0178; Fri.: Rosie Sun.: DJ Brian spins jazz.

STATION 885 RESTAURANT

734-459-0885; Wed. - Sat.: Live music with Wally Gibson;

WAGON WHEEL LOUNGE

248-349-8686; Thurs. Open Jam, and Sat.: Karaoke

WEST SIDE SINGLES

734-981-0909; Every Fri.: Friday dances at Burton Manor.

These listings are free of charge and are accurate as of noon Friday, prepared for Wednesday's Crier. Bookings, reservations, cover charges and capacities may change, so please call to verify information. A venue wishing to be listed or to update information should call The Crier at (734) 453-6900 by noon Friday.

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Canton cops computerize cruisers

Continued from pg. 2

police officers will eventually have access to all the information available in the department's main computer in their patrol cars, according to Capt. Laura Golles.

The department received approval last week to purchase 14 laptops last week.

"We hope to have them installed and partially functional by the end of the year," she said.

Golles said the capabilities of the laptops far exceed those of the MDTs, and their applications will take some time to phase into

use. but by December officers should be able to use them as they are now using the MDTs — to gather information from the Secretary of State, state and federal criminal histories, registration checks and stolen vehicles.

Eventually that will be a mere drop in the laptop's bucket of capabilities. Officers will be able to access national databases and gain more information about stolen property. They will also be able to call up history on locations or persons they are sent to investigate, Golles said.

"We'll know ahead of time if there are any weapons registered to the person or at the

location," Golles said.

The computers are part of a larger system and hardware upgrade approved by the Board of Trustees earlier this year. The upgrade will combine computer-aided dispatch, record management and mapping functions to improve efficiency and response time.

When the system is fully operational it will tell dispatchers exactly where Canton's patrol cars are at any given time.

"We'll be able to get to locations faster because we'll have a better idea exactly where the cars are and which to send on a call," Golles said.



Police say it doesn't take an Albert Einstein to know it's hard to quietly sell a stolen \$10,000 bat. (And judging from Ofc. Leonard Schemanske's stance, you don't have to be Ty Cobb to hold one, either). (Crier photo by Scott Spielman.)

Big-bucks bat

Continued from pg. 2

certainly didn't look like it was worth its appraised value of \$10,000.

"If you passed it by in the street, you'd probably just throw it away," said Sgt. Chuck Raycraft.

The bat was stolen along with several other pieces of baseball memorabilia between Sept. 17-27, according to Ofc. Leonard Schemanske. Other items stolen in the robbery, which was reported Sept. 1, include a bat signed by Rod Carew after his 3000th hit, a Ken Griffey, Jr. autographed bat and four baseballs signed by major league greats Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, Willie Mays and Al Kaline. All were recovered.

According to Schemanske, the items belonged to David Martin of Birmingham Hills. Martin is the owner of National Pastime Exhibits, which sells sports items to fans at ball parks.

The suspect in the theft is an ex-employee, who left the company on bad terms, according to Schemanske.

"We had a prime suspect right away, and he was very cooperative, which is why we were able to recover the merchandise," Schemanske said. "I would say that the word was out that the items were stolen," he said. "It would probably be very hard to sell them."

Together, the items were valued at more than \$12,000, according to Schemanske. The victim recovered the items from Canton's police department Wednesday, but hasn't decided on whether or not he is going to press charges against the ex-employee, Schemanske said.

"It's up to the victim if he wants to press charges. But the ultimate goal was to get the items back and return them to the rightful owner."

HALLOWEEN

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Deadline:
October 19th

This sounds like a ghostly idea

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WINDOW PAINTING CONTEST

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Each participating business is paired with a community youth group (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Indian Guides, School & Church Groups, etc.) that will paint their windows on Oct. 24. Then, each business will be featured in a photo advertisement in The Crier, and the winning business of the painting contest will be featured in a full page ad. The winning group gets a pizza party from Gino's Pizzeria.

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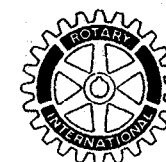
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Bernard, Jaclyn
Bernard, Shawn
Betz, Allison
Betz, Matthew
Betz, Angela
Bloom, Katie
Boies, Kristy
Bracht, Andrew
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Brandel, Dan
Brandel, Sandy
Brunner, Blake
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The Plymouth Rotary Club wishes to acknowledge ALL of our volunteers at the 43rd Annual Chicken Barbeque. Due to the hectic pace of the BBQ, we did not obtain the names of many of our "helpers" and we would like to THANK all of those not mentioned above.

In addition, many thanks to the parents of the Plymouth Christian Academy, Plymouth Salem Swim Team, Canton Swim Team, and the Plymouth Salem Co-ed Cheerleading Team for their assistance. A special thanks to the Residents & Parents of the Plymouth Opportunity House for their participation.

Proceeds from the Chicken BBQ & other fundraising income are used by Plymouth Rotary Foundation for Civic & Charitable activities. Some of the foundations past & present projects include:

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An interesting life 'just working'

Continued from pg. 3

the spring of 1940. Fresh from high school graduation and a five-month stint with a Flint group named the Bonnie Lassies, Weage set out to Dubuque, IA, trumpet in hand, to join an all-girl band for a club tour out west.

"I had never been on a train, or even out of Michigan," Weage writes in the opening chapter. "I know I did a lot of things wrong."

In the year that followed, Weage was swept into a whirlwind tour across the United States, 45 jobs in 42 days during one stretch, "which meant a lot of traveling and no time off."

