

Computer age aids police in crimefight

By TERESA BANAS

One dark evening as you're driving along at a "fast rate of speed" you see the flashing colored lights of a police car and decide to pull over. The car seems to have come out of the blue.

An officer approaches your window and says, "Good evening, I understand you're driving a 'hot car' and you're wanted for murder in 15 states." He then begins to state your past criminal record, down to every citation.

You marvel at how he got all that information so quickly.

A police officer has always been able to dig up such information, but it usually takes time. In some cases, a suspect, stopped for a minor traffic violation, is not discovered for a more serious offense until he is pulled into the station.

His identification is run through what is called a LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) machine based at the police station. His violations come through on the machine's screen.

Today, there's a new advancement in computerized field communication that more and more police departments are eyeing. Technically, it's called a mobile data terminal and

someday in the future every patrol car will have one.

Basically, it's a time saving device that would allow patrol officers to get information without having to be relayed through a dispatch officer at the main police station.

PROponents of the device, staged MODAT, say it will increase an officer's safety on the job, as well as the officer's effectiveness on the road. Before he (she) approaches a stopped car, he (she) will be aware of the suspect's criminal background.

Additionally, the officer will be able to get fast compiled information about a particular area, thereby increasing his (her) "apprehension rate."

At this time, Livonia is courting the federal government for a grant to purchase these devices. Included in the request are MODAT systems for patrol cars in Redford, Westland, Garden City, Plymouth, Northville Township, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Redford Police Chief Edwin Gleza says MODAT and its central computer could be used for analyzing criminal information as well as giving police officers added protection.

He says the main computer can store information fed into patrol terminals by officers. Questions can be asked the computer, based on stored statewide information.

"It will be able to store and retrieve the number and types of runs completed by an officer in a day," he adds.

For example, he says, one can query the computer on the number of burglaries that were committed by breaking in through a side window. This information can be used in catching a criminal with this type of method of operation.

"IT'S GOT AN analytical advantage for us," he says. "The big problem today in law enforcement is getting information. Now, it takes hand search."

Another added feature to MODAT, Gleza finds, is that the computer will be able to coordinate emergency work through a 911 call number.

Emergency calls, tied into the main computer, will immediately be dispatched to the appropriate patrol car. "It's got all kinds of capabilities," he says.

Gleza adds this "regional concept" to law enforcement is a big advantage to nearby communities.

Pt. John Beale, of the Livonia Police Department, is working on processing the grant for Livonia.



Football mania

When it comes to the Farmington football scene, you can't overlook the spirit of Farmington High School students who met in the gymnasium last Friday to get ready for the game with North Farmington. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

sum last Friday to get ready for the game with North Farmington. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Karen Green gives workshop

Pianist Karen Pickard Green, Detroit native now serving as teacher and arranger at the First Presbyterian Church, Quincy, Mass., will give a one-day workshop for church musicians and teen performers Saturday, Nov. 11, at Detroit Bible College, Farmington Hills.

Reservations may be made by calling the college 553-7200. Tuition is \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for students.

Advance enrollment will include a ticket for a special Friday evening concert by Mrs. Green at 8 p.m. in the college's Academic Center. Detroit Bible College is located at 35700 W. Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills.

Morning workshops will begin at 9 a.m. and include reharmonization, invention and construction. An optional afternoon solo performance class will develop new techniques under Mrs. Green's guidance. Plans will be available on campus between sessions for practice.

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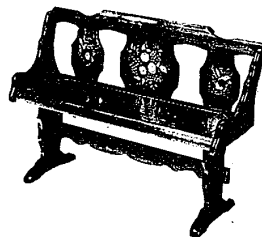
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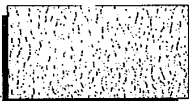
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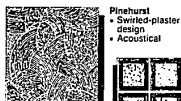
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