

# Harley heist sparks probe of cycle smuggling ring

By MARY GNIEWEK

Crime doesn't pay, especially when the victim is a cop.

A determined Lieutenant John Santomauro, of the Farmington police, spent his off-duty time last weekend following up on the theft of his prized \$1500 Harley Davidson motorcycle.

The results:  
• One of the suspects arrested for theft in Allen Park by city police there.

• An investigation by Michigan State Police intelligence units of an international motorcycle theft operation.

• Farmington Hills warrants for both suspects in connection with the theft of Santomauro's bike.

• But despite his quick action, Santomauro is still out a chopper.

Informants told police Santomauro's motorcycle was smuggled into Ontario, Canada through Port Huron and sold for \$2,000 above market value there.

State police intelligence units are investigating that claim.

Santomauro tipped off Allen Park police last Friday to a likely motorcy-

cle theft in that city. One arrest was made in Allen Park Saturday and the second suspect is sought. Apparently it was the same men who took the officer's bike.

It seems the suspected duo had a simple scam.

The prospective "buyer" would respond to a newspaper ad to find out the condition and model of a bike. Santomauro's was a 1979 Superglide.

The "buyer" would ask directions to the seller's house. In Santomauro's case, two men looked at the bike Wednesday night, but didn't make an offer to buy.

The next morning, the lieutenant discovered his garage door busted open and the chopper, two leather jackets, helmets and assorted tools missing.

ACCORDING TO POLICE, the bike was sold for \$1,000 to a smuggler who shipped it across the border for a profit.

After Santomauro was victimized Thursday, he began calling 20 other people who had advertised motorcycles

for sale in the Trading Times newspaper to see if anyone else had talked to the same pair who came to look at his motorbike on Wednesday.

He struck gold with an Allen Park man who received a similar call.

Santomauro contacted Allen Park police, who staked out the seller's home and arrested one of the two suspects in the process of stealing a motorcycle at 3 a.m. Saturday.

A tan Suburban impounded at the scene contained Santomauro's helmets and some tools, but not his Harley Davidson.

"This operation is more involved than I thought," said Santomauro, lamenting the loss of his uninsured motorcycle.

He owned the bike for more than a year and wanted to sell it because he had already purchased a newer model.

Santomauro said he and companion Sgt. Marvin Snider's unofficial week-end probe took them through Detroit neighborhoods and motorcycle club houses in the city's Brightmoor District.



## Bop around the park

Steve Sargeant, (left) captain of the Detroit Express Soccer Team and Kathy McNamara, 9, prove it pays to use your head when a soccer ball comes your way. While Sargeant seems to use a heads-up,

eye-on-the-ball approach, Kathy practices a straight-on approach. The two had a chance to exhibit their soccer forms at the recent Founders Festival. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

# Added road precautions urged for school area

At the prodding of worried parents, school and city officials will meet this week to discuss ways to beef up traffic safety for students who will be walking to Eagle Elementary and Warner Middle schools near 14 Mile and Middlebelt next fall.

Neighborhood homeowner associations have banded together to request more safety precautions now that the Orchard Lake road widening project has diverted much traffic into the school area and sixth graders will be attending Warner for the first time in September.

"So far we've received very good support and we've made everyone aware of what's going on," said Ruby Martin, president of the Kimberly North Improvement Association.

Mrs. Martin, who lives in the West Bloomfield neighborhood that sends students to the two Farmington Hills schools, sent off a barrage of letters last week to both city governments, the Farmington School Board and the Oakland County Road Commission.

"For the first time, 10-year-olds will be attending Warner Middle School riding bicycles or walking across 14 Mile in the middle of the block," Mrs. Martin said. "There simply aren't enough

safety provisions to ensure their safe arrival."

The parents have identified several problems:

- With the district changing from junior highs to middle schools in September, sixth graders will be attending Warner for the first time. In the past, the school hasn't had crossing guards to help Warner students across 14 Mile.

- The homeowners say most drivers disregard the 25 mph speed limit posted in front of the schools during school hours because signs just past school buildings post the speed at 45 mph.

