

# Producer strikes it big in television

By Neal Haldane  
staff writer

**L**AURIE OBERMAN's television career began in the alleys and gutters of metropolitan Detroit. Her career started rolling in that direction immediately after finishing college when she started working at Channel 4, now WDIV-TV.

"The first thing I ever produced was 'Bowling for Dollars,'" said Oberman who grew up in Southfield and still calls the city home. "It was a good introduction to television and a good way to learn."

Since then, the 1972 Southfield High School graduate has tackled numerous production assignments ranging from the annual fireworks display on the Detroit River to the Thanksgiving Day

Parade to the daily lottery drawings. As special projects producer for WDIV-TV, Oberman supervises a variety of different activities. "The producer is responsible for the project from drawing up the budget to making sure everything comes off," Oberman said. "I coordinate the events, interface with all the departments like engineering, art, graphics and sales. I'm the one person to call when you

want to know what's going on."

While coordinating work on the program, Oberman also is responsible for keeping her superiors informed of the production. Keeping all of those tasks moving forward is not as easy as it looks, she said.

"PEOPLE SEE a half-hour show and think it only took a half hour to do, but it sometimes takes months."

Oberman is currently involved in one of those long-term projects.

She is the producer for the annual "Salute to Excellence." This year, the program will honor Detroit Tiger manager Sparky Anderson. The show benefits Children's Hospital in Detroit.

"It's one of our major projects of the year," said Oberman, who began her duties long before the television crew filmed the Jan. 19 dinner and program at the Renaissance Center.

Finding a location, hiring writers, selecting rostrum guests from Tiger broadcaster Ernie Harwell to emcee Dick Purtan, coordinating tuxedos, picking hotel rooms for out-of-town guests and filming spots in the hospital all preceded the dinner and fell on Oberman's shoulders.

Then, during the night of the dinner, Oberman spent the evening in the production truck making sure the director got the shots she needed from the six different cameras recording the proceedings.

"The show ran a little over three hours but we only have two hours of air time with commercials," she said. "So we have to cut out 1 1/2 hours."

THAT IS WHAT will keep Oberman busy these next few weeks as she works with an editor and other staffers to make sure the show is ready for airing at 7 p.m. on Feb. 24.

"When I was in high school I didn't have any idea of what I wanted to do. In college I considered being an accountant."

Instead, Oberman majored in journalism and communications at the University of Michigan.

"I always planned to be a writer and I saw myself working at a newspaper." But with some connections provided by her father, Oberman ended up at Channel 4 and feels fortunate to be where she is.

"I've been lucky to have learned and grown in my hometown. This business is very transient. I didn't want to leave Detroit and hop around at other stations."

So Oberman stayed in Detroit and worked her way up from "Bowling for Dollars" to handling children's programming to her current assignment.

"It (promotions) just sort of happened. It basically is who's available for what project."

For her efforts, Oberman has captured four Emmy Awards — two for children's programming, one for "Toma Tells It Straight" and one for her production of the Freedom Festival fireworks.

And while the awards are nice, Oberman is glad to be behind the scenes and not in front of the camera.

## 2 hills houses called historic

Two more historic houses in Farmington Hills have been added to the Michigan Register of Historic Places by the Michigan Historical Commission.

They are Eber Durham House, 35835 18 Mile and the Stephen Jennings House, 36337 Drake.

This brings to 18 the number of sites to be on the state registry from Farmington Hills Historic District, which itself includes 38 properties.

The Eber Durham House, an important example of Greek Revival style, was built about 1845 by Stephen Jennings, an early owner of the Botsford Inn, on land adjacent to the Inn. It was

probably built at the time of Eber Durham's marriage to Jennings' daughter, Jane. The house, it is believed, was a wedding gift of her father. Jane did not live long to enjoy it, dying in 1852.

When Botsford Inn was moved back from Grand River and restored in the 1920s by Henry Ford, his superintendent of construction lived in the Eber Durham House. Because his name was Frank Shaw, the small home for many years was known as the Frank Shaw House.

The second home to be honored with state registry listing is the Stephen Jennings House on Drake Road. This is a larger, two-story home, built between

1841 and 1852 by Jennings. Located near Botsford Inn, the home at the turn of the century was inhabited by Milton and Lovina Botsford while running the Inn. Their son, Frank Botsford, lived with his family at the Inn.

The early home, also an example of

Michigan Greek Revival architecture, was built on logs with bark still on them, still visible in the basement. The house has a narrow enclosed stairway, also typical of the period.

Both homes are part of the Farmington Hills Historic District.

## Claims manager named by firm

Janet E. Bosco has been named district claims manager of the Farmington Hills Allstate Claim Office, 31500 W. 13 Mile.

Bosco started her career with Allstate as a casualty claim adjuster in 1973. Before her promotion, she held

the position of Regional Casualty Claims Manager in the Michigan Regional Office located in Southfield.

