

# Fire fighting the spark of his life

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fighting artifacts includes a 1948 Chevrolet fire truck, a city of Detroit fire alarm box, helmets, nozzles, extinguishers (one of which is his desk lamp), hatchets — and two 11-year-old Dalmatians.

"When we decided to get dogs, we just thought it appropriate that we have Dalmatians," he said. More recently Benjamin and Pepper were joined by a stray named Sparky.

Indeed, they may be the only dogs with an exclusive fire hydrant. Planted in the middle of their fenced-off run is a genuine, non-working hydrant, which Koch recovered and restored after a car ran into it on a Livonia street.

Koch has also been able to integrate his interest into his work. As technical data manager for De-

trol Diesel Allison, one of his responsibilities is the fire apparatus market. In addition he is a member of the National Fire Protection Association Committees which develop standards for fire department equipment and stationary fire pumps.

**HOWEVER, COME SATURDAY, Jan. 26,** Koch knows at least the time spent collecting fire memorabilia and working on his extensive HO-scale model Reading Railroad, will have to be cut down.

That's when he will be formally installed as Chamber president at a dinner-dance at Bay Pointe Country Club, West Bloomfield. He will serve as president during the Chamber's 35th anniversary year, which he hopes to mark with a still-to-be-named special event in mid-year.

"The Chamber is a Tuesday morn-

ing (board meetings), Wednesday noon (membership meetings) plus a lot of evenings sort of thing. For the next year, the Chamber is going to take precedence over my two hobbies."

**AS DETROIT** Diesel's official representative, he has served on the board of directors for three years. He succeeds Eric Jones as president, whom he acknowledges "is a tough act to follow."

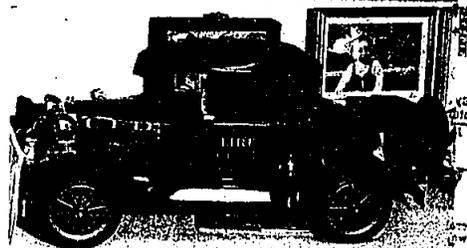
Under Jones, the Chamber co-sponsored the community's first televised, comprehensive Candidate's Night as well as a weeklong intensive drive which sent its membership soaring to record heights. Koch hopes to repeat that drive. "We're up over 400. I'd like to take it over 500." He wants to attract "every restaurant, every grocery store, every gas station, every

doctor, every lawyer."

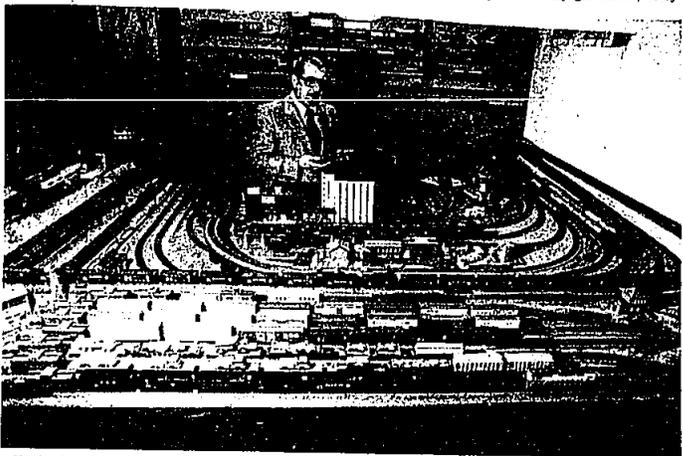
**SOME OTHER goals:**

- "I'd like us to have a stronger role in the community and be better known."
- He hopes to present "some big-name people" to address the weekly luncheon meetings.
- He will seek closer relations with the Livonia Chamber of Commerce — including some joint projects, if feasible.

Koch is married with a son, Ken II, 25, who lives in Redford. His wife Dotie is also a collector — of elephant statues — and her green thumb is evident throughout their house.



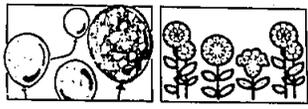
This miniature fire chief's car is another addition to Koch's collection.



Koch also spends a lot of time on his extensive model train layout, which he began when his son was small.

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# REYE SYNDROME

*Reye syndrome is a rare but dangerous condition that can develop from flu or chicken pox. It occurs mainly in children under 16, usually when they appear to be recovering. Watch for these signs:*

- Persistent vomiting
- Fatigue
- Confusion and belligerence.

Some studies indicate that there may be an association between the use of aspirin for flu and chicken pox and the development of Reye syndrome. Further studies are being conducted on this possibility. In the meantime, the U.S. Surgeon General suggests that you check with your doctor before using aspirin or any medication when your child has flu or chicken pox.

—A message from the Food and Drug Administration.