

Farmington Observer

Volume 90 Number 3

Thursday, October 26, 1978

Farmington, Michigan

92 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Terry Sever honored as Citizen of the Year



Surrounded by equipment in their printing shop, Linda and Terry Sever celebrate the good news that Terry has been chosen as Citizen of the Year by the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Terry Sever, of Farmington Hills, has been named Citizen of the Year by the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. He's the youngest person ever to receive the award.

The 28-year-old businessman was honored during last night's chamber dinner at the Botsford Inn where he received a standing ovation.

Sever, owner of T&L Printing in the World Wide Shopping Center, shared the honor with his wife, Linda, and two daughters, Jennifer and Melissa.

"I owe a lot to my wife and friends in the Farmington area who assisted me in many projects," said Sever.

Presently, he is the Farmington Area Jaycee president. Last year he served as the Farmington Founders Festival chairman. He also is a member of the Farmington Rotary and the chamber.

Born in Detroit, Sever moved to Farmington Hills in 1966 where he graduated from Farmington High School.

He opened his printing business in 1973 and said he became dedicated to helping others after he saw how Farmington area residents aided him in starting out.

"When I opened my business I was too busy to offer help to other people, but the Jaycees showed me how

important it was to be involved," he said.

"A lot of positive things have happened to me. I've gotten a lot of breaks that other persons just haven't been lucky enough to get.

"Therefore, my participation in the community over the last few years is my way of saying thanks to the community," he said.

Sever said he never visualized himself in earlier years as a leader but since becoming involved in community affairs he has derived much satisfaction from his leadership role.

In the future, he said, he hopes to provide even more of a leadership role in the Farmington area.

"I haven't made a commitment to anything. But I have a desire to help offer leadership," he said.

Sever, who gives much credit for his success to his wife, said he only would commit himself further if he also could remain an "effective" father and husband.

"A lot of my time has been taken away from my children. I have a strong desire to combine time with my family with a leadership role," he said.

Sever lauded his wife.

"Linda was my right hand man, she was my sidekick for the first 3 years after opening my business. I just couldn't have been as successful if her, and other persons like her, hadn't

given me a lot of help," he said.

Walter Koning, a fellow Jaycee, and one of the persons nominating Sever, told how Sever's attitude gained him the community's respect.

"In knowing Terry for over four years, he has continuously supported the idea that Farmington is a great place to live and do business," said Koning.

"He has carried that attitude through his willingness to become involved in the communities' activities and work on projects to make Farmington a friendly community and great place to live," he said.

Mrs. Sever gave a more personal touch of Sever's dedication.

"Many were the nights that I expected him home at 11 p.m. only to have him fall in at 3:4 a.m. from a meeting," she said.

She also noted that Sever has expanded his participation by developing awareness programs on senior citizen housing and the smoke detector distribution program.

"This last year has been a very hectic one for Terry and me. I did my best to let Terry go at his unannounced pace.

"I know in the end it will all be something he and I can look back on and feel a sense of pride, knowing he had done what he felt he had to and truly wanted to do for his community," she said.

Malpractice battle leading to showdown

By PATRICIA LaCROIX

While doctors and lawyers claim they are not at war with each other, the issue of malpractice lawsuits has at least strained the relationship between the two professions.

Doctors, often backed by favorable court decisions, are demanding that lawyers stop filing malpractice cases so eagerly. Lawyers, on the other hand, claim that the average man needs to be able to complain effectively about medical carelessness.

Dr. Richard Horsch, a Farmington Hills resident and an anesthesiologist at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia, is actively involved in the Physicians Crisis Committee. The group was formed in 1974 to try to limit the number of malpractice cases that were being filed.

The common man is also involved in the fight, through increased costs to the patients.

Because doctors want to have evidence if the patient decides to sue, they often perform additional and sometimes unnecessary medical tests.

This practice is commonly called "defensive medicine."

These tests cost the patient money and contribute to ever-increasing health care costs, Horsch said.

The fight has been taken to the courts, and there are currently several cases pending decisions. Some of them have been appealed to the Michigan State Supreme Court.

THE PROBLEM BEGAN, Horsch said, when no-fault insurance was implemented in the state. Horsch said when this happened, so-called "ambulance chasers"—lawyers eager to file malpractice suits.

"Suddenly, we found the costs of malpractice insurance going through the ceiling," he said. "It went so high that in some cases, it amounted to about one-third of the total income of the doctor. We are talking about \$20,000-40,000 for simple basic coverage."

