

Farmington Observer

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Farmington, Michigan

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WATCH

The only legal movement you can make from the center of our town is a left turn, says Sgt. Ray Crumley, Farmington Hills Police Department Traffic Section supervisor.

Expect a ticket if an officer sees you turn from a driveway or cross street into the center turn lane, then either slow or accelerate before you get through the light.

This movement has become more frequent because of heavier traffic along such major roads as Orchard Lake and Grand River.

But not only is it illegal, it's also a car into the blind spot of through traffic, thereby creating a traffic hazard, Crumley said.

Motorists (Crumley has cleared the area) should be aware of this.

Memory lane

50 years ago

- Bicentennial services for Farmington High '39 graduating seniors will be held June 4/5/6.
- In a stirring Memorial Day speech May 29, Charles E. Walker, Post American Legion, pleaded for the protection of American liberty against foreign threats.
- The Farmington AAF was advertising a 1-pound bag of potato chips at 24 cents.
- Police reported no traffic accidents in Farmington or Farmington Township over the Memorial Day weekend.

— Farmington Enterprise, Jan. 1, 1938

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Please don't wait until deadline!

You can place your ad any day of the week. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday. We run over 10,000 ads a week and our phones get very busy on Tuesdays and Fridays. Call early so we can be sure to get your ad in the next publication.

WAYNE COUNTY
591-0900

Firebombers fled in red Trans Am

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

The men who firebombed a car outside a Farmington Hills factory and left a 21-year-old Wayne County man burned on his face, chest and left arm May 15 fled in a bright-red

1989 Pontiac GTA Trans Am after the murder attempt.

The victim's left eye also was injured in the 9 p.m. attack, which apparently stemmed from a fight at a Farmington gas station two nights before, police said.

"We're seeking the public's help in locating

the getaway car and identifying the men involved," said Farmington Hills Lt. Richard Murphy.

"If anybody knows anything about the incident, we'd like them to call us," he said. "That's how cases are sometimes made."

The victim, whom police would not identify, was treated at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. He was released four hours later.

THE MAN was getting out of a car he had just parked in the rear lot of a factory near Grand River and 10 Mile when two men pistol-whipped him back inside at gunpoint.

The attackers then broke a rear side window of the 1989 Ford Tempo and tossed two gasoline-soaked firebombs inside before fleeing, police said.

They fled in a bright-red 1989 Pontiac GTA Trans Am with dark windows, gold letters, gold wheels, a telephone antenna on the rear windows and possible T-tops. Police gave a partial license plate number 160-277.

Both men are described as white and 18-20 years old.

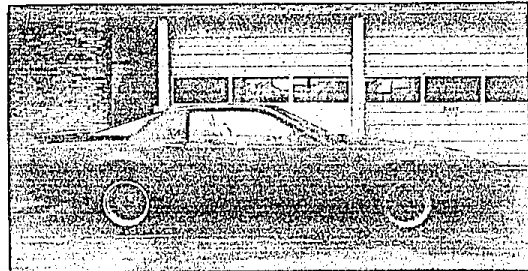
The gunman is about six feet tall and very muscular. He has a heavy build and a dark complexion. He was wearing a white T-shirt with the word "Ghropolis." He has a tattoo on his left upper bicep (see accompanying drawing).

The gun was either a 9mm Browning or a .45-caliber automatic, possibly nickel plated.

The other attacker is about 5-8 with black hair, a very dark complexion, a bushy mustache and a cut straight across the upper lip.

THE INCIDENT that apparently triggered the attack took place at midnight May 13 at a gas station at Nine Mile and Farmington Road

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RANDY BORGSTAFF photographer

This 1989 model is nearly identical in appearance to the 1989 bright-red GTA Pontiac Trans Am occupied by two men wanted for a firebombing in Farmington Hills May 15.

Trombley remembered Retired postmaster 'universally well-liked'

By Casey Hane
staff writer

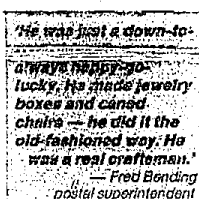
Henry Trombley always looked at life with a take-it-as-it-comes attitude, both in his personal life and as Farmington's postmaster.