Her description of those tours, pieced together by specific places and dates, echoes among the vastness that is the American West. Anybody who has ever traveled to Montevideo, MN or Beulah, ND, those wanderers who've ventured off the beaten track, can probably relate to Weage's description of the landscape.

For the rest of us, however, they become Anytowns U.S.A., lodged either in a valley or on the plain. Each has its own small club, its own local atmosphere. But for this rag-tag group of young musicians, they were each just one more point in a tireless train of stops.

Swinging through tough times

By April of 1941, after a year of touring, Weage had separated from her traveling group and returned home. But she would get little rest. "About a month after we left the big band, I bought a train ticket for Plattsburg, NY and joined the Swingettes."

It was with the Swingettes that Weage found her largest success. The Swingettes remained together for five years, through World War II, and in the end became nothing less than family.

Weage also switched instruments during this time, from trumpet to drums, a position she still holds today whenever she plays.

The Swingettes were made up of six musically-diverse women: Hilda, the curvy blonde who sang and played bass;

Ginny, "a cute brunette from Illinois," who handled sax and clarinet duties; Billie on tenor sax; Edna Mai, "a pretty dark haired lass from New York," played piano; and Renee, the successful, experienced leader.

During their time together, the Swingettes became one of the premiere club bands in the country, always working, always in demand. They zig-zaged like nomads across the country, touching base in 47 states.

Eventually, they were broadcast from nearly every stop they made, entertaining Americans desperate for a diversion.

The human landscape

Throughout the book, Weage introduces a series of first-name faces, soldiers, managers and club owners. Sometimes they are famous — Ella Fitzgerald, Perry Como — but most are not. The lesser-knowns act like extras in a movie, ushering in a particular theme or tone. Often they are the faces of men, scared and unsure, who months later were killed in the North African desert, at Omaha Beach or on the shores of Okinawa.

World War II permeates the book. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, the Swingettes were working through a six-week contract in Muncie, IN. At first they didn't realize the implications, but quickly, as the world around them turned to chaos, they too were swept into the mayhem.

"When war was declared, we were aware for the first time in our lives there was more to life than music, traveling, broadcasts, floor shows and fun," Weage writes. "There was a real world out there, with a real war that killed people. Our little world had suddenly changed."

Weage and her bandmates became engrossed, like most Americans, with the homefront war effort. They rationed food, they wrote letters to lonely soldiers stationed around the world and gave blood nearly every day. Through it all, they played on, nearly three years straight without a break.

When Weage finally did return home in late 1944, she was saddened by the way her hometown had changed.

"The only young men were either 4-F or home on leave," she writes. "The 'War on Widows' went out in groups, trying



Weage, still at it, with the Plymouth Community Band.

to have fun until their men would come home again. It was an artificial life I hope I never have to experience again."

Soon the war ended. So did the Swingettes.

"Perhaps we were tired of the grind," Weage writes, "sitting on a bandstand every night, forcing a smile when we didn't feel well or happy, talking to smelly drunks in noisy rooms. The job was worth all the discomforts, and I wouldn't have wanted any other, but eventually, everything gets stale."

With boyfriends and husbands returning, the Swingettes officially disbanded in 1946. But the friendships forged during those times lasted a lifetime. The group had one official reunion in 1975, one year before bandmember Billie would die of cancer. Today, two other Swingettes remain beside Weage and each remains committed to music.

Weage too still pounds the skins like her youthful self with The Plymouth Community Band, playing as recently as The Fall Festival.

"Everybody says I had an interesting life," Weage says. "But we didn't realize it. We were just working."

Weage's book *Living My Life For You* is available at both the Plymouth Historical Museum and Little Professor

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Community deaths

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director, or call (734) 453-6900.

ELAINE ALBERTA ALBRITTON

Elaine Alberta Albritton, a Leesburg, FL resident, died Aug. 25, 1998 at the age of 69.

Mrs. Albritton was born March 12, 1929 in Detroit. She was an artist. She lived in Leesburg, FL for 18 years and was a former resident of Grosse Pointe, MI. She was a member of the Leesburg Artist Association, the Daughters of the American Revolution and a member of the Union Congregational Church in Tavares, FL.

She is survived by her brother, William M. Perrett of Plymouth; and sister, Jean P. Watson of Harper Woods, MI.

Cremains will be interred in Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit. Committal Services will be officiated by the Rev. Kenneth R. Bleber. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth.

LEONARD A. SOBCZAK

Leonard A. Sobczak, a Plymouth resident, died Sept. 16, 1998 at the age of 81.

Mr. Sobczak was born Jan. 12, 1917 in Elmira, NY. He was a teacher. He graduated from Notre Dame in 1965 with a degree in education. He received a master's degree in Special Education from Eastern Michigan University. After graduation, his first position was a teacher at St. Francis Xavier School in Ecorse. He taught in the Bearian Springs Public School system for eight years. He also was a teacher at St. Michael's Catholic School and at Plymouth State Home. He retired from teaching in 1982. He came to the Plymouth Community in January of 1998 from Coldwater. He was a member of St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII.

He is survived by his wife, Leona of Plymouth; children, Mary (Andy) Crichton of Northville, Fran (Paul) Nicastris of Plymouth, Rita (Thomas) Mann of Clinton Township, Rose (Robert) Totaro of North Palm Beach, FL, Patricia (John) Palma of Howell, MI, Chariles (Laura) Sobczak of Scottsdale, AZ, Victor Sobczak of Phoenix, AZ; 19 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and sisters, Leona McEwin of California, Elizabeth Ostafinski of Westland.

