

Rescue highlights year for firefighters

Carrier of the Month Farmington



Ken Sharpe

February's Carrier of the Month for the Farmington Observer is Ken Sharpe, 14, son of Gordon and Peggy Sharpe of Farmington Hills. They have one other son, John.

Ken, an A-average eighth grade student at Warner Junior High School, has been delivering the Observer since July, 1977. He is interested in math and science and plans to attend college. A member of Boy Scout Troop 230, he enjoys reading, running and basketball.

If you want to be a Farmington Observer carrier, please call 591-0500

Three resident fatalities marked 1979 for the Farmington Hills Fire Department. Firefighters fought 417 fires last year, an increase over 1978's total of 389.

The department's year-end report also listed two false bomb threats, the hiring of two additional full-time firefighters and a deputy chief. The department also added a new building to its properties.

There was a decrease in the total amount of property loss through fire in 1979 but that was accompanied by an increase in losses incurred through residential fires.

The first two fatalities of the year occurred on Sept. 22 when two teenagers died after their yellow two-door 1965 Buick was hit by an 18-wheel tractor hauling steel on eastbound Grand River. The Buick was hit as it went through a traffic light on northbound Haggerty, according to Hills police.

The Buick's gas tank burst into flames and Mark Williams, 17, of Farmington Hills and Brenda Thomson, 15, of Farmington Hills died in the fire.

But the two deaths were accompanied by the dramatic rescue of the truck driver, Hubert Coryelle, 40. Coryelle was pinned underneath the twisted wreckage of his cab. Seven feet from his head, the Buick continued to burn.

Firefighter Charles Scher, 42, and District Chief George Hume, 55, pulled the trucker from the cab by placing themselves between the trapped man and the burning car.

AFTER CUTTING away the seats which pinned down the driver, the two firefighters managed to pull Coryelle out of the wreck without aggravating his injury, a broken neck. Both firefighters considered the trucker lucky for escaping paralysis from the injury.

Both firefighters were cited for bravery by the Farmington Hills Fire Department. Coryelle presented each man with a pocket watch engraved with the words "In gratitude, Hubert Coryelle, Sept. 22, 1979."

The incident occurred shortly before Hume, a 27-year-veteran of the force retired. He was among eight firefighters who retired from the department during that year.

The third and final fire fatality of the year occurred when Glen Lyski, 38, died as a result of the explosion which rocked his Farmington Hills home on Nov. 4.

Hills arson investigators believed that the fire was set by the victim. Investigators found an empty five-gallon gas can in the remains of the house which Lyski shared with his mother, Erma.

The department fought blazes last year using two additional full-time firefighters hired in January, 1979. The department employed six full-time firefighters before the additional members were hired.

In addition, Thomas Johnson was hired as deputy chief, commander of the fire fighting division and an assistant to Fire Chief John Van Der Voort in September.

THE DEPARTMENT also occupied its new fire headquarters in station four, 28711 Drake in October.

There was more work for the increased force last year with rise in the number of fires in the city.

Of the 417 fires which occurred, 67 of those involved one- and two-family residences. In 1978 there were 68 such fires. Multiple residences were the site of six fires in 1979, an increase of three incidents from 1978.

There were four office fires last year compared to none the year before and industrial sites reported seven fires, three more than in 1978.

Fires which involved special properties, non-buildings and other sites, such as brush fires jumped from 167 incidents in 1978 to 195 last year.

While the total loss resulting from fire decreased from \$1,547,294 in 1978 to last year's \$1,200,607, property losses due to residential fires increased. In

1978, \$380,547 in property was lost in residential fires. Last year, the tally was \$618,147.

Loss on buildings other than residences declined from 1978's total of \$436,685 to \$116,334.

Loss on contents in the buildings other than residences dropped from \$447,700 in 1978 to \$75,685 last year.



Practicing for perfection

Farmington High matman Greg Lemanski (right) practices with Schoolcraft College coach Barry Walsh for the upcoming state high school finals this weekend. The 185-pound wrestler is one of six

Farmington-area students slated to participate. To read more about them, turn to the sports section. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Cancer society is sponsoring dance-a-thon

The American Cancer Society and WMJC radio will co-sponsor "Dance-A-Thon '80" on March 2 at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills.

Students from 195 metropolitan area high schools and colleges will be participating in the 12 hour marathon. It will raise funds for the Society's research, education and service programs.

Entry forms can be obtained from the American Cancer Society at 2950 Southfield Road, 587-5553 or at Little Caesar's restaurants.

S. Farmington to hold signup

Boys and girls interested in playing for teams in the South Farmington Baseball League may register on several dates in the near future at Farmington High School.

Signup sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on two Saturdays, March 1 and 8, and from 7-9 p.m. on a Wednesday, March 5.

Girls (8-13 years of age) and boys (7-16 years) who live in the area bounded by 11 Mile, Inkster, Eight Mile and Haggerty roads are eligible. The league stresses sportsmanship and fundamentals, and teams are formed according to age level and ability.

Secretaries meet at OCC

A workshop for secretaries will be held Saturday, March 15, at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus, 2705 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

The workshop fee of \$12.50 includes lunch. Registration deadline is Saturday, March 1. For registration information, contact May Aird, 556-2012 or 642-0157.

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