"It's like rummy, the card game — draw, cuss and discard," he said in a 1984 Observer interview. "Everyday was alike . . . dirty the dishes, wash 'em and get 'em out again tomorrow."

The veteran postmaster, who turned 87 in March, died last week at the University Nursing Home in Livonia. He was a longtime resident of downtown Farmington — where he built his own house at the corner of Shawanawase and Farmington roads — and served as postmaster from 1953 to 1972 before retiring.

The first Republican postmaster appointed in Michigan, he was an employee of the postal service for more than 40 years. One former co-worker recalled Trombley as a man who was "universally well-liked."

Services were held Saturday at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington with the Rev. Arthur Spafford officiating. Burial followed at Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington.



He was just a down-to-earth, happy-go-lucky, he made jewelry boxes and canned chairs — he did it the old-fashioned way. He was a real craftsman.

— Fred Bending, postal superintendent

His family asks that memorials be made to the church, of which Trombley was a member for 50 years.

WHEN TROMBLEY came to Farmington as a clerk, first-class postage was two cents, postal cards a penny and Christmas cards in unsealed envelopes cost 1 1/4 cents. His starting salary was 65 cents an hour, and he retired earning \$21,000 per year — which Trombley called "peanuts all the way through."

But he enjoyed his job, which offered him time he cherished for himself and his family.

During his 1984 interview, he recalled the early years, when anything and everything was sent by mail.

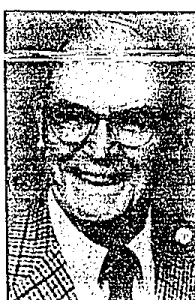
"Sometimes you'd come to work and there'd be a couple of thousand day-old chickens," he said. "They'd come from a big hatchery in Zeeland. The farmers had bought them. 'Everything came through the mail — liards, frogs from California for dissecting in the schools. Oh, just everything.'"

Co-workers remembered Trombley as an easy-going sort of guy, a craftsman who was an self-studied expert in health foods before it was popular.

TROMBLEY WAS Fred Bending's first boss.

"He was just a down-to-earth friendly person, always happy-go-lucky," said Bending, now the superintendent at the Farmington Hills post office. "He made jewelry boxes and canned chairs — he did it the old-fashioned way. He was a real craftsman."

Retired superintendent Nancy Knapp used to live across the street from the Trombleys in Farmington, when she clerked for the post office,



Henry Trombley took life in stride

which was then on Grand River. She recalled that Trombley "always had a joke" and "was always recommending a health food before it was popular."

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Alcohol 'sting' is planned

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Took, parking liquor stores and beer and wine store owners, consider yourselves forewarned: Farmington Hills police will conduct another undercover liquor law sweep within the next two weeks.

"Obviously, we're doing it because it's close to graduation time. We don't want minors in accidents. We do always see an increase in June — graduation time — as our minors attempt to purchase liquor," police Chief William Dwyer said.

This will be the fifth undercover operation since October 1986. Police this time will target licensed beer and wine stores and liquor dealers. The planned effort is designed to enforce state and local liquor laws and put dealers on notice that they are prohibited from selling alcohol to anyone younger than 21.

"It's important we conduct this around graduation time. We are putting teens and licenses on notice that it will be difficult to buy alcohol. We're trying to save a few lives," Dwyer said.

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Exchange student enjoys American way of life

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Annette Roy's first day at Farmington Hills Mercy High School was her first day in America. Even with her good grasp of the English language, she found it difficult.

But after nine months here, the 17-year-old West German exchange student has learned to blend into life with her Farmington family and American friends. She believes any type of foreign exchange program or travel is important.

"I think it just opens your whole view of the world," she said. "We are all the same differently — somehow it's true."

Like any active high school student, Roy jumps right in and stays busy with regular classes including pre-calculus, history, French and literature, and extracurricular activities such as track. Last week, she was happily preparing to attend the Mercy spring prom.

"She joins — she reaches out to people," said Jane Felten, with whose family Roy is living during her stay.

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RANDY BORGSTAFF photographer

From left are Mercy junior Karri Donatello, Mercy senior Annette Roy of West Germany, Mercy junior Kathleen Felten and

Mercy senior Erika Fury. Roy and Fury are getting ready to attend the Mercy prom.