

# Civic leader recalled as 'real gentleman'

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Farmington resident Olar Herbert Henry, a Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington board member who dedicated his life to community service, died of heart failure June 22 at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

The retired General Motors executive was 75.

"He loved people," said Jean Henry, his wife of 53 years. "He enjoyed being with people and people enjoyed being with him. He had a world of friends."

Jean Henry said her husband, even though a Warren, Ark., native, felt a close attachment to Farmington.

"He was very interested in everything going

on here and was a volunteer ever since he arrived."

HENRY, KNOWN as Herb to friends, recently started his sixth three-year term on the Farmington Area Arts Commission. He also was Farmington resource representative to the Oakland County Cultural Council.

"He was a real gentleman," arts commissioner Kathryn Briggs said. "He always had a good sense of humor and a twinkle in his eye."

Briggs remembers Henry "really enjoying his arts commission work. He had very good ideas and was very helpful in arranging things. He used his contacts with the bank to help us with our financial affairs."

"He was just a wonderful guy."

HENRY RECEIVED many awards for years of service with the Boy Scouts.

In addition to serving on the Metrobank board, Henry served as a board member for the Farmington Community Band, the Farmington Exchange Club, Ion Research, Sun Steel Treating and Ion Fabricators.

He retired in 1975 after 25 years with General Motors, where he rose to Chevrolet Motor Division national truck manager.

In addition to his wife, Henry is survived by one daughter, Janice Nash of West Bloomfield; two sons, James of Springfield, Mo., and Louis of Milford; and five grandsons.

BEFORE MOVING to Michigan, Henry managed International Harvester's Little Rock, Ark., Shreveport, La., and Houston, Tex.,

as truck branches.

While living in Louisiana and Texas, Henry served small Methodist community churches as a substitute pastor.

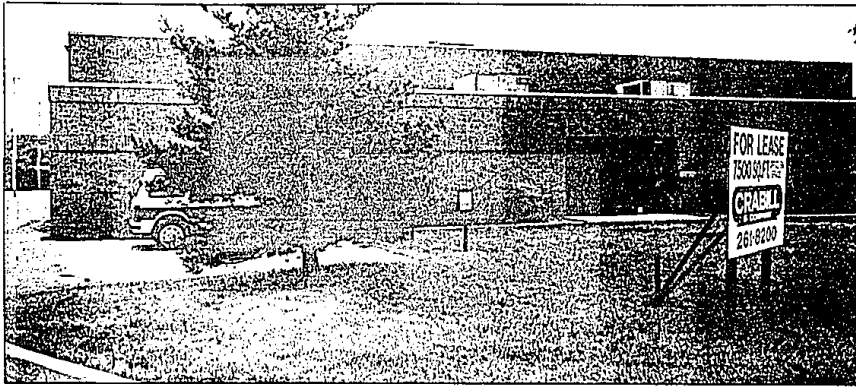
During World War II, he was a truck industry liaison civilian with Service Motor Parts. He was a life member of Automotive Old Timers, now the Automotive Organization Team Hall of Fame.

Services were held June 24 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. The Rev. Arthur Spafford of First United Methodist Church of Farmington officiated. Burial was in Roseawn Cemetery, Little Rock, Ark.

The family asks that memorials be made to the American Heart Association.



Olar Herbert Henry  
'a wonderful guy'



This commercial building at 24320 Indoplex Circle in Farmington Hills is being considered as a new site for an alternative

education program for residents of Boys Republic. It would be leased by Farmington Public Schools.

HANDY BOST/Staff photographer

## Suit claims bank reneged on loans

Continued from Page 1

with the bank. In December 1987, bank officials reduced the total loan amount and in mid-March refused to make any more construction loans to Keating.

Keating alleges in the complaint that the savings and loan "made the material representations" that it was capable of committing to the loan agreement and "acted to plaintiffs (Keating) as if there was a limit to the cumulative total of loan commitments/construction loans available."

Keating alleges that the bank knew it was unable to authorize the loans in excess of a one-borrower limit and "recklessly proceeded to make such loan commitments without regard to whether they were capable of doing so or not."

KEATING HAS been plagued with problems in Farmington Hills since late 1987-early 1988 when residents in the Nine Mile-Middlebelt area complained to city officials about his work sites.

City officials reacted to documented problems of torn-up roads, blocked drainage ditches and roads blocked with construction equipment by initially restricting building inspections and new building permits.

As Keating made progress in clearing up problems and cleaning his work sites, the city allowed inspections to continue. New building permits continue to be withheld

**In a complaint filed June 20, Keating Community Homes officials maintain that when the bank allegedly backed out of almost \$900,000 in loan commitments, the housing company was faced with a series of problems.**

from the builder, pending completion of outdoor work at building sites, said city manager William Costick.

"As far as I know, his homes are all completed on the inside. But we haven't seen any actual work on his sites in a couple weeks," Costick said. "All the sites have been graded but there is still debris and tree stumps around."

In May, Keating agreed not to use two completed houses on Nine Mile as sales models, following the city's filing of a lawsuit against the builder. Though a hearing had been scheduled, it was unnecessary when Keating's attorney agreed on behalf of the builder to stop using the houses as models or advertising them as such.

## Schools try to lease site for classes

Continued from Page 1

PHYLLIS GRIFFIN, director at Boys Republic, said this was the first she had heard about the possible move to an industrial park. But she said Boys Republic is willing to work with the district on plans, even though they prefer a location closer to their facility.

"There was some antagonism between the two organizations," she said. "We are no longer interested in perpetuating this type of relation-

ship. We want a more mutual and harmonious relationship (with the district)."

Boys Republic residents were originally educated on the facility's grounds before being moved to Shawwassee Center - a former elementary school at Tuck and Shawwassee.

Republic officials originally said

"no" to educating the boys at the Nine Mile facility again, because of concerns with the education program and possible legal problems. Many of these concerns have been alleviated, Griffin said, and "this message was conveyed to the school district."

Because the boys "can be volatile," she said, the facility's board

prefers they be closer.

"The further distance they are away from us, the more of a chance there is something could happen."

Several violent incidents have taken place during the past few years. Just this year, a supervisor at the school was stabbed with a screwdriver as he tried to stop two students from stealing his car.

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I personally have seen many changes in our beliefs, but for the time being, I would say, it may be wise to check about this possibility with your Doctor in order to have the maximum benefit from these medications.

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