

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

The rains came: Tuesday's downpour resulted in a scary situation for one motorist who had to be helped from her stalled and flooded auto. /2A
Yes or no?: A Farmington resident is thinking hard about a run for the city council. /8A

OPINION

Rare breed: The state of Michigan today could use another George Romney, says the Observer. /10A

Host a student: The anticipation is part of the fun in welcoming a foreign exchange student into your home. /11A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Lots of drive: Area golfers will be participating in an outing to raise money for the American Cancer Society. /13A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

In gear: Automobiles show a mystical beauty in artwork, such as the Concours d'Elegance poster by Tom Hale of Farmington Hills. Other artists also convey the attraction of the car in their paintings. /1B

SPORTS

All-Star review: Kevin Bryant and Brad Rainko of Farmington Hills participated in the annual coaches all-star football game. /1C

AT HOME

Healthy gardens: Gather some ideas for healthy and attractive gardens in a garden tour this weekend in several area communities. /Section D

LOTTERY

Lotto was worth \$3.8 million. The Michigan lottery numbers for Wednesday, Aug. 2 are:

■ DAILY 3: 326

■ DAILY 4: 3147

■ CASH 5: 10, 12, 18, 20, 31

■ LOTTO: 1, 8, 14, 15, 23, 29

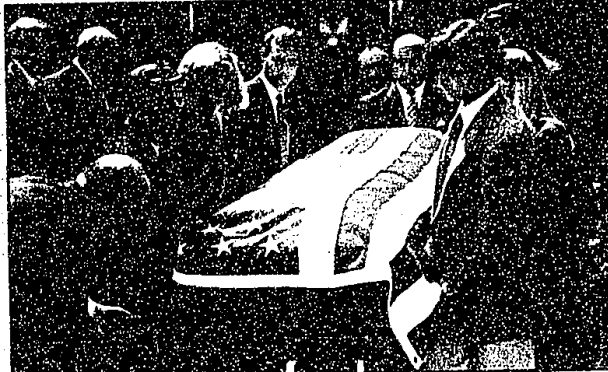
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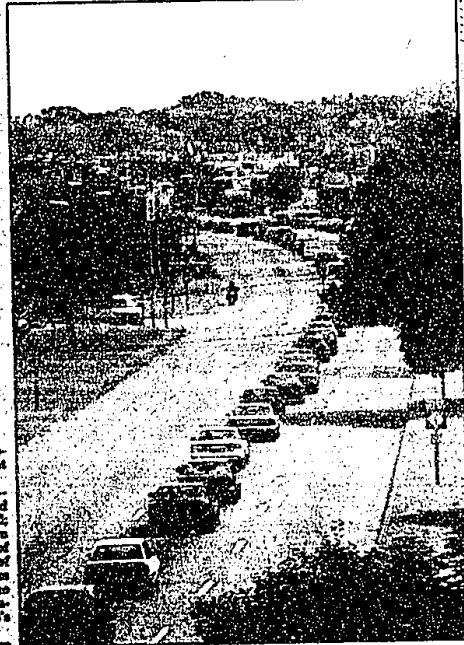
Romney rites tell family love story



Special Photos by STEPHEN CLIFFORD
 Connected: Lenora Romney, above left, is comforted by family friend Pat Leonard. Right: Romney grandchildren are pallbearers as the casket leaves the church.



Police escort: Journey to the cemetery begins.



Don Deane/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ex-governor recalled as strong, supportive

BY PAT MURPHY
 STAFF WRITER

Friends and admirers who gathered to bid farewell to George W. Romney in Bloomfield Hills were privy to more than a touching funeral for a former industrialist and political giant.

They got a glimpse of a love story. It's a continuing love story that involves the Romney family directly and perhaps thousands of other people indirectly, according to those who recognized George Romney publicly or privately.

