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Festival treasurer vows payback

By MARY GNIEWEK

The treasurer of the 1980 Farmington Founders Festival committee has admitted to the Farmington Chamber of Commerce executive board that he pocketed \$7,000 of the committee's funds last year.

The treasurer, Fred Huber Jr. of Farmington, has made arrangements with the festival committee to repay those funds within two weeks in one lump sum.

"The funds will be borrowed by a third party and returned," Huber said. "I want it all cleared up and taken care of."

No criminal charges will be filed against Huber, according to Don Harms, attorney for the chamber.

The chamber of commerce oversees the festival committee's finances, although it's not directly involved in the festival's budgeting.

The two groups are separate corporations.

The festival committee, a voluntary group of local citizens, worked with a budget of about \$20,000 last year, Harms said.

Huber, a member of the Farmington area Jaycees, claims he borrowed the money for a specific purpose which he refused to disclose. He says he always intended to pay it back.

Three weeks ago, Huber announced his intentions for restitution to his attorney, Jim Mitchell.

Huber tried to borrow the funds from the Liberty Bank in Redford Township where he was employed as manager.

That loan was denied and Huber's job was terminated.

"THIS IS A terrible shock," said Leon Serdynski, vice president of Metro Bank of Farmington and Huber's former employer.

Huber worked as a teller at Metro Bank for 2 1/2 years before moving to Liberty Bank. Serdynski, formerly treasurer of the Founder's Festival committee, recommended Huber as his replacement halfway through preparations for Festival '79.

"I had no reason to question his integrity," Serdynski said. "He was doing a good job at the bank and I thought it was a good way for him to get to know the community."

The Founder's Festival, an institution in Farmington for years, is a celebrated week of fireworks, a parade, beauty pageant and special events each July.

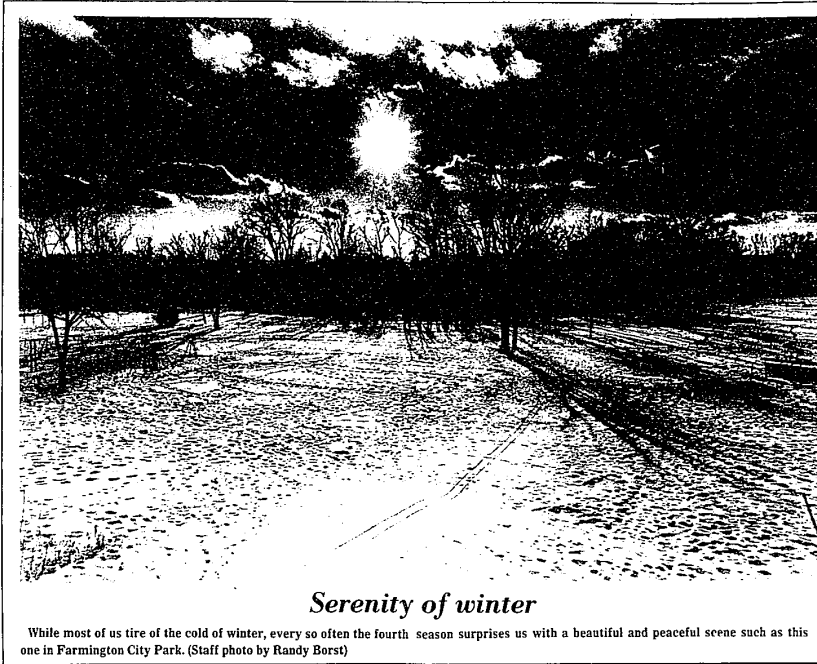
An audit is now under way for the first time in the festival's history by Charles Williams, a certified public accountant and member of the chamber's executive board.

The committee has had financial problems for years, although this is the first case of mishandling of funds to surface.

Last year the committee was faced with a \$6,000 deficit from the two previous festivals.

"It's only been in 1980 that there was any mishandling of funds at all," Harms said.

He doesn't believe it will hurt the committee's reputation.



Serenity of winter

White most of us tire of the cold of winter, every so often the fourth season surprises us with a beautiful and peaceful scene such as this one in Farmington City Park. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

'Welcome Home'

Songwriter pens hostage ballad

Two Christmas Eves had fallen
Since we'd seen your face
America no longer shadowing
disgrace

Those amber waves of grain
Almost disappeared
Except in the families
Whose eyes had teared

What a tragedy how we had
lost the upper hand
No more mockery since we had
met with their demands
Now you're free from the chains
of stone
Never gonna see another night
alone
So welcome home
Welcome home

Your withered souls held hos-
tage
Under lock and key
Thirsting for freedom
To regain your sanity

Where were they hiding you
How did you survive
Your country wondered
Were you dead or alive

Like wounded eagles stranded
On the edge of time
Seeking shelter
Far away from the crime
You spread your wings like he-
roes
Through perilous flight
With help of heavenly sunlight

By CRAIG PIECHURA

In the wake of the American hostages' safe return from their 14-month imprisonment in Iran we are inundated with information and products about them.

One fully expects to see American postage trading cards advertised with the announcer advising us to "Collect all 52."

Knowing the amount of exploitation about the hostages, Tim Pastor, 21, of Berkley College of Music, said the plight of the 52 captives became something very personal to almost every American back home.

Pastor, who is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music and the Berkley College of Music, said the plight of the 52 captives became something very personal to almost every American back home.

