

# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington High recalls the good old days

Even brick and glass high school buildings contain fond and bittersweet memories.

Farmington High School contains 25 years worth of memories. For 25 years the building on Shiawassee housed the dreams and disillusionments of adolescent life. Some of its graduates are gathering together from 8-11 p.m. on Feb. 16 to dance and relive old times in the school cafeteria.

While the school's orchestra plays tunes from the '50s and '60s, graduates will mingle and remember the old days

when the high school was the only one in town and the subdivisions were just beginning to change the face of Farmington.

"When you're the only ones, you can do what you want without having to coordinate it with the other high schools," said a slightly wistful Larry Geiger, the principal of Harrison High School who was Farmington High's principal from 1958-73.

"There wasn't any rivalry between sections of the city then, either," he

said. "You were either from Farmington or you weren't."

Geiger followed Gerald Harrison into the principal's office at Farmington High. Harrison, who later became superintendent of schools, retired in 1957.

Now living in Florida and admittedly enjoying the 70 degree weather and daily swims, Harrison professes fond memories of Farmington High.

"I have lots of memories, all right," he said. "When the school was opened over there, there wasn't a gym. We had to transport kids for physical education to the old junior high school site on Thomas. I remember vividly that it created a few problems," he said.

During his tenure at the school, he saw the building take shape and expand.

"We were always crowded for space. Each year we had more kids and not enough space," he said, recalling a problem long gone from the Farmington School district.

**STUDENT LIFE** was simpler in those days, he remembers.

"Our greatest problem was keeping kids in school," he said. Vocational classes were not as well developed then and many 16-year-olds dropped out of school.

The tide turned in the next two decades. More and more students began studying to attend college instead of planning to take up a trade.

In 1963, about 65 percent of the Farmington High School graduates went on to college. The next year, that figure declined to 52 percent. But in 1974, 58 percent of the graduates went to college.

In 1977 the trend reached its height with 63 percent of Farmington High School graduates attending college. In 1978, about 47 percent of the graduates went on to college.

About 50 percent of the college bound graduates attend a four-year university of a junior college. The remainder went onto training in a trade, according to Clarence Shewbridge, administrative assistant at the school.

Pressure on students to attend college and the status the four-year institution possessed in recent years has died down, according to Shewbridge.

Most students are deciding to work first before attending school. They want to decide more clearly what it is they would like to do with their lives, according to Shewbridge.

"Rather than waste a year of college, they go to work. Wasting a year has become too expensive of an option," he said.

"I would say that the kids are more



Send back your memories to 1956 and the parking lot enough, you just may be able to pick out your own classic auto.

mature in their attitudes toward education in the post-high school years," he observed.

During its 25 years, Farmington High School and its students have seen changes of attitudes which have affected life beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

The post-war baby boom crowded the classrooms and hallways of Farm-

ington High. As Harrison remembers, there didn't seem to be enough room for all the students.

In 1970, just before Harrison High School—which was named after Farmington High's principal—opened, there were between 1,700-1,800 students crammed into the school on Shiawassee.

Since then, the enrollment has dropped. There were about 1,440 students in Farmington High School for the fourth Friday head count for the 1978-79 school year.

As the school's enrollment fluctuated between post-war boom and Zero Population Growth poles, the students were

(Continued on page 6A)



Back in 1959 styles were something on the formal side for students at Farmington High School as is noted by the floor length dress and thin ties.



Gerald Harrison



James Geiger



Gerald Potter

## How artist's pen aids in drawing out criminals

By MARY GNIEWEK

"He was a young guy, average height and weight" is not a surefire description guaranteed to nab an offender, yet victims of violent crimes often use those vague terms to describe a suspect to police.

When Julius Schnoll was murdered

the morning of Jan. 27 at a Great Scott supermarket in Farmington, three store employees witnessed the fatal shooting.

As Farmington police began investigation of its first homicide in 15 years, the witnesses were required to give police a description of the suspects. The

gunman wore a ski mask, but his accent could be identified.

"We have the job of pulling a precise mental picture out of the victim's subconscious," said Lt. John Santomaro. "The mind stores the information, but the witness can't remember it. In this case, the three men were lying on

the floor when a violent act was committed in their presence. It was a traumatic experience."

The witness, two were 27 years old, the other 26, conferred with Michigan State Police Sgt. Gary Powell using the Identikit method, a composite drawing was released the day of the crime.

Identikit is an overlay system of flip charts of basic facial features: eyes, chins, noses, eyebrows, hair and glasses. Other predominant features, like scars, acne, beards and mustaches can be added.

A trained officer can construct a face, feature by feature, until a likeness is agreed upon by all witnesses. The procedure takes only minutes.

**THE COMPOSITE PROVIDES** an illustration for "wanted" posters and newspapers. Police hope the sketch triggers tips from the public, or that the suspect's likeness jars a police officer's memory.

Santomaro said Farmington might lease the system, which costs \$300 a year. Meanwhile, Farmington Hills and the Michigan State Police lease Identikit and Farmington has access to both departments.

Though Santomaro favors Identikit over other sketching methods, it isn't the only alternative. Last Tuesday, police released to the media an artist's drawing of the suspect. It was done by a state police artist in Lansing.

