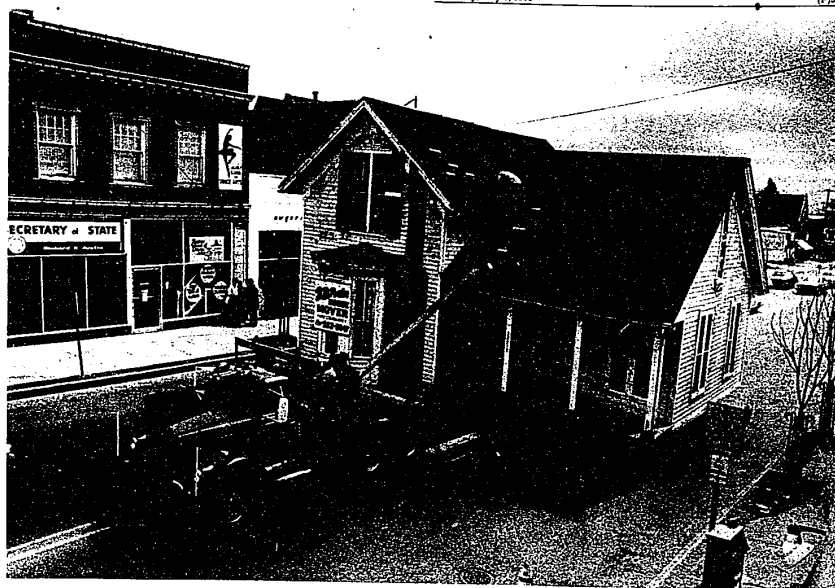




Traffic signals at Farmington Road and Grand River came down to earth to allow the house to pass.



Making its way down Grand River, the house almost snags an overhead power line.

Moving experience hits main street

Story: LOUISE OKRUTSKY
Photos: HARRY MAUTHE

It was a moving experience for Farmington.

Wooden beams groaned. Tree branches cracked. Shutters flapped.

Slowly, J.D. Porter, of Westland guided and cajoled the house at 32911 Grand River in Farmington to its new location on Shawwassee.

It took four housemovers, three Farmington Public Safety officers and back-up crews from Edison and Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday to set the stately Victorian-style house onto the site to await its new foundation.

About 20 persons gathered across the street from the house at 10 a.m. to watch as the moving crew guided the 28-foot high home onto Grand River.

Supported by beams running the width of the house and placed under the structure, the house was attached to a truck much like a trailer.

"If you don't jerk it or pull it, the house won't slide off," Porter explained the moving process.

Porter has spent 20 years moving buildings to new locations. Ten years ago he started his own small company serving the tri-county area.

"I've moved churches and all types of buildings," he said.

PORTER'S FEE for the moving service varies according to the size of the building and the distance required for the move.

For a job like the one he tackled Monday, Porter charges between \$9,000-\$10,000.

Those charges, plus a \$200 cash bond to Farmington for overtime incurred by city employees in addition to fees to the utility companies, combined to make the move an expensive item for the house's new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gundlach.

Before the Gundlachs, of 23700

Warner, Farmington, expressed interest in the home, the building was slated for demolition to make way for a parking lot to accommodate the new stores in the Downtown Farmington Center.

Before the Gundlachs came along to save the home, members of the Farmington Historical Society were allowed to take examples of 19th century wooden scrollwork, shutter hardware and glass from the house. Items from the home will be returned to help the Gundlachs restore the Victorian house constructed in 1870.

With its gingerbread scrollwork on the porch, bay windows and hardwood floors, the house is an example of architecture used in Farmington after 1850.

It was built by Will and Ella Irish and later used by their niece Mildred Adams after her marriage to E.C. Grace.

AMONG THE SPECTATORS Monday was Gerald Grace, 60, whose fa-

ther lived in the home.

"It was a real fine house," he remembers of the home where his father brought his stepmother.

"It was a good house. They made them to last in those days," he says.

The house has three bedrooms on the second floor. The main floor includes a living room, dining room, parlor and kitchen.

A back shed added after the home was built was removed by Porter under the direction of the Gundlachs. The addition with its small cupola was detached from the main house because it wasn't part of the original Victorian home. A chimney in the front of the house was removed for the same reason.

