

## 'Gold' laws reaction is mixed

By Craig Piechura  
staff writer

Last Thursday marked the advent of Michigan's new Precious Metals Act, a law designed to make it tougher to redeem stolen valuables and easier for police to trace the transaction.

Reaction from the first two businesses in Farmington to apply for a special license from the police department to buy precious items ranged from enthusiastic support for the law to lukewarm acceptance.

Allen DuQuet, 30, owner of DuQuet Jewelers, 31620 Grand River, Farmington, went in a day early to pick up a certificate of registration from the Farmington Police. DuQuet lobbied for the bill's passage in the state Legislature and even testified in its behalf before a state committee.

"I absolutely guarantee you will see a drop in the theft of personal jewelry items," DuQuet said. "It'll be an incredible drop."

"Obviously, the underworld and professional (theft) rings will continue but the law will definitely put the little guy or the spur-of-the-moment crook out of business. Those guys will have second thoughts about signing their name and leaving their driver's license number. That's like signing their own arrest warrant."

A less-enthusiastic endorsement of the law comes from the second dealer to register, representatives of the Farmington Assay Office.

"It hurts the little old lady who wants to sell a piece of jewelry or silver or gold," said Vincent Martini, manager of the Farmington Assay Office. "She has to give her fingerprint like a common old thief. And that little old lady might resent it and decide not to do business with us."

"An easier way to go about it would be if that little old lady wanted to sell her stuff she could have taken it to the police station first to be checked out to see if it was stolen. The police could have given her a pink slip entitling her to sell it."

AS THE LAW now stands, Martini said, dealers are forced to compile reams of paperwork for recordkeeping, a function he feels police should perform.

Farmington Hills police have not yet issued a license for anyone to buy or receive precious metals or gems in that city.

Coin D'Or Jewelry Co. representative Armen Guldalian said he wouldn't don't buy; we don't deal in those type of goods."

Gita Griesdorf at Greis Jewelers wasn't aware that the new law had gone into effect but said "very seldom" does the store buy used jewelry or precious metals.

Under the law a dealer is guilty of a maximum two-year felony and is fined \$5,000 if he:

- fails to obtain a valid certificate of registration from police.
- fails to keep an item on hand in an unaltered state for at least seven days after it is received.
- fails to record a precious metal or gem transaction on a form specified under law.
- buys goods from someone under the age of 18 or someone the dealer knows has been convicted of theft or receiving stolen property in the past five years.
- receives or purchases a precious item without asking the other party to produce a valid driver's license or Michigan personal identification card.



R.S. WILSON/staff photographer

Allen DuQuet (left), owner of DuQuet Jewelers, buys gold from Mark Ruckowski.

Dealers can face felony charges on the above infractions on their first offense and be prohibited from acting as a dealer for five years.

The act allows persons whose goods are stolen to be reimbursed for triple the amount of damages, court costs and attorney fees. To be liable, dealers must know the goods they received were stolen, embezzled or converted.

Robert Seifert, Farmington police safety director, said the thing he likes about the law is that dealers must describe the goods they buy in the forms they drop off within 48 hours of the transaction.

"ALL THAT identification required by the act is going to help," Seifert said. "Plus the fact that dealers can't trade with minors and that the person must produce a photo I.D."

The experience of Farmington Police, Seifert said, has been that the majority of jewelry, coin and silver and gold theft has been done by young persons.

"Our experience indicates younger people have been committing the bulk of residential burglaries, taking precious metals and jewels and disposing of them very quickly," Seifert said. "Unscrupulous dealers were melting it down quickly."

Minors are prohibited from selling jewelry or precious metals under the new law.

Items excluded from the law's jurisdiction include coins, medals and tokens, bullion bars, scrap metal, industrial machinery, jewelry without a serial mark or jewelry bought for less than \$5.

## 'Maybe will, maybe won't', says Headlee

By Mary Lou Callaway  
special writer

If the situation is right, Richard Headlee says he will run for governor next year.

"But I don't lust for public office," said the author of the tax limitation amendment passed in 1978 which bears his name.

Headlee denies his group of Republican big name conservatives, known as Michigan Citizens Supporting the President, is a stalking horse for his own possible gubernatorial campaign.

If that were the case, Headlee told a group of West Bloomfield Republican Club members last week, he "would form a Dick Headlee for Governor Committee."

THE UNSPOKEN "if" for all possible candidates is whether William G. Milliken, governor since 1969, decides by January to seek a fourth term.

Headlee's statewide name recognition ranks as high as Milliken's or tax-cut crusader Robert Tisch because of the passage of the Headlee tax limitation amendment three years ago.

But Headlee claims, "Tisch could win the 1982 Democratic primary (for governor) and we Republicans can beat him. He's a different kind of guy. He could give those guys (Democrats) a problem."

HEADLEE'S SOFT-spoken, evangelistic appeal to the local Republicans was punctuated with poetry and quotations from Cicero and Thomas Jefferson.

A Mormon, Headlee has twice been a church bishop. He's a former chairman of the national Jaycees and presently chairman and chief executive officer of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. in Farmington Hills. He also chairs the Oakland University Board of Trustees and Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

"Send (Sen.) Don Riegle back to reprogramming," Headlee told the group of local Republicans in urging them to work for GOP candidates for governor, be they Milliken, state Sen. John Welborn of Kalamazoo, or Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson. Welborn and Patterson have already announced for governor.