- There isn't a sidewalk on the north side of 14 Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake. Walkers must use the gravel shoulder or the road itself.

- The homeowners want automated 25 mph caution lights installed and set to operate during school opening and closing hours. They say the current lights are inadequate and never operate.

- They want existing crosswalks repainted and another school crossing guard hired for the western boundary of Warner. Bicycle paths are requested on the south side of 14 Mile from Warner to Middlebelt. They also would like more traffic patrol by Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Police.

A two-year-old traffic study of the area conducted by Farmington Hills is being updated, according to Ralph Magid, director of public services for Farmington Hills.

"We're looking at traffic controls and meeting with school officials to see their needs and requirements," he said.

Flashing battery operated school crossing signals neighbors say don't work are being tested, Magid said.

# Police seek hit-and-run driver

Farmington police are looking for the driver of a car which rammed a teenaged bicyclist July 27, then left the scene of the accident.

Donald Dewar, 19, of Farmington Hills was treated at Botsford General Hospital for a broken nose and multiple cuts after a car traveling at a high rate of speed struck him on Orchard Lake near Lamar.

The accident occurred at midnight near the Elks Club parking lot, where more than 100 persons were celebrating the Farmington Founders Festival at a corn roast sponsored by the club. Farmington Legion baseball coach Walter Christensen saw the car, de-

scribed as a light green early 70s model Chevy Impala, hit the youth.

He said a car northbound on Orchard Lake made a U-turn and followed the vehicle, but lost it at Orchard Lake and Grand River.

The car smashed its right headlight in the accident.

"I was in the corner of the parking lot when I heard the noise," Christen-

sen said. "I jumped through the fence, laid him (Dewar) on the ground and kept the crowd away until police came."

Christensen said a nurse also attended Dewar at the scene. One of Dewar's shoes was never recovered.

Christensen said the youth, who lives on Lamar, was returning home from work when the accident occurred.

## Weigel named to dean's list

Dawn Weigel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Weigel, 36475 Vicary, has been named to the dean's list at Evangel College in Missouri.

Majoring in elementary education, she is a 1978 graduate of Farmington High School.

# INSIDE ANGLES

BY LOUISE OKRUTSKY

**IT'S TOO EARLY** for football season, you say. Never, according to a few die-hard fans in the Hills. The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department sponsors a Farmington area adult residents and employees touch football league this fall. The league managers' meeting will be at 7 p.m., Aug. 13 in the Shiawassee Recreation Center, 30415 Shiawassee Road. The parks and recreation people will conduct the meeting for all managers interested in entering a team in the Men's Touch Football League. Rules, regulations, registration dates and playing details will be discussed. For more information call the department at 474-6115. (All right, let's sing, "Take me out to the football game, take me out to the fair, buy me some peanuts and...")

**IN A MORE** seasonal note, the Mount Carmel 500 Club will sponsor a stag outing at the Detroit Gold Club to raise money for medical research at Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital. The Aug. 18 event will feature a full day of golf on the club's north and south courses. George Bayer, well-known golf pro, will be on hand to give pointers and the club's tennis facilities will be available. Dinner and prizes for golf and tennis participants will end the outing. Tickets are \$150 and are available from the 500 Club at 927-7094. (A stag outing sounds so dear, don't you think?)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO** Kelly Dearth who won the Robert Kourtijan Memorial Music Scholarship at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills, recently. The scholarship, donated after Robert's death in 1976 is awarded on the Sunday nearest his birthday. The intent of the scholarship is to assist junior high students who show exceptional talent and interest in music by giving needed financial aid for private instruction to enhance their musical education.

**MERCY COLLEGE** of Detroit sponsors a special career information session on dietetics at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 21 on the college campus, 8200 West Outer Drive at Southfield in Detroit. The session will explain the dietetics program at the college, which offers a two-year degree for registered dietitians and a four-year degree for registered dietitians. For further information call 592-6060. There isn't an admission charge for the session.

