

Farmington Observer

Volume 91 Number 10

Monday, November 19, 1979

Farmington, Michigan

44 Pages

Twenty-five cents

©1979 Suburban Commission Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Cops nab tire ring in Hills

By PHILIP A. SHERMAN

Four men remain free on personal bond and a fifth is in Oakland County Jail after they were arrested for selling stolen tires to officers from the Farmington Hills Police Department.

After two smaller buys, officers arrested the men at 7 p.m. Nov. 10 in Farmington's Industrial Park.

The men were driving two trucks loaded with 392 tires valued at more than \$13,000, according to Detective Dennis Rochford of the Farmington Hills police.

Arrested were Lucky Barton and Carmen Williams, both Conrail employees; Charles "Chuck" Acker, of Dynamic Collision; Joseph Giniel of Budget Brakes; and Rodney Allegrina.

All were charged with receiving stolen goods valued at more than \$100. Barton and Giniel were also charged with possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Rochford said Acker had previously spent 18 months in Jackson State Prison and is presently in Oakland County Jail for parole violation.

Rochford said the department received an anonymous tip Friday, Nov. 9, that a man named Chuck at Dynamic Collision, 30859 W. 10 Mile, was selling tires.

"We sent an officer in Friday and the guy said he could get radials for \$50 each," Rochford said. "He left and when he came back our officer bought four tires for \$200."

Rochford said the officers checked the DOT (Department of Transportation) numbers on the tires and found they were from a batch stolen from a Conrail box car in Hamtramck. He said the boxcar theft occurred between Oct. 25 and 30.

"We sent an officer back a second time, this time under surveillance, and followed Chuck to Budget Brakes in Livonia," Rochford said. He said the officer bought four more tires for \$200.

"We finally had a different officer call, saying he was Joe Blow or somebody, on Saturday," Rochford said. He said the officer told Chuck that he had a fleet of cars and needed as many tires as he could get.

Rochford said the purchase was arranged for early Saturday evening. "They pulled up with two trucks, a U-Haul and a pickup, at 7 p.m. in Industrial Park and were arrested."

Rochford said the tires were to be sold for \$13,500.

City boasts one fatality for the year

With only 35 shopping days left until Christmas, Farmington may finish out the year with one traffic fatality — one of the lowest records in the area.

The reason for such a low count, possibly, could be attributed to stepped-up patrols and a police department policy of heavy ticketing.

However, the reason seems to be a careful compilation of computer statistics that, when analyzed, result in what Lt. John Santomaro labels "SE" — selective enforcement.

Santomaro, deputy director of public safety for the city of Farmington, said "we analyze (the statistics) on a monthly basis to determine where to set up SE. After that, we station an unmarked unit in the area."

The area may vary due to the monthly review. Santomaro said Farmington's worst intersection, judging by frequency and severity of accidents, is at Ninth Mile and Farmington Road.

The lieutenant defined an intersection as an area spanning 200 feet from the center of the intersection. Santomaro said that from 1977 to date, there have been 90 accidents at Ninth and Farmington.