"Riegle is the answer to the Moral Majority's prayers. He's immoral. He wants power. He's dangerous. He is a demagogue playing on the fears of the elderly."

"Reagan is not to blame for current economic conditions. This is only the second inning. We didn't win the whole ballgame in November. Reagan's economic policy doesn't even go into effect until Oct. 1. He will turn the economy around slowly. The score is 2-0. We won the (federal) tax cuts and the budget cuts," Headlee said.

"I DON'T VIEW myself as the conservative conservative. I'm moderate to conservative," he added while admitting most of his views are shared by the conservative wing of the party.

He agrees with the Moral Majority on keeping pornography away from children, in opposing the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution and in withholding Medicaid for abortion.

"Abortion is a right or wrong issue. I believe in God. To create life is the Lord's dominion. I don't want my tax money used to destroy life."

On his opposition to ratification of the ERA, Headlee said "we don't want to turn women into men. We exalt women. They are superior."



Richard Headlee

Headlee, father of nine children and grandfather of 14, wants to see the Social Security system revamped.

"Give our senior citizens help if they need it. But if they can crocheta a doily, why give them money for sitting around? Does that sound like a politician?"

He said the Headlee amendment is working better than most people perceive because it is limiting state spending. "There have been rollbacks of about \$200 million. It requires state government to return 41 percent of the revenues to local governments."

That's "one unexpected blessing" of the amendment, he maintained.

"WE BELIEVE you are going to have to squeeze more and more fat out of government at the local and state level," he said.

Headlee's slogan for the Republican Party would be: "A statesman is he who can preserve the best and build the rest."

"I'm a firm believer you have to build on the past. George Romney was a great governor and Gov. Milliken has made his own great contributions," Headlee said.

## Pub patrons cleaned out

Three armed men forced five patrons of a Farmington Hills bar into a bathroom where they were robbed and then the door nailed shut before the culprits escaped Thursday.

The 9 p.m. robbery at Mike & Tom's Pub, 31650 Eight Mile, netted the three men \$330.

According to bartender Thomas Goers, one of the owners, a heavy-set man about 35 years old, sat at the bar and announced the holdup, shooting a .45 Colt automatic pistol into the air.

Then with the help of two armed accomplices sitting at a table drinking beer, each patron was frisked and sent into the bathroom one by one.

One of the men emptied \$800 from the bar's till into a bag with "Wolverine Entertainment" printed on it. The rest of the money was collected from patrons' wallets.

The bathroom door was nailed shut before the three fled. It took the patrons about 10 minutes to free themselves.

Police have no suspects.

## 'The first day we read'

# Class of '93 launches new era

By Mary Rodrigue  
staff writer

The first graders at Flanders School in Farmington have some definite opinions.

First grade is harder than kindergarten, they say, but more fun because you get your own desk. Recess is the best part of the day, but music runs a close second for many of them.

And some, like Tom Sheehy, class of '93, have already started a little nest egg for college.

"I've got \$100 in the bank," he says.

The Farmington Public Schools opened its doors last week and the students filled the classrooms.

At Flanders, most of the children in Marion Spencer's and Inez Winslow's first grade classes were happy to be there.

"She gives us easy work," said Colin Blain, a student of Mrs. Spencer's.

"The first day we read."

A half-dozen of his classmates excitedly told a visitor how they were able to identify the word "pizza" on the blackboard "because of the two z's."

"It's fun. I like reading and drawing," said Brandon Cagnon.

Joan Muller reminded the class: "We stay here (at Flanders) until we're 11 years old."

SUCH AN INTERMINABLE length of stay for 6-year-olds to contemplate.

"First grade is harder than kindergarten," Joan said. "My brother said he'd do anything to be back in kindergarten and he's in third grade."

Second grade will be much harder than first grade, the children decided.

Except for Raffi Bogosian, who utilizes his older sister.

"She's in the third grade and she teaches me a lot," he said.

Jeff Moore would like nothing better than to stay at home and play in mud puddles with a friend.

"I don't like being here all day," he said.



R.S. WILSON/staff photographer

Getting to know one another is part of the fun during the first days of school. Flanders' students Jeff Moore and Lisa Schaner participate in the age-old ritual.

## Cops investigate rape charge

Farmington police have scheduled a polygraph exam Sept. 22 for a man who is a suspect in the possible rape of a 19-year-old Detroit woman Sept. 2 near Freedom and Gill roads in Farmington.

Police haven't charged the suspect with any crime but are interested in questioning the 24-year-old Detroit man to see if there are any links to the

Christmas Eve decapitation murder of Debra Ann Rentschler. Ms. Rentschler had an arrest record for prostitution and was abducted on Woodward near Grand Boulevard, according to police.

Like Ms. Rentschler, the woman who reported being raped Sept. 2 was picked up in Detroit on Woodward and Calvert in the early morning hours and driven to Farmington.

The woman reporting the rape said the suspect forced her into his white-over-blue pickup truck by threatening her with a knife.

Farmington police were called to a 7-Eleven store at Nine Mile and Farmington Road at 3:24 a.m. by the manager who reported that a woman

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