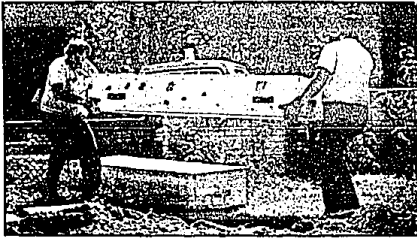


Disinterments offer look at deaths past



photos by RANDY BORSI/Staff photographer

Above, workers Jim Wiegert (left) and Jay Brendel take a damaged cement burial vault out of a grave site. The human remains have already been placed in a new burial vault, visible at the bottom of the picture. This new vault will be moved to a new location within West Farmington Cemetery. At right, Farmington Hills Department of Public Service workers Dale Begey (left) and Paul Pinkowski move new coffins to a temporary storage area in the cemetery. These coffins will be used for remains whose coffins have rotted away.



Archaeologist Chuck Martinez from Wayne State University and Bob Rock (right), owner of Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington, at West Farmington Cemetery during the relocation of graves.

Continued from Page 1

who died in 1957.

With the Oakland County Circuit Court's blessing, the West Farmington Cemetery graves were moved to make way for Farmington Hills' longstanding plans to improve the heavily traveled intersection and eventually widen the 12 Mile Road office corridor.

The long-planned move began May 10 and, though expected to take two to three weeks, was completed Saturday. "Everything went like clockwork. No rain. We had five beautiful sunny days. We didn't come across anything that was a greater problem than expected," Rock said.

As supervisor, Rock hired contractor Jim Weigert of Davidsburg to actually disinter and reinter the graves. Rock sought the job of supervising the move to ensure it was done properly.

"I didn't want some outside contractor coming in and goofing it up," Rock said. "I wanted to make sure it was handled correctly. It's a very sensitive thing. People take it to heart, and they are concerned about it."

MARTINEZ, WHOSE archeological specialty is mortuary practices and procedures, volunteered his ex-

perience and interest after reading about the planned gravesite move in the Detroit News.

"I volunteered my services to gain background information into the types of vaults and caskets used in the 19th and 20th centuries," Martinez said.

He studied the dimensions and materials of caskets. "I'm interested in the condition of these receptacles. How they've stood the test of time."

During the disinterment, Martinez took notes of what he found, the condition of the caskets and vaults in particular. The type of soil, whether the deceased was embalmed and the cause of death, as well as whether the individual was placed in a casket or coffin are considered.

Most of the gravesites contained caskets rather than diamond-shaped coffins, used until the mid-19th century. An evolving attitude toward death was taking place in the 19th century when caskets came into use during the Victorian Age.

"The change in attitude was the showing of a sense of profound loss — what we consider today to be quite maudlin. There was an elaborate profusion of grief shown," Martinez said.

Though many of the earlier headstones in the West Farmington Cemetery are sealed down compared to other cemeteries of the 19th century,

decorations of willows — the tree of life — and funeral urns show "an ongoing communion with the deceased that you don't find today," Martinez said.

ROCK AND Martinez will report their findings and procedures of the gravesite moves to the city and WSU. The two also plan to write an article about the gravesite moves for trade journals.

As required by law, city staff tried to contact relatives of the deceased in the graves to be moved. "We contacted five next-of-kins who signed affidavits," said Dale Contergan, department of planning and community development director.

"If there is no next-of-kin or if there is no spouse, children, parents, brothers, sisters, we don't have to go any further down the family line," he continued.

Each of the 24 graves were moved individually. New vaults and caskets were provided if needed. Weigert used a back hoe to remove the dirt and then a metal probe was placed into the earth to locate the caskets.

After the new interment area is graded and seeded, the city will place new stone markers at all of the new gravesites. A private rededication ceremony is expected later, Rock said.

Robbery suspect remains under guard in hospital

The 23-year-old Detroit man charged with the stickup of a Farmington Hills convenience store last weekend remained hospitalized under police guard Tuesday.

Robert Marion Cross Jr., who police said was trying to flee after robbing the 7-Eleven, 29375 10 Mile, near Middlebelt, was shot in the neck area by a Southfield officer Saturday night.

Tuesday, he was listed in fair condition in the intensive care unit at Providence Hospital, Southfield.

Farmington Hills and Southfield police provided this chain of events:

In the 10:15 p.m. stickup, a man who pointed a fastener gun at the 7-Eleven clerk took \$50 and a 12-pack of beer. He left in a nearby car and headed east on 10 Mile.

Less than 10 minutes later, after hearing a police broadcast about the robbery, a Southfield officer spotted a car matching the description of the getaway car at Eight Mile and Beech. The officer tried to stop the car but the driver continued.

