

# Farmington Observer

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## Police nab 2 suspects in diamond heist

### Drawings aid search

By STEVE BARNABY  
Farmington Editor

A tip from an anonymous phone caller has led to the arrest of two suspects in a \$120,000 Farmington jewelry store robbery.

Arraigned in 47th District Court Wednesday were Pamela Ann Schannault, 18, and Delford Holcomb, 23, both of Westland. Miss Schannault was released on a \$50,000 bond. Holcomb was placed in Oakland County Jail after failing to make a \$100,000 bond placed by District Judge Michael Hand.

A trial date is yet to be set. A third suspect has volunteered to turn himself into Farmington Police today. He is yet to be identified.

Police received the phone call after composite drawings appeared on a local television station Monday.

The robbery took place last Friday about 8:30 p.m. at the Diamond Boutique, 37105 Grand River, in the Kmart shopping center.

Stolen were 200 diamonds. Police believe they have recovered all of the stolen merchandise.

Composite drawings were made after police talked with the five persons in the store during the time of the hold-up. Two were customers and three were employees.

Persons robbing the store were armed with .25 caliber automatic handguns, according to police. After entering the store, they made customers and employees lay on the floor while they filled a bag with the diamonds.

Witnesses said the man robbing the store had visited earlier that evening. At that time he claimed he was interested in purchasing a diamond.

This is the second largest jewelry robbery in Farmington's history. The largest took place at Duquet Jewelers in 1976 when \$200,000 worth of jewelry was stolen. Most of it was recovered. Duquet has been victimized twice in as many years.



These composite drawings obtained from witnesses at the robbery scene led to a call from an anonymous source. Police later arrested



two suspects. The composites had appeared on local television news broadcasts.

## Officials say yes

### State hotels safe from fire?

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY  
and C.J. RISAK

Hotel fires, like the one which ravaged a Holiday Inn in Cambridge, Ohio recently, need not be a fear of hotels in Farmington.

Nine persons died and 79 others were injured in the Cambridge fire, but Farmington officials claim that could never happen in Michigan, which has more stringent building codes than Ohio.

Michigan follows the Building Official and Code Administration (BOCA) Basic Building Code, adopted in 1973. The code requires hotels to be equipped with sprinkling systems, smoke detectors, emergency lighting, fire-fighting equipment, well-marked exits and self-closing doors.

The Botsford Inn, on Grand River in Farmington Hills, surpasses state regulations, according to innkeeper John Anhut.

"We are in complete compliance because we have a complete sprinkler system," Anhut said. "It goes everywhere, throughout the entire building."

In addition, the sprinkler system is hooked into its own water line, directly off the main Grand River interceptor. No other water lines feed off Botsford's

line, ensuring ample water and water pressure for the system.

"Other people get into trouble relying on smoke alarm systems," Anhut said. "Something can go wrong with any system, but if something goes wrong with our system an alarm sounds."

THE BOTSFORD'S SYSTEM is inspected four times a year by an independent company, in addition to the once-a-year inspections by the Farmington Hills fire department. The Viking Fire Protection Company specializes in designing protection systems.

With such an elite system, fire detectors are not needed, according to

Anhut. "They aren't required," he said.

The Farmington Holiday Inn follows all regulations, according to manager Joel Yoder. In addition, Yoder says all rooms are constructed out of concrete to protect occupants from flames.

All other codes are followed, he said. Two methods endorsed by the fire department are a stand pipe system, which allows fire fighters to hook their hoses into a water supply in the hotel, and the self-closing doors, which prevents fires from spreading.

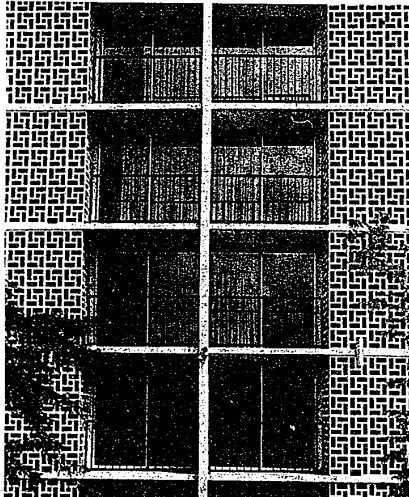
One of the problems in the Cambridge fire was the use of Lexan, instead of glass, windows. Lexan is a tough, clear plastic which seals in air conditioning and provides additional

security. But it can be dangerous in a fire.

"You need an ax or a saw to break it," said Richard Miller of the Farmington Hills Building and Zoning department. "It's good security, but in a fire it's not so good."

The Farmington Holiday Inn uses glass windows instead of the Lexan. However, Miller says some of the plastic-based interior decorations hotels have can be dangerous if a fire starts.

The yearly fire department inspections make sure hotels are following all codes, according to Farmington Hills Fire Chief John Van De Voort. The department investigates all complaints as they are received, he said.



Windows like these at Farmington Hills Holiday Inn have been deemed safe in case escape from fire is necessary. These windows are made of conventional glass. Some motels have windows composed of a plastic substance which is nearly impossible to break. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Popular with thieves: Bikes and spoked hubs

Bicycles, spoked car hubcaps and CB radios are the most popular items in Farmington — at least among thieves.