Before Christmas he decided to write a song that evoked the "patriot" of the national dilemma, "not another 'Bomb Iran' sentiment which is understandable but not right."

He cut a rough demo copy of the song in December that was entitled "Bring Them Home." Steve Edwards, a disc jockey at WTWR heard the demo and directed Pastor to Jerry Silecchia, president of Ambience Recordings in Farmington for professional guidance.

recording session and lined up a West Bloomfield jazz/rock group called "Orange Lake Drive" to back up Pastor on his record. Pastor went to work rewriting the lyrics putting his thoughts in past tense.

"I heard about the song from Steve (Edwards, the disc jockey), who said it has merit but needs to put together properly," Silecchia said.

They worked incredibly fast to get the record out. The music was cut on Saturday, Jan. 17 and the final vocal tracks were added the following Tuesday.

They finished the recording at 2:55 p.m. and by 5 that afternoon the song was being aired on WTWR. Callers wanted to know where they could get the record and Pastor had to tell them there weren't any pressed yet. Three days later Pastor was back from Nashville with 1,000 copies of the record. They're available at Harmony House Records.

"IF THE record sells, it's great," Pastor says. "But all the experience I've gotten and the joy I've received from the people who've heard it is worth the investment I made. Nothing cost astronomical. It's like a gift to the hostages and it costs money for a gift."

Pastor drove to the Subic home Thursday afternoon to give the family a copy of his record. Subic's father, Joseph Sr., accepted the record but explained that he could not invite Pastor in because they were packing to leave for the ticker-tape parade in New York City Friday. Pastor has never met his distant relative Joseph Subic, Jr.

Copies of the record will also be sent to the other 51 hostages released Jan. 20 and Richard Queen, who was released last year because of his multiple sclerosis illness.

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Register dealers

Lawmakers launch battle on theft

By MARY GNIEWEK

Legislation that would crack down on the increasing number of thefts involving gold jewelry has broad bi-partisan support in Lansing.

House Bill 4014, sponsored by state Rep. Ruth McNamee, R-Birmingham, and co-sponsored by Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, would require dealers to register with local police departments if they deal in receiving precious metals.

The bill, which is now in the House Consumers Committee, would require identification of the person selling the jewelry, paying the seller by check instead of cash, and a holding period of 48 hours to permit recovery by law enforcement agencies of stolen goods.

It's aimed at closing the market to thieves who steal jewelry, then sell it for quick cash at minimal risk.

"Because gold and silver are more valuable now than ever before on the spot market, everyday advertisements promise 'instant cash' without questions," Brotherton said.

"The ease with which thieves are able to sell their stolen property has contributed to the rise of burglaries."

Break-ins where precious metals were stolen jumped 84 percent from 1979 to 1980 in Michigan. In the first half of 1979, more than \$6 million of gold and silver were reported stolen. That figure jumped to more than \$11 million in the first half of 1980.

"AS LONG AS it's easy to turn the goods into cash, we're not going to get rid of the problem," McNamee said.

She cited the confession of a 19-year-old youth who made \$30,000 by selling jewelry he stole to gold dealers who never asked for his identification.

"The bill is intended to crack this fencing business," she said. "The rate of break-ins across the state is unbelievable."

McNamee began working on the legislation a year ago, when law enforcement officers in her district made her aware of the problem.

She has since talked to dozens of independent jewelers, attorneys, local chambers of commerce and the Michigan Merchants Association.

Brotherton joined forces with McNamee last September after Farmington jeweler Allen Duquet asked for assistance in fighting disreputable dealers.

"The ease with which thieves are able to sell their stolen property has contributed to the rise of burglaries"

— Sandy Brotherton, state rep.

"People who operate illegal outfits aren't paying the same value that an honest jeweler would pay," Brotherton said.

"These fly-by-night operations pay a fraction of the original worth. The person can get a couple of other appraisals, but if they stole it, they'll take the money and run."

"Some of these people go back to the same shop week after week with materials they've stolen," Brotherton continued.

"Any normal businessman would begin to get suspicious. How many grandmothers can you have?"

DUQUET, OWNER OF jewelry stores in Farmington and Sterling Heights, noticed the trend more than a year ago.

"I started to be bothered by the way gold and silver was being bought by pawn shops and department stores. Kids 14, 15 and 16 years old would sell jewelry — questions asked. That rubbed me wrong way," said Duquet.

"We buy gold off our own customers. If a deal doesn't seem legitimate, we call the police."

"We closed the books on one robbery after another. One was a multimillion dollar tri-state jewelry robbery ring. I got to thinking, if we were closing the books and we don't even advertise that we buy gold, what about coin shops and other places which advertise?"

McNamee held a press conference Tuesday morning in Lansing to draw more attention to the bill, which she is confident will pass this legislative session.

Brotherton predicts the bill will pass the House by the end of February and be enacted into law this spring.

"It has support and is a high priority obviously," Brotherton said. "The opposition is from fly-by-night operators only."



Tim Pastor records his tribute to the hostages at the Ambience studios in Farmington Hills. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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It's moving day for the Travel page. Iris Sanderson Jones, contributing travel editor whose columns regularly appear in the Monday Observer & Eccentric, has a new home beginning with Thursday's editions of the paper. Ms. Jones will continue to write of the world beyond suburbia while following new twists and turns and trends in the travel industry. See you Thursday.