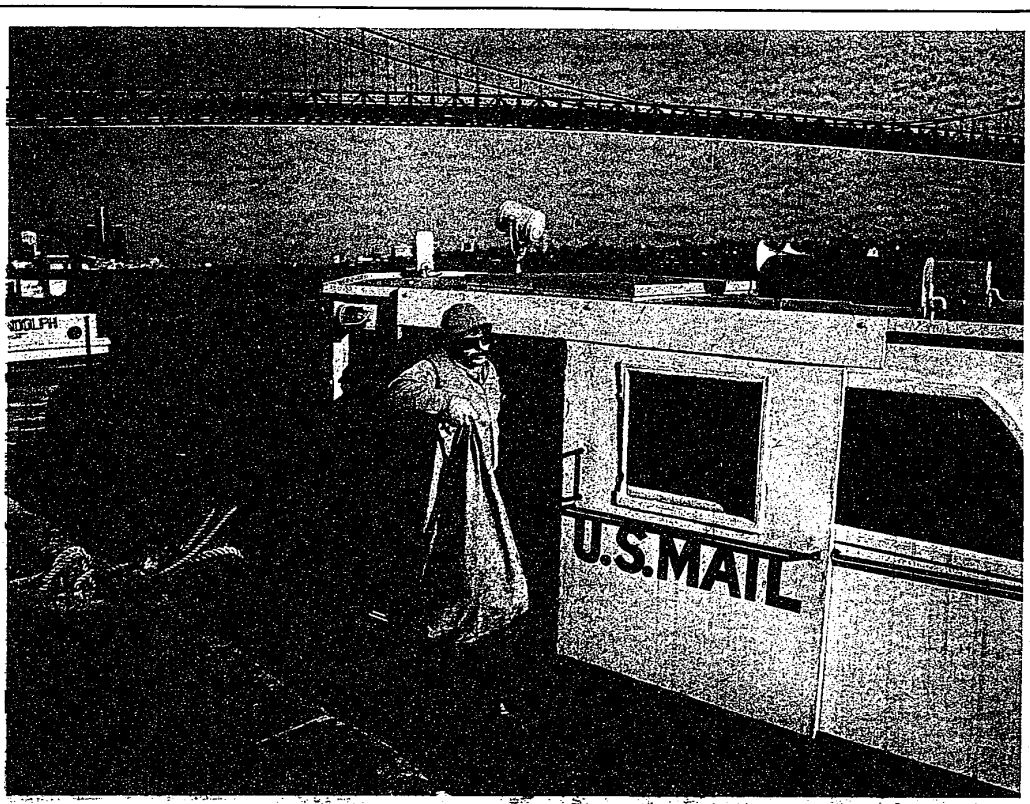
"That intersection is the most severe area," he said. Officers at an accident rate it on a scale of one to seven, seven being the worst.

"For a total dollar amount for all accidents from 1977, '78 and '79, it's been \$305,530," Santomaro said.

What's unusual about this is that the intersection doesn't have the highest traffic volume for the area. According to Santomaro, who was citing statistics from the past three years, 28,000 cars pass the intersection daily.

The intersection with the largest traffic volume daily is at Eight Mile

(Continued on page 4A)



On deck with the mail

Duane Upton of Avon Township grew up studying and admiring the freighters traveling the Great Lakes. His hobby expanded, until he was listening to the conversations of captains on his own marine radio. He also started to photograph the huge ships from the shores of the St. Clair and Detroit rivers. Then he was given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity — the chance to reach out and touch the freighters' great hulls and deliver mail and

other supplies to their crews. He became a deck hand of the J.W. Westcott II — the only floating zip code in the world. Now, Upton spends about two days a month gazing into Detroit sunsets and sharing the same river with the machines of his dreams. For a closer look at Upton's river work, see Page 3A. (Staff photo by David Frank)

Farmington: a name for many cities

By MARY GNIEWEK

Most folks who've read the historical markers around town know that Farmington, Mich. was named after Farmington, N.Y.

But add these facts to your trivia list. • Farmington, N.Y. was named after Farmington, Conn.

• Neither of those towns has a historical connection with Farmington in Mississippi, New Mexico or Maine.

• If you consider the combined populations of Farmington (10,999) and Farmington Hills (66,000), Mich., it's the biggest Farmington in the country.

The Farmington Observer contacted persons living in all its known namesake towns across the country.

Here's a brief history of Farmington, U.S.A.

Farmington, Mich.'s founding father, Arthur Power, left his New York hometown in 1824. He patterned this community after its namesake. Both were originally farming communities with wheat and saw mills and a hefty dose of Quaker religion.

In Lee Peel's "Farmington: A Pictorial History," the author describes Farmington, N.Y. as a sparsely populated place. That's a description with which Farmington, N.Y. town historian Gus Wehrin agrees.

"THE ONLY PEOPLE who know we're here is the Internal Revenue Service," Wehrin said.

The town, 18 miles east of Rochester, is still primarily agricultural.

"Since World War II, we've had growing pains. There's been housing developments constructed — people who work in Rochester and live on postage-stamp sized lots," Wehrin said.

Wehrin is very aware of Farmington, Mich. "Arthur Power wasn't an outcast. He wanted new territory. Communications between the Powers and other families who moved to Michigan continued with their relatives still living here," he said.

"Nathan Aldrich, a direct descendant of the Nathan Aldrich who moved to Farmington, Mich. in the 1800s, is one of the most highly decorated soldiers

(World War I) in town."

Today, the Michigan and New York communities bear little resemblance. The New York town has a racetrack, but no industry. There's no central school district.

The Quaker church where the Powers attended services, Friends Chapel, still holds church meetings.

