

Farmington Observer

Volume 93 Number 70 Monday, June 14, 1982 Farmington, Michigan 36 Pages Twenty-five cents



Godmar Drugs sales clerk Gladys Boring escaped from the spot where a truck rammed into the side serious injury last Wednesday by running away of the building.

Drugstore turns drive-in as truck plows into window

By Craig Plechura staff writer

An employee of Godmar Drugs in downtown Farmington narrowly escaped serious injury late Wednesday morning when a woman drove her truck into the side of the store. The impact of the crash broke two large plate-glass windows, destroyed a brick column helping support the roof and knocked a metal shelf against a cash register. Virginia Mae Holloway, 62, driver of the four-wheel drive Chevrolet Suburban, told Farmington police she may have missed the brake pedal. Police checked the truck and found the brakes worked. No ticket was issued in the accident, which took place at 11:25 a.m. She was given minor first aid treatment for a leg bruise at the scene but refused police offers to transport her to a doctor for examination. Sales clerk Gladys Boring was standing behind the film counter about three feet away from the cash register when the truck hit the brick column at a speed of between 5-7 miles per hour, according to witnesses at the fire scene next door. "I heard the thing hit, then I heard the (window) crack, and I just took off," Boring said. "I ran. It's a good thing the initial noise — evidently the bumper hitting the building — alerted me." The crash started a chain reaction, according to store employees, with the second window breaking seconds after the initial impact. Noting that she'd been standing at the cash register just moments before the shelf came crashing down on it, Boring joked "I must be living right. It's my clean life."



Damage to the building's exterior is inspected by Jay D. Harrison, building inspector for the city of Farmington while Harry Watson, store owner, surveys the damage done inside the store.

Boring sat down and started crying when she came to the realization of how close she came to being seriously hurt in the incident. But a half hour later she was composed enough to kid her boss, Harry Watson, pharmacist and owner, saying "Harry didn't even give me a tranquilizer." Co-workers Val Hamlin and Sherrie Moore said they never saw Boring move so fast as she did when the car hit the building behind her. Watson said the insurance company has estimated damages to the building to be about \$5,500. The windows were boarded up by Wednesday afternoon but the store wasn't closed because of the crash.

Historic ball proceeds far below prediction

By Craig Plechura staff writer

A check for \$1,742.75 is being added to the Farmington Historical Museum Trust Fund. Members of the Farmington-8 Lions Club presented the check at their group's annual charter banquet Friday night. The check was accepted by city officials in behalf of the historical commission. The donation comes from proceeds of the 1870 Governor's Ball held on the grounds of the Warner Mansion, site of the new Farmington Historical Museum. The \$100-per-person banquet and ball of May 22 was attended by 76 paying guests wearing period costumes who ate and drank authentic 19th century fare and danced to music of the era.

Walt Koning, co-chairman of the event, said while club members initially predicted proceeds would amount to \$3,000, "if you remember we also expected higher attendance." The ball drew some criticism from city officials such as Councilman Ralph Yoder and two board members of the Farmington Historical Commission, Don Munster and Nancy Leonard, who said the price tag was too high for most residents. Because of the controversy that preceded the benefit, Koning said club officers were careful to donate exactly what the remaining profit was after all expenses were paid. That's why, Koning said, the donation wasn't rounded off to an even number. "IS THE MONEY the contribution or the success of the evening?" Koning asked rhetorically. "I think it was that we did it while people like you guys at the newspaper were shaking your heads thinking we couldn't do it."

The Farmington Observer ran an editorial before the event stating that the \$100 donation was too high and excluded many residents from participating in the celebration of a public institution. The evening was memorable for anyone who attended, and many who didn't go wish they had, Koning said. But there are no plans to repeat the benefit next year, he said. Any attempt to repeat the event would be a mistake, said Phillaine Lahiff, one of the guests at the benefit, who described the party as a "one-and-only event." "We've got to savor the experience that was," Lahiff said. The Lion-8 Club's contribution will be used to help decorate the home/museum's interior in a Victorian, turn-of-the-century style, members of the historical commission said. The museum is open for public viewing only on Wednesdays 1-5 p.m. at present, according to Margaret Walker, chairman of the Farmington Historical Commission. Admission is \$1 for adults, while children under 12 are admitted free if accompanied by an adult. Volunteers are being lined up to serve as guides at the home on Sunday afternoons on a regular basis, Walker said. Groups may tour the home on

other occasions if arrangements are made in advance with the historical group. A MUSEUM BROCHURE states the home is open the first Sunday of every month, but Walker said the pamphlet was printed "before we were fully into that routine." The next first Sunday of the month is July 4, and Walker noted that the museum is closed on holidays. The financial contribution from the Lions-8 Club is greatly appreciated by the historical commission, Walker said. "I have been appreciative all along," she said. "They are certainly to be commended. It shows great spirit."