"We had trouble identifying youthful characteristics with the composite. The puberty moustache came out better on the drawing, also the youthfulness of the face."

"The key difference is that Identikit gives more diversity of facial features and it's faster," Santomaro continued. "And the drawing depends totally on the artist's ability. It took a few hours before all three witnesses felt comfortable with the drawing."

Both suspects are described as white males, between 18 and 19 years old, 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 9 inches tall, 125 to 135 pounds. The murder suspect had a hillbilly accent, his accomplice was

soft spoke.

**POLICE HOPE** a \$10,000 reward program, announced in conjunction with the release of the new drawing, will prompt more tips and lead to the suspects' arrest.

If that doesn't work, there's a third alternative. Lt. Santomaro said the department will use a hypnotist employed by the state police to produce a more vivid description of the suspects.

"With hypnotism, a lapse in time is not important. We had a state trooper involved in a case in Lansing five years ago. Under hypnosis recently, he was able to give vivid recall of the incident. He even remembered there was a passenger in the car with the driver, some-

thing he never mentioned in normal recollection.

"The only danger is what the victim might put in his subconscious to taint or effect the image. Police have to be very careful not to slip ideas into the victim's memory. To convince them the suspect had brown eyes, for example."

"The advantage is that people choose to forget or repress unpleasant experiences, which resurface under hypnosis."

The Farmington police department has received more than 500 tips on the Schnoll case to date.

"I'll take help from anywhere," Santomaro said. "I'm open-minded."

## Tonight's council meet

- FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL**  
31555 Eleven Mile  
7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 12
- Public Hearings.
    - Cost hearing for sewer in Greening and Eastfield.
    - Consideration of vacation of Collax in section 22, from Halsted to about 1,874 feet east.
    - Consideration of vacation of a portion of King William in Dunbar Oaks subdivision.
  - Unfinished business
    - Consideration of Resolution to set a date for public hearing for the vacating of Tulipwood.
    - Consideration of resolution to rescind previous action to close Tulipwood.
    - Consideration of increasing Industrial Development Revenue Bonds for Greycor Corp. from \$1,200,000 to \$1,700,000.
    - New business
      - Consideration of final plat approval for Hunters Pointe plats 1 and 2. One consists of 59 lots; 2 consists of 42 lots. Both are in section 5. Escrow set at \$23,000 and completion date to be set by council.
      - Consideration of PUD agreement for Hunters Pointe Subdivision 1 and 2.
      - Consideration of final plat approval for Dunbar Oaks 2, 14 lots, section 8. Escrow set at \$28,066 and completion date of July 1, 1979.

- Consideration of PUD agreement for Dunbar Oaks agreement.
- Consideration of amendment to agreement in reference to consent judgement for Farmington Freeway Industrial Park South.
- Consideration of resolution supporting county collection of personal property taxes.
- Consideration of budget resolution releasing funds from equipment reserve account.
- Consideration of resolution reserving interest income for fire station land acquisition.
- Consideration of resolution implementing provisions of act 500, PA 1978; investments of city funds.
- Consideration of resolution amending 1978-79 general fund budget.
- Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance regarding civil fines for under 21-year-old drivers.
- Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance regarding liquor regulations for persons under 21-year-old.
- Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance regarding driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance regarding subdivision of land.
- Consideration of establishing review fee for the engineering division for the proposed, division of unplatted land ordinance.

- Consideration of awarding bid for sign truck and resolution for the transfer of funds.
- Consideration of providing snow removal service for Hillwood Court.
- Consideration of adopting traffic control order for Scotten at Willow Lane and List at Willow Lane in Meadowbrook Heights Subdivision.
- Consideration of traffic control order prohibiting left turns for southbound Middlebelt at the driveway of Our Lady of Mercy High School.
- Consideration of proclamation for Jaycee Week, Feb. 11-17.
- Consideration of ballot question for senior citizen housing.
- Consideration of setting date for cost hearing in reference to a sewer for Stockton from Middlebelt to end of supervisor's Middlebelt Ten Mile Road plat.
- Consideration of setting date for cost hearing regarding a sewer in Old Homestead subdivision.
- Consideration of setting date for cost hearing regarding sewer for Randall, Folsom and River Glen near Eight Mile.
- Consideration of setting date for a necessary hearing for water and sewer on Haggerty north of Eight Mile to about Nine and one half Mile.
- Consideration of preliminary plat for Ramblewood 5 in section 5. There are 38 lots. The proponent is Uniland Corp.
- Consideration of amended PRD for Ramblewood.

## Jewell chorale concert spring schedule is set

The Kenneth Jewell Chorale, an ensemble of musicians under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Jewell, plan 12 concerts and recording appearances in the next five months.

The Chorale will present a formal concert at Macomb Community College tonight, Feb. 12.

March dates include two appearances with Antal Dorati and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in the performance of the Richard Strauss opera "Elektra" on March 15 and 17 at Ford Auditorium.

(Continued on page 6A)

### inside

At your leisure Community calendar Inside Angles Monday's Commentary Suburban Life Sports	7A 4B 3A 3B Section B Section C
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**BE MY VALENTINE**

You remember the days of sitting in a classroom making hearts for mom and dad. For a day of nostalgia, turn to Page 4A and see how the students feel about making those Valentines today.