

Farmington Observer

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Trio nabbed on murder rap

By MARY GNIEWEK
Police have arrested three suspects in connection with the slaying of Shell station owner Pincus "Pete" Reif, gunned down while sitting in his 1973 Cadillac in Farmington Hills June 16.

Herbert M. Crosby, 26, of Detroit was arraigned before Farmington 47th District Court Judge Michael J. Hand Monday afternoon.
Crosby is charged with first degree murder, which carries a term of life imprisonment on conviction, and possession of a firearm, a two-year felony.

He stood mute on both charges and Hand entered a plea of innocent for the defendant.
Crosby is being held without bond at the Oakland County jail. A pre-exam conference is scheduled July 2 in district court for all three defendants.

Adrian L. Fleming, 18, of Detroit, was arraigned Tuesday morning. Fleming, who police say will testify against the other two suspects at the trial, was charged with larceny over \$100, which carries a five-year sentence or \$2,500 fine.

She pleaded guilty, but Hand took the plea under advisement. Bond was set at \$25,000, and she is being held at the Oakland County jail.

The third suspect, Daryl D. McMillan, also known as Daryl King, 23, of Detroit was arraigned Tuesday afternoon on first degree murder and possession of a firearm.

POLICE ARE investigating the possibility that McMillan was the driver of the car which brought the couple to the victim's Farmington Hills apartment last Monday.

The suspect stood mute and Hand entered a plea of innocent for him. McMillan is also being held without bond at the Oakland County jail.

Farmington Hills Police Detective Dennis Rochford said the trio was traced through a license number of a car seen by witnesses in the 9 Mile-Middlebelt area the day before and the day of the murder.

The car was seen again June 17 in Detroit in the vicinity of the Cadillac which was abandoned at West Chicago and Bryden after the murder.

McMillan, who is Crosby's cousin, is an escapee from the Southern Michigan State Prison at Jackson charged with a 1974 holdup conviction in Center Line.

Crosby and McMillan were arrested last Friday at 2:30 p.m. at Crosby's Ferguson street residence by Detroit surveillance officers. Fleming was arrested Saturday at 4:30 a.m. at her Lesure Street home.

According to witnesses, Reif was first approached by a young couple who wandered into his Farmington Manor apartment complex June 15 expressing an interest in buying his Cadillac, which wasn't advertised for sale.

The couple returned to the apartment on Monday, then walked over to Reif's gas station at 9 Mile and Middlebelt and offered him \$2,500 for the car.

Reif took the couple for a test drive. A few minutes later, police were called to Tredwell Ave. near 9 Mile and Inster on the report of a man lying in the street.

Reif was shot in the head and thigh.

It was the first recorded homicide in Farmington Hills in two years.



Leaving Farmington's 47th District Court is Herbert Crosby (left) who was arraigned Monday on a charge of first degree murder in the death of gas station owner Pete Reif. He is being escorted by Sgt. Al Haver of the Farmington Hills Police Department. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Festival cuts top activities to stay alive

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Two popular Farmington Founders Festival activities will fall by the wayside this year as the event's planning committee struggles to pay off a \$6,000 deficit from the last two years.

The fireworks at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus and the Sunday in the Park, an afternoon featuring a picnic, family games and local entertainment will be missing from this year's festival agenda.

"We can't have everything we had before and come out all right," said Ed Lane, president of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

"We're in the hole. It (the fireworks) was a good item but we had to knock it off. It wasn't a money maker," Lane said.

The fireworks display has been the subject of complaints in the past, according to Lane.

"Every year someone would come up to me later and complain about the fallout. Someone would complain they'd need a new paint job on their car," Lane said.

FESTIVAL chairwoman Betti C. Huff would like to see the fireworks display saved. She believes that donations to the festival generated through this year's drawing may generate enough income to pay off a good portion of the festival debt and purchase fireworks.

Each year, Metro Bank of Farmington has donated money to help pay for part of the fireworks display. This year the bank is volunteering \$1,500 for the event under the condition that the festival committee pay the remainder of the cost.

"We need an additional \$2,500 fast," said Ms. Huff. "We could do that if ev-

eryone in Farmington and Farmington Hills who wanted the fireworks donated \$2 a piece."

Her staunch support of the display faces opposition from other members of the committee who prefer to see the festival accept the bank's alternative offer of a \$500 donation on the premise that there wouldn't be any organized fireworks.

Some of the festival members believe that the \$500 could be used to offset the festival's deficit.

The fireworks could possibly be continued the following year, Lane suggested.

ONE OF Ms. Huff's concerns is if the festival skips the fireworks this year, OCC would take the opportunity to bow out as the location of the display.

Lane doesn't see this as a problem. The display once was conducted on the Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church property, he explained. When the church decided to bow out as the site of the display, the committee turned to OCC. He's confident that the next committee could find another site if OCC decided to withdraw from the program.

In spite of the cuts, Lane sees this year's festival as an improvement in some areas. There are more arts and craft booths this year after the committee opened festival space to non-residents.

The festival is branching out to include more booths at the Farmington Plaza shopping center, Lane added. In the Farmington Downtown Center, the traditional center of the festival, the Farmington Area Jaycees have proposed setting up a haunted house similar to their annual Halloween project, according to Lane.

Worst accident intersections identified in traffic study

By MARY GNIEWEK

Farmington Road at Grand River and 12 Mile at Orchard Lake recorded more accidents than any other intersection in Farmington or Farmington Hills in 1979, according to data released this week by the Traffic Improvement Association (TIA) of Oakland County.

Twelve Mile at Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills was the scene of 43 accidents last year and also ranked first in overall severity at the cost of \$31,200. Severity is ranked by the financial loss (both property and personal injury) in proportion to the number of accidents.

