

## Majoros' letter

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Irregularities, she might be tarred with the same brush by people who might not bother to get all the facts. Her responsibilities were very specific and very limited. She was to organize our filing system, receive applications, update financial questionnaires and help people fill out new applications for loans and grants under the \$60,000 allocation for this purpose we received directly from Oakland County. Since this was the exact program she worked on while with Oakland County, we felt she was most qualified to perform these tasks. We estimated it would take about three months to obligate the \$60,000 allocation, so we did not intend to hire a full advertising and posting procedure.

2. As indicated in the County Prosecutor's letter, we did not knowingly hire one of the persons involved in the conspiracy.

I WONDER ALSO if in fact public confidence in the program has really been eroded? Apparently the editor of the local scandal sheet and you feel that Mrs. Lowe has "tainted" our program. However, not one citizen from the target area called me to complain about her involvement. I suspect the many people who got loans and grants to rehabilitate their homes because of her presence here could care less who helped fill out

and type their application.

Hindsight is a marvelous thing. Mrs. Lowe was certainly not considered "controversial" when at the City Council meeting on June 18, 1978. Paul Tobocman, staff monitor for the Coalition for Block Grant Compliance and past president of the League and who is charged with monitoring our program, praised her to high heaven and even suggested that she be given responsibility for the entire loans and grants program. When the story appeared in the Detroit News in late June about Mrs. Lowe's status as an unindicted co-conspirator, I advised Mayor Dolan of the new developments in the case. I understand she then contacted some members of council. Neither she nor I saw any need to take any drastic action about her status. Perhaps we both assumed incorrectly that since her name was so well advertised by the city in posters and flyers that well informed people would connect her name with Oakland County and that absence of dissent meant acquiescence. However, a month later, when she had already left the city, you and the editor felt the need to make this an issue. I regret that by your actions you both have tried to make a mountain out of a molehill.

Sincerely yours,  
George L. Majoros  
City Manager

## League wants answers

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the Oakland County Prosecutor's Strike Force, which began their own investigation after the report was issued, according to Assistant Prosecutor James Mitchell.

Mitchell wrote a letter at the request of Mike Dorman, Majoros' assistant, outlining the chronology of Mrs. Lowe's problems with the county.

"As is obvious from the above factual situation and chronology of evidence, at the time of Maureen Lowe's hiring in April 24, 1978, Maureen Lowe's involvement in the charged criminal acts was not known," Mitchell wrote.

Mitchell also makes reference to the September audit.

"The auditor's investigation resulted in a somewhat lengthy report which clearly raised more questions than (sic) it answered (it is my understanding that you have, or have access to the auditors report)," Mitchell wrote to Dorman.

Dorman said he was aware of the report but had not seen a copy of it. The Observer made five unsuccessful attempts to contact Majoros last week. According to Dorman, Majoros

refuses to speak to the Observer. Both Dorman and Majoros stressed that Mrs. Lowe was hired to do a specific job and was segregated from involvement with contractors.

"She had a clean record," Mitchell said to the Observer last week. He added that she had a letter of recommendation but didn't know who had written the letter. Both the Oakland County Community Development Program officials and Personnel Division deny that a letter of recommendation was written for Mrs. Lowe.

Dorman said Mrs. Lowe brought supervisors' evaluations from her county work at the time of her hiring. The prosecutor's office involved itself in an investigation of the county's Community Development Program after obtaining a copy of the audit report submitted to Murphy, Mitchell said.

Charges against Mrs. Lowe's supervisor Donald MacKenzie and two other men were issued in June. Investigators from the Oakland County Strike Force first talked with Mrs. Lowe on June 19 and had a subsequent in-depth interview with her and her attorney on June 20 of this year, Mitchell said.

## Waldorf opens registration

Waldorf Kinder House, a non-profit nursery and kindergarten, is accepting registrations for children from three and one half through six years of age. The school is located at 18945 Fourteen Mile, Birmingham.

The pre-school offers a wide range

of social and artistic experiences, as well as a foreign language.

Lora Valsi, president of the Oakland Waldorf Association, Inc., will take inquiries and registrations by calling her at 642-0102 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays.

## Dad, son spend time working on rails

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Ever since the first silent-screen heroine was tied to a railroad track, train buffs have gone out of their way to enjoy their hobby.

When they aren't indulging in watching the operation of a real rail yard, they hunt up the next best thing. They make their own scale model of their favorite yard.

That's what Tom Hoover and his son, Tom, 14, accomplished this summer. Together they constructed a scale model of the East Los Angeles diesel facility yard.

For the Hoover team, the choice was obvious.

"Dad travels a lot and this is his favorite spot to watch trains," explained the younger Hoover.

Their years of combining "N" scale train kits to build cars and engines which are replicas of those visiting the yard paid off recently. During the model railroaders convention in Dearborn, the duo won the Con-Cor award for building the best module in the show.

Participants in the show contributed modules to the convention's train set-up. Each section containing cars and scenery was hooked to the next and after the end of the convention it took 12 trains five minutes to traverse the track.

LIKE THE 46 other entries, the Hoovers' model was an exact replica of equipment used in a railroad yard, according to Tom.

To achieve such authenticity on a nine millimeter wide track, the Ho-

vers combined several commercial kits to build one car. Their attention to detail showed in the recreation of daily working scenes at the yard.

Diesels were lined up and ready for maintenance in the yard. On the catwalks surrounding a parked engine, tiny workmen are positioned around the disabled engine.

Besides being a copy of the workaday world, the model trains run with safeguards similar to those employed in real-life.

If a train is thrown off the tracks or if a collision occurs, a fail-safe system causes other cars on the same track to slow down or stop.

A similar but more complex system is used by the large railroads in the country to avoid mass collisions, according to Tom.

While the models show the pro-

Together they constructed a scale model of the East Los Angeles diesel facility yard. For the Hoover team, the choice was obvious. 'Dad travels a lot and this is his favorite spot to watch trains,' explained the younger Hoover.

iciency of the father-son team, Tom rates watching the large engines lumber into the yard over the scaled down versions.

His interest in railroads started on the right track when his father took him to a "N" scale convention about five years ago.

HE'S BEEN A fan of the clacking rails ever since.

Along the way he's developed some strong opinions about the railroad.

For efficiency and cleanliness he picks the tracks out west over their eastern counterparts.

But for sheer enjoyment, he has an affinity for the trains that ruled the yards before he was born. The heyday of the trains he likes to watch came in the early 1950's, before he was born. That was when steam was king.



Tom Hoover, 14, looks over the model railroad yard that he and his father built. (Staff photo by Harry Maube)

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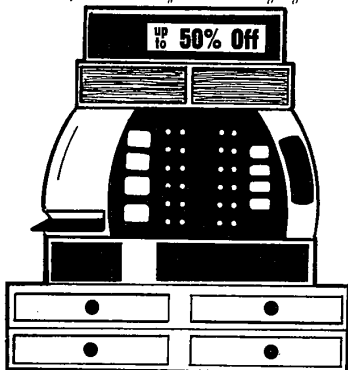
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