

## Carrier of the Year

Jo'Mar Heard was named the Farmington Observer's Carrier of the Year. He was hon-ored at the Observer & Eccentric Nowspa-bers' 20th annual Carrier of the Year night in its Livonia office. The O&E has 2,200 carriers in its circulation area. Heard is flanked by Fred J. Wright, O&E circulation director; and

Michael Cummings, Farmington area circulation manager. Carriers of the Year, all former Carriers of the Month, were chosen on the basis of length of service, amount of collections, prompt settling of account, customer service, and proper, up-to-date records.

## Hills welcomes Wixom to consortium

## Fraud complaint dropped, but probe will continue:

Federal authorities dropped a complaint charging a Parmington IIII is a complaint charging a Parmington IIII is an with coreculing a scheme to defraud a Pontine bank, but they will continue to probe the alleged \$15.5 million swinde.

Ilenny Leo Ewaild, 47, appeared in U.S. District Court Oct. 13 on the complaint, which charged him with bilking the First Federal Savings Bank and Trust of Pontiac.

A preliminary exam of the charges was set for Nov. 2.
In a procedure considered routine, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit dropped the complaint without prejudice Nov. 2 to provide more time to gather evidence about the alleged criminal act and any participants.

"When the investigation is completed, a determination will be made whether to seek a felony indictment," said U.S. Attorney Stephen Markman of Detroit.

AN INDICTMENT occurs only af-

AN INDICTMENT occurs only after a grand jury acts. "If we intend to press charges, we will present it to a grand jury. We can't proceed without one," said Ross Parker, chief assistant U.S. attorney in De-

chiel assistant charged that roll.

The complaint charged that Ewald "forged and falsified deeds, discharges or liens and other documents that made it appear that he owned an apartment building called the Westland Towers in Westland," Markman said.

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The documents were presented to
First Federal Savings Bank and
Trust in Pontiac in applying for a
\$6.5 million loan, which was granted.
Westland Towers was used as collateral, Markman said.

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- Boss Parker assistant U.S. attorney

After Ewald's arrest Oct. 13, his attorney, Harold Gurewitz of De-troit, said his client "Is charged with an offense that he is only accused of." He wouldn't comment further.

MEANWHILE, A Southfield insurance company owner charges his company was damaged because First Federal Savings Bank and Trust improperly approved the loan that went sour.

James Petcoff, co-owner of Michigan Selégive Insurance alleged in a

gan Selective Insurance, alleged in a lawsuit filed Nov. 9 in Oakland County Circuit Court that the bank never asked for a credit report on Ewald.

Bewald.

Ewald.

Ewald

the loan because of alleged negligence in investigating Ewald.

Because of the bank's action, the suit says, Michigan Selective Insurance "can no longer engage in lussiness. It has lost profits, the effort and money spent in licensing and commencing business was lost, and its good will and reputation have been tarnished."

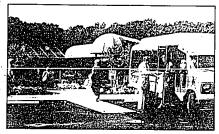
He asks that the suit against Michigan Selective Insurance be dismissed and that the company beawarded damages "in whatever amount it is found to be entitled."

Leo Ottoni, president an chief "x-ecutive officer of the bank, said normal precountons were taken in approving the loan.
"We followed all our procedures and obtained the title insurance policy to protect ourselves." Ottoni said lie said the bank's attorneys advised "him against further comment.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.



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