

Farmington man killed in crash of light plane

WESTLAND—The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating the crash of a four-passenger airplane Tuesday in Westland which killed a Farmington Hills man and injured two other persons.

Killed was Robert Barnes, 31668 Hall, Farmington Hills. Westland Police officials are unsure of his age. Listed as critically injured in Wayne County General Hospital are Marie Chase, 17, of 34529 Fountain Blvd.

Westland, and the plane's pilot, John Garrett, 44, of 15594 Hemlock, Detroit.

Westland Police Sgt. Gerald Trubach said the plane was on a pleasure flight from Westland National Airport, Ford Rd., west of Hix, when it experienced engine problems. The craft attempted a landing, flew east past the airport and crashed after one of its wings hit a utility wire on Hix Rd. The crash occurred at 4:30 p.m.

THE SINGLE-ENGINEED Beech-

craft Bonanza 35 cartwheelled through a portion of the Willow Creek Estates, missing a four-unit townhouse by four feet before coming to a halt, according to witnesses.

Donna Kriedman, of 30365 Greenwood, who lives in the complex which nearly was involved in the accident, gives her account of the crash.

"I was upstairs when I heard the crash. There wasn't much noise. It just sounded like metal scrapping

against the pavement," said Miss Kriedman. "My little sister, Lisa, thought a truck had hit the house."

Miss Kriedman said she could here the surviving passengers talking in what seemed to her to be normal tones of voice after the crash.

Westland Police Capt. Emory Price, who was on the scene during the rescue operation, said it took fire department personnel about 20 minutes to pry passengers from the aircraft. Res-

idents who approached the scene shortly after the accident extinguished a small fire with snow, according to witnesses.

FRED LUDWIG, a resident in the Willow Creek area, said he could hear the propeller cutting through the ground as the plane crashed.

"After hearing the noise, I came running across the field to the accident," he said. "The doors of the plane were jammed shut. All three

passengers were still in the plane after the crash."

Barnes, a salesman for T. V. Tel Fare is survived by his wife, Bonnie, children, Lisa, Robert and William, mother, Theresa Barnes, two sisters and one brother.

Funeral arrangements, which are being handled by Hamilton-Hoffman Funeral Home, Detroit, were incomplete at press time.

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Farmington helps contractor

Rubbish payments increased

FARMINGTON—The city will pay \$400 extra per month, retroactive to Jan. 1, for the continued pick up and disposal of rubbish by the McCreeley Trucking Co., which operates the city's rubbish removal service.

In reviewing an increase in operational costs and rubbish volume incurred by the McCreeley Trucking Co., the city council Monday night found justification for the increase.

"We have had an opportunity to analyze the increased operational costs of the McCreeley Trucking Co. with the owner, Gus McCreeley," said City Manager Robert Deadman.

"We have written to the city's satisfaction that Mr. McCreeley is not presently operating on a break-even basis

In fact, if the city contract is not adjusted, Mr. McCreeley may have a very difficult time meeting his obligations under the contract."

THE PAYMENTS will continue until the present contract expires in June. Funds from the 1974-75 contingency budget will be used for the increased expenditure.

The city also will pay an increase of three cents per land parcel per year to the Oakland County Board of Auditors for their services, bringing the bill to 30 cents per land parcel per year, or \$1,050 annually, for 3,500 parcels.

Raising equipment and labor costs were reasons given for the additional costs.

Consumers Power Co. notified the council that they have requested a rate increase with the Michigan Public Service Commission.

The increase request was made for \$4 million, with an increase of \$7.6 million on an interim basis. According to the company, earnings have dropped to 5.8 percent, which is below the rate of return found reasonable by the Public Service Commission.

AS A RESULT of the Housing and Community Development Act, Oakland County may qualify as an urban county and be eligible to receive entitlements for Community Development funds, according to a letter from County Executive Daniel T. Mur-

Under the new federal program, Oakland County may receive \$1.4 million in additional funding.

To qualify as an urban county, the county must ask Farmington to include its 12,500 population to meet the minimum population requirement of 200,000. Deadman said.

In other action Monday night, the council proclaimed Jan. 25 as Ronald Rosenberg Day in the City of Farmington.

Rosenberg is a member of the National Honor Society, vice-president of his student council and State Illustrations Knight Commander of the Order of Knighthood of the International Order of DeMolay.



Sister team

Cornelia Kennedy (left) gave the oath of office to her sister, Margaret Schaeffler, at a special session of the 47th District Court Saturday. Mrs. Schaeffler, newly elected judge, and her sister, a U.S. district court judge, are elected to be the only sisters in the country serving on the bench at the same time. (Photographed by Harry Mautho)

Board stays firm on trips policy

FARMINGTON—The "no field trips" policy established by the school board during mortgage failure cutbacks will continue to be in effect, despite a recent Michigan Department of Education ruling which would allow charges to be made to fund the trips.

The funding option was rejected Tuesday night by the board of education, which cited possible gasoline allocation problems as the major reason for the rejection.

"On long trips, when it is necessary to refuel buses away from the school district's own supplies, we reduce gasoline available to others and, of course, pay a higher price," Business Manager William C. Prisk said.

"LAST YEAR'S allocation found the district very short of fuel at times. To use the district's fuel allocation for extra-curricular activities could leave the district short of fuel for transportation to and from school," he said.

A change in the district's policy according to the rules set forth by the department of education would be discriminatory, officials said.

"Those who could afford to pay could go, and those who could not afford to pay would not. The rules provide for no charge being made to students who cannot afford to pay, but then this expense would have to be assumed by others or the school district," Prisk said.