Services were held at St. Kenneth Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. Joseph Mallia officiating. Burial was at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the Right to Life Foundation.

DONALD O. MELOW

Donald O. Melow, a Plymouth resident, died Sept. 18, 1998 at the age of 83.

Mr. Melow was born Dec. 31, 1914 in Michigan. He was a manager at Ford Motor Company for 47 years. He attended local Catholic Churches. He loved to hunt, fish and enjoyed camping.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley A. of Plymouth; sons, David (Diane) Melow of Dexter, MI, Karl (Sandra) of Livonia; grandchildren, Karen, Donald, David and Nathaniel; and sisters, Elsa Melow of Plymouth, Dorothy Britcher of Plymouth and Marguerite Evans of Plymouth.

Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Fr. J.J. Mech officiating. Memorial contributions can be given to Karmanos Cancer Institute.

JAMES GORDON "PAT" CLANCEY

James Gordon "Pat" Clancey, a Livonia resident, died Sept. 18, 1998 at the age of 88.

Mr. Clancey was born May 3, 1910 in Grand Marais, MI. He was a mechanic. He was a member of Risen Christ Lutheran Church.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret V. Clancey of Livonia; daughters, Sharon (Arthur) Kriewall of St. Louis, MO, Colleen (James) Pigeon of Livonia; son, Patrick (Laurie) Clancey of Boulder, CO; sisters, Gertrude Spletzer of Dearborn, Patricia Harvey of Ishpeming, MI; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Risen Christ Lutheran Church with the Rev. David W. Martin and Mr. Hugh H. McMartin officiating. Burial was at Wixom Cemetery in Wixom. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to Gran Care Hospice Services, 38935 Ann Arbor Road, Livonia, MI 48150 or Karmanos Cancer Institute Plymouth Region, 744 Wing Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

EVA LOIS THORPE

Eva Lois Thorpe, a Plymouth resident, died Sept. 18, 1998 at the age of 96.

Mrs. Thorpe was born June 13, 1902 in Dyersburg, TN. She was self employed for a restaurant/bar.

She is survived by her daughters, Joyce Larsen of Plymouth, Billie (Bob) Cuddeback of Lake City; grandson, Dean Larsen of Westland; four other grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Westland with the Rev. Peter Berg officiating. Burial was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland. Memorial contributions can be given to the charity of choice.

Jerry Robert Switzer, 39, computer technician

Jerry Robert Switzer, a former Plymouth resident, died Sept. 17, 1998 in Nashville, TN.

He is survived by his parents, Robert Switzer of Gregory, MI, Constance Simon of Plymouth; sister, Kristie Switzer of Northville and one other sister; one brother; and several nieces.

Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth.



Sports

Sports shorts

Canton Parks and Recreation will be hosting its first-ever **Heritage Park Square Dance** for all ages Saturday, Sept. 26.

Held in the amphitheater area of Heritage Park, the evening will feature square dance calling from 6-8 p.m. and line dancing from 8-9 p.m. There is no charge for the square dance, but Canton Parks and Recreation does ask that you call ahead so they can plan for enough supplies.

There will be refreshments and giveaways throughout the evening. Everyone is encouraged to attend in their western wear.

Call 397-5110 for more information.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) has announced a partnership with Amateur Sports Network (ASN) to provide a web site with up-to-date high school sports scores and standings.

ASN is a troy-based corporation in which high schools, at no cost, may contribute and participate in the site.

The site will also contain rosters, schedules and results from participating high schools.

The site is located at www.asn.net.

MediaOne, who dabbled briefly last Spring with hockey coverage, has committed to broadcast 10 Plymouth Whalers games this upcoming season, including two versus last year's OHL champion, the Guelph Storm. Media One will carry select Saturday night games on Channel 11 of Media One television. Along with Eric Peasley, John Bower, who does radio commentary as well for Whaler games, will call the play-by-play.

The schedule goes as follows:

- Oct. 3 versus Sudbury
- Oct. 10 versus Windsor
- Nov. 7 versus Sarnia
- Nov. 14 versus Kitchener
- Dec. 5 versus London
- Jan. 16 versus Guelph
- Jan. 30 versus Sault Ste. Marie
- Feb. 6 versus Toronto
- Feb. 20 versus Erie
- March 13 versus Guelph

All broadcast begin at 7 p.m. No word yet on whether or not the television broadcast season will be expanded to include playoff coverage if necessary.

Salem drops Farmington, 6-2

After loss to Northville Wednesday, Rocks back on track in WLAA

GIRLS TENNIS

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

They may not quite be the queens of the W.L.A.A. court — Northville will probably hold that distinction — but they won't be playing the joker either.

The Salem Girls Tennis team continued their solid play Monday with an impressive 6-2 beating of Farmington at home.

Number one singles player Amanda Miller again led the way, dropping Farmington's Fawn O'Leary in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4. Jana Doroshko, playing in the second singles position, lost a tough three set match, while Molly Martin struggled to a two set loss.

Freshman Jacqui Slebodvick again impressed coaches playing out of the number four singles spot. She dropped Farmington junior Annie Gourley, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1.

