'It's not a job, it's a life you accept.'

- Bob Rock

Through death he helps the living

Adoption wasn't really necessary because our feelings were the same.
"I guess we both needed each other," he added. His family has since grown. He married nine years ago and the Rocks now have two daughters. He molded his childhood problems into an asset. "It has added a lot of strength to our marriage," he said. The 1971 Farmington High School graduate is "quite content" with a family life he terms "quite rewarding."

IN RECENT years, he initiated ties with his natural mother, who has recovered from her drinking disease and is enjoying her grandchildren and is once again involved in her

Rock attended Wayne State Uni-

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versity's School of Mortuary Science for five years, working full-time at the funeral home until the Thayers offered him a full partnership to the family business in May of 1976. He also attended the former Alameda Elementary and Farmington Junior High

Elementary and ranning.
High.
Working through family troubles in his early years has brought Rock a sentivity to his profession — which involves mostly working with familian involves mostly working with families.
"Being needed is important to everybody," he said. "That expertise of

"Each family is different and their needs are different. Knowing when to be there and when not to — that's the hardest part."

that's the hardest part."

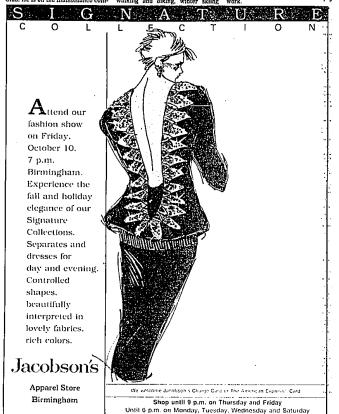
ROCK ENCOURAGES families to bring their children to funerals, but only if they're prepared. He took its 6-year-old daughter. Melanie, bloward Thayer's funeral when she was 2. He explained the death of her adopted grandtather to her as best he could, using a special child's book that the funeral home now offers to its cleans.

"There are times when people come into this office when they've never been to a funeral," he added. His profession drew him into com-munity activities as well, including

many active years with the Jayeces when the local chapter was known for its many searned awards.

He currently serves on boards for the Farmington Area YMCA and the Huron River Hunter and Fishing Clob. He is on the maintenance come.







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