## Star pupil takes to machine tools

WHEN THE media last looked at Pobblic in August of 1986, she was gicked as the top student in a state M-JOHI program run by Oakland Comminity College at the Auburn Wille Firmus

Commining Couege at the consum.

Joe Forbes, the governors top
aide for job training, came around to
give het an award. Her looks got her
lot of attention in a male-dominatgod field;— which she enjoyed. And
that name — Pebble — gets atten-

ion, too,
"I was named for a friend of my
nother hid father, I'm older than
he 'Flintstones' character. It's 'a
mique name," she explains patient-

She's the only woman in production at Spearhead, whose staff of 65 builds special machines for mostly automotive companies, said VP without the company tells her they'd like to hire another woman.

"That's OK, as long as she's fat and ugly," responds Pebble.

By Tim Richard

atteff writes:

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"The M-JOB program was like high school (in course content), but I liked it more than high school. The atmosphere was more casual, and it wasn't as structured. We could smoke or chew gum."

SHE HAD worked as a painter's belper in a silk-screen sign company when she was laid off last year and got into the M-JOB program. She thought she might like to go into horticulture, but she tested so well in math that administrators suggested machine tool work.

scale — but the potential is there," sho said. "Right now we're building a die-electric machine. We're building a panels for a machine that's already in a plant. It embosses stitching into the vinyl in a door panel.

"It's pretty interesting. It's the first one we've had in our shop. We build presses. I run a Bridgeport and drill press.

drill press.

"Everyone has been extremely friendly. Now I feel like I fit in," she said, adding that she has a boyfriend outside work.

HER CHILDREN are a girl, 14, and a boy, 10. Between work and college, she doesn't have as much time for them as she would like.

"But they're pretty good tids," Van Conant adds. "My daughter watches the boy and helps around the house.

"They clean their bedrooms and make their own beds before going to school. They split the dishes duty — she does it one week, he does it the

"I couldn't do it without them."



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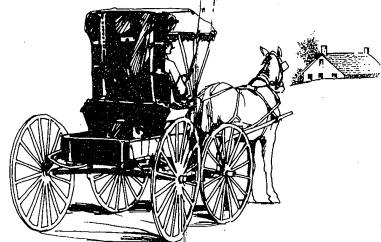
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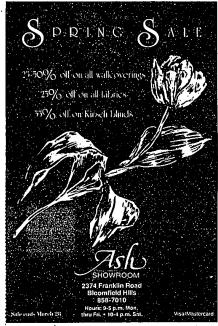
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