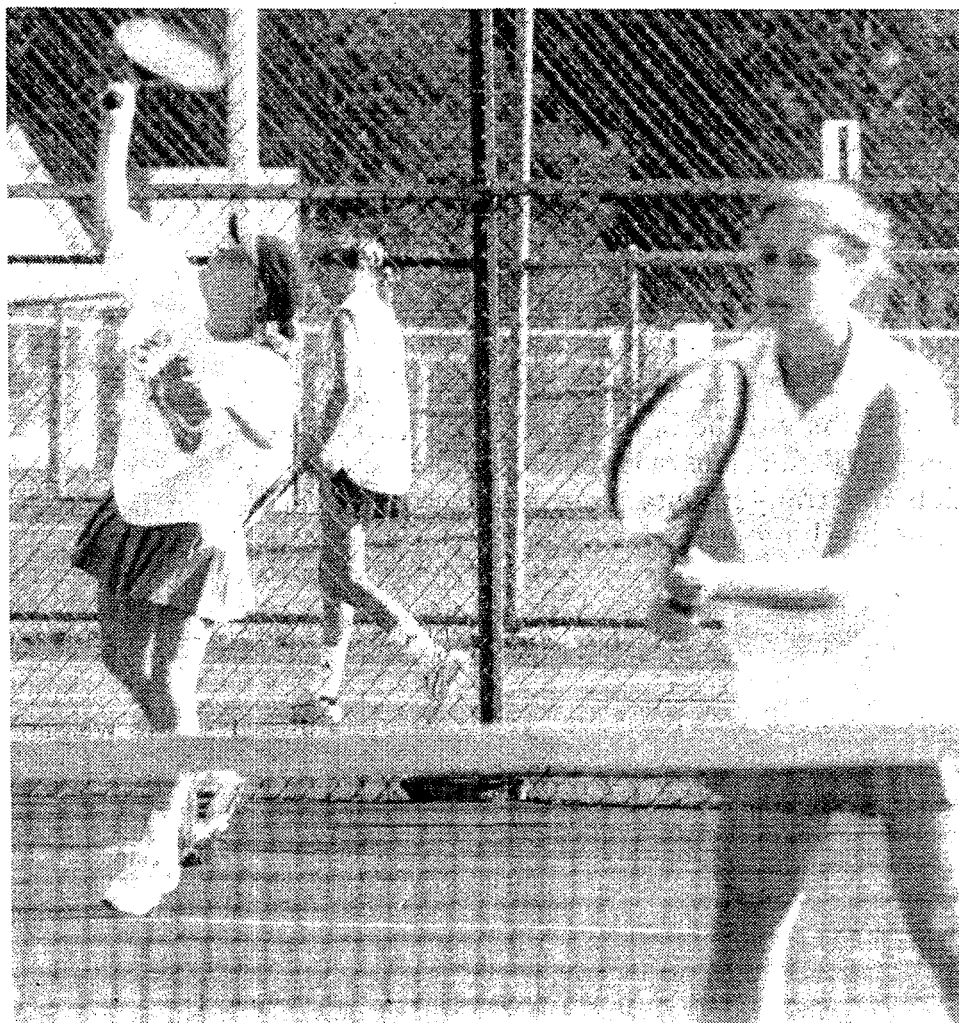
"She has really been a surprise," said Coach Tom Kimball. "She has little tennis experience, but has played very well."

What really impressed Kimball Monday was the play of his doubles teams. Salem swept through Farmington in the two-player matchups, winning in straight sets in all four seats.

Seniors Erin Griffith and Sarah Kindred, reunited after each playing (and winning) singles against John Glenn on Thursday, dominated the younger Farmington number one doubles team in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3.

On Thursday, Salem cruised past John Glenn, 6-2, by handily winning each of the singles match-ups.

Miller, Doroshko, Griffith and Kindred each scored straight-set victories over the Rockets. Megan Bohr and Nina Nowicki,



It was the doubles that did it Monday for the Rocks. Sarah Kindred (serving) and Erin Griffith (front) dominated their Farmington counterparts at home. Salem faces tough-rival Stevenson on Monday (Crier photo by Scott Goodwin)

stepping up from their normal number two position, lost 6-4, 6-2, against Glenn's number one doubles team. Salem's number two doubles team also lost, in three sets.

The two conference victories were important for a Rock team coming off a stinging 8-

0 landslide at home versus Northville last Wednesday. State-ranked Northville dominated in every facet of play, scoring quick straight-set victories in each singles match.

Currently, the Rocks are 7-1-1 overall, and 4-1-1 in the conference.

Whalers begin championship quest tomorrow at North Bay, home opener Oct. 3

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

They're coming back.

No, not just the Whalers. That's obvious enough. This season is expected to be one of their best since their 1995 OHL championship.

But in the two weeks since the Can-Am Tournament, several key Whalers have returned from their respective NHL camps. First-round draft pick David Legwand, Paul Mara and Harold Druken may not be back until early October, but defenseman Nik Tselios and Keven Holdridge have returned from Carolina. Randy Fitzgerald and Tomek Voltonen, who the Whalers acquired in the European draft this year, are back from camp but will be out with shoulder injuries.

According to Coach Pete DeBoer, the player shortage he expects

during the first couple of weeks will allow the younger players a another chance to shine.

"It will be a continuance of our evaluation period," DeBoer said. "The problem is that it counts for points. And after losing a division title last year by a point, we know that every game counts."

After North Bay tomorrow, Plymouth will continue their northern Ontario tour with games at Sudbury Friday and Sault Ste. Marie on Sunday.

Those who think its too early to start playing a hockey season, think again.

"It's actually supposed to snow up there this weekend," DeBoer said. "If you can believe that."

