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Former township chief Teeple dies

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It was the late 1950s, early '60s, a bank robbery had just occurred at a local Farmington bank. Officers from both Farmington and Farmington Township were looking for the suspect and getaway car.

Earl Teeple, an officer with the Farmington Township police department, was in his patrol car near 12 Mile when the getaway car drove right past him.

"He had a knack for being at the right spot at the right time," said City

Manager Robert Deadman about the veteran police officer.

Teeple, a former Farmington Township supervisor and longtime member of the township police department, died last Friday at his home on 14 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. He was 61.

The lifelong Farmington Township resident was a descendant of the area's earliest settlers.

But Teeple is best known for his years on the township police department and his switch to politics in the late 1960s as Farmington Township was heading toward incorporation as the city of Farmington Hills.

"HE WAS VERY, very industrious," said 47th District Judge Michael Hand, who met Teeple in the 1940s when he was an attorney and Teeple a detective. "He was one of the better detectives I have run across in my career."

Finding the truth was the important aspect of his police work, Hand said, whether trying to prove a suspect's innocence or guilt.

"He was very fair-minded," Hand said.

Farmington Hills Lt. George Maler, who was also a township detective,

found the same characteristics in Teeple.

"He was a very dedicated police officer," Maler said. "As a detective he used to work endless hours to crack a case."

Before his arrival in the township police department, Maler said, Teeple owned his own security and investigative service in Detroit.

"He was a good hard-working cop," Deadman said. "But he was a little controversial. That's how he got into politics."

TEEPLES' short-lived political career started in the early 1970s when he ran for township supervisor, trouncing a 10-year incumbent.

But Teeple's political career paralleled at first the township's move to consolidate with the city of Farmington and then incorporation into the city of Farmington Hills.

"Earl was a real ambitious person. A hard worker. He had a lot of aspirations and goals for himself and the city," Maler said. "Things went up for him and then suddenly they dipped."

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Earl Teeple

BRR

How area survived Alberta Clipper

By Tom Beer
staff writer

WHITE SLIPS of paper, arranged in neat rows, covered Ron Benner's desk in the Amoco station at Grand River and Power Road Monday morning.

On each slip was a location and the name of a person left without transpor-

tation because a car refused to function in a frigid blast which, a few hours earlier, had dropped temperatures to around 15 degrees below zero.

The cold snap, which followed a six-to-seven-inch snowfall, was headed south by Monday morning, but in its wake were closed schools, broken furnaces, frozen pipes, slippery streets and shivering citizens.

"You'll be real lucky if we can tow it today," said Benner, facing a man whose Maverick had given up at Seven Mile Road and the Southfield Expressway. Benner didn't have time to talk it over. He was busy answering two constantly ringing telephones.

"We're running right now about four hours behind, ma'am," said Benner, the station's owner, to a caller. "Would you like us to put you on our list?" She did, and another white slip joined the ranks.

Benner, one of the many tradesmen kept hopping during the bad weather, had three tow trucks and a service car on the road, jump starting or towing stranded motorists.

But he was running way behind Monday morning, and his customers weren't happy about that.

"That's the hard part . . . your good customers, you got 'em mad at you," he said. "Most of 'em understand, but they're never understanding enough."

BENNER, WHOSE station was sold out of cold-weather aids such as dry gas, windshield washer solvent and anti-ice, couldn't offer much advice for drivers of cars left in the cold.

"Your car's got to be just about top notch if it starts in this weather," he said. "Most of our calls are on 1983 or '84 cars."

Furnace repairmen, it's a good bet, weren't home watching Lucy reruns during the cold spell.

"Furnaces run a little harder and so motors and bearings and things tend to break down in cold weather," said Cliff McCourt, co-owner of Day and Night Heating and Cooling on Orchard Lake Road. His personnel were on 24-hour call.

"You get into your truck and it's cold, and by the time you get the furnace fixed and back in it, it's cold again," McCourt said.

"But we respond. There's a little more urgency to it when you have the weather below zero, and especially with this wind chill!"

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Andres Lipan, a well-bundled 3-year-old, needs some pull from her mother, Cheryl, to get around

Oakland Community College's snow-swept Orchard Ridge Campus Monday.

City protests fed cuts

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It may be President Reagan's inaugural honeymoon, but Farmington officials aren't wasting time in letting his administration know they want a careful and complete review of proposed budget cuts designed to reduce the growing federal deficit.

That doesn't mean council members plan to be selfish about the federal money that trickles down to the local coffers.

"Their (city council) overriding concern is a \$200 billion deficit," said City Manager Robert Deadman. "Cities are just one part of the total problem in the deficit."

In a unanimous vote, council adopted a resolution Monday urging Reagan's administration to carefully consider the impact of proposed budget cuts on local government.

THE PROPOSED elimination of state and local tax deductions is the plan that most bothers council, despite a need to trim the deficit, Deadman said.

"It can be argued that to do this would cause the taxpayer to pay taxes on top of taxes already paid," Deadman said. "It further increases the difficulty of local government to tax for the revenues necessary to continue providing services in areas which the federal government is reducing funds."

"Council believes this is double taxation," Deadman added.

Although not quite as worrisome as the proposed elimination of tax deductions, some of the Reagan administration's other proposed cuts will also affect Farmington.

Number one on the list is the proposed elimination of federal shared revenue in 1987. Presently Farmington receives \$57,000 a year from this federal program. This money is generally used to help support fire and police services, Deadman said.

REAGAN'S PLAN also calls for cutting by 10 percent the Community Development Block grant money generally distributed to local communities. Farmington generally receives about \$48,000 annually. The money is used for improvements in low-to-moderate income areas as well as for sidewalks and projects for senior citizens and handicapped citizens.

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Hawks principal retires

By Tom Beer
staff writer

Students haven't changed much over the years, but the school system that educates them certainly has.

That's the opinion of Farmington Harrison High School Principal James Geiger, who'll be retiring in June after serving the Farmington Public Schools as a teacher and administrator for the past 35 years.

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James Geiger
35 years of service

oral quarrel

Take your stand on abortion issue

Advocates of both sides of an emotional issue were out in force across the nation this week on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that guaranteed women the right to an abortion during the early stages of a pregnancy.

"Give Life A Chance" shouted banners carried by the pro-life (anti-abortion) demonstrators. Not to be outdone, holders of the opposite view, calling themselves pro-choice, also

have staged marches and rallies. Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

How do you stand on the the abortion question? Please explain why you feel the way you do?

To answer this question, call 477-5498 any time before 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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Your Wedding

SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Eatery robbed, suspects sought

A masked gunman took almost \$7,000 from the owner of a Farmington Hills restaurant early Monday morning.

Ted James, owner/manager of Chef Theodore, 29200 Orchard Lake Road, told police the gunman also had a partner who remained out of sight during the armed robbery which occurred at 8:45 a.m. Monday.

James told police that he was in the restaurant's office, behind the eating and bar area, when a man wearing a red knit ski mask walked in and pointed a revolver at him. The restaurant's front door was unlocked, according to police.

You have," the gunman said, according to James.

James gave the gunman money out of his own pocket as well as money from an open restaurant safe, police said.

James said he knew the gunman had a partner because he heard another man talking to the gunman as he walked into the restaurant office, police said.

"Don't move. Give me any money