That's the word from city of Farmington Police Chief Dan Byrnes, who presented the 1979 second quarterly report at this week's council session.

Bikes, especially, are hot items with thefts up 270 percent this year. Through June 26 bicycles had been stolen. Of that total, 14 were stolen in June. Last year only seven bicycles had been stolen through the second quarter.

Hubcaps and CB radios are lumped in with larceny of motor vehicle parts and accessories. Year-to-date, 73 such incidents have been reported, seven in the month of June. Last year, 45 incidents were reported.

A total of 48 larcenies took place in Farmington during June, with 212 incidents reported since the beginning of

the year. Last year 165 incidents were reported through June.

Five aggravated assaults have been reported this year, compared to none last year. Burglaries have dipped from 38 this year, down from 48 last year, a reduction of 21 percent.

Motor vehicle thefts are up from 11 to 14, according to the report.

Assault and battery cases have risen from 13 last year to 26 this year, with four occurring in June. Fraud cases have risen from 21 last year to 31 this year.

Byrnes expressed satisfaction with the Farmington traffic accident statistics, noting that no fatalities have been reported this year and injury accidents are down by 1 percent. Property damage accidents are down 4 percent and private property accidents are down 16 percent.

Number of persons injured are down 4 percent and the total of all accidents is down 6 percent for the same period in 1978.

In numbers, 356 accidents occurred through June 1978, as compared to 332 this year. Injury accident victims dipped from 90 last year to 86 this year.

The total number of fire runs is up 55 percent, 107 runs during the first six months of 1979 as opposed to 69 in 1978. Actual fires are up 79 percent, 86 this year, 48 last year, according to Byrnes.

The largest increase was in the number of outdoor fires, 56 in 1979 and 19 in 1978.

Of the actual fire runs, 65 percent were out on arrival, 16 percent were extinguished by patrol and 18 percent extinguished by pumps.

## Federal energy guideline a costly challenge for city

Meeting President Jimmy Carter's energy guidelines can be something of a challenge.

Take the case of the city of Farmington. It voted this week to hire an architectural firm to complete an energy and building comfort review of all municipal buildings.

Cost of the study will be \$40 an hour, not to exceed \$2,000.

"We have attempted to comply with the presidential guidelines by setting all thermostats at 78 degrees," City

Manager Bob Deadman told the council this week.

But since the thermostats are located in the central portion of the building, they don't respond to temperature changes in the western portion of the building, he said.

"The older portion of the municipal building wasn't designed with either energy conservation or employee comfort in mind," said Deadman.

The large areas of plain glass located on the exterior wall on the north-

west portion of the building have made the building difficult to heat and cool since its construction, he said.

"Employees who work in the offices along the western portion of the building find that they are normally required to work in offices which are either extremely hot or extremely cool."

"Employees of certain portions of the building must work in the mid to high 50s on winter mornings. In the afternoons, when the sun shines through the windows, the temperatures goes up to 80 degrees.

"During the summer, the temperatures of these offices are normally several degrees hotter than the remaining portion of the building," he said.

The architectural firm, Lane, Riebe and Welland, has been hired by the Southfield and Westland school districts to do the same kind of study as proposed in Farmington.

"As a result of this firm's study, many of their recommendations have been implemented in the various school buildings," he said.

The firm will study construction and insulating values, with consideration given to glass areas, wall insulation, location of thermostats and heating plants, according to Deadman.

Weather stripping and air infiltration also will be studied. After making the study, the firm's recommendations will be presented to city council for consideration.

## State AFA president in D.C. for meeting

James Trew of Farmington Hills, vice president of the Michigan State Air Force Association (AFA), participated in the 15th annual AFA State President's Orientation in Washington, D.C., July 28.

The meeting gave state presidents a chance to exchange ideas among themselves and with the Association's national staff, said Gerald V. Hasler, AFA National President.

Briefings by Association officials covered communications, finances, legislation, membership fulfillment, insurance, the upcoming national convention, the Association's monthly AIR FORCE Magazine, and the Aerospace

Education Foundation, a nonprofit, unendowed affiliate of AFA.

In addition, the AFA leaders were briefed by Major General Charles C. Blanton, Director of the Air Force Office of Legislative Liaison, Edgar Ulmer, Senior Editor of AIR FORCE Magazine and Special Assistant to AFA's Executive Director for Policy, and General H.J. Dalton, Jr., Air Force Director of Information, was keynote.

Trew represented Howard Strand, recently reelected Michigan AFA president. As state president Strand oversees 11 AFA chapters and more than 1,700 members.

## Civics first at Olivet

Diane Kangas of Farmington Hills recently participated in the 39th American Legion Auxiliary Civics State program held June 16 to 24 on the Olivet College Campus in Olivet.

"Girls State is designed to emphasize the importance of government through actual participation in the political and governmental process."

"Upon arrival at Girls State, each girl is assigned to a mythical political party, a county and a city. The citizens nominate, elect and appoint girls to various city, county and state offices. Ms. Kangas was elected to the county board of commissioners during her stay.

She lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kangas, at 32025 Hall.

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