

# Before breakfast, Hills was alive with sounds of Puritan

By LYNN ORR

Contrary to popular opinion, Farmington Hills DOES have a downtown, thanks to WXYZ disc jockey Dick Puritan.

From 6-10 a.m. last Wednesday, Puritan and his morning team broadcasted from a Farmington Hills home. And after four hours of hearing about "beautiful downtown Farmington Hills," the listeners got the message.

The new downtown is in Quaker Valley subdivision in the "Black Moustache" cafe, the home of Paul and DeDe Sowerby. They were winners of Puritan's Breakfast Menu competition.

Mrs. Sowerby's clever menu landed the broadcasting team in her kitchen, replete with microphones, wires, and engineers.

And the Sowerbys loved every harrowing minute. The morning began at 4 a.m. for Mrs. Sowerby, but nervous tension peaked at 6 a.m. when Puritan and producer Tom Ryan failed to make their appearance.

"Fred (Miller, WXYZ engineer) told me not to worry—they're always late," Mrs. Sowerby said. "Sure enough, they made it before the news was over."

ADRENALIN FLOWED freely throughout the morning. It was the show's first in-residence broadcast.

"Drive-in Debbie."—that's how continuity engineer Debbie Curtis is known to her fans—phoned Puritan on the air after getting stuck at Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road; but "Louie," "Lance," and Puritan's other surprise companions made it to Quaker Valley without assistance.

"Is that the cat or the tea kettle?" Puritan asked Mrs. Sowerby on the air, when the background noise needed explanation to those out in radioland. With two dogs, three cats, ringing phone and doorbell, and a kitchen full of strangers, the broadcast assumed all the aspects of a mini-circus.

"I felt like I was talking to a stewardess and the pilot just died and she was trying to land the plane," cracked Ryan after four hours of coordinating the show with WXYZ personnel in Southfield.

It was probably good experience for his new on-air TV job as the Michigan emcee, Ryan admitted.

It took almost a full day for Michigan Bell to install phone wires which included going through three exchanges. But after that everything went smoothly, according to Miller.

"It's been fun," he said. "It's a change getting out of the station."

Newscaster Tom Bell, who could easily fit the bill of a thin Richard Dreyfuss ("The Goodbye Girl"), tried to avoid the manager's most of the time by hiding out in the den.

"Could you get the cat off the typewriter?" was his only request.

ONE DOORBELL ring brought a six-pack of beer from neighbors Terry and Neil McGorick, after Louie's request. Some Our Lady of Mercy teenagers wanted a plug for their carnival, which Puritan obligingly provided.

On-the-air chatter included the Sowerbys, who used a standing mike next to the sink. The rest of the team gathered around the antique table in a comfortable breakfast nook overlooking the pool. Not yet cleaned for the summer, the pool took a lot of abuse from Puritan.

"Paul and DeDe have been charming hosts," Puritan said, when he finally removed his headphone and started to relax. "It was a lot easier than I thought it would be."

The Sowerbys won the contest with a menu dreamed up by Mrs. Sowerby.

Included on her list of entrees were: Captain Showbiz French Toast ("Toast of the Town" or "Puritan's Paradise"; Pancakes a la Lance, with a choice of fresh fruit; Crab Louie; "Flown in daily from Hartsmeck"; Fried eggs "Debbie" (Try eating these at a drive-in); Ryan's Express: "one doughnut and a cup of instant coffee for discriminating people on the go"; and Basher by the rasher ("and no one's rasher than Dick Puritan.")

"It was the most creative menu," Ryan explained. The station received between 300-400 entries.

"This is our big chance," Sowerby quipped. Mrs. Sowerby brewed countless pots of coffee for crew members, who "worked with their pants on for the first time," Ryan glibed. The broadcast ended with the pop of a champagne cork and the presentation of a plaque to Puritan—"The Black Moustache Cafe welcomes the Dick Puritan Show."

The Sowerbys survived the morning to return to their return to their regular jobs at Chamberlain Realty and Safely Sales, Inc. But any time Puritan's crew cares to return, the Sowerbys are ready to welcome them, sarcasm and all.

"Is it OK if we smoke dope?" Louie asked his boss on the air.

Both Sowerbys grimaced when Puritan gave an explanation: "The Sowerbys offered the marijuana cigarettes," he told station heads and listeners.

"I hope no one takes any of this seriously," an anonymous bystander whispered.

No one did.



