

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Roaming the range

Maneuvering a car into a tight place can be a frustrating experience if you're a new driver. Faoud Baldeon, a drivers' training instructor at the Harrison High School driving range, catches a cone as a student runs through the paces of the range. About 900 students will be trained as drivers in the Farmington/Farmington Hills school district this summer.



Drivers' Ed

Youngsters steer course toward license

By Tom Baer
staff writer

John Stafiej is laid off from his teaching job in the Farmington Public Schools, so he's happy to be teaching drivers' education in the district this summer.

But Stafiej will tell you that money isn't the only reason he commutes from Highland to Farmington Harrison High School five days a week for four weeks to face 36 students in a steamy classroom.

"Sure, the money's important," said Stafiej, who's been teaching the subject for the past seven summers. "I mean I have to feed my family."

"But I see too many drivers on the road who appear to have gotten their licenses from a crackerjack box. I guess I feel that I'm in a position to do something about that."

Stafiej's 90-minute classes are only one aspect of a three-part program to teach Farmington-area youngsters to

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— John Stafiej
drivers' education teacher

drive. The other parts involve students showing their driving skills "on the range" (Harrison's parking lot) and "on the road" (the area's streets and expressways).

District officials say they expect to educate more than 900 students this summer in programs at Harrison and Farmington high schools.

Stafiej and his fellow instructors have a captive audience. Students must successfully complete the 36 hours of

classroom, range and road instruction from the school or a private firm if they expect to operate a motor vehicle in Michigan between the ages of 16 and 18.

MOST YOUNGSTERS choose the school's program as the way to obtain the coveted license. And they don't seem to mind the concentrated summer instruction or the often trying conditions.

"Motivation is little or no problem

for drivers' ed," said Stafiej a few minutes before he was to start another class in Room 135 on one of the hottest days of the year.

"They're working for something they really want, so they usually do the homework and they usually pay attention in class."

Students must pass six tests plus a final examination before they can take the Secretary of State's test for the license.

Out on the range, driving instructor Faoud Baldeon also gives exams. By themselves or with Baldeon in the front seat, tomorrow's drivers carefully maneuver the new Buick Centuries or Pontiac J7000s between the yellow lines on the parking-lot pavement.

One of the most difficult — and embarrassing — moments for some young drivers comes when they must parallel park the cars between two large plastic cones.



Susan Porter, a 15-year-old student from North Farmington High School, carefully checks for obstacles before backing up. Susan passed her driving range test.

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memory lane

JULY 22, 1943

DeROY JEWELRY Co. on Grand River in Redford will send a carton of "popular brand" cigarettes as a birthday gift to any serviceman whose name, address and date of birth is furnished by a relative.

OUR LADY OF Sorrows Circle 617, Daughters of Isabella, invited friends and neighbors to attend a Sunday afternoon "sociable" at the home of Marie Cronin, 2833 Greening Blvd. Those planning to attend were advised to "bring a full picnic basket and come early."

IN AN ADVERTISEMENT, Farmington's Hamilton's Market advised residents to "eat nutritious meals every day. It is just as important on the home front. Health depends on the right food, three times a day."

Shoppers could phone in their orders by calling 5 or 305 and depend on free delivery.

THE L.F. FENDT Co. was looking for a "man to work in concrete block shop" on Gill Road.

A CONSUMERS Power advertisement was headlined, "Even my husband admits I used my head." The woman it seems had purchased a Servel Electrolux gas refrigerator.

JULY 23, 1953

FARMINGTON'S CITY Council set aside \$12,000 of the \$20,000 surplus from the 1952-53 budget for the purchase of a new fire truck. Mayor Kenneth Loomis pointed out to the city council that the city had needed a new fire truck for a long time.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S furniture was being moved from the old building on Grand River to the new structure on Shawassee, according to Principal G.V. Harrison.

MARY JEDYNAK, a 64-year-old Detroit woman, died in Redford Receiving Hospital after the car in which she was riding was involved in a two-car accident at Nine Mile and Middlebelt.