Farmington, N.Y. was established in 1788 by 10 families from Farmington, Conn., according to Wehrin.

Donald Slacy of the Farmington, Conn. Chamber of Commerce doesn't know how that town got its name.

The first settlement in 1640 occurred on the east side of the Tuxis River, which later became known as the Farmington River. Tuxis is an Indian word for "at the bend of the river."

The fertile farm valley was settled primarily by Congregationalists according to Slacy.

ONE TIDBIT of trivia — Mrs. Porter's School for Girls, which was established in Farmington, Conn. in 1844, was attended by Jackie Kennedy Onassis.

Farmington was the largest town in Hartford County before the Revolutionary War, Slacy said.

It models Farmington, Mich. more than Farmington, N.Y. Two small commercial communities, Farmington and Unionville, make up the area.

There's an award-winning industrial park, an historical district along Main St. and a larger city, Hartford, just nine miles away.

The town was settled by farmers. Today, there are 16,200 residents. The University of Connecticut health center is in Farmington.

Across the country, Farmington, N.M. is an oasis in the desert. The closest city, Albuquerque, is 185 miles south.

Avis Derryberry, a Farmington resident for 35 years, describes it as an isolated boom town with a population of 50,000 residents.

Located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, she says the town has grown with energy development — solar, gas, oil and electricity.

"When I moved here in 1944, there were 2,500 residents," Mrs. Derryberry said. "Now we're the second or third most rapidly growing city in the country."

An employee of the San Juan County Museum's Indian room, Mrs. Derryberry said the town's history is independent of its eastern namesakes.

"I'M SURE there's no connection," she said. "It's like Springfield — there are several of them across the country."

Farmington's original inhabitants were Apache, Navaho, Hopi and Zuni Indians.

"The Indian ruins go back thousands of years," Mrs. Derryberry said.

Farmington, N.M. is also the hometown of former Dallas Cowboy Ralph Neely.

How training center aids retarded adults

By MARY GNIEWEK

Ed Wolf is reaching out to those mentally handicapped persons who missed state-mandated education programs as young adults.

The Farmington Training Center instructor helped devise a night school curriculum which caters to the over-25 crowd. They come from community living centers, institutions and private homes for classes.

"That intersection is the most severe area," he said. Officers at an accident rate it on a scale of one to seven, seven being the worst.

"For a total dollar amount for all accidents from 1977, '78 and '79, it's been \$305,530," Santomaro said.

What's unusual about this is that the intersection doesn't have the highest traffic volume for the area. According to Santomaro, who was citing statistics from the past three years, 28,000 cars pass the intersection daily.

The intersection with the largest traffic volume daily is at Eight Mile

mentally handicapped person over age 25 is excluded from participation. In fact, half the 65 students now enrolled were in state-mandated special education classes. Just as many have jobs.

"AFTER AGE 25, there was no education programs for them. And there's a great need for it. Parents wanted it," Wolf said.

The program is funded through the Walley Lake School District with state and local funds.

The staff at the school developed the curriculum.

"It's definitely an individualized approach," Wolf explained.

Half the students attend classes for three-hour sessions Tuesday; the other half meets Thursday. Six instructors teach the program.

A diagnostic test administered in September showed a wide range of student functioning levels. In math, 32 students work in basic number recognition and color concepts. The remainder, whose functioning levels range from pre-school to eighth grade, work on

functional math, like coin value and simple money budgeting.

In reading, 34 students have no word recognition skills. They work on recognition of everyday items like spoons, forks, cups, soap and clothing. A second group is working on recognition of survival words, like women, men, push and pull, enter and exit. The remainder have reading skills and keep up with current events.

The rest of the class time is devoted to improving social interaction. This is an area where Wolf says even the highest academic achievers have problems. There's arts and crafts, physical education and field trips to movies and restaurants.

The ratio is three to one more male students than female.

"It's a heredity type thing," Wolf said.

Parents who would like to enroll their children for next year's program should call Wolf at 476-7980. No new students will be taken until next September.

inside

Agendas	2A
At Your Leisure	6A
Community Calendar	4B
Inside Angles	3A
Obituaries	2A
Suburban Life	Section B
Sports	Section D

MERCY STRAINED

The quality of Mercy is not strained, so they say. Neither was it much in evidence last week in the Catholic league playoffs. To read the story, turn to the sports section.