Dick Puritan (right) and his WXYZ radio broadcasting team, producer Tom Ryan (left) and "Drive-in" Debbie Curtis, discovered a cozy change in broadcasting from Farmington Hills last Wednesday morning. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

## Democrat re-enters ring

By DAVID RAY

Former Republican Oakland County Commissioner Lew Coy has announced that he has switched parties and will seek the Democratic nomination to oppose his successor on the county board, Dennis Murphy, a Novl Republican, who has indicated that he will seek reelection.

Coy, now employed as a court officer with the Walled Lake-based 52nd District Court, served on the county board from 1963, when the elective posts were created to replace the county Board of Supervisors, until his resignation in October, 1975.

Murphy was named to fill the vacancy at a special election held in the spring of 1976, and won a full two-year term that November. He defeated Novl Democrat Suelien Haas in both elections two years ago.

The 56-year-old former commissioner, a Waxom resident, often found himself at odds with his GOP colleagues on the county board.

After Coy split with the Republican majority over a proposal to close the county hospital, he was stripped of the chairmanship of the Board of Health and Hospital Board. The Republicans wanted private business to take over the hospital, he said, but county of-

ficials eventually decided to stay in the hospital business and built a new facility.

In 1974, Coy said, county Republicans tried to convince then Novl Councilman Louis Campbell to run against him in the primary election.

Campbell ran instead for state representative in the GOP primary, losing to the eventual winner, Richard D. Fessler, who also captured the state House seat and was re-elected in 1976.

The Novl councilman changed parties three years ago and charged that the county GOP was trying to force Coy out of the party.

When he resigned from the county board 2 1/2 years ago, Coy said he did so to have more stability of employment and be closer to home.

Coy said he didn't feel he could change parties at that time because "I was elected as a Republican by Republicans." He added that he did not run as a Democrat in 1976 because Mrs. Haas "was committed to go and I didn't want to back a life-long Democrat."

"I didn't quit the Republican Party," Coy said last week. "They quit me."

The GOP majority had decided to appoint Murphy as his successor, Coy said, but two Republican commissioners — Mary Dearborn of Bir-

ingham and Robert Button of Royal Oak — changed parties and the county board could not agree on a replacement within the required 90 days.

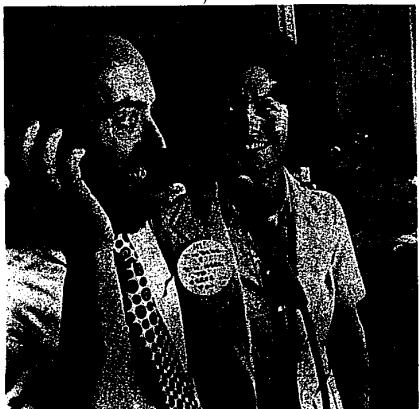
The former commissioner later was re-appointed to the health and hospital boards when Democrats gained control of the board in January, 1976.

Since the 24th commission district (Wixom, Walled Lake, Novi, South Lyon, Lyon, Northville and Farmington Hills) has been represented by a Republican since 1969, Coy said he expects a tough fight to regain the seat.

"I'm gonna have to work hard," he said. "there's no question about that. I figure it will take about 4,000 votes to beat Murphy. I know it's an uphill battle, but it's not impossible."

Among the issues Coy expects to raise in the campaign are county plans for expansion of the Lyon Township landfill, which he opposes; more money for road improvements in southwest Oakland County; and his opponent's attendance record and representation of the district.

"(Murphy) hasn't met with local officials all that much," Coy said, "and I still get several phone calls a month from constituents who still think I represent them."



Paul and DeDe Sowerby were on the air last week with the WXYZ radio sunrise team, thanks to Mrs. Sowerby's winning entry in Dick Puritan's breakfast menu competition.

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

\*PARTY TIME. That is what's going to happen in honor of retiring Farmington Hills Police Sgt. NORM STAINBROOK, who will hang up his holster May 15. He has been with the force since June 1957. He was the department's first juvenile officer. Friends of Stainbrook are invited to a party at Vladimir's, 28125 Grand River, Farmington Hills, at 7 p.m. Thursday. For reservations, call Capt. RUSS CONWAY at 474-2335.

\*GOT A BEEF? Critics and supporters of one of Michigan's most controversial laws will have the opportunity to speak their minds at a public hearing at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the House Chambers in Lansing. The House Consumers Committee has scheduled the public hearing on the two-year-old auto mechanic repair law which has been the source of both praise and condemnation since it was put on the books. A house bill has been introduced which would repeal the entire law. Other proposals have been introduced to change it in some way.