Meet the Ambassadors

BY NICK GISMONDI

First an introduction:

The Compuware Ambassadors play in the North American Hockey League (NAHL) and are a Tier II Jr. A Hockey

Club. The team serves as sort of a farm team for the Plymouth Whalers of the OHL (Ontario Hockey League). Mike Vellucci, who is also the General Manager, and President of the club, coaches the

Ambassadors. Josh Kerner and Rich Rathman assist him on the bench. Last year the Ambassadors won the championship defeating Team USA in a sweep. Despite leading the league most of the regular season last year, the Ambassadors finished in second place behind the Springfield Jr. Blues. Compuware also won a position to go to the National tournament, which was held in Billings Montana. They were eliminated in the semis despite a good showing.

The Ambassadors will be returning around 17 players this year. With the success of last year's young team you can bet that the Ambassadors will definitely be the team to beat. Some of the standout veterans on the team this year are defenseman Pete Broccoli and Troy Milam. Up front for the team look for newcomer Nick Shrader to put up some big numbers and also be a large physical presence.

Mark Mink, the NAHL's leading scorer last season, will be back again to terrorize the goalies of the NAHL with his quick moves and blistering shot. Look for rookie Rob Globke to contribute to the club offensively. Back between the pipes will be Craig Kowalski and Beau Fritz who were with the club last season.

So far the Ambassadors have done just what has been predicted of them, winning. After two regular season games their record is unblemished at 2-0-0.

In the first game, Sept. 11, the Ambassadors met the Grand Rapids BearCats, formally the Gaylord Grizzlies, at Compuware Sports Arena. The BearCats scored first at the 3:14 mark, but the Ambassadors answered right back when J.J. Swistak buried one past Chris Newman to tie the game. Before the period was out the Ambassadors took the lead and never relinquished it after John Shouneyia netted one for the go ahead goal. The Ambassadors then scored two more unanswered goals in route to the 5-2 victory. Other Ambassador goals came from Nick Schrader who had two goals and an assist, and Steve Jackson. Craig Kowalski was a rock in net stopping 25 shots.

Last Friday the Ambassadors would again face the BearCats. Grand Rapids opened the scoring, but Ambassador Pat Brush answered at 3:45 with a tying goal. The score was tied at 2-2 until 13:39 of the second period when Brush banged home his second of the night. Steve Jackson added a goal in the third to make it 5-3, and then Pat Brush earned a Hat Trick and put his team up 6-3 with five minutes left in the game. But The BearCats struck back quickly, however, with two goals in two minutes to make it a 6-5 game with three minutes to go.

The Ambassadors next games will be Friday and Saturday at the Compuware Sports Arena when they will take on the Springfield Jr. Blues, last years league champs. Those games will be broadcast on radio station 88.1 FM starting at 6:10.

Salem wins in OT



While Canton continued to struggle with a loss against Churchill, Salem needed dramatic come-from-behind heroics Friday versus Stevenson at home. Canton, dropping to 0-3 in the Tim Baechler era, lost 14-0 to a Churchill team that hadn't won at home in nearly a decade. Salem, 14-7 winners, improved to 2-1. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Rocks maim, Chiefs tame in conference match-ups

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

Only a Rockford wall seems to stand in their way.

After dropping North Farmington, 26-31, last Thursday at Cass Benton, the Salem Boys cross-country team traveled to Holly on Saturday to face off with several of the top teams in the state.

In the end, only one team stood before them: state-ranked Rockford. The 89 points scored, however, were good enough to give Salem an impressive second place finish out of 20 teams.

"We were expecting to be right there," said Coach Geoff Baker.

Nick Allen again led the way for the Rocks. He placed sixth overall (out of 120 runners) with a time of 16:38. Jon Little (17:06) and Bobby Cushman (17:15) also placed well for Salem.

On Thursday, Salem sat their top three runners, but still managed to win convincingly over North Farmington. Salem is now 4-0 overall in dual-meets.

Matt Anderson (17:26, second overall), Al Gill (17:52, fourth overall) and Craig

CROSS-COUNTRY

Little (17:56, fifth overall) powered the Rocks.

The Canton boys cross-country team also faced a Farmington team on Thursday, pouncing Harrison 15-45.

Senior Bryan Kulczycki (18:17), Joe Mikosc, Joe Niemiec and Kyle Pitt led the pack for the Chiefs. Canton's number one guy Marty Kane stayed out with a foot injury.

On Saturday, at the Ludington Invitational, Canton raced well according to Coach Mike Spitz, but the competition was just too tough to handle. The Chiefs placed 18th out of 33 teams.

"I guess I can't complain," Spitz said. "Almost to a man, the players beat their times from Thursday. And that was probably the toughest course we've run all year."

But, Spitz said, the young team is bound to improve. "Hopefully the older guys can help bring along the younger guys for the future."

Canton is now 1-1 overall.

On deck

SALEM GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday at Franklin, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday at Flint Northern, 5 p.m.

SALEM GIRLS TENNIS

Today at Churchill, 4 p.m. Friday at home versus Walled Lake Western, 4 p.m. Monday at Stevenson, 4 p.m.

SALEM GIRLS SWIMMING

Saturday at home for the Rock Invite, 1 p.m. Tuesday at Churchill, 7 p.m.

SALEM GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Saturday at the MSU Invite, time: TBA.

SALEM FOOTBALL

Friday at home versus Walled Lake Central, 7:30 p.m.

SALEM BOYS SOCCER

Today at home versus North Farmington, 7 p.m. Saturday at home versus Brighton, 11:30 a.m. Monday at Harrison, 5:30 p.m.