At an apartment complex on the south side of Eight Mile, near Telegraph, in Detroit, the driver lost control

and his car hit a curb.

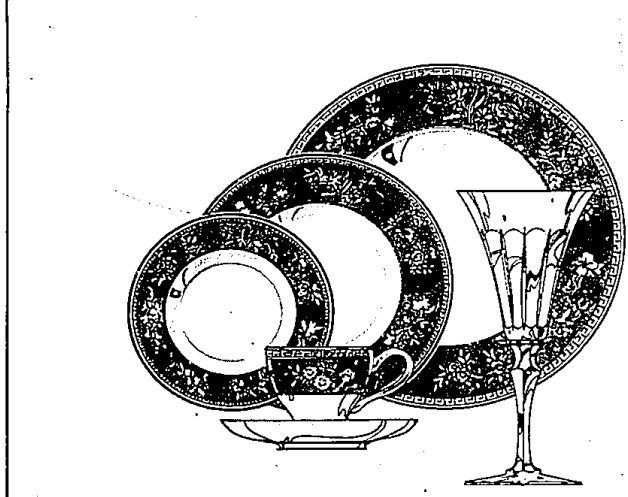
When he got out and ran toward woods, officers followed on foot. In an attempt to prevent him from fleeing, an officer fired one round from his service revolver, striking the man in the right shoulder and neck.

The man was arrested soon after. The suspected weapon used in the robbery, a fastener gun commonly used to drive fasteners, was found in Cross' car.

THE OFFICER involved in the shooting will not be identified until after an internal department investigation, Southfield police said.

Money believed stolen from the 7-Eleven was found strewn along the ground. The beer that was believed stolen was found in Cross' car, Farmington Hills police said.

In a bedside arraignment Sunday, Cross pleaded not guilty to one count of robbery armed. Magistrate Dennis Flannery of Farmington set cash bond at \$5,000 pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court. Conviction could bring a penalty of up to life in prison.



BRIDAL GIFT REGISTRY
 Register your wedding gift preferences by visiting with our knowledgeable Bridal Services staff. They will show you our splendid china, crystal, silver, linens and kitchenware. Your selections will be recorded for the convenience of family and friends. From our Wedgwood collection, we show "Blue Stam" china and "Tiara" crystal.

Jacobson's

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

Tickets on sale through May 26 for chamber's Corvette drawing

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is going to make someone very happy Thursday, May 26. That's the date set for the drawing to determine the winner of a 1988 Corvette, grand prize in the Founders Festival Sweepstakes.

The drawing will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road. Judge Margaret Schaefer of the 47th District Court in Farmington will draw the winning ticket. Nine other prizes, shopping sprees ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 at area merchants, also will be awarded.

Ticket holders need not be present at the drawing to win.

The Corvette is on display at Tally Hall on Orchard Lake Road, south of 14 Mile. Tickets may be purchased at the mall office and at the chamber of commerce, 33201 Grand River. Call the chamber at 474-3440 for information on other locations.

event," said Jody Soronen, executive director for the chamber. "That includes such things as entertainment, printing and publicity efforts, tents and electricity among other costs."

"Ticket sales have been steady, and chamber directors anticipate a brisker pace during the week leading up to the drawing."

"Many people wait until the last minute," Soronen said. "Some people have even asked us to remind them a couple days before the drawing."

A MAXIMUM 750 tickets, at \$100 each, will be sold.

"When you consider there are 10 prizes all together, and a possibility that not all the tickets will be sold, the odds of winning the car or one of the shopping sprees are pretty good compared to raffles where thousands of tickets are sold."

"We've found that many people are pooling their money to purchase a ticket," Soronen said.

AMONG THE most energetic ticket boosters this year is Hensley-Sundquist Funeral Home owner Walter Sundquist, a member of the chamber's board of directors.

Sundquist's efforts resulted in \$5,000 of ticket revenue last year and he would like to duplicate the feat this year.

How does he do it?

"I sell a lot of them to my suppliers," he said. "I point out that I have a favorite cause, and I'd appreciate their support. Many buy more than one ticket. I believe it's better to ask and have them say no than not to ask at all," he said.

Another enthusiastic supporter of the effort is Mary Bush, associate broker and executive assistant with Thompson Brown Realtors. She is determined to sell at least 20 tickets.

"You just have to use your sales skills," she said. "I guess being in the real estate business, I have some experience in that. I point out to people that this is a good way to support their community and have a good shot at winning a prize as well. The odds are sure much better than the lottery."

If someone balks at the \$100 price, she suggests they share the cost of a ticket with one or more others.

"I've had as many as 10 people go in on a ticket," she said.

PROCEEDS FROM the fundraiser will help cover costs of the July 12-16 Founders Festival.

"We rely heavily on the raffie to cover operating expenses of the