

Hills man is charged in death of wife

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

The husband of a woman whose body was found following a blaze that caused about \$200,000 in damage to a Farmington Hills house Oct. 14 faces murder charges in his wife's death.

Arraigned Friday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, James Arnold Edwards, 54, pleaded not guilty to one count of first-degree murder and one count of first-degree felony murder. Conviction would bring a penalty of up to life in prison.

Schaeffer set bond at \$50,000, 10 percent of which Edwards posted to gain release pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court. The exam is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 5.

The first count alleges premeditated murder, the second that murder was committed in the commission of another felony, in this case, arson, said Sgt. Dennis Rochford of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

The arrest warrant was recommended by the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office and signed by Schaeffer Friday. Detective Darrel Krause and Gary Brandemuhl arrested Edwards at 2 p.m. He and his two daughters are staying in a house in the same subdivision where the fire was, Rochford said.

ON JAN. 21, Oakland County Medical Examiner Dr. Bill Brooks changed the cause of Marlene F. Edwards' death from heart attack to undetermined, following evidence that showed the fire was maliciously set, Rochford said. She was 50.

"We've ruled out all accidental causes. And we've determined the fire was arson," said Farmington Hills Detective Darrel Krause Oct. 21.

"It was an extremely rapid fire," he added. "The entire south end of the house went up almost at the same time."

Firefighters found Mrs. Edwards' body after extinguishing a fire in the two-story, frame house on Rhinewood Drive, near Eight Mile and Halsted.

Krause, in collaboration with investigators from the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal's Division and the Farmington Hills Fire Department, deter-

mined the fire was maliciously set based on such factors as:

- The fire's intensity.
- The fire's burn patterns.
- The extent of burns on Mrs. Edwards' body.

THE FIRE is believed to have started on the first floor, in the area of the family room near the back of the

house. The back of the house is where Mrs. Edwards' body was found, Krause said.

Pictures taken by a free-lance photographer during the fire showed that the cement floor of the screened rear porch appeared to be burning, signaling an accelerant. The pictures showed that flames along the back of the house were particularly intense and white-

hot, also signaling an accelerant, Krause said.

Michigan State Police laboratory analysis of fire samples disclosed that the accelerant was slower burning than gasoline, indicating a substance like paint thinner, lighter fluid or high-grade kerosene, Krause said.

The fire started shortly before 6 p.m. Oct. 14. When firefighters arrived

about 6:15 p.m., heavy smoke was pouring from the arches along the front of the house. Flames were visible along the rear lower level, said Lt. Peter Baldwin of the Farmington Hills Fire Department. He said the fire was extinguished within 35 minutes.

Investigators said Mrs. Edwards arrived home from her secretarial job at a Troy Insurance company shortly be-

fore 5 p.m.

"Although Mr. Edwards told us he left the house shortly before 5 p.m., we have neighbors who said they saw him leaving the subdivision about 5:30 p.m.," Rochford said.

There was no evidence of forced entry to the house. But there was evidence of the couple arguing just before Edwards said he left the subdivision, Rochford said.

Noon-time tremor shakes community

Local police agencies received "numerous calls" after a ground tremor that affected all of Michigan Friday just before noon.

The earthquake measured 5.0 on the Richter scale and was centered about 30 miles northeast of Cleveland.

A third-floor resident at Muirwood Apartments in Farmington Hills was awakened as her bed shook from the quake, which occurred at 11:49 a.m. "At first, I thought it was a truck; then I realized what it was," she said.

"THE WHOLE house shook," said one Southfield caller. "It was real scary."

"It was a strange feeling, like a vibrating sensation," said Portia Green, who works on the second floor in the Redford Township clerk's office.

"I just happened to be talking to a friend who is a secretary in the Travelers Towers at 11 Mile and Evergreen in Southfield, and she experienced the same sensation at the same time."

Most residents were curious or concerned about the tremors. "They were just startled," one dispatcher from Farmington said.

EPICENTER OF the quake was about 30 miles northeast of Cleveland, according to Russ Needham, a geophysicist at the National Earthquake Center in Colorado. Needham said the quake measured 5.0 on the open-ended Richter scale and was reported felt as far away as Toronto.

The measurement scale was named after Charles F. Richter, an American seismologist. On the Richter scale, an increase of one represents a 60-fold increase in energy.

The National Weather Service at Metro Airport received calls from "all over southeastern Michigan," a representative said.