Museum officers are seeking historical furnishings to finish decorating the mansion, which once was the home of Michigan Gov. Fred Warner, who served from 1914 to 1916. Exhibit cases no longer being used at businesses "would certainly be helpful" in storing historical artifacts, Walker said. In addition to the check, silk flowers and 50 commemorative enamel lapel pins featuring a drawing of the Warner Mansion left over from the banquet and ball were donated to the museum by the Lions-8 Club. Koning said these items are worth more than \$460.50.

More lost than the lives of 2

By Judith Berne staff writer

The bullets that killed two Vietnamese women and slightly injured a child in a Keego Harbor trailer early Thursday also wounded the large band of Americans and Vietnamese intertwined in their lives.

Man Le Thin Nguyen, 30, pregnant with a third child, was shot in the head as she slept in a bed with her children, Ngoc, 9, and Liem, 3. A bullet grazed the left side of Ngoc's head as she slept by her mother. A friend, Mai Ngo, 40, who acted as a translator for the Nguyen family when they came to the United States in December 1979, also died from head wounds — apparently inflicted in the living room of the trailer. Sen Nguyen, a baker, was at work at a Farmington bakery. "We're really shattered," said Roger Olds of Farmington Hills, who with his wife Bonnie, led the resettlement effort by West Bloomfield Church of Our Savior. The small congregation brought the Nguyen family to the United States from a Cambodian refugee camp and encouraged their adjustment to the American way of life. The family was featured in a series on refugees, "Coming to America," in The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers last fall.

CLEAR RELIEF was evident amidst the sadness when church members learned the shots weren't fired by an American. A murder warrant was issued Friday for Ba Van Nguyen, 27, a Vietnamese male, who has had 10 addresses in the past several years. He was reportedly driving a 1979 Mercury Cougar with a dark blue vinyl top and light blue bottom. At least six shots were fired, possibly from a .38-caliber Colt snubnose gun, found in the trailer, said Keego Harbor Police Chief William Holloway. "We all said it was inconceivable that it was from their (the Vietnamese) community," said Bonnie Olds. "They have such a network of help — that's how they survive." A distraught, bewildered Sen Nguyen



Last October, the O&E Newspapers featured the Nguyen family, Man (left), Ngoc, Sen and two-year-old Liem as part of a series on refugees resettling in America. Man was murdered, and Ngoc was injured last Thursday.

Class views electric car

Pupil's project interests Edison

By Craig Plechura staff writer

A science project done by Dan Bressler, an eighth-grader at Warner Middle School, caused Detroit Edison officials to sit up and take notice. Dan, who is 13 and a resident of Farmington Hills, earned an A from his teacher, Tom Van Horn, for building a pair of electric motors from scratch by looking at a diagram in an encyclopedia. Built out of wire and balsa wood dowels, one motor was powered by an old train transformer. One engine's armature turned clockwise, the other turned counter-clockwise using a different kind of current. "This kind of industriousness should be rewarded," Dan's teacher decided.

So, to coincide with the 13-year-old's demonstration of his electric engine, Van Horn contacted Edison officials who drove one of their 24 electrically powered converted American Volkswagen Rabbits to the school May 28. Students inspected every inch of the car while Carla Gribbs, media relations consultant for Detroit Edison, explained how the electric car differs from its gasoline-powered counterpart. "This car is powered by 18 six-volt batteries," she explained. "It drives basically like any four-speed transmission economy car. The major differences are the addition of two meters in the instrument panel and a regenerative braking system." While students seemed to understand

what a regenerative-breaking system was, Gribbs explained for the rest of us it means that a driver of an electric car gradually downshifts when approaching a stop, which recharges the battery pack by a small amount. This increases the car's range as much as 10 percent, enabling cars to travel an average of at least 40 miles per charge. It takes eight hours to charge up the car's batteries. THE ELECTRIC CAR is capable of reaching speeds in excess of 60 miles per hour, she said, but driving at top speed considerably cuts down its range, or distance. "Detroit Edison does not see the electric car as a replacement for the internal combustion engine, but rather as a companion to the primary car in

family use," Gribbs told students. "This car would be used for local trips, such as commuting to work or running errands." Dan said he was surprised the electric car starts with a key just like a regular car and that it had gears like any car equipped with a standard transmission. Dan was a little disappointed, he said, that the car didn't use the newer nickel-plated zinc batteries but instead relied on the older lead/acid battery cells. "When he's older, the student says he'd like to be an electrical engineer — 'a guy who wires houses.' His favorite subjects in school? That's easy, 'Gym and lunch.' A real live wire, this kid.

what's inside

Community calendar . . .	6B
Editorial	7B
Obituaries	2A
Sports Section C	
Suburban Life	5B

VERY HAPPY!
Mr. Housey of Garretts Home Equipment needed a small engine mechanic. He placed his ad in the Observer & Eccentric classified section and hired someone the first day. "The response was good. I will use your ads again!"
Remember...
One call does it all!

644-1070
Use your MasterCard or Visa