So far, the doctors have been successful in accomplishing a number of things. For example, the Brown-McNeely fund, established through

contributions from doctors, has made malpractice insurance available at more reasonable rates.

Each doctor is asked to contribute a "not too costly" amount. The money is pooled to cover malpractice suits against the participating doctors.

Another victory was the Michigan Court of Appeals ruling declaring lawyers must be accountable for their actions. This set a precedent, and Horsch said it will affect the decisions of other courts in similar cases.

PREDICTABLY, NOT all lawyers agree with the activities of the physicians' committee.

Sheldon Miller, past president of the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, said the group is seeking "special treatment in the eyes of the law."

"All I can say is that I hope they know medicine better than this," he said. "They couldn't be more full of crap if they had been conspired for a month."

Miller said he particularly is upset with one of the goals of the doctors' group. Instead of wanting malpractice

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Because it's there Why marathoners compete

By C.J. RISAK

Ever since the Greeks defeated the Persians on the plains of Marathon and a messenger ran all the way back to the city of Athens with the news (and died after delivering his message), the marathon has been known as a painfully long event which takes a great amount of determination and endurance.

Today, thousands of people suffer through the same agony as the ancient Greek runner, only they have no message to deliver.

So why do those people endure all that pain for no apparent reason?

"It's the challenge," marathon runner Bill Benton said.

"I've always been interested in long distance running, and the marathon is so uniquely different from anything else. I just find it fascinating."

Benton competed in his "fifteenth or so" marathon last Sunday in Detroit. He finished twenty-third overall with a time of 2 hours 36:59.

Benton, who works for the city of Farmington, became interested in distance running during his high school days, where he ran cross country and the mile on the track team.

The marathon captured his attention

while in college, and he first competed in Boston in 1971.

"I run about 80-110 miles a week to get ready for it," Benton said.

"I'll usually start three months before the event. I do a lot of hill running and race quarter mile repeats to build up my endurance."

Benton's training period was limited to eight weeks for the Detroit marathon because of a pulled leg muscle.

"And I don't just start running three months before a marathon. I practice all year round. In the summer I compete in different races around the community, anywhere from two to fifteen miles."

As for the Detroit marathon, Benton enjoyed running in it, especially in comparison to last year's event.

"I really liked running through the

tunnel and Greektown and Grosse Pointe," he said.

"Destination running is always better than just running laps around Belle Isle, like we did last year. More and more cities are coming to the destination marathons through the city streets."

Many of the nation's cities now stage their own marathons. Benton has competed in a number of them, including Saginaw, Grand Rapids, Canton, Ohio and Boston.

He's run the Boston Marathon six times, and plans to run it again this year.

The boredom of the long hours spent in conditioning is something that doesn't bother Benton.

"I train with people from this area quite a bit," he said. "It helps quite a bit. I push myself a lot harder when someone else is around."

Decoy enchantment lasts a lifetime

By JULES JACOBS

The signs are obvious: scudding cloud formations, marsh and bay waters chilled and choppy, color-coded leaves scattered and battered by winds, the cold, light of gray October mornings, and carbon copied, V-shaped flight patterns high in the autumn sky.

These signs quicken the heart beat of thousands of avid hunters who anticipate "bagging their limit."

Experienced duck hunters enhance their chances of getting their legal limit by the careful selection and deployment of duck decoys.

Dick Lancaster, retired businessman, devoted duck hunter and resident duck collector from Farmington Hills, is the resident expert on duck decoys.

Duck decoy collectors are small in number and persons seldom heard about, but who harbor a fascinating world.

Lancaster had his first encounter with duck decoys in 1935 while on his honeymoon trip along the Saginaw Bay shores. With a happy, open smile he says that "both Louise (his wife) and an extensive number of decoys have been my life-long romances."

This aficionado of decoy collecting recalled that he laid out \$18 for his first string of six duck decoys. Forty-two years later his personal collection "numbers in the thousands."

Among his collection are such familiar names as Goldeneyes, Mallards,

Teal, Redheads, Widgeon, Canvasbacks, Bluebills, Buffleheads, and various kinds of geese and swan.

Included in the collection are decoys by a number of prominent and respected carvers such as Otto Mesch, Dave Semandle and Ben and Frank Schmitt.

More expensive models are carved (Continued on page 6A)

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Running over water

Farmington's Bill Benton races across the Belle Isle Bridge during the Detroit Marathon, held last Sunday. Benton finished twenty-third in the second annual event. (Photo by Harry Mauthe)



Duck decoy collector Dick Lancaster proudly displays a pair of his Otto Mesch duck carvings.