

# Silver replaces stereos as prime theft targets

With the price of silver streaking upward, the Lone Ranger would be facing a deficit to continue handing out his trade mark bullets.

For the rest of the month, the rising silver prices mean we ought to be on the look out for other marked persons. With increased value, silver articles are prime targets for theft, according to Farmington Hills police.

For the past few months in Farmington Hills, the majority of the breaking and entering reported to the police department have involved silver coins, plate, flatware and tea sets.

"Before it was used to be stereos and television sets," said Farmington Hills Detective James St. Louis.

"We're seeing some instance where they're passing stereos and TVs by," said Hills Sgt. Albert Haver.

One of the advantages of taking silver is that many times owners are unable to identify their own stolen property.

One Farmington Hills woman lost a \$3,500 silver plate when a thief broke into her home recently. The description given to the police was limited to "one silver plate."

Sometimes descriptions are so scanty perplexed officers "wonder if they (owners) ever had the thing at all," according to Haver.

"WHEN you write your report you see (there are) no suspects, no prints — nothing. And a bad description. You see your case crumble before your eyes," Haver said.

In most cases poor descriptions of the silverware have been the rule instead of the description. Without a good description, the chances for recovery are slim.

Most of the silver thefts in the city remain unsolved.

"I'll find the guy on the corner minutes after the robbery and he has the silverware in his possession and the owner says, yes, that's my silverware, it was just taken, then we have a good chance of recovering it," Haver said.

Usually, though, the thief sells the silverware either to another person who then sells it to a dealer or the thief will sell directly to a dealer.

Haver puts the blame for the illegal silver rush on some of the dealers who advertise they will buy all silver. No one checks to make sure that it's the owner they're selling the silver service, Haver said.

"It's an automatic invitation. This is the place," he said of some of the advertising.

Foot descriptions of the silverware hamper chances of recovery.

OWNERS should keep on hand such information as the name of the place of purchase, name of pattern, name of manufacturer's name and the original receipt of purchase. The brand name can be found on the underside of flatware.

For added precaution snapshots of the silver should be taken and kept. The silver can also be engraved for identification with a number or initial.

Identifying marks, such as scratches and small defects should be noted, too.

"Farm shops and fences don't want marked material or material that looks as if it had been marked and then the mark was obliterated," Haver said.

"They don't want to be subject to suspicion."

Owners should also be careful of how they store their silverware.

"Usually they have it on display in a cabinet. If it's locked you can slide a piece of metal in there and pop the doors open," he said.

Putting away prized silverware so that it's not easily found is advised.

# Open meetings act, sessions consider water loss

**FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL**  
8 p.m. Monday, March 3

Minutes of other boards

- Farmington Community Library minutes of Feb. 2.

**Continuation of General Revenue Sharing Program.**

- Resolution from Charter Township of Commerce re: Distribution of State Shared Revenues on Per Capita Basis. Reports from City Manager

**Items from the Treasurer**

- Approval of Expenditures. Public Inquiry and Comments
- Items from the Superintendent

## obituaries

**JOSEPH BROZIC**

Mr. Brozic, 85, of Farmington Hills died Feb. 21 in the Mediscare Center.

He was born April 25, 1890, in Yugoslavia. Mr. Brozic was a production worker and a member of St. Fabian Roman Catholic Church.

Survivors include wife, Barbara; son, Joseph C.; daughter, Olga Alcorn; eight grandchildren; and 15 great grandchildren.

Services were Feb. 25 in McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, and St. Fabian Roman Catholic Church, Farmington Hills. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

**THEODORE RUTHERFORD SPRAGUE**

Mr. Sprague, 67, of Glendale, Calif., died Feb. 26.

He was born Dec. 12, 1914, and lived in Plymouth until he moved to California five years ago. He was a retired sales representative. Mr. Sprague was assistant state director of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in California.

Survivors include: wife, Jeanne; sons, Gary Russell, Brian Theodore of Farmington Hills and four grandchildren.

Services were Feb. 29 in the First Congregational Church of Glendale, Calif. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

**Items from the Superintendent**

- Informational Update.
- Report: Maintenance Update.
- Layoff Notification-Administrator.
- District Buses.

**FRED HENRY SIKORSKI SR.**

Mr. Sikorski, 48, of Farmington Hills died Feb. 22 in Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

He was born Nov. 11, 1931, in Michigan. Mr. Sikorski was a machine operator and inspector for the Ford Motor Company. He was a member of St. Alexander's Roman Catholic Church, Farmington Hills and the Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include: wife, Violet A.; son, Fred H. Jr.; daughter, Cathy A.; brother, Richard I.; sisters, Helen Krzeminski, Irene Kujawa, Lillian Pinowski.

Services were Feb. 25 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington and St. Alexander's Roman Catholic Church with Rev. James Wright officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

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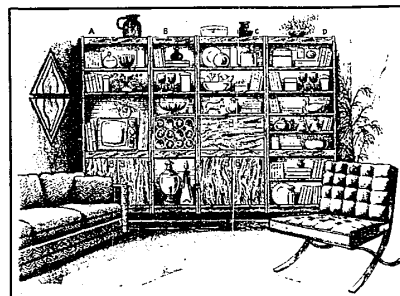
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