

obituaries

CURTIS M. MEECH
Mr. Meech, 58, of Farmington Hills died Sept. 23. Mr. Meech was an electrical engineer for Ford Motor Co. He was a member of Western-Wayne Conservation Association in Plymouth and a Korean War Army veteran.
Survivors include his wife, Shirley; son, Stephen; daughter, Jennifer Jean; brothers, Emerson, Lyle and Wayne; sisters, Erle Heerman and Joyce Collins.
Services were Sept. 28 at the Church of Christ at Livonia with the Rev. David Kohn officiating. Burial was in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy.
Memorials may be made to Ronald McDonald House or Church of Christ Care Center.

AGNES LOUISA DANIELSON
Mrs. Danielson, 85, of Kalkaska, Mich., formerly of Farmington, died Sept. 24 in Kalkaska Memorial Hospital.
Born in Sweden, Mrs. Danielson was a homemaker.
Surviving is her son, James Paul.
Services were Sept. 27 at the Heery-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with Dr. Tom Malone Sr. officiating. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley.

EDWARD LEAHY DWYER (ABE)
Mr. Dwyer, 79, of Farmington Hills died Oct. 1 in Borja Health Care of Oakland, Pontiac.
Born in Stonington, Ill., Mr. Dwyer was a boiler operator at Sarah Fisher Center from 1942 to 1959. He was maintenance operator at U.S. Tool and Cutter, retiring after eight years. He was also a musician, playing honky tonk, jazz and Dixieland.
Mr. Dwyer served under the U.S. Air Force Air Defense Command in the Ground Observer Corps Aircraft Warning Services during World War II at the airport that used to exist off Orchard Lake Road.
Survivors include his wife, Gertrude; son, Francis; daughters, Nancy, Sister Janice; Dianne Taylor and Mary; brother, Francis; three grandchildren.

MASS was celebrated Oct. 4 at St. Fabian Catholic Church, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. Norbert Kendzierski officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.
Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.

DR. PRESTON W. PORTS
Dr. Ports, 82, of Farmington and Orange, Texas died Sept. 30 in Sparrow Hospital.

Born in Des Moines, Iowa, Dr. Ports practiced in Farmington for more than 35 years. He was a World War II Army veteran who served in the Pacific.
Survivors include his wife, Donna; sons, Preston Jr. and John; daughters, Diane Valdez, Joan Hollerich, Betty Lou Stevens, Judith Ann Kearns, Susan Wertheburg, Linda R. Hubbert and Barbara Portis; sisters, Adelaide Spurgeon and Eloise Murphy; brother, Tommy Ports; 23 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.
Services were Oct. 4 at the Estes-Leady Funeral Home, Lansing.

WILLIAM JEAN HOSKINS
Mrs. Hoskins, 61, of Farmington Hills died Sept. 28 in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.
Born in Pineville, Ky., Mrs. Hoskins worked at Ingersoll-Rand before her illness forced her to retire.
Survivors include her sisters, Frances Howard and Cleo Cox; brothers, Paul and Clarence Green.
Services were Oct. 1 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Jerry L. Holcomb officiating. Services were also held in Pineville, Ky. Burial was in Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Middleboro, Ky.

EUGENIE B. (JEAN) MAHONEY
Mrs. Mahoney, 73, of Farmington Hills died Sept. 28 in Providence Hospital, Southfield.
Born in Farmington Township, Mrs. Mahoney was a teacher. She started teaching in Farmington in 1938.
Survivors include her sisters, Irma Schulkins and Georgia Young; brother, Fritz Kupsky.
Burial was private in West Farmington Cemetery with the Rev. Thomas Scherger officiating. A memorial service will be held Oct. 8 at 4 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, 12 Mile and Haggerty roads.
Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

RAYMOND M. CASSATT
Mr. Cassatt, 67, of Farmington Hills died Sept. 29 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.
Born in Huntington, Pa., Mr. Cassatt worked at Evans Products. He was a World War II Army veteran.
Survivors include his wife, Shirley; son, Richard; daughter, Linda Konicki; sisters, Marcella Hill and Mary Cook; brother, Charles McDonald; three grandchildren.
Services were Oct. 1 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington,

with the Rev. Joseph Shannon officiating. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery, Livonia.

ANNA GEORGE
Mrs. George, 97, of Farmington Hills died Sept. 28 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.
Born in Greece, Mrs. George was a homemaker.
Survivors include her son, George; daughters, Susan Stevens and Frances George; eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.
Services were at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. Stephen Anthony officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit. Arrangements were made by the Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home, Livonia.

HAZEL M. NEWELL
Mrs. Newell, 84, of Farmington Hills died Sept. 26.
Born in Missouri, Mrs. Newell was a retired nurse.
Survivors include her son Delbert Jr.; a daughter, Joy Veros; sister, Gladie; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.
Services were Sept. 29 at the Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home, Livonia, with the Rev. Barbara Koch officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Detroit.