Along the same stretch of roadway, 13 Mile at Orchard Lake recorded the second greatest number of accidents in Farmington Hills with 42. It was third in severity.

Farmington Road at Grand River racked up 33 accidents and ranked third in overall severity in the city of Farmington. Farmington Road at 9 Mile ranked second with 31 accidents and first in severity at a cost of \$77,190. The Farmington Hills side of this boundary intersection was the scene of 40 accidents.

The worst intersection in Oakland County in 1979, 10 Mile at Greenfield in Southfield, had 100 accidents.

"The intersection ranking is used to identify problem areas for communities so they can improve intersections with roadway geometrics or increased enforcement," said Richard Cunard, TIA traffic engineer.

TIA HAS BEEN providing the ranking service to local police departments since 1973 using Oakland County Data Processing computers to tabulate statistics.

Part of the problem with Orchard Lake should be relieved when a roadwidening project which will expand the heavily-traveled route from two to five lanes is completed next summer, according to Farmington Hills Police Lt. Ernest Miller.

"I don't think it will drastically cut the number of accidents because of the heavy volume of daily traffic, but it will help," Miller said.

"At one time, 12 Mile at Orchard Lake ranked among the top 10 worst intersections in the county until it was re-engineered."

Now it ranks 34th in the county. Other bad intersections in Farmington Hills are Middlebelt at 12 Mile, 40



The intersection of Farmington and Grand River has been named one of the most accident-prone in the area. Last year there were 33 accidents at the intersection. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

accidents, fourth in severity; Middlebelt at Grand River, 34 accidents, 12th in severity; 8 Mile at Farmington, 32 accidents, eighth in severity; Middlebelt at Northwestern Highway, 31 accidents, sixth in severity; Orchard Lake at 14 Mile, 27 accidents, 10th in severity; Haggerty at 12 Mile, 25 accidents, ninth in severity; and Grand River at 9 Mile, 23 accidents, 10th in severity.

The TIA report doesn't compute between intersection accidents. Farmington Hills had 1,894 accidents last year; 716 were personal injury accidents. Ten were fatalities. All occurred at different places and none at the 10 worst intersections in the city.

THE CITY of Farmington recorded 664 accidents last year, including two fatalities. There were 141 personal injury accidents and 397 which caused property damage. Also among the 10 worst intersections in Farmington are Farmington at Freedom, 23 accidents, second in severity; Grand River at 9 Mile, 21 accidents, fourth in severity; Orchard Lake at Grand River, 19 accidents, sixth in severity; 8 Mile at Farmington, 15 accidents, sixth in severity; Farmington at Shiawassee, 13 accidents, ninth in severity; Grand River at Shiawassee, 12 accidents, fifth in severity; Halsted at Freedom, 11 accidents, seventh in severity; and Grand River at Power, nine accidents, eighth in severity.

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They were council members Joe Alkatech, Jack Burwell, William Lange and Donn Wolf. In favor were council members Jan Dolan, Earl Opperhauser and Joann Soronen.

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(Continued on Page 8A)

Parish secedes from national

By MARGARET MILLER

In a schism that involves "issues of faith and freedom," Ward United Presbyterian Church of Livonia has voted 2,138-5 to withdraw from the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

With nearly 3,600 members, the church is among the denomination's 10 largest. It probably will top all in the nation in personal giving during 1980 with a projected total of \$2 million.

Its membership decided it will now be named Ward Presbyterian Church and will decide in the next few months on affiliation with one of several other Presbyterian denominations.

Dr. Bartlett L. Hess, founding pastor and senior minister, said differences over the deity of Jesus and denominational action involving selection of elders and ownership of property led to the decision.

The denomination delayed immediate action. The Rev. Stanley Taylor, treasurer of the Presbytery of Detroit, said the presbytery decided Tuesday to select an administrative commission "to inquire into the situation at Ward United and satisfy itself as to what has happened there."

DR. HESS SAID his church "had no plans to leave until the actions of the United Presbyterian General Assembly made it clear we had no choice."

He commented by telephone from Huntington, Ind., where he was leading a ministerial conference interrupted by the trip to Livonia for the vote Monday night.

The General Assembly, Dr. Hess added, "failed to affirm the deity of Christ, which we felt it should have done because it (the deity) was denied by a man who was received by the Washington Presbytery."

The Assembly also "pushed us to the brink," Dr. Hess said, when it took action further restricting local churches in the selection of elders by imposing a quota system requiring election of some women, youth and minority group members.

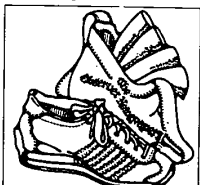
Ward church does have women elders, he said, but it believes that the freedom of other local churches that believe otherwise should not be prohibited.

A third facet of the withdrawal concerns the church's 16 acres of property at Six Mile and Farmington roads. (Continued on Page 8A)

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LOOK FOR YOUR SUPPLEMENT IN TODAY'S PAPER



Your Observer carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please be ready, and be sure to save your receipt — It's worth a \$1.00 discount on the next classified ad you place in your hometown newspaper.

Hills City Council quashes emergency warning system

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington editor For the second time in three years, the Farmington Hills City Council has rejected installation of a tornado warning system.

Those voting against fund appropriation were council members Joe Alkatech, Jack Burwell, William Lange and Donn Wolf. In favor were council members Jan Dolan, Earl Opperhauser and Joann Soronen.

The project would have cost city taxpayers \$60,000. Another \$20,000 would have been kicked in by Oakland County. Nine streets, enough to blanket the entire city, would have been installed under the system.

(Continued on Page 8A)