SALEM BOYS GOLF

Today at home versus Walled Lake Western, 3 p.m. Friday at Stevenson, 2:45 p.m. Monday at home versus North Farmington, 3 p.m.

SALEM BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Saturday at both the Jackson Invite and the Shamrock Invite, times: TBA.

CANTON GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday at home versus John Glenn, 5:30 p.m.

CANTON GIRLS TENNIS

Today at home versus North Farmington, 4 p.m. Friday at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Saturday at the Saline JV Invite, time: TBA. Monday at home versus Harrison, 4 p.m.

CANTON GIRLS SWIMMING

Thursday at Walled Lake, 7 p.m. Saturday at the West Bloomfield Invite, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tuesday at home versus Stevenson, 7 p.m.

CANTON FOOTBALL

Friday at Walled Lake Western, 7:30 p.m.

CANTON BOYS SOCCER

Today at Farmington, 5:30 p.m. Saturday at home versus Troy, 3 p.m. Monday at home versus Franklin, 7 p.m.

CANTON BOYS GOLF

Today at John Glenn, 3 p.m. Friday at Harrison 3 p.m. Monday at home versus North Farmington, 3 p.m.



Community opinions

Vorva's appeal:

It's time to answer to the community

EDITOR:

Since the Court of Appeals rejected Jerry Vorva's request for a rehearing of his lawsuit, bringing to six the number of defeats, it is time for Vorva to answer to The Plymouth Canton Community:

- Will builders continue to build more homes here if there are not enough adequate school facilities to accommodate the children of prospective home buyers?

- Will real estate brokers (such as Vorva) continue to sell homes if they must remove the desirable phrase, "Plymouth-Canton Schools" from their listings and replace it with "overcrowded schools" instead?

- Will businesses locate and prosper here if parents of present and future school-age children move away to more desirable communities where public schools are being built and supported?

Vorva must answer to every child who is squeezed into a crowded classroom or who waits seemingly forever for a broken-down school bus to be repaired. He must answer to every family who picks up and leaves for school-friendlier pastures. He must tell all real estate agents, builders business people and everyone else who has invested in our

community for whose benefit he pursues a dead-end lawsuit.

Passage of the upcoming Oct. 3 bond to replace Lowell Middle School for 750 district-wide students by the summer of 2,000 must now be everyone's number-one priority.

Both Chambers of Commerce, many

Passage of the upcoming Oct. 3 bond to replace Lowell Middle School for 750 district-wide students must be everyone's number-one priority.

local government officials and some area legislators, several service organizations and community groups, the Plymouth and Canton Observers, local businesses and individuals already have endorsed the Oct. 3 bond. It is evident that there are many in The Plymouth-Canton Community who lead by pulling us together, not apart.

Continual bad-mouthing of our school district, its employees and their families, yearly threats to recall the School Board and

divide the district will garner newspaper headlines. But these miscredited efforts do nothing to make our community a desirable place to work, live and raise families.

We can lament forever the failure of 716 people to accurately record their 1997 bond votes. We might better spend our time and efforts to educate everyone on the correct

way to use newer voting technology.

We can remain silent and allow a handful of individuals to form a wedge within our community. Or we can surmount their obstacles by speaking out and joining hands to ensure that our community prospers and moves forward.

We can roll up the sidewalks by diminishing the quality of our schools, thus discouraging families and businesses from moving here. Or we can roll out the

welcome mat proclaiming Plymouth-Canton as a desirable place in which to live, work and educate children.

In the P-C Community we have the best of all worlds — small-town America, suburbia and farmlands. We can congregate together for the art fairs, Fall Festival and Liberty Fest. Or we can walk in solitude through parks, fairways and fields. We can shop in small businesses or larger ones, dine in cozy little cafes or larger restaurants.

As on community we have build out top-notch schools. We must not take for granted the commitment that every generation before us made to the educational opportunities we can and still must provide for the children who reside in our community.

On Saturday, Oct. 3 take the time before the football kickoff or after the shopping to do something for everyone in our community, especially our children.

Vote yes on the middle school bond to replace Lowell and to purchase 10 badly needed buses.

And Vorva, isn't it about time you did something constructive for our community as well?

MARTHA TRAFFORD

You can bet on it: Ted's still around

"It's a lot harder to sell a business than to buy one."

Tom Bohlander ought to know.

Pending approval of Honda, he's now sold all 18 of his auto dealerships — including his "baby," Sunshine Honda of Plymouth, the last to be sold.

It was Spring of 1981 that Tom came to Plymouth.

Less than a month before, he'd been standing in the unemployment line in Ohio after leaving his job a C.O.O. for a chain of dealerships. "After that, I knew I wasn't going to work for anybody ever again," Tom said.

Coming to Plymouth, Tom met Clarence DuCharme who ran and owned the old Rambler dealership — Fiesta Motors. (Many folks remember Clarence for his always-smiling attitude and the years of volunteerism with Plymouth Community Fund after he sold his dealership to Tom.)

Tom carried on Clarence's attitude toward community service. He became president of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, he may be the only person to have served on both the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township planning commissions, he served on the board of First of America Bank and he currently serves on the Board of Directors of this newspaper's publishing corporation. Together with his wife Joyce,

Tom has hosted fundraisers and civic functions at their home, donated many gifts for schools and community groups.

It was that community-involvement attitude that made Tom reluctant to sell Sunshine Honda — his "baby. I wouldn't sell to just anybody," he insisted.

