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Postal workers gathered at the Farmington Hills post office last week to seek public support in contract negotiations with the Postal Service.

Marching Postal workers seek support from public

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Postal carriers and clerks picketed the Farmington Hills Post Office Thursday to announce their labor status to customers.

The informational picket was repeated at post offices across the U.S. as a statement by members of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the American Postal Workers Union who say they want a fair contract before July 20.

That's the date their current three-year pact expires.

"We feel by bringing this to public attention, it will put pressure on the postal service to stop stonewalling," said Anita Guzik, president of Local 4570, which covers Farmington, Walled Lake, Novi, South Lyon and Brighton.

"We're not thinking of a strike. All of our ambitions are aimed at getting a fair contract."

Negotiations originally scheduled to begin April 22 were delayed when the U.S. Postal Service filed a petition and an appeal with the National Labor Relations Board challenging the bargain-

ing unit status of the postal unions, Guzik said.

The NLRB ordered both sides back to the bargaining table on June 16.

"THAT LEAVES US three weeks to hammer out a three-year agreement for the whole country," Guzik said. "But I think if both parties are willing, a good contract can be hammered out."

The major issue will be cost of living rolled into the salary package, Guzik said.

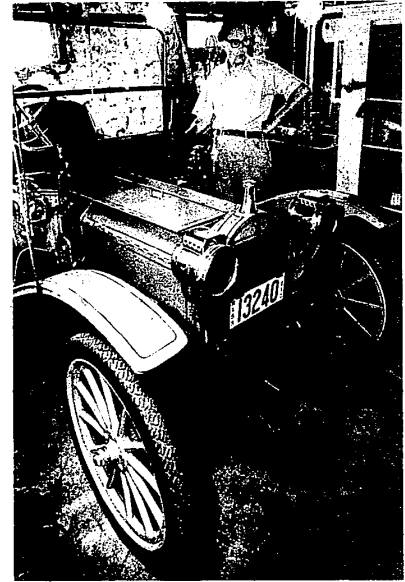
"Our demands are very reasonable," she said.

Thirty postal employees carried signs and marched for an hour while customers continued their transactions at the office, 32455 Twelve Mile, east of Farmington Road.

The workers passed out flyers explaining their action to passersby. In part, the flyer said, "We are asking for understanding of our postal patrons in our endeavor to achieve a fair contract."

The postal workers union and the letter carriers association have a combined membership of 500,000 across the country.

Mechanical prowess helps Collection reflects auto history



Bill Flora, a member of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission, stands next to his 1910 Hippomobile, one of his many restored cars.

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Bill Flora parks his Pontiac Sunbird and American Motors Hornet in the driveway even though he has a four-car garage.

The garage is reserved for four of his five cars. The fifth, a 1910 Hippomobile, is in the basement.

Flora, a member of the Farmington Hills Historic Commission, has been collecting old cars and restoring them for more than 20 years.

The first one he bought (with an income tax refund check) was a 1924 Model T Sedan. That was in 1957.

"In those days, only antique car enthusiasts were buying," he said. "Today, professionals are buying them for monetary reasons."

Flora calls himself an amateur restorer and says he can't compete with the professional restorers.

"I do all the engine and body work myself," he says.

A total restoration project takes up to six years, depending on the rarity of the car.

"I look for parts or make the parts, paying slowly over the years," he said. "I've always been a mechanic."

His current collection includes a 1932 Plymouth Roadster, a 1918 Oakland, a 1941 Buick Coupe, and a 1925 Buick Sedan purchased at auction and the only vehicle awaiting restoration.

FLORA'S HOBBY doesn't stop with old cars; he collects anything associated with them.

In his farmhouse, built by one of the original settlers of Farmington in 1840, Flora has collections of car banks, car models, car card games made by Parkers Brothers in the 1940s through 1965, and liquor bottles in the shape of antique car models.

His memorabilia includes horns, license plates, pictures, car magazines, parts (including a solid brass carburetor) and an old gas pump bought from a farmer.

Most of the collection was acquired at flea markets across the country, including an annual 10,000 vendor, three day affair in Hershey, Pa.

"It takes three days just to look at all the parts," he said.

He also swaps parts with other collectors.

Flora's cars occupy much of his time away from West Bloomfield High School, where he is plant engineer.

Saturday he drives in the Wheels of Freedom parade, part of the Detroit/Windsor Freedom Festival, and Sunday he took part in an old car show at the Slocane Historic Museum in Flint.

He is also preparing for the 31st annual Veteran Motor Car Club tour scheduled for July in Indiana. Flora is tour chairman and 71 antique cars

His current collection includes a 1932 Plymouth Roadster, a 1918 Oakland, a 1941 Buick Coupe, and a 1925 Buick Sedan purchased at auction and the only vehicle awaiting restoration.

ranging from a 1906 to a 1950 are scheduled to take part.

"AT FIRST, small chapters would have picnic runs. Now collecting is a large business," he said.

Flora buys his cars from auctions or antique car dealers.

