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Twenty Five Cents



These 76 people are braving last Monday's bright, brittle cold for a freebie at the American Legion Post on Grand River. To see why they gathered, turn to Page 3A.

A great sports fan

Murder victim was a peaceful man

By HOWARD RONTAL

Had David Jones not accepted free tickets to the Observer Tennis Classic, had he not stayed for the reception following the tournament, had the parking lot attendees stayed on the job as they were hired to do, David Jones might be alive today.

Had any one of these things not happened, Catherine Jones, David's wife, wouldn't have attended the funeral mass Wednesday at St. Alexander Roman Catholic Church and Detroit city officials wouldn't be searching around, trying to solve a murder and assure an already increased suburban population that Detroit is safe for children, entertainers, sports fans, tourists, and other living things.

David Jones, 31, of 2803 Purdue in Farmington Hills, was shot as he went to his car after the Observer Tennis Classic at Olympia Stadium Saturday night.

Jones, a vice-president for loan administration with the Graham Mortgage Company in Southfield, had suggested that his wife wait in the Olympia lobby while he waited the 200 yards in the cold Detroit night to retrieve their car. He was shot in the back at 12:10 a.m. He was found not long after with his waist lying open on his body, his 40 cents missing.

His wife Catherine doubts that he would have been a very gentle man, she said. If there was a war in the event I would have to kill it.

Jones was a great sports fan.

If Detroit is a great sports town, he was

one of the people who made it that way. He was no stranger to downtown Detroit. Two years ago, David Jones had season tickets to the Detroit Tigers. Last year they went to 15 games.

Since he parked his car in a lighted city lot across the street from Olympia, and because he was carrying so little cash, he thought he was safe. Mrs. Jones said that they consciously avoided parking in any of the unlighted private lots around the stadium.

As she waited in the Olympia lobby for her husband to drive up, a couple came by and said a man was lying in a parking lot screaming for help. Olympia officials rushed to the lot where Mrs. Jones sat in the lobby, growing more concerned and anxious as the minutes passed. Since most spectators had already gone home, she figured her husband was involved, probably as a witness. Every time a policeman came in, I'd ask them, "Is it Dave?"

"Is it Dave, Dave out there?"

The police kept moving her farther and farther away from themselves as they discussed the case, then took her in an office, sat her down and gave her the news.

Jones' death will leave more than an administrative hole at the Graham Mortgage Co. "It's a pretty snubler place around here to say the least," Richard Chapin, an executive vice-president with the firm, said Monday.

Jones started with the company four years ago as manager of the credit department. Last month he was promoted

to his position as vice president.

He was a well liked person," said Leanne Nisak, a secretary with the firm. "He was growing in his position. He was taking over more. He just had so much going for him."

Mrs. Jones, a teacher at the Larkshore Elementary School, said she would continue to teach and serve as the treasurer of the Farmington Republican Club and chairman of the public affairs council of the Farmington Education Association.

But I don't know what I'll be doing in the evening," she said.

Family and friends are sharing the load. Jones' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde O. Jones Jr., formerly of Detroit's northeast side, came up from Florida. Mrs. Jones' mother is with her. By Monday Catherine Jones thinks she must have had 50 phone calls of sympathy.

A couple of people called thinking it couldn't be Dave, so they asked for him," said Mrs. Jones. Neighbors did the same.

Jones seems to have wandered into the wrong place at the wrong time. The tickets to the tennis match were a gift, said Mrs. Jones, sniffling back tears. They wouldn't have gone otherwise.

The tickets included a pass to a reception for tennis stars like Bjorn Borg. There were so many people around them we didn't even shake their hands," said Mrs. Jones. And Dave Jones had gone to work that morning and out the town late that afternoon, so he was too tired to wait around.

Perhaps most importantly, the three parking lot attendees scheduled to work the lot left their posts two hours before the scheduled quitting time.

They flicked on the automatic timing device which kept the parking lot lights on for another two and one half hours. Jones was killed approximately 40 minutes after the lights went off.

Had the attendants left after 11 p.m. as

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This picture was taken earlier this fall when David Jones and his wife, Catherine, went to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde and Marguerite Jones, at their Florida home.

Task force targets schools for closing

Parents of Highmeadow Elementary students can breathe a little easier—their school has been dropped from consideration for closing by Farmington school district's task force on declining enrollments.

Alameda, Fairview and Ten Mile are left on the list, which will be narrowed to two schools during the task force's open session at the central administration building Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

The force will recommend to the board of education that two elementary schools be closed, that school attendance boundaries be changed and that another group be appointed to study the establishment of middle schools, housing the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

The board has yet to recommend closing dates for the schools.

"I THINK that there will be two schools closed within one or two years," said Supr. Lewis Schulman.

"My guess is that there will be one school closed in 1977 and one in 1978," he said.