He welcomed Bill Fuller, owner of Troy Honda and other dealerships, to Plymouth. "He's the right kind of guy for town," Tom said. "I was fortunate to find a local guy with his family to run (Sunshine) the same way.

"He is the right person to carry on the Sunshine tradition of putting customers first, associates second and supporting the community.

"Selling all the other dealerships was a somewhat unemotional business decision," Tom explained. Yet when he sold the Sunshine Acura dealership to Motor City Harley Davidson (PHS grad Dick Rose et al), Tom got a bit misty eyed. He realized that creating a cutting edge state-of-the-art dealership like that one in Farmington had broken new ground.

With malice toward none

By W. Edward WENDOVER



Now Tom, at 54, will have time to reflect. Reflect on what? Having sold 25,000 customers their cars. Having helped 500 associates with their careers in Michigan and Ohio. Having been the top volume Honda dealer in the Midwest. Having made many friends in the auto dealership business and through his community service. And also reflect on how The Plymouth-Canton Community grows on those who give back to it. "Selling Sunshine Honda is tough because of my ties to our community," sighed Tom. But chances are, that even with Sunshine Honda under new ownership, this isn't the last the community will hear of Tom Bohlander. You can bet a new Honda on it.



Community opinions

No less than 'yes' on Oct.3 bond

EDITOR:

There should be no question in any responsible person's mind that a 'yes' vote on Saturday, Oct. 3 on the \$19.7 million bond issue to build a furnish a middle

school in Canton is an absolute necessity. Livonia has reclaimed Lowell Middle School for their own use in the year 2000. Fortunately this gives us time if we act immediately to provide for the education of

our to-be-displaced students in time. We need that time to plan constructively for it and to get it built. Parents, interested residents and school staff and administration need to all be involved. We have no more lead time than we need for that purpose.

The students are here — we can do no less for them. A sound education at all levels is an absolute necessity for their future and ours.

Likewise, we must address the sad state of our aging bus fleet. Budgets recognized the need for more teachers and supplies to keep up with new enrollment even as per-pupil funding fell. The need for new buses was pushed to the background. "First things first." New we must play catch-up in order to transport our students safely and in timely

manner. Since the dollars are not there we must specify in a bond issue the money for their purchase. BOND monies must be spend only for the purpose designated in its issue.

Fortunately for us taxpayers an average assessment of \$20 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation will take care of both problems.

Time's a wastin'!
We must move!

I have faith in the good sense of our residents that they can see the need and respond accordingly.

These are our children and their future and our are in their hands. We need the best education for all of them to face the future. Vote 'yes' Saturday, Oct. 3.

ESTHER HULSING

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hulsing is a member of the Citizens Bond Steering Committee.

'Trow da bums out'

EDITOR:

Why is it these days that we are so down on politicians? After all we're the fools that elected these people. I understand the general population's disgust with President Clinton, but I don't understand why we have not had enough of all of them. Good lord, they all behave like sharks at a feeding frenzy.

I believe it is time for grass roots America to "trow da bums out" and start over with honest, caring people with absolutely no political aspirations, whatsoever.

Now the politicians will tell you that the government needs the continuity that they can afford us... Bulls**t I say. We are smart enough to govern ourselves, after all that is how we started...It is time We the people decided to fend for ourselves, throw out All the current politicians and start with a clean slate.

It probably won't happen. But we should consider the alternatives.

CHARLIE YERKES

The students are here

2 bond problems: Little, Goldman

EDITOR:

The article printed in a local newspaper clearly points out the problem with regard to the bond lawsuit. It is really *two* problems.

One is our superintendent, Chuck Little, and the second is our assistant superintendent, Errol Goldman.

Both of these individuals do not believe

in open dialogue. As printed in the story about a possible compromise to end Jerry Vorva's suit against the schools' March '97 bond, Little was not positive when he said "I don't know what we would talk about."

If the superintendent doesn't know what to talk about, who does?

If Goldman is our assistant superintendent and corporate counsel, why

doesn't he start the dialogue?

I really feel we have a great board of education. By law, the Board represents the Plymouth-Canton Community. The superintendent and all administration are under their direction. We voted them into this position and gave them this great responsibility.

As Darwin Watts, one of the newest board members, wrote in his letter to the editor after being elected, "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the community and the school system in this capacity. Thank you for placing your confidence in me to make a positive difference in our school district with a continued emphasis on quality education. I will do my part as a board member to ensure a positive level of leadership through *open dialogue*, listening

and learning." He is doing just that.

My 23 years as a teacher at Canton High School are over, as I have retired. But I will continue to dialogue with the board members. Mike Maloney, Sue Davis, Carrie Blamer, Liz Givens, Judy Mardigian, Roland Thomas and Darwin Watts have shown me and the community that they care. It does appear that this bond issue could be settled out of court with some constructive dialogue on both sides.

We all know who our two problems are. Come on board Little and Goldman, you start the dialogue and be positive.

This is a great community and education is our strong point. Let's show our students and community how to settle an issue with open and honest dialogue.

KEN SMITH

Thanks, P-C band

EDITOR:

Thank you Plymouth-Canton Marching Band for participating in the community's Fall Festival. You did a great job and we hope to see more of the band at community functions.

Keep up the good work and good luck for the coming year.

BUNNY MAUER

(A long-time band booster)

Some modest proposals on the rules of the road

EDITOR:

Some money saving tips —

A lot of us are looking for ways to save money these days. Here are a few to save on our taxes and thus the ripple effect:

1. Those annoying stop signs — get rid of them. We can save on the metal, paint and labor. There are so few of us who use them.

