

Doctor bids farewell to Farmington area

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families. He's been treating the great-grandchildren of his very first patients.
"I feel sort of rewarded in my profession by the fact that so many people have been loyal. I must have done something right."

AND IF Halsted's figuring is right on the mark, he is the oldest businessman who has continuously practiced his profession in the Farmington area.
But his longstanding career in Farmington seems only appropriate, for his name rings a bell. It should. Halsted was born on Halsted Road — named

after his pioneering family — in 1908 from New York — moved to Michigan and began what became a well-known apple farm near the dirt road that now bears their name.
"My grandfather decided if he could raise apples in New York, he couldn't see why not in Michigan."
Halsted's decision to become a physician wasn't made until just before his college graduation, yet his choice seemed appropriate for a young student interested in science and particularly math.

The one thing he was sure about was that he did not like to pick apples and didn't really enjoy farm life.
"My father didn't care for picking apples, and I didn't either. By the time I got through (with medical school), the farm was sort of declining a bit. The help situation became hard."
ALTHOUGH MEDICINE has progressed since the start of his career, Halsted is convinced he "had the opportunity to practice medicine during his golden years. I will miss it."

When he began practicing family medicine in the post-Depression years of the mid-1930s, he charged patients 75 cents for an office visit and \$1.50 for a house call.
"I have seen a lot of changes. When I started, a third of all pneumonia patients died. With the true pneumonia, it's rare if any of them died. The science of medicine has progressed. But it's becoming a problem now. The modern-day doctor treats lab findings. We were taught to diagnose on history and physicals."
Halsted says he liked the old way of

practicing medicine and helping patients in a less formal and institutional atmosphere.
"There isn't that close association any more. Just to talk to the doctor sometimes makes you feel better. I never thought of this as financial. You were treating illnesses and treating people. Your best satisfaction was seeing people recover."
Halsted had office hours, including nights, so patients working all shifts could see the doctor on their own time instead of getting out of work. Appointments weren't necessary. Halsted took patients generally in the order of those who would come first to pick them up.
"A lot of people criticized me for not making appointments. But people don't get sick by appointment," he said.

ALTHOUGH RETIRED since Feb. 15, Halsted hasn't quite finished working yet. He's been busy tying up loose ends — sending patients' records to new doctors and getting financial records in order. When the work is complete, Halsted isn't worried about finding things to keep himself busy.
"It's time I got out. It gets nerve-wracking in a way."

A one-time active collector of album and now compact discs of classical music, Halsted still sets aside time for him and his wife to take in a few concerts. And then there's the piano and organ that still capture his interest.
"I always find things to do," he said. "I just haven't gotten stretched out yet. I guess we'll take short trips. We have always liked going to Traverse City."
One thing Halsted is definitely sure about is that he refuses to sell his home and move to Florida, like many retirees.
"I would hate to be around only old people. I like people of all ages."

Hills resident to be tried for murder

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ing. Conviction could bring a penalty of up to life in prison.

THE FIRST count alleges premeditated murder, the second that murder was committed in the commission of another felony. In this case, arson, investigators said.

Edwards is free on bond pending arraignment April 2 before Oakland County Circuit Judge John O'Brien. At his arraignment Jan. 31 in 47th District Court, he pleaded not guilty.

District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington rendered her decision following several days of preliminary examination testimony last week. The arson count was added at the request of Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Paul Fischer.

A motion by defense attorney Nicholas Smith to sequester all witnesses was granted by Schaeffer, with the exception of the investigating Farmington Hills police detective, Daniel Krause, who was present throughout the exam.

EDWARDS was charged Jan. 31 with two counts of first-degree murder in his wife's death. The charges followed an investigation and subsequent determination of arson by Farmington Hills police detectives and investigators from the Michigan State Police.

The arson determination caused the Oakland County Medical Examiner, Bill Brooks, to change the Edwards death certificate to reflect an "undetermined" cause of death on Jan. 21.

"I was convinced this fire was irregular and there was graphic evidence of the potential for an arsonicide, the medical examiner testified. "I have to deal with odds, probability and what is inferred and reasonable. There is a good case for arson, knowing these things are commonly contrived."
"There is reason to believe I erred in judgment."