**HOW DO YOU TAME A SHREW?** is one of the questions arising from human nature that old William Shakespeare tackled. And ever since he penned his solution, theater groups have been tackling his plays. The latest effort, presented by the Southeast Theatre Association of Oakland Community College, opens at 8 p.m., Aug. 8 at the

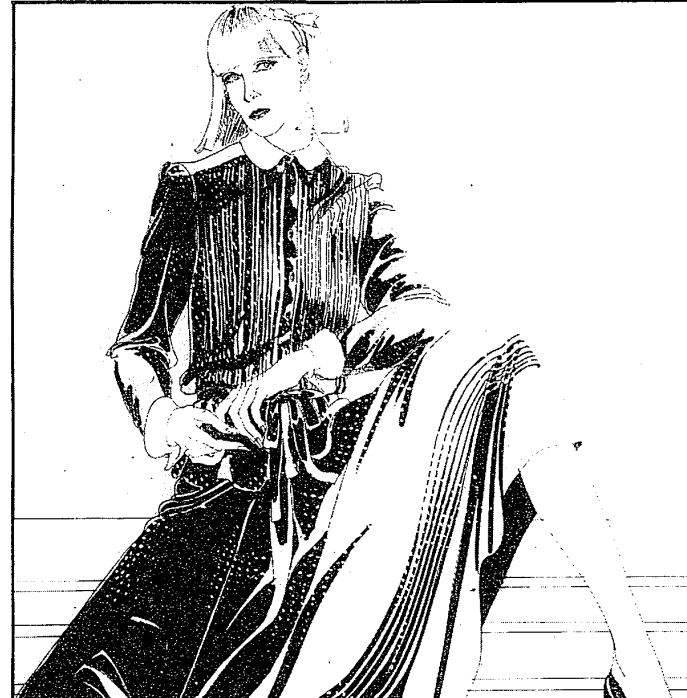
campus' theater, 703 South Center, Royal Oak. Sunday performances of the "Taming of the Shrew" will be at 7 p.m. All others for the play which runs until Aug. 24 start at 8 p.m. For further information call 548-1251 on weekdays. Tickets are \$3 and may be reserved or purchased at the door. Parking is free.

**IT'S DELIGHTFULLY** fishy: That's the third annual Fishing For Fun Day, Aug. 20 at Groveland Oaks County Park near Holly. Beginning at 3:30 p.m., teams of one youngster no older than 18 and an adult relative no younger than 18 will cast off in hopes of competing in these four categories: largest fish, longest fish, oldest and youngest fishers. Winning teams will receive trophies. There is an additional contest for children in which each contestant wins a prize. There is a \$5 fee per team which includes a hot dog and soft drink for the participant. Persons 17 or older must have a valid Michigan fishing license. Non-power boats can be rented at the park or brought from home. Participants may also fish from shore. Fisherman must bring their own tackle and bait. Participants must register before Aug. 13 by phoning 858-0916 for an application or writing to Fishing For Fun Day, Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Pontiac, 48054. In case of rain, the event will be conducted on Aug. 21. Groveland Oaks is located at 5990 Grange Hall Road, near Holly.

**WHO WERE THOSE** judges? Although the real name of the Lone Ranger is still a mystery, it certainly does know the names of the persons who judged the Founders Festival parade. They are: Anna Pukas of Leeds, West Yorkshire County, England; Dr. Ardath Franck of Akron, Ohio; Fred Frank of Columbus, Ohio; Joanna Joyce of Columbus, Ohio; Joe Feltz of Wayne State University and the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at Botsford General Hospital.

In the reviewing stand were Hugh Carlson of WJR News, Bob Christ of Farmington, Bob Gregory and Connie Holmes of Union Lake, parade chairpersons.

**THE MICHIGAN** Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons' 82nd Annual Postgraduate Conference and Scientific Seminar has a chairman in Harvey G. Roth, D.O. of Farmington Hills. Roth, an obstetrician/gynecologist is a graduate of Wayne State University and the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at Botsford General Hospital.



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