A CARTOON showed three hillbillies standing in a log cabin puzzling over a toaster. Said a hillbilly who held the toaster's electric cord, "The varmit down at the county seat said to plug it in a wall, and we'd get toast."

JULY 25, 1963

FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP ranked fourth in Oakland County in new residential housing unit starts for the first half of 1963. The township issued 246 permits for new housing compared to 172 for the same six-month period of 1972.

The only Oakland County communities to have more home-building activity than Farmington Township were Southfield (503 permits), Bloomfield Township (354) and Royal Oak (301).

A TEMPORARY Injunction was obtained by property owners on the south side of Sherwood Street in an attempt to prevent the construction of 113-unit apartment complex next to the American Legion Hall on Grand River.

SCHOOL BOARD members doubted that the new Highmeadow Elementary School would be ready for the opening classes next fall. Members said, however, that construction of the new East Junior High was going well. It should be ready for fall classes.

FARMINGTON'S AMERICAN Legion baseball team, managed by Wally Christensen, tied Walled Lake, 1-1, in a recent outing. Farmington scored a run in the second inning, but pitcher Lee Martilla was touched for a single and a run-scoring double by Walled Lake in the seventh.

JULY 21, 1973

THE THREE-DAY Farmington Founders' Festival was expected to draw 150,000 visitors. Some 48 young women competed for the Festival Queen title, and the biggest new event was a three-day rodeo which was held in a field at 12 Mile and Farmington roads.

FARMINGTON RESIDENT Paul R. Schreiber, a local history buff of Oakland Avenue, returned from a five-week trip to Montana and Washington. He visited relatives in Spokane, Seattle, Everett, Walla Walla and Colfax.

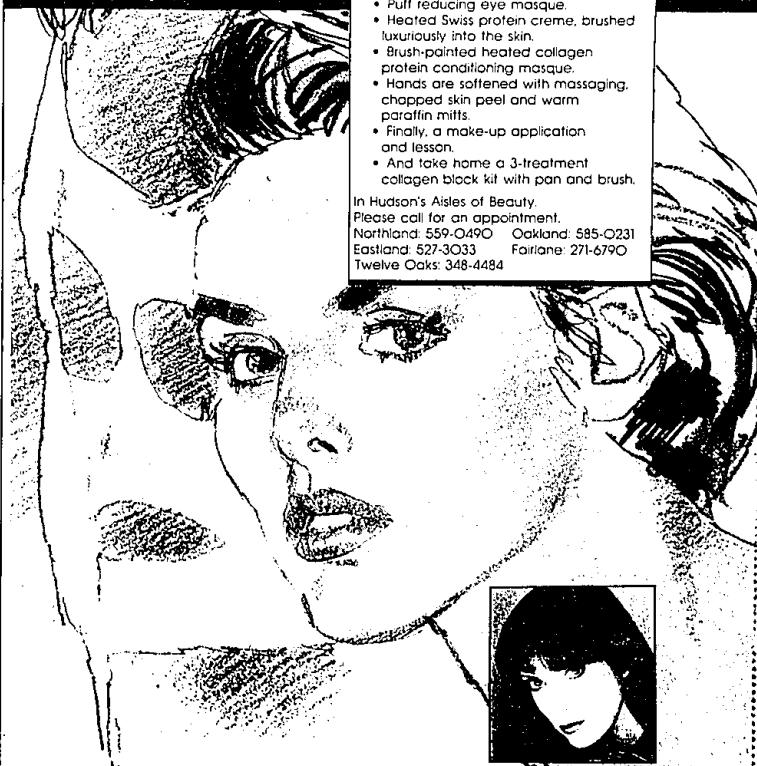
FARMINGTON SCHOOL Superintendent Marinus VanAmeyde urged the board to seriously consider using cable TV for educational purposes. Cable TV, VanAmeyde said, would allow educational functions, such as school board meetings, to be telecast.

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