

# Residents reminisce about first job

By LYNN ORR

Perhaps they didn't walk five miles to school every day, but judging from first-job anecdotes of some Farmington residents, latching onto that first paycheck was as difficult in the 1930's and 40's as it is now.

His prowess in football opened the door for Shel Kavieff, sales engineer for the Jervis B. Webb Company.

"If paper routes don't count, my first job was working on the export docks at Briggs Manufacturing about 1940," says Kavieff, a Farmington

Hills resident. "My football coach got me the job to toughen me up for the season before I went to the University of Michigan."

Working on the Detroit river, Kavieff's job involved pushing car bodies on dollies over a corrugated deck for 50 cents an hour.

"Jobs were very tough to come by then, but this job was dangerous, which is why it was available," he says, adding that a car body had fallen on the man who had the job before him.

A combination of the midnight shift and the

exertion usually caused some problems.

"I slept by my stop on the bus all the time," he says.

**DELORES SCHEV-LIN**, a member of the Farmington Players Community Theatre, explains her first paid theatrical job came through the Somerset Dinner Theatre; but she earned her first paycheck in New York in 1947.

"I was fresh out of school and got the usual clerical work in an office," says Ms. Schevlin. "I went to an employment agency, which got a week's salary for finding you a job, and they found me a position for \$27 a week."

"Like everyone else," she says, most of her salary went back into her parents' hands to pay for her room and board, and she bought clothes and lunch with what was left. A clerical job for Ford Motor International Division brought her to the Detroit area where she met her husband. "My life's been much more interesting ever since," she quips.

**FARMINGTON C. HAM-BER**, Commerce president Ed Baldwin's was in the 1930's when he became an assistant to a milkman on a horse-drawn milk wagon.

"I was on the Dexter Boulevard route in eighth grade, trying to make some extra money," says Baldwin. Working for the Detroit Creamery, he'd ride the carriage and jump off and on the wagon between 6 a.m. for 50 cents a day.

"That was my first official job," he remarks. "Before that, I'd ring doorbells and remove ashes from basement coal furnaces."

In high school, Baldwin got a job for a national foodstore chain, clerking behind the counter, and retail has been his field ever since.

career in oil in 1948, and he's still with the oil business as a wholesale representative for Marathon Oil Company, when he's not chairing Farmington school board meetings.

"I went to work on my 16th birthday for an oil company in Toledo—canned oil, cut weeds, a general handyman for two summers."

"In college, I was the general maintenance man and cabinet maker's assistant for a small school district," he says. "My first full-time job was two years in the army. I probably couldn't tell you what I make today, but there's a difference."

"When you're working for yourself, you're doing it because you want to do it," he says. "When it's a job to earn money, you don't feel the same about it as your lifetime work—the hours aren't as noticeable."

**BEA SCHOFIELD**, secretary to Farmington School Supt. Lewis Schuman, started her career in the same field she's happily pursuing now, but working behind a soda fountain got her the first opportunity.

"I had just graduated from high school where I had taken a business course, and worked temporarily at a soda fountain in Greenup, Ky.," Mrs. Schofield explains. "A man who knew my family recommended me as court stenographer for Judge Coldiron, and I loved every minute of it. After I was married, we moved to Mississippi, but when I'd come back here back on vacation, they asked me to come back to work there."

Describing Judge Coldiron as a "typical Kentucky colonel who was so straight that he leaned over backwards," she went to work in his office for \$7 a week in 1936. Taking depositions in the office for an extra \$3 boosted her pay to \$10 a week, which most men couldn't earn at that time, Mrs. Schofield explains.

Free-lance writer Iris Soderstrom Jones got her start in a lifelong career in her first job.

"I was 16 and I got a job as a reporter with the Powell River News in British Columbia, writing just about anything."

But her first day on the job was the hardest.

"You know how editors like to rag new reporters, I walked in and he said to me 'So you want to be a newspaperman. Well, I've got four pages to fill, so go out and fill 'em.'"

Ms. Jones went out and did just that, but "of course, he was only ribbing me—it took him all summer to use up those stories."

As a reporter, the Farmington Hills resident earned under \$15 a week, which compares pretty well to free-lancing, she quips. Her latest efforts includes "Early North American Dollmaking," and Ms. Jones writes newspaper

and magazine articles for the Detroit News supplement and other publications.

Also in the publishing business, Farmington resident Margaret Halava didn't expect to wind up in the business world.

"I was in the Michigan State University Music School when my father pulled me out in my junior year and put me in business school, saying it was his best insurance policy," says the corporate vice-president of employee relations for the Observer and Eccentric newspapers.

"In those days you didn't question; you just did. So I did it as quickly as possible and then taught music in both public and private schools."

When World War II came along, Ms. Halava found a job in a labor relations office for \$15 a week and was ecstatic with a \$1 a week raise after a year's employment.

"I fell in love with that job and never went back to public school teaching," she admits, climbing the secretarial ladder from clerical worker to stenographer to secretary and earning her Certified Professional Secretary certificate, similar to a Certified Public Accountant designation.