About 1,200 people gathered at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to pay final respects to the former industrialist and political giant who died in his Bloomfield Hills home five days earlier. Romney had been chief executive of the American Hotelier Corp., a hotel-

tern Michigan governor; and one-time member of cabinet of President Richard M. Nixon.

Mourners included notable — like U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham and U.S. Ambassador James Bligher; fellow Mormons, including Kathryn Dulak of Birmingham, Brian Ivis of Southfield and Robert Stansel of Troy; and hundreds of citizens, like Martha Toledo of Waterford, who had no particular link to the Romney family, but admired George's story.

Most knew George and Lenora Romney had been happily married for 64 years.

"I know he gave her a rose every day," said Tullio Miller, a resident of West Bloomfield who said she liked the "integrity that characterized

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Final tributes: The funeral procession traveled from Bloomfield Hills solemnly down Woodward Avenue en route to the Fairview Cemetery in Brighton, a site selected by George Romney.

Charge expected in case of 320 marijuana plants

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
 STAFF WRITER

The owner of an Alta Loma Street home where Farmington police found 320 marijuana plants is expected to be charged Thursday.

The man, 41, is in a treatment center and was expected to surrender through his attorney, said Sgt. Wesley Betts of the Oakland Narcotics Enforcement Team. Arraignment is set for 3 p.m. Thursday at 47th District Court.

The man is expected to be charged with drug manufacturing with more

than 200 plants, which if convicted, call for 15 years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Police are also looking into possibility of property forfeiture, Farmington Public Safety Deputy Director Mike Wiggins said.

"Anything the law views as a constant — a house or a car — that is used in a narcotic transaction can be forfeited," Wiggins said. "We're looking into that right now to see if that home is able to be forfeited."

The property has a state-qualified value of \$67,440, which is approx-

imately half of the market value. Proceeds would likely be split between Oakland NET and Farmington police, Wiggins said.

Forfeiture money can only be used for crime prevention involving drugs and education programs.

"You're not going to buy a stereo system for the detective bureau with it," Wiggins said.

Acting on an anonymous tip, Oakland NET and Farmington police found 320 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$220,000 in the basement at 33735 Alta Loma

during a July 21 raid. The homeowner wasn't at home during the search.

Plants were in various stages of development and were being fed oxygenated water, police said. Also found in the basement were fertilizer, sun lamps and timers.

Oakland NET investigators had contact with the homeowner through his attorney while a warrant was pending, Betts said. Farmington Hills attorney Barry Resnick declined to comment.

Uneasiness remains despite warrant in rampage

BY BILL COVATY
 STAFF WRITER

Now that the shock of the vandalism of an African-American couple's Farmington Hills home is being past, there remains a lingering uneasiness about what it means to residents here.

Farmington Hills police have issued a warrant for a 15-year-old Hills youth who lived near Bruce and Loretta Jackson. The insurance will likely cover the \$250,000 in damage done during the Memorial Day weekend rampage at the Jackson house in northwestern Farmington Hills.

Yet, even with that and the outpouring of support in and outside the community, the Jacksons

aren't sure just how they'll feel when they move back into their house.

"We'll be assessing the comfort level that first night back," said Bruce Jackson, an engineer with General Motors. "Do I sleep on that first night or not? We won't know until we move back in."

The Jacksons, who expect to move back into their house in about two months, had thought the extensive vandalism of their house might have been racially motivated. But Farmington Hills police believed the crime was in retaliation for Bruce Jackson complaining about gang graffiti near his house. The suspect police believe responsible is African-American.

"I'm pleased that they do have an arrest," Jackson said. "I appreciate the effort that the police made."

And although the racial epithet "white power," which was spray painted on a wall of the Jacksons' house, appears to be an afterthought and a cover for the specific gang symbols, those who support the Jacksons are pleased with the community's response to the vandalism.

"People can only act on what they know," said Bruce Carr, a Hills resident and member of the Christian Businessmen's Committee of Southfield.

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