"Rarely do you find the old car in a barn anymore," he said.

Many parts for old cars are being produced today as precisely as they were manufactured a half century ago, like the kerosene sideights which adorn the 1919 Hippomobile.

"Gas lights were popular on cars through 1911," he said. "In 1912, the first electric starter and first electric lights were introduced with the Cadillac. Other companies quickly followed suit."

The basement is the site of all Flora's restoration projects. A sloping ramp and garage door provide easy access from driveway to basement. In winter, he stores three cars in the house.

"I won't have anything unless it's rare," he says. "I don't want to drive in a parade and have twenty other cars like mine."

The Oakland, for example, isn't a popular antique car because of its poor design, he said.

"Most were junked before they reached 10,000 miles."

Flora purchased the car in 1959 after it was condemned by the City of Detroit as it rested on concrete blocks in an old garage even rejected by the Detroit Historical Museum.

"It had 741 miles on it," he said. "When I restored it, I changed the original factory oil, which was gummed and caked up."

The car now has clocked 3,600 miles. Flora won't take it on long runs because it requires maintenance about every 50 miles. On its running board are cans for oil, gas and water and a place for tire pumps.

One of the reasons old cars hold up so well is that road salt wasn't used widespread until after World War Two.

"It would be nearly impossible to restore a contemporary car exposed to road salt," he said.

A collection of Flora's car related memorabilia on display inside the Farmington Hills City Hall complex, Eleven Mile at Orchard Lake Road.



Selma Goode (left) marches through Farmington with Marsha Lester. They were on their way to Lansing to protest welfare payment cuts.

Mothers' march protests cuts in welfare pay

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Twenty mothers, some accompanied by children, marched through Farmington Thursday on their way to Lansing to protest welfare cuts and demand more jobs.

Selma Goode, a Redford Township woman, said the marchers are members of the West Side Mothers Organization, a welfare rights group.

The pilgrimage began last Wednesday near Grand River and Oakman in Detroit and will culminate with a noon rally tomorrow at the state capitol.

Churches and other religious institutions, including Mercy Center in Farmington Hills, provided food and overnight lodging. Farmington Hills police gave the marchers a motorcycle escort through town, sometimes cheering them on with encouraging words.

"Everyone has been great to us," Goode said.

A few women unable to walk the full 98-mile journey followed along

side in a van, walking and resting at intervals.

Mothers and children walked side-by-side carrying signs.

"We're protesting the disastrous cuts Gov. Milliken has made in the welfare system," Goode said. "Up until a week ago, there was an 18 percent cut, which left mothers with less money than they got in 1979."

"WHEN YOU ADD inflation, it's difficult for a family to survive."

She described the average welfare family as a unit of three persons living on \$368 a month.

"With the cost of rent, heat and electricity going up, in order to keep up, there's no money left for anything else."

"Our intention is to notify the legislature."

Milliken's assurance that there will be no further welfare cuts this year isn't good enough, she said.

"He's got to find more money in the budget."

Thousands of demonstrators arriving by bus are scheduled to meet the walking mothers in time for Tuesday's rally in Lansing.

Oakway elects new officers

At its annual meeting at Botsford Inn, Oakway Symphony Society elected a new slate of officers. Dick Thompson of Milford, provost of the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College, was elected president.

Loraine Piteak of Farmington Hills, a Detroit elementary teacher, and Priscilla Marino of Bloomfield Hills, vice president of Advance Data Control, were elected as vice presidents. Nelda

Di Biasi of Livonia will continue as executive director, and outgoing president Ivabell Harlan of Bloomfield Hills will serve as president emeritus.

The office of treasurer will be held by Ruth Africh of Southfield. The offices of recording secretary and corresponding secretary will be held by Bob Bolwood and Mrs. V. Daniel of Southfield, respectively.

Man arraigned in coin robbery

A Detroit man was charged Wednesday with armed robbery in the June 22 hold up of the Farmington Assay Office, 31623 Grand River.

Willie Woodrow Jones, of 1971 Calvert, stood mute in Farmington 47th District Court before Judge Michael J. Hand, who entered a plea of not guilty for the suspect.

He is charged with armed robbery and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Jones was picked up without incident at his Detroit home on Tuesday night by Farmington investigators.

He is being held without bond in the Oakland County jail pending a pretrial

examination scheduled Wednesday at 2 p.m. before Hand.

Two men were involved in the Farmington coin store robbery, in which \$18,200 was reported stolen. The incident took place about 10:30 a.m.

Police tracked Jones through descriptions from witnesses and a tip from Warren police, who experienced an almost identical coin store robbery there recently.

Jones awaits trial in the Warren case. Extradition has been authorized for Jones to stand trial on armed robbery charges in Joliet, Ill.

Police are still searching for the second suspect.

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EARLY DEADLINES

The Observer's Economic Newsletters will be closed on Friday, July 3, 1981.

Our classifieds rates will be open Wednesday and Thursday for placing your classified ads in the Monday issue, July 6, 1981.

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