Brooks originally said Marlene Edwards died of natural causes. Due to an 85 percent blockage in the left coronary artery, which caused a heart attack. His continuing belief is that Marlene Edwards died before the fire began, but he is now unsure how it occurred, he said.

THERE WAS no evidence of brain hemorrhage, bone fractures, inhalation of gas or soot, or unusual elevation of carbon monoxide in the body according to autopsy results, Brooks said.
Conflicting testimony came from Robert Hendrix, a privately employed

pathologist and deputy medical examiner for Washtenaw County, who believes heat from the "flash fire" caused her death. "I found nothing (in his microscopic evaluation of tissue) that would indicate a cause of death," he said. He also noted a 30 percent blockage — significantly lower than the 85 percent reported by Brooks.

"I would put fire on the death certificate as a main cause of death," he said, with the health condition as "present, but not contributory."

Marlene Edwards was dressed in nightclothes when she died, according to expert testimony. Her body was discovered in the family room in front of a couch, with an ashtray and other smoking paraphernalia nearby. Most of the damage occurred in the family room and adjacent areas where an accelerator was poured, according to testimony.

Krause and officer Nancy Summers of the Farmington Hills Police, Sgt. Larry Erickson of the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal's Division, a Michigan State Police lab technician, and several neighbors and others present at the fire took the stand to give testimony of their versions of the fire, test results from fire samples, and interviews and encounters with the defendant.

IN WHAT officials called "the most damaging testimony," one neighbor said she saw the 54-year-old defendant leaving the Meadowbrook Hills neighborhood, near Eight Mile, at approximately 5:50 p.m. Oct. 14, moments before another neighbor said he noticed the smoke and flames at the rear of the Edwards' two-story frame house.

Edwards told police she left the house at about 4:50 p.m. for a trip to the store, returning at about 6 p.m. to find his house on fire, according to testimony from Krause. He also told police officials he attempted to enter the house and phone for help, but no witnesses saw him enter, according to testimony.

In conflicting statements to police the defendant first said he was gone when his wife arrived home, then said he was alone with his wife and they had "had words" about family matters before he left for the store, Krause testified.

Lengthy testimony regarding the alleged arson was heard from Erickson, whose testimony was aided by a diagram of the house and 47 exhibit photos detailing the extremely hot, low-burning fire that signals use of an accelerator, according to his testimony.

Damage-to-Hood surfaces in the kitchen, family room, kitchen break-

fast nook and a portion of the hallway showed "spalling of concrete" and "deep charring and alligatoring" of wood surfaces. "It's my opinion an accelerator was applied and ignited," he added. He had "no opinion" about where the fire was initially ignited.

TWO SAMPLES taken from the fire site "revealed a multi-component hydrocarbon in the range of kerosene or charcoal starter," according to Sgt. Gwyneth White, a lab technician at the Michigan State Police laboratory in Madison Heights. In many fire cases, traces of this type of accelerator have already burned away, she added.

The discovery was made on a portion of the basement floor in a great room (file in front of the basement door).

Defense attorney Smith declared there was "woefully inadequate evidence" to bind the matter over for trial, and that there is "not one scintilla of evidence" regarding motive.

"Arson was perpetrated based on Sgt. Erickson's testimony," Schaeffer commented before ruling. "There is more than sufficient evidence to find that Mr. Edwards was involved with the fire."

"The motive is a little less clear." Edwards was working the midnight shift at the time of the fire. He is a computer parts designer for Ford Motor Co.

Officials believe the fire started shortly before 6 p.m. Oct. 14. When firefighters arrived about 6:15 p.m., after being dispatched, heavy smoke was pouring from the arches along the front of the house. Flames were visible along the rear lower level. The fire was extinguished within 35 minutes, investigators said after the fire.

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Spa reopens pending an appeal

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ington. Sentencing is pending. The women were employees at Osaka and Tokyo. Trials for arrested Sun employees are scheduled for early May.

Osaka's owner pleaded guilty last week to one count of a misdemeanor zoning violation, with other counts of loitering, and of aiding and abetting dismissed.
Pleas of no contest were accepted in

the late January trial of three female Korean employees of the Kelko spa. Each was sentenced immediately to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine although the jail term was suspended in favor of one year probation.

Trials for the remaining nine people are still pending.
At the time of the raids, police also ticketed and released seven men for loitering in the place of illegal occupation, Dwyer said.

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