The school district cannot afford to assume the payments and for those who would have to pay for the others, it would be unfair, he said.

The exclusion of extra-curricular field trips would not affect those commitments such as football or basketball transportation, already in effect in the district.

AN OPEN STUDY session to discuss the possibility of long-range research on the school district will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the board of education offices.

Prisk and Trustee Mervyn B. Ross will attend a school tax meeting Monday, Jan. 20, in the West Bloomfield School District.

A closed study session was held Dec. 23 to discuss possible personnel and staff cuts to maintain the present operating budget, said Board of Education President Gary Lichtman.

By SUSAN AVERILL.

You know how they say the grass is greener on the other side? Well, Roger Allen is about to find out.

Presently executive director of the Farmington Education Association (FEA), Allen will be leaving Jan. 19 for the Flint School District. Only this time, he will be working for the administration.

He acknowledges the possibility of difficulty in his switch from champion of teachers to labor relations consultant for the school board.

"Initially, and this will be, hopefully, a short-run problem, I will have to assure the administration that I am, in fact, representing their interests," he said.

He views his new position as a "substantial challenge."

"IF I HAD been offered the same job in a school district the size of Farmington, I wouldn't have been interested," he said.

His new school district includes

43,000 students and 2,000 teachers in more than 50 schools. The minority population also will be considerably larger than that of Farmington.

Teacher contract negotiations will be his first order of business, as Flint's two-year contract will expire March 1.

As executive director of the FEA, Allen negotiates teacher contracts and represents the teaching community in grievance procedures, arbitration and community programs.

He expects his old job to provide background for his new one.

"It's a similar line of work. You've got to have a thorough understanding of teachers and teachers' problems," he said.

"TO SUCCEED in any kind of negotiation position, you need to understand what the real problems are the insight will be invaluable."

Although he thinks most school districts are interested in being fair and equitable with their teachers, he said

they do have a self-interest which may set them at odds.

Hence the unions.

"The school districts are coming to recognize that contract negotiations are here to stay. For a long period of time, they thought the problem would just go away," he said.

"It's becoming a complicated, complex field which they'll have to take seriously. They'll have to hire people with knowledge of how labor relations work."

PART OF Farmington's problems during the 1973 teachers' strike was due to the attitude of the board of education, he said.

"Farmington didn't take the labor relations or negotiation seriously. They went at it in an unorganized fashion, and it was most often left until the tail-end of the agenda," he said.

But the advent of Robert Kuhlman, labor relations director for the district, signaled the beginning of an efficient, organized approach to the problem, he said.

"If the new administration had been in a year earlier, I don't think the strike would ever have taken place. Unfortunately, the strike was the result of a long list of grievances established prior to the advent of the new administration."

Although he hasn't always agreed with official FEA views, he still represented that view to the community to the best of his ability, he said.

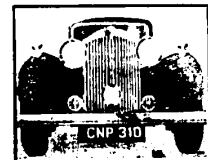
"I HOPE they'd be able to do some modifying if it was called for, and the same for the board of education. If not, it just isn't negotiation."

Many negotiation hangups are created by an 18th-century mentality, he said.

"It causes nothing but grief to go into it with the idea that you're going to destroy the union," he said.

That's part of the problem with the Crestwood district. In the short run the superintendent will be seen as a hero. But in the long run, it will

(See ALLEN, next page)



Auto tab inside

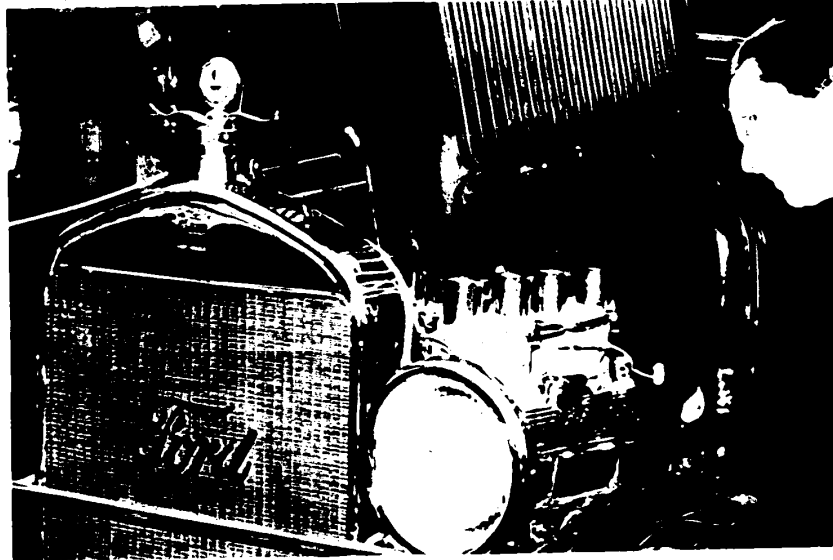
The Observer & Eccentric's special 1975 auto section is included in this issue. This annual feature coincides with the 1975 Detroit Auto Show sponsored by the Detroit Auto Dealers Association.

The new cars Detroit has to offer are featured in this section which discusses many aspects of the industry. Also, a page is devoted to a map of the exhibits at Cobo Hall where the Auto show is being held.

In the section you'll find tips on what to consider when buying a new car and choosing the right car for your driving needs.

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Auto show winner

Robert Gutzke takes another look at the 289 Ford engine he installed in his 1927 Model "T" Ford. Gutzke, who lives in Farmington Hills, entered the car in the 1975 Autorama custom

car show held last weekend at Cobo Hall. He won the Riddler Award, which is given for the "best new show entry, shown for the first time." For more about the auto show, see page three.