Although the moving project was estimated to last for about three hours, the moving took most of the day, racking up \$190 in overtime for Farmington Public Safety officers and DPW

(Continued on page 18A)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

FORMAL DEDICATION

CEREMONIES for the John E. Tirrel Hall of Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus will be conducted at 2 p.m., May 6, on the campus at 27055 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Tirrel, 52, served as OCC's first president from 1964-68. He is vice president for government affairs at the Washington-based American Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

FREE PRE-SCHOOL VISION screening is available at Oakland County Health division, 27724 Greenfield, Southfield, from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. on May 15. Appointment not necessary. For further information, call 424-7070.

JOHN H. SINARD, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sinard of 30595 Glenhurst, Farmington Hills, took third place in the 22nd annual Michigan Mathematics Competition on the campus of Eastern Michigan University.

Laura Monroe, 17, a senior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, won an honorable mention. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Monroe, of 30127 Oakview, Livonia.

PICTURES for identification cards for the Oakland County Senior Citizen Discount Program will be taken from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. on May 21 in the Lakes Area Multi-Purpose Center, 26350 Novi Road, Old Novi Elementary School, Novi.

The ID cards enable seniors to take advantage of discounts offered by Oakland County merchants, which range from 4 to 25 percent. Merchants interested in participating in the program may contact Helen Castora at 858-5171. Seniors must be 60 years old and residents of Oakland County to qualify for the program.

LOCAL STUDENTS won recognition in the Scholastic Magazines national art awards program. Our Lady of Mercy High School has the following winning students: Gabrielle Basso, 17, honorable mention in water color; Karyn Butler, 14, medals in oil and mixed media; Regina Ferrari, 17, honorable mention in mixed media; Karen Foster, 17, scholarship to Lake Erie College, Ohio, and an honorable mention in pencil drawing; Lisa Kluk, 14, medal in mixed media; Mary Elizabeth McDonnell, 17, honorable mention in mixed media; Leslie Ratice, 17, scholarship to the Art Students League of New York and a medal in acrylic; Polly Ross, 14, honorable mention in ink drawing; and Marlene Weglarz, 17, scholarship to Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne.

Tom Northmore of Harrison High School, Farmington Hills, won a Kodak Medallion of Excellence Award for his color photography. Scholastic Art Awards include 408 gold medals, 559 honorable mention certificates for outstanding work in painting, drawing, printmaking, design,

sculpture and crafts. There were 85 tuition scholarships granted by art schools and colleges. The Kodak Medallion of Excellence is awarded to the best photograph submitted from each region. Three are nominated regionally and sent to the national for final judging.

WILLIAM BEAUMONT HOSPITAL will offer a free program on "Coping with Heart Disease at Home," from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on May 9 at the hospital, 3501 West Thirteen Mile, Royal Oak. The session, led by a staff psychiatrist will deal with psychological feelings about heart disease. Ways to work through negative aspects will be explored. The sessions are designed to give an understanding of the heart and the rehabilitation process. Upcoming topics include: "Stress and the Relaxation Response," on May 16, and "Nutrition Notebook," on May 23. There isn't a charge but enrollment is limited. Call Beaumont at 288-9425 for reservations.

THE ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL presented by the members of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Parish, will be conducted on May 5-6 at the Livonia Mall on Seven Mile and Middlebelt. The festival will be in the Crowley Court.

STAND STRAIGHT is the message of Michigan Spinal Health Care Week, which comes on the heels of Secretaries' Week, Music Week, Dance Week and Volunteers' Week. (A great week just thinking about these momentous occasions.) During May 1-7, we're encouraged to stand up straight. "Think Straight and Feel Great" is the motto of the week.

DEADLINE

Material submitted for the Inside Angles, 23352 Farmington Road, 48024, should include the name and phone number of the sender. Typewritten notices are appreciated. All materials become the property of the Farmington Observer. Allow one week for publication.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

To connect with the Farmington Observer, use the following numbers:
• Farmington Observer Staff—477-5450

• Delivery—591-0500

• Display advertising—591-2300

• Classified ads—591-0900

• Legal notices—591-2300

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