

Suburbs Praise Sheriff's Choice

By DENNIS PAJOT

Wayne County Sheriff William Lucas, the first black man in that role, has picked a white veteran suburban police chief as his undersheriff.

Loren M. Pittman, a leader in county, state and national efforts for professionalism in the ranks of blue, was named by Lucas Monday.

Pittman will leave his post as police chief in River Rouge, where he gained stature over almost two decades by cleaning up a previously scandal-ridden department.

FROM LUCAS and from a hard-nosed police chief of an all-white Observerland community come indications that Pittman was chosen with suburban in mind.

"His coming with us should give us better relationships with the out-county areas," said Lucas, who is little known by or identifiable with the man in the subdivisions.

"Having Pittman will bring Lucas much closer to the out-county chiefs," said Redford Township Police Chief Edwin Gleza, who thought Lucas was an "excellent choice" for sheriff in the first place.

Gleza, who has worked closely with Pittman in county-wide efforts for increased police training and has a reputation, probably mistaken, of color bias, feels both will help build "great rapport between the sheriff's department and out-county police departments."

ABOUT LUCAS, Gleza said, "I have an awful lot of respect for him. I think he's fantastic. He's always shown a great interest in our problems. He's attended meetings of our Wayne County Chiefs of Police Association many times.

"You know," said Gleza, "he carried the ball for county organization of an intelligence unit that got a federal grant. He's volunteered his services many, many times."

"He's heard us out. He's heard our problems."

From Gleza's comments about Pittman, it appears that Lucas not only heard but heeded.

"I have high respect for Pittman. He was active in formation of the Downriver Task Force (a mutual assistance part of several municipal departments). He was instrumental in formation of it, the first one."

HERE'S WHAT LUCAS said about his choice of Pittman:

"He's one of the most outstanding law enforcement officers in this area. At River Rouge he was able to handle very well problems that plague most small departments."

RISING FROM the ranks of the River Rouge department in the late 1940s to its chief in the '60s with a huge reform mandate, he turned the trick and River Rouge now has a smoothly functioning, respected force of integrated officers.

Pittman holds a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and is working on a master's at Eastern Michigan University.

He's a director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (ACP), a director of the Metropolitan Police Academy and a guest lecturer there and at the Oakland Community College Police Academy.

He's a member and past president of the Wayne County ACP, a member of the National ACP, a director of the River Rouge Kiwanis Club and a member of the Wayne County police commission for crime control and prevention.

Pittman lives in River Rouge with his wife and two children.

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"His attitude towards people and his reactions to law enforcement are quite similar to mine."

"Most importantly, he knows the problems of the small towns and cities. One of our primary concerns is to provide law enforcement to areas outside Detroit. He has a real understanding of the problems in that area."

"We finally have a man that knows what suburban problems are," said Lucas of new Undersheriff Loren Pittman.

That gives an idea of Pittman's stature among fellow policemen. How did he achieve it?

Update Fireplace
A fireplace set into a flush brick column, with plain painted walls on either side, can look outdated. To modernize it, accent flanking wall surfaces with a covering of narrow bevel siding boards. Or use a diagonal installation of wide, tongue-and-groove pine boards.

Update Fireplace
A fireplace set into a flush brick column, with plain painted walls on either side, can look outdated. To modernize it, accent flanking wall surfaces with a covering of narrow bevel siding boards. Or use a diagonal installation of wide, tongue-and-groove pine boards.

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OLD-FASHIONED DOLLS came to life when the Charlotte Needham dancers performed last week for Livonia Mall customers. The dancers, Livonia residents, are (from left) Laurie Krueger, Constance Houghton, Anna Gelura and Cindy Pasky.

Consumer Attitudes Lowest Yet

ANN ARBOR
Consumer attitudes, continuing to deteriorate for the third successive quarter, are now measured at close to the low point reached prior to the 1957-58 recession, according to the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center.

Barring good news in such areas as inflation, unemployment, the war in Vietnam, or tax relief, the U-M economists predict a decline in consumer demand for cars and other durables, leisure-time pursuits, and other optional goods and services.

The findings, based on personal interviews with a national cross-section of nearly 1,500 families, were compiled by the quarterly survey directors, George Katona, Jay Schmiedeskamp, and Burkhard Strumpe.

THE SRC INDEX of Consumer Sentiment fell to 79.7 in the fourth quarter of 1969. This was an unusually sharp drop from the 95.1 recorded in February 1969, at which time the index reached its highest point during the last two years. (The base level of 100 reflects conditions as of February 1969.)

The simplest explanation for consumers' present pessimistic notions, the economists suggest, is that the Nixon Administration's message has come through to the American people.

(1) The fight against inflation will be successful and the pace of price increases will slow down, and (2) in order to achieve that goal, demand is being cut down and therefore some increase in unemployment will take place.

This latest survey reveals that the people have received the second part of the message.

The proportion expecting unemployment to rise during the next 12 months reached 32% in October-November, as against 20% a year ago. The proportion saying that a recession is likely rose to 40% from 26% a year ago.

ACCORDING to earlier surveys, consumer reaction to inflation was the most important factor contributing to declining sentiment between February and August-September, 1969. By November, however, a somewhat smaller proportion of people expected large price increases.

Commerce Department data show that aggregate incomes continue at a high level; yet the steady growth in real incomes during the previous years has given way to a sideways movement.

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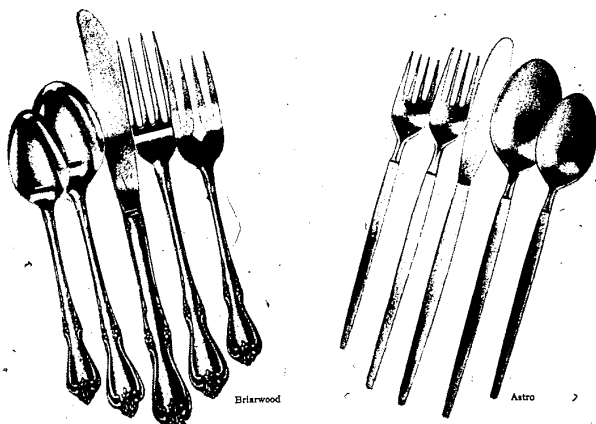
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