2. Those stupid yellow lines on the road — not many people use them, let

alone know why they're put on the street.

3. That wide white line across the road when we come to the stop light — we supposed to stop with it in front of our car, not two car lengths behind us.

4. That traffic light thing — the cost could be saved for the box, bulbs, fixture and all that wire. We are supposed to stop when that red light is shining, not just slow down. Yes, even when just going around the corner, stop! Then go around the corner. At night, when the devil is

winking at you with those red lights, they also mean stop!

6. The speed limit sign — you know, that white sign with black numbers. Most people cannot see them, at least that's what they tell the cops. By getting rid of these dumb things that are cluttering our roads. We can save a lot of tax money. Get the drift?

Now, the ripple effect —

It is called population control. Our schools won't be so crowded. Our charge

card debts will be lowered. How? Christmas shopping. How about food? The ones who manage to survive will not go hungry, we'll even save at Thanksgiving. How? Families will be smaller. Get the drift?

Let's not think of this scenario. Let's start paying attention to that small part our our lives: the rules of the road. In case you didn't notice, our graveyards are getting full.

PAUL REVOLDT



Community opinions

The road to Hell...

...is paved with good intentions.

The Plymouth City Commission should be very aware of that danger.

It should also be more aware of Michigan's Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act — two important laws that guarantee rights for citizens and employees of public bodies.

In particular, the six City Commissioners (without Mayor Don Dismuke) split into two groups of three to meet with a City employe and her union representative Saturday. They did so even while discussing the two Acts and said their goal was to avoid a quorum, thus requiring a public meeting.

Their intent was to protect a City employe's identity, they say.

That may be a noble intention, but they broke the law.

And that's the second time in 20 years that the Plymouth City Commission has intentionally violated the Open Government laws.

In October, 1979, the Commission secretly interviewed, then voted to hire former City Manager Henry Graper. A lawsuit filed by The Crier resulted in an out-of-court settlement that included

an apology from that City Commission and a promise never to break those laws again.

Obviously, none of the Commission members then are serving now, but the history lesson should remain.

There are serious questions about the motivations of some connected to the City's investigation of this matter. Clearly, the resulting process has become a story far more significant than the original issue and that only serves to attract attention when the commissioners say they're trying to keep things quiet.

With luck, the issue is resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

Even if the issue is not resolved, the City Commission — like all public bodies in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community — should be aware of and obey these important laws.

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"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The Community Crier



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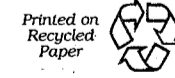
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Duty, empathy & lessons:

This is small-town reporting

Yeah, it's a small town, and it's small-town reporting.

But the story that's shaking up Plymouth's City Commission runs parallel to the one that has rocked our country and its Capital. If City officials are wise, they won't retrace the missteps President Clinton has made while tip-toeing through Grand Jury proceedings.

The story here is still developing, but I suspect there are acts yet to be played. The City Commission has already goofed — a euphemism for dodging state law. And the Mayor goofed too, if he did in fact seek inappropriate contact with a City employe, as it is alleged.

Maybe. All that is certain now is that, based on transcripts of a recorded telephone call to City Hall, the Mayor requested a City employe's phone number, and she did not want him to have it. For a public official and a politician, that alone was a mistake.

At the national level, this kind of story is disconcerting, but it must thrill us a little bit too. I'm not the first to point out that while there are details in the story of Monica and Bill that many of us decry as private, we still devour them on TV and in print. We stomach them more easily because across the many miles that separate our town from Washington D.C., intimacy is lost. We don't feel the sting when personal details are discussed in public, because the pain isn't here in the room with us, it's a long way off in D.C.

The distance to City Hall is not nearly as great. From the newsroom at The Crier, the two-minute stroll to the Commission Chambers builds a sense of connection with our government that grows familiar with repetition.

Every other Monday I see the City's lights coming on as I make the walk to City Hall where I cover Commission meetings. I go up the steps, into the chambers and over to the same blue chair near a window to the rear of the room. When I'm welcomed by City employes I don't feel like an editor, but like someone they know.

And I know them, too.

So when I first heard the allegations against the Mayor Sunday, it wasn't just a story. I met with an anonymous informant at a remote rendez-vous. But when I heard the details it wasn't like "All the President's men" — it wasn't a story about a politician.

It was about Don.

Don and I had a beer at The Crier's Fall Fest party. (I was a part of the conspiracy to tease him all night about the Jerry Garcia tie he had worn.)

And when I showed up at the publisher's house to discuss what I had learned Sunday, Don who had been there with his daughter just two hours earlier on a visit.

Some might say

By Bryon Martin



Don lives and works in the places that I do. I know him. And I knew his wife when I saw her sitting down the row from my seat at Monday's meeting.

The distance to her chair was short. And any pain she felt that night was right there in the room with us, I know it.

This is small-town reporting.

City Hall is close, too close to miss the details, or discomfort. Duty and empathy have to share the same small space. I know this.

But I also know that if the story so far is that Don and the Commission have goofed, that can change subject of acts yet to play.

This is a small-town story, but its national corollary offers lessons that can be applied here.

Don't lie.

Don't hide the facts of any story, regardless of good intentions.

Don't tiptoe through City proceedings.

Deal directly, fully and in the open.

Because even if this is small-town reporting, it will be done, just like it has been in Washington.

I know it.

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