There is little chance that all three of the schools under consideration will be closed, he said.

"It would be calamitous to have all three schools closed. We're concerned with maintaining the programs in the schools."

The location of the school within the district will influence the task force decision. Children from the closed schools will be sent to other elementary schools near by.

Highmeadow was excluded from consideration because it could be used to handle students from a nearby school that has been closed.

Besides the school's location, Schulman emphasized the projected enrollment of the school, the facilities available in the buildings under consideration by the force and those of other, nearby elementary schools.

The task force has studied the situation since July," Schulman said.

"IT HAS attempted to rise above the neighborhood consideration in evaluating the district-wide situation."

The theme of a neighborhood school every mile is a good one in a burgeoning school system," he said.

But with a decline in enrollments, it's a luxury for Farmington, he explained.

Accompanying the shift in students, the schools' boundaries and the number of teachers, administrators and maintenance workers will also change.

With the exact location of the closed school undetermined, the types of boundary changes to be recommended to the School Board are also unknown.

There are several ways that we can change the boundaries," he said. "We want to do it so people will know several years in advance where their children will attend school," the superintendent said.

Although the district will have to pick up the tab for maintaining the empty schools, it will save about \$100,000 a year on each closed elementary building.

The savings will come from a drop in administrative costs, Schulman said.

The district will try to place the teachers in the elementary schools which will handle students from the closed schools.

"THE PRINCIPALS will be absorbed into other positions," he said. "We hope that there will be vacancies to absorb them."

Although the teachers will follow their students into other schools, some of them will eventually be laid off.

We anticipate cutting the number of teachers as there will be less students," he said.

Empty building eyed for courts

School and town city administrators are thinking of trying their hand at recycling a vacant school building.

Administrators from both cities are considering the possibility of using a vacant school as a court facility.

School administrators are hoping their empty buildings could be used to expedite services such as trading services and bilingual services.

However, municipal administrators are coming face to face with a basic school fact of life—schools are built with children in mind.

Would the schools lend themselves to being converted to a court? Farmington City manager Robert Bradman asked. We'd have to look at the cost of conversion. There are certain problems in construction.

Schools aren't made for adults.

Have you ever looked at the height of a drinking fountain in an elementary school?" he asked.

Most schools are built near children, in subdivisions. Some of the buildings that are being considered for closing are in subdivisions. Farmington Hills City manager George Mayors told his council, last Monday.

These would not serve our purposes for a court since the court would attract an in-

Maintenance workers in the schools will be kept on if the district finds another use for the buildings, Schulman said.

The school closures and the initiation of the task force follow a recent history of declining enrollments in the district.

The loss of 500 elementary students in five years has prompted district to again consider closing schools.

These schools won't be the last to close, Schulman said. Within five years the district will be faced with the same decision.

We're losing 500 students a year," he said.

In 1971-72 there were 4,000 students in the kindergarten to sixth grades. This year, 1976-77, we have a 340 students in the same grades. So you can see the difference," he said.

In 1987-88 we expect to have 3,000 students in these grades.

The districts are expected to continue throughout the district. Decline in elementary school population should ultimately show in the high school population as these children get older.

Its intention is not that it will be necessary to move the courts into the empty high school buildings.

When this happens, the district could use

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Hills fights off paper swipers

Plagued by distasteful newspaper swipers, the City of Farmington Hills is con-

sidering scheduling the paper pick up at an earlier time.

We'll have to collect early in the morning to beat the scavengers or the contractor will take our trash away," said Hills City Manager George Mayors at Monday's council meeting.

The papers, which are recycled, are picked up by members of Farmington Hills Department of Public Works.

Some drivers have collected the loose numbers of the mobile scavengers as the city hopes to contact some of the persons who are spitting away the old news papers.

The threat has been seen as late as noon," added Mayors.

Council member Joanne Smith suggested that a rash of paper doves conducted by scout troops and churches may be cutting into the city's take.

NONETHELESS, newspapers should be watched once they're placed on an unprotected curb.

"People should stand in the window after they put the trash out," she said. "Homeowners should help us."

Although the collection hours may be early, the enterprising paper snatchers could be earlier.

"These people operate early," said Mayors. "They may come after midnight."

In addition to coping with the outright stealing of the papers, Farmington Hills council has to cope with the city's on-again-off-again collection method, which has left contributors wondering if the trash man cometh.

"People don't know that we're collecting the papers, again," said Mayor Pro Tem Joan Bradley. "That's what you get when you stop a program and then start it again."

inside

THE CAR PLACE

One of your neighbors, Mrs. Binford, found the easy way to sell her car—in the Observer & Economic classified section. "I had more than 25 calls on the first day and the car was sold before 10 a.m."

If you're selling your car, there's no better place to advertise than our place. Call us today.

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