Dave Cook, a geophysicist at Michigan State University, said the area of Ohio where the earthquake occurred has been active seismologically since the early 1700s.

"The earthquakes aren't big - at least they haven't been yet," said Cook, who is working on a doctorate at MSU.

"There haven't been many (earthquakes), but the area does have a history. It really wasn't surprising but why it occurred, we don't know. Most probably it has something to do with the St. Lawrence Seaway."

WHILE THERE wasn't a whole lot of shakin' going on Friday, that may have been due to the way buildings are constructed in the metropolitan area, according to a professor at the Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield.

James Abernathy, a professor of architecture and member of the Farmington School Board of Education, explained that buildings are designed in this area of the country to "meet the threat of frost, snow and winds. Measures taken to withstand the threat of winds are more than adequate to take

care of what happened here."

Architects can take design lessons from what may be the ultimate earthquake-proof structure - the tree, according to Abernathy.

Usually symmetrical in design, the tree "doesn't fall down when an earthquake hits. It just shakes," he observed. That symmetrical design allows the tree to respond in any direction the tremor may come from.

Other lessons from "what God created in the tree" include:

• A tree is both heavy, keeping the area of "greatest resistance" low. Buildings that are top heavy, however, may provide reason for a "high degree of concern," Abernathy said.

• Growth of limbs is in a "continuous ductile frame." That means it doesn't have brittle substances, like mortar between bricks or structures held together simply by gravity and some welds.

STUDENTS OF architecture also learn, Abernathy said, to take into consideration the frequency with which buildings and earthquakes shake. What may seem like a long tremor is actually a series of wobbles, each of which may only last 0.2 of a second. Likewise, buildings which may appear to be solid, also have a frequency at which they resonate or shake.

It's like the singer you see on television who breaks a glass by hitting a high note, he explained. When the frequencies of the glass and voice - or building and quake - match, they are in harmony and will break if brittle.

The formula for estimating a building's frequency is: 0.1 times the number of stories in height. Thus low-rise office buildings, with a lower frequency, could have been more susceptible to Friday's quake, which Abernathy said could have measured about 0.2 of a second.

However, "there's no way a building (as tall as) the RenCen would be harmonic," Abernathy said. "Height is a beautiful safety valve."

CONTRARY TO what may be popular belief, a massive building is not the place to be in an earthquake.

"The force that a structure feels is equal to the mass of the building times the acceleration of the earthquake," Abernathy said.

A building that sums up those characteristics is California's Crystal Cathedral, which he recently visited and rated as a reasonably safe structure, despite its extensive use of glass.

Rising 10 stories high at points, Abernathy said, the structure is symmet-

ical, built of a continuous "spider web" construction and light-weight in mass.

Back at home, Abernathy is working on another religious facility, Ward Church in Livonia, where he is coordinating the expansion project. Abernathy said he was driving there when the Friday quake struck.

"I didn't feel this one at all," he said.

Staff members Susan Rosiek, Sandra Armbruster and Robert Sklar contributed to this story.

He eyes Naval Academy

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, has nominated Derek Cribley of Farmington Hills to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md.

Cribley, son of Duane Cribley of Grand Ledge and Karyn Dzyack of Farmington Hills, attends North Farmington High School. He is co-captain of the football team, runs track and plays basketball. He is a member of the honor society. His hobbies include weightlifting and motorcycling riding and racing.

Levin, a member of the Senate

Armed Services Committee, nominated 10 young people for the vacancy allotted to Levin for the class which will enter the academy in July 1986.

The final decision on offers of appointments will be made by the academy's board of admissions. The 10 are nominated on competitive basis. It is possible, however, for the academy to appoint more than one member of the group of 10 nominees.

More than 350 applicants statewide were considered for nominations.

Detroit library serves the deaf

Three telecommunications devices for the deaf are now installed in the Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., and in the Downtown Library, 121 Gratiot, behind Hudson's, Detroit.

These TDD machines enable hearing-impaired individuals to communicate over the telephone.

Typed messages are transmitted between TDD units using regular telephone lines. The new devices at the library make it possible for the hearing-

impaired with access to a TDD to obtain library service over the telephone.

The service includes access to out-of-state telephone books, stock quotations, the foreign language collection, out-of-town newspapers and the library's community information and referral service.

Michigan Bell Co. is the local supplier of TDD machines. For information on obtaining one, call Michigan Bell at 1-800-483-3141, a TDD line at 1-800-482-8254, a voice line.