MARY J. SAARELA
Mrs. Saarela, 91, of Livonia died Sept. 29 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.
Born in Lahpeming, Mrs. Saarela was a homemaker.
Survivors include her daughter, Betty Paulson; brother, John Mikko; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.
Services were Oct. 3 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Elmer Linamati officiating. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial Cemetery West, Garden City.

DOLORES G. BARTMAN
Mrs. Bartman, 57, of Ada, Mich., formerly of Farmington, died Sept. 30 in St. Mary Hospital, Grand Rapids.
Born in Detroit, Mrs. Bartman was a pharmacist. She was a graduate of Wayne State University.
Survivors include her husband, LeRoy; son, Dr. Casey Bartman; three grandchildren.
Services were Oct. 3 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Alfred Gould of Ward Presbyterian Church officiating. Burial was in Acacia Park Cemetery, Birmingham.
Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Farmington man was the Lone Ranger

David Litogot teaches elementary school history in the Farmington Public Schools. He is a member of the Farmington Historical Society.

By David Litogot
Special Writer

On April 8, 1941, a resident of Farmington was killed in an auto accident in front of the Methodist Church when his car crashed into the rear of a parked truck-trailer.

footprints in history

When the people from the Detroit area viewed the victim's face at the Heene Funeral Home, they saw, for the first time, the face of the legendary radio hero, the Lone Ranger.

Earle W. Graser — the radio voice of the Lone Ranger — was a resident of Farmington for two years before that crash. He was only 32 years old.

and had provided that booming voice of the masked man for eight years. He and his wife lived on Locust Drive, near Oakwood Cemetery.

Despite being born in Kitchener, Ontario, Graser's voice had a certain "Texan" ring to it on the air. He attended Wayne State University and studied law at the University of Detroit. His radio creation, however, prevented him from becoming an attorney.

In the recent edition of American History Illustrated, Trenton writer John F. Wukovits provided an interesting glimpse into those "thrilling days of yesterday" of Detroit radio. Focusing on the original programming of station WKYC, Wukovits wrote on the origins of his favorite childhood program, the Lone Ranger.

In the 1930s, station owner George W. Trendle wanted a radio

program focusing on a lone cowboy who traveled the West fighting wrongs. Fran Striker, a free-lance writer from Buffalo, N.Y., provided the scripts. The hero in the series was what Trendle wanted: a serious person who was always fair and used perfect English. He had a righteous purpose and never shot to kill.

The development of the series included a "faithful Indian companion," a sleek horse, silver bullets, and of course, a mask for the Ranger. Stirring classical music from Gioacchino Rossini and Franz Liszt provided the musical theme and background music. Starting in 1933 and airing three times a week, The Lone Ranger was soon a hit.

After short stints by Jack Deeds, George Seaton and Bruce Beemer, Graser became the voice of the hero. Even though he was a quiet, shy, small man, "his voice provided the best Lone Ranger yell of anyone," according to Dick Osgood in his book Wixley Wonderland.

GRASER'S VOICE spoke with the authority of the legendary hero. But,

according to Wukovits, "during a musical performance at a local theater, a prize was offered to the person in the audience who could most accurately reproduce the famous 'Hi Yo, Silver' cry. Graser, urged on by friends in the audience, joined other hopefuls on stage where he embarrassingly lost to another contestant.

Even after Graser died, his recorded voice still yelled the "Hi Yo, Silver," even though announcer Bruce Beemer had taken over the role. Beemer looked more like the Ranger; he was big and was a great horseman. Since the show began, he, not Graser, was sent to do public appearances as the masked hero.

The next few shows after Graser's death were hastily rewritten to portray the Ranger as seriously ill, so

when he spoke again, the voice change would not be too noticeable. Beemer became The Lone Ranger until the final nationwide broadcast on Sept. 3, 1954.

By 1941, the program was heard on 140 stations as far away as New Zealand on the Mutual Broadcasting System. Eventually The Green Hornet and The Challenge of the Yukon would join The Lone Ranger as prime entertainment on the airways.

Detroit, by World War II, was a center of radio creativity. As life returned to normal after the war, television took root and Hollywood adapted The Lone Ranger for the new media. But radio, as "Theatre of the Mind," had strong beginnings here in Detroit.

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REGISTRATION NOTICE

for

GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1988

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE

City of Farmington, County of Oakland
State of Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I will be at my office at Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, on

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1988

LAST DAY

From 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The 30th day preceding said Election

For the purpose of REVIEWING the REGISTRATION and REGISTERING such of the qualified electors in said City as SHALL PROPERLY apply therefor.

JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY, City Clerk

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