She attended the University of Michigan where she received her bachelor's degree.

## Program focuses on drugs

Continued from Page 3

"Sometimes these class clowns grow up to be adult clowns," said Williams, who holds a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Central Michigan University.

Those who work with children and teen-agers should be aware of the difficulties youngsters from such homes face.

"If they reach out, it's really important for you to pick up the clues," Williams said. In addition to talking with youngsters about their problems, adults should assess the need for professional help. Some youngsters may need to be removed from the home, while others should be referred to counseling services.

"If these kids reach out, and often they don't, we have to be ready for them," she said. "We can't just not respond."

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**REINDEER CUTTON, Attorney, 444 West Long Lake, Ste. 100, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303**  
**STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF OAKLAND, No. 144-590**  
**Estate of WALTER E. STORCK, Deceased.**  
**INDEPENDENT PROBATE CLAIM NOTICE**  
TAKEN: January 19, 1985 at 9:30 a.m., a bequest was made to the Oakland County Probate Court on the personal estate of Walter E. Stork, deceased, whose Social Security Number is 031-18 4391, died on December 1, 1984, a resident of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan.  
Administration of the estate was granted to Kathleen L. Weston as an Independent Personal Representative, and the estate has been assigned to The Honorable Eugene A. Moore, Judge of Probate.  
Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate will be barred unless presented within four (4) months from the date of publication of this notice or four (4) months after the closing of the estate, whichever is later, to Kathleen L. Weston, 211 Horace Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21207.  
Creditor is further given that the estate will be delivered to the personal representative thereof on January 1, 1985.  
Attorney for Plaintiff: J. Klagge, Cutton, P-3333, 444 West Long Lake, Ste. 100, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303. Telephone No. 442-7200.  
Plaintiff: Kathleen L. Weston, 211 Horace Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21207. Telephone No. 301-951 0064.  
Wagoner Observer & Executive Publish, February 7, 1985

**Ronald S. Bennett, M.D., is pleased to announce the addition of D. Das, M.D., to his medical staff. Dr. Das practices general medicine, specializing in internal medicine and lung diseases.**  
**Dr. Bennett is a neurologist, specializing in PMS, seizure control, migraines, brain or nerve related disorders.**  
**Their office is located at 22122 W. Nine Mile Rd. in Southfield. Phone 358-5660 for appointments.**

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**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN**  
**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS DUST CONTROL - 38% SOLUTION CALCIUM CHLORIDE APPLICATION 1985 DUST CONTROL PROGRAM**  
Sealed bids will be received by the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan at the City Clerk's office at 31555 Eleven Mile Road until 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 12, 1985, at which time all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Farmington Hills City Council Chambers. Proposal forms available at the City Clerk's office.  
Proposals must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the City. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bid Bond by a recognized surety company in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), payable to the City of Farmington Hills, as security for acceptance of the contract. All bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes and clearly labeled Bid - Calcium Chloride for Dust Control 1985. The successful bidder shall furnish to the City a surety bond in an amount at least equal to 100% of the contract sum (bid price for 38% calcium chloride multiplied by 450,000 gallons) as security for faithful performance of the contract.  
The work consists of furnishing all labor, materials and equipment necessary for the application of 38% calcium chloride dust control, including four (4) or five (5) applications, for approximately forty-eight (48) miles of gravel roads. The total estimated quantity of calcium chloride needed for the City's 1985 Dust Control Program is 450,000 gallons.  
The City reserves the right to waive any or all bids, to waive Informalities and to make the award that, in the opinion of the City Council, is in the best interest and to the advantage of the City of Farmington Hills.  
Publish, January 31 and February 7, 1985  
JOAN REYNOLDS  
City Clerk

**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN**  
**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS DUST CONTROL - SS-1b ASPHALT EMULSION APPLICATION 1985 DUST CONTROL PROGRAM**  
Sealed bids will be received by the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan at the City Clerk's office at 31555 Eleven Mile Road until 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 12, 1985, at which time all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Farmington Hills City Council Chambers. Proposal forms available at the City Clerk's office.  
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The work consists of furnishing all labor, materials and equipment necessary for the application of asphalt emulsion for dust control, including five (5) or six (6) applications, for approximately three (3) miles of gravel roads. The total estimated quantity of undiluted asphalt emulsion needed for the City's 1985 Dust Control Program is 8,000 gallons. The SS-1b asphalt emulsion shall be applied in a diluted solution of one part pure SS-1b to nine parts water.  
The City reserves the right to waive any or all bids, to waive Informalities and to make the award that, in the opinion of the City Council, is in the best interest and to the advantage of the City of Farmington Hills.  
Publish, January 31 and February 7, 1985  
JOAN REYNOLDS  
City Clerk