## BEN MARKS IS CONCERNED

ABOUT SENIOR CITIZENS  
ABOUT ZONING  
ABOUT CITY SERVICES  
ABOUT HOW OUR CITY IS RUN  
ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION  
AND...  
ABOUT WHAT IS IN STORE  
FOR FARMINGTON HILLS

His concern for the welfare and being of Farmington Hills is uppermost with him. These are the reasons he has now decided to run for Farmington Hills City Council. Won't you help him?

Endorsed by

Fredrick Lichtman  
Joanne Smith

Robert McConnell

Jan Dolan  
William Twigg

## BEN MARKS FOR COUNCIL

### Vote •• Aug. •• 2<sup>nd</sup>

Paid for by BEN MARKS FOR CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
Joanne Smith, Chair, Gary L. Lichtman, Treas.

## Carrier of the Month Farmington



STEVE MCGOUSH

Steven McGouish, son of Neil and Terry McGouish of 33635 Quaker Valley, Farmington Hills, was selected Carrier of the Month for July. Steve, 14, will complete two years as a Farmington Observer carrier this September, delivering the twice-a-week paper to subscription holders on Lyneroff, Harlan, and Randle Hills. Steve will enter North Farmington Senior High as a sophomore this fall.

If you want to be a Farmington Carrier,  
Call

261-3800

## GRAND OPENING

Call  
**Wear Master**  
and find out  
how much you can save  
on

a quieter car...



a smoother ride...



faster, safer stops.



**RED'S WEARMASTER SERVICE CENTER**  
6144 N. Telegraph  
(between Ford & Warren)

274-1914

CUSTOM PIPE BENDING

**Wear Master**... You'll never know how much you can save unless you call.

**COUPON OFFER**  
DISCOUNT COUPON  
\$10 off V-8  
\$5 on 6-cyl. or less  
(Applies to complete Exhaust System Only)

**RED'S WEARMASTER SERVICE CENTER**  
6144 N. Telegraph  
274-1914

**7 Mile & Farmington Shopping Center**  
Home of  
Dr. D. W. Schiff  
Dr. H. J. Kutinsky  
Optometrist  
476-2021

**the hendry convalescent center**  
Is Pleased To Announce The Completion Of Its Patient Activities Addition We Can Now Accommodate Eight Additional Patients  
The Hendry Convalescent Center  
165 Wagon Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48030  
phone (313) 455-0510  
Day Care, Vacation Care, Extended Care  
A HEALTH SAVING SERVICES FACILITY

**Redford Chrysler Plymouth**  
is very happy to welcome  
**BOB PRATT**  
to their staff. He is now able to continue his fine reputation with Chrysler in the home of "Little Detroit".  
22326 GRAND RIVER  
DETROIT  
KE 1-2400  
It's like having a friend at the factory.

**'LIL' RED BaRN**  
DO IT YOURSELF AND SAVE  
• Prefabricated Trusses (all assembled)  
• Choice of exterior siding  
• Choice of Shingle Color  
• Wood Floor & Hardware  
• Length In Any Model Can Be Increased in 2 Ft. Increments  
6'x8' \$245<sup>23</sup> plus tax  
Also available in 8'x10' 10'x12'  
**SALEM LUMBER CENTER**  
Home of Old Fashioned Service  
30650 PLYMOUTH ROAD  
BANKAMERICARD • MASTER CHARGE  
Ph. GA 2-1000

**RED'S WEARMASTER SERVICE CENTER**  
6144 N. Telegraph  
(between Ford & Warren)  
274-1914  
CUSTOM PIPE BENDING  
**Wear Master**... You'll never know how much you can save unless you call.  
**COUPON OFFER**  
DISCOUNT COUPON  
\$10 off V-8  
\$5 on 6-cyl. or less  
(Applies to complete Exhaust System Only)  
**RED'S WEARMASTER SERVICE CENTER**  
6144 N. Telegraph  
274-1914

**HEAT WAVE! SELLABRATION**  
GET YOUR POOL IN SHAPE FOR SUMMER!  
**SUN CHLORINE**  
\$69<sup>50</sup> 100 lbs.  
HTH Granular Chlorine  
**69¢** a gallon  
Limit 2 cases  
• Aluminum Safety Ladders \$34.88  
• 1 1/4" Filter Hose 59¢ a foot  
• Filter Sand 5.50 a bag  
• Filter Parts and Repair

We do all our own work Free low Estimates Priced to sell Two year Guarantee Ten Years in this Area  
**QUALITY ASPHALT CARE**  
Sealcoating by hand with Jennite J-16  
Phone (313) 363-4805  
or write: QUALITY 4420 Green Lake Rd. W. Bloomfield, MI 48303  
COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL REGISTERED

**Avoid Delays.**  
Before you build or remodel, discuss your natural gas needs with us.  
CNG Power

**Livonia Building Materials**  
**Drywall Spectacular**  
3/4" x 4 x 8' \$239  
Cash & Carry While Supply Lasts  
Mon.-Fri. 8-5 12770 Farmington Rd. S. of Schoolcraft Sat. 8-12  
937-0478 421-1170