\*AL CARTER, of Farmington Hills, will be this area's representative for the Electronic Representatives Association. It is the largest association of electronic representatives in the business world, with more than 1,400 members. Its purpose is to promote more professionalism and better business practices through manufacturers representatives.

\*HIKING FEVER caught on with Western Michigan University student CAROL SHEA, of Farmington Hills recently. She participated in a week hiking and camping trip through Great Smokey Mountain National Park with 22 other students. Report is that the enthusiasts were undaunted by the three inches of snow and 2 1/2 days of cold rain which plagued the trip. While there were no serious problems, and no one was lost, one group was forced to find shelter in a motel one night when the three-inch snowfall lambasted their campsite. Highlights of the trip included climbing the giant mountain formations known as the Chimneys, sighting numerous deer and wild bear and seeing the many varieties of birds and wild flowers.

\*DAVE KENDALL of Farmington Hills recently returned from a seminar in orientation in Wisconsin Lake, Ind., which was sponsored by the Free Methodist Church of North America. Kendall is a second-year student at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky.

\*CONGRATULATIONS go out to Farmington Hills resident PATRICK PATTON for being chosen as the Summerfield scholar of the year by the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity of Michigan State University. This award is available annually in each of the fraternity's 48 chapters and goes to a member who has achieved an excellent record of scholarship, demonstrated leadership qualities and worthwhile contributions to the University and to

the fraternity. Along with a certificate goes a cash award of \$100. Pat was a member of the honors college and served as staff writer for the undergraduate college of business newsletter, "On Stream."

\*TOM CLINGAN of Farmington Hills, a student at the Michigan School for the Blind, received first place for weaving in the 1978 Youth Talent Exhibit conducted in Lansing.

\*JUNK FOOD JUNKIES start early. Farmington Board of Education members were surprised to hear from a concerned parent that Larshshire Elementary School students are eating lunch at McDonald's these days. It appears some of the kids drop their brown bags off on the lawns of Larshshire's neighbors, and hoof it over to the home of the Big Mac. Administrators informed the board and the parents that the school discouraged the lunchtime activity but can't prohibit it.

\*SPECIAL DAYS ARE coming. The week of May 14-20 is MUNICIPAL CLERKS' WEEK. Also during that week, May 15 is POLICE MEMORIAL DAY. The City of Farmington Public Safety Department plans to hold an open house from May 14-20 to honor Farmington's finest. Tours will be from 2-9 p.m. daily. During the week, the department will allow residents to ride with officers on patrol so that they may have a better understanding of police work. Awards will be presented at 1:30 p.m. May 13. Officers will receive citations for outstanding efforts in contributing to the department's operation during the past year.

\*OTHER DAYS to remember. On May 18, 19 and 20, the POPPY SALE will be conducted by veterans around the city.

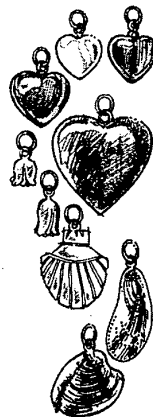
\*INTERESTED IN BOATING? The 1978 Michigan Boating Buyers' Guide has been published by the Michigan Marine Dealers Association and is available to all recreational boating enthusiasts. Articles discuss how to buy a powerboat, or a sailboat, different types of boating insurance, marine safety and trailer towing. Copies may be obtained by writing to the Michigan Marine Dealers Association, 33150 Schoolcraft, Suite 107, Livonia 48150. Enclose \$1 to cover the costs of postage and handling.

\*A NOT SO SUBTLE HINT. The Earl of Sandwich, inventor of the sandwich in 1744, said that sandwiches should be eaten with "a civilized swallow and not a barbarous one."

Remember us at the INSIDE ANGLE, P.O. BOX 69, SOUTHFIELD 48037.

## GIVE MOM YOUR HEART ON A LONG GOLDEN CHAIN.

Mom's already a collector of precious memories. Now start her on a collection of precious ornaments—heart, flowers, shells and more—in coral, mother of pearl, gold filled and other genuine stones. Each \$6. To dangle from a 40" gold-filled chain, \$20. From EVA GRAHAM, in The Woodward Shops, at Northland, Westland, Oakland, Fairlane, Twelve Oaks and Eastland.



HUDSON'S  
MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 14TH