SKIS
Sale Priced \$39⁹⁵ and up

BOOTS
Sale Priced \$9⁹⁵ and up

BINDINGS
Sale Priced \$9⁹⁵ and up

POLES
Sale Priced \$7⁹⁵ and up

SKI CLOTHES, PARKAS, UNDERWEAR

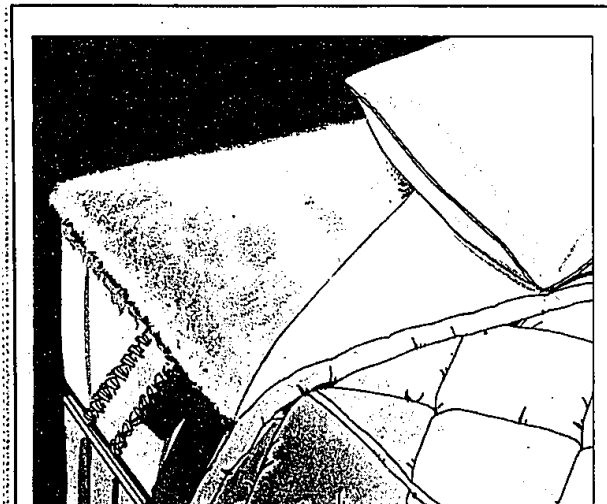
ALL AN EXTRA 25% OFF

Over 1,000 sets of skis, boots, bindings, poles and a whole store of winter clothing at close-out prices.

Benchmark 477-8116

32715 GRAND RIVER, FARMINGTON
Between Farmington Rd. & Orchard Lake

OPEN NOON-9 p.m. M-F
10-5 p.m. SAT. • NOON-5 p.m. SUN.



FOR RESTFUL SLEEP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

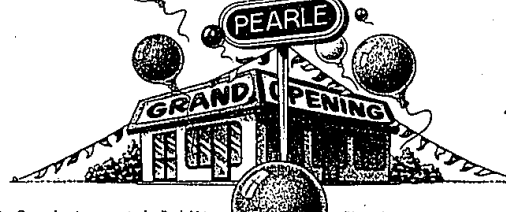
It's an underblanket of merino lamb's wool...common in Europe but a new treat for us. You sleep easier because it deeply cushions and contours to your body. As it induces a more rewarding rest, it tends to alleviate muscle and joint aches by relieving stress on pressure points. It is nearly the perfect insulator so you stay warm in winter, cool and dry in summer. Washable too...with no shrinkage, no loss of fluffiness or resiliency. Put Farib's Sheared Fleece Underblanket between mattress and bottom sheet...for comfort that's durable, odorless, non-allergenic. With a non-skid backing. Twin sizes, \$70, Full, \$95; Queen, \$115; King, \$150.

Jacobson's
Store for the Home, Birmingham

We welcome Jacobson's Charge Card or The American Express® Card.

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday

A GRAND OPENING FOR YOUR EYES.



Comprehensive eye care is what Pearle Vision Centers are all about.

THE EXAM. First, you'll be given a thorough eye exam by an experienced Doctor of Optometry.

THE FRAMES. Then a trained stylist will guide you through our wide selection of frames to help you find the perfect fit for your face, your style and your lifestyle.

HIGH-QUALITY LENSES. The Pearle technician, working in our in-store lab, will provide you with high-quality lenses that precisely fit your prescription.

GET YOUR GLASSES FAST. Because every Pearle has its own in-store lab, in most cases your glasses will be ready in just hours.

ALL KINDS OF CONTACTS. We have every type of contact lens available, from soft to gas-permeable to extended wear.

THE GREAT EYEGLASS GUARANTEE. We'll repair or replace your glasses free for one full year, no matter how many times you break them.

IT ALL ADDS UP TO COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE. You can see it all under one roof, our quality our guarantee. But the best way to see it is with your own eyes. At our new Pearle Vision Center.

GRAND OPENING SAVINGS CERTIFICATE

This coupon valid until 01/16/86 when you buy a complete pair of eyeglasses, contact lenses or prescription sunglasses only at the Pearle Vision Center listed below. This coupon must be presented at time of order. No other discounts apply.

\$20 OFF **PEARLE** vision center

NOBODY CARES FOR EYES MORE THAN PEARLE.

Grand River Halsted Plaza 37085 Grand River Ave.	Farmington 476-9311
---	------------------------

*The limited warranty covers breakage of lenses only from purchase on frames and lenses. © 1986 Pearle Vision Centers, Inc.