

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



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Photo takes spooky route to get home

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

YOU NEVER KNOW what the next mail will bring. What the mail brought Becky Davis is a package she's called "weird" at the very least, and bordering on "spooky."

Davis' package contained a somewhat tattered and torn, but still repairable picture of the Farmington High School Class of 1928 from a man named Gerry Howard who lives in Sonoma, Calif.

Howard wrote in a short note that he was replacing a picture in a frame when he found the graduation picture that had been used as a backing for the photo he wanted to replace.

"There are at least six Farmingtons in this country that I know of — the only clue he had as to which one the picture belonged to was the Detroit photographer's name on the bottom of the picture," Davis said.

"How that man ever got my name is something I cannot figure out. That's weird. What's spooky is that Farmington High School has a copy of every graduation class for the past 100 years, except the one for 1928."

Davis' penchant for history is well known in the Farmington area, but hardly in Sonoma. She is a very active member of Quakerstown Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, and is secretary for Farmington Genealogical Society. Because of her position as secretary, it is her job to pick up the society's mail, but the package was not addressed to the

society. It was addressed to her at her home.

THE PICTURE is now on its way to Farmington High School. "Hopefully to be repaired and treasured," Davis said. "It was certainly a circuitous route that picture took to get back where it belonged. It is a wonder that it even fell into the hands of a man who had some sense of history, and then went to the bother of returning it to us."

"I can't help but believe that if that picture had fallen into the hands of any other 100 men they would have thrown it out without a thought."

While Davis had the picture in her possession she asked "everybody I could think of," she said, if they could identify any of the school's 1928 graduates.

"I asked Kay Briggs and Jean Fox, our two biggest sources on historical families, and they couldn't give any information other than what we speculated."

"Our only other hope is that one of the graduates' names will be familiar to someone in our two cities and they will give us a call."

The only graduate who has been positively identified is the late Wellington Hullm, better known as "Pete the TV repair man," who was a member of certainly the most prominent black family in Farmington history.

Before his death in 1988, Hullm gave several interviews to the Farmington Observer about his family, which owned property here in 1863. His ancestors fled twice from



DONALD H. WHITE/16E staff photographer

A member of the Farmington Genealogical Society wants to hear from residents who might be able to identify any of Farm-

ington High School's 1928 graduates. The cracked and torn picture found its way back to Farmington from Sonoma, Calif.

their Virginia owner before and during the Civil War. After their first bid for freedom in the 1850s, they were captured. Fleeing a second time in 1863, the family went to Canada before returning to Farmington Township to live.

The Wilson-Hullm house, in the 11

mile-Orchard Lake Road area, was the first here to receive a state historical farm plaque.

TWO MEN IN the picture, Virgil Button and Charles Button, are believed to be members of the Button family that owns and operates

Buttons Orchards in Farmington Hills. But Davis has never been able to verify this.

It is speculated that Mabel Gravin, another graduate pictured, is a member of the Gravin family that owned and operated an open-air produce market on the corner of 13 Mile

and Northwestern Highway that was a Farmington landmark for many years. This has not been verified.

Davis would appreciate any information on any of the graduates. She can be reached by calling 477-3956. "Maybe we'll come up with some more weird stuff," she said.

WATCH

Support group helps women deal with husband's infidelity

By Janice Brunson
staff writer

from a common bond of personal anguish.

Each is married to a cheating husband.

Ranging in age from their late 20s to nearly 60, and married two to 37 years each, they were attending the first meeting in Michigan of

WATCH, a Kansas-based organization for "women and their cheating husbands."

One is wed to a minister, another to an attorney. Others are married to a businessman, a salesman, a factory worker and a peace officer.

Baring their souls, the women

shared a wide range of raw emotion, revealing attempts to cope with a crisis that, for most, promises an unhappy ending.

Sonia, in her late 20s and married seven years, wants a divorce. But when Sonia was gone, her husband spent the night with his lover in the couple's home.

Louise also wants a divorce. Married 37 years and partners with her husband in a successful Bloomfield Township business, "I ask him to leave but he refuses. He says it's his house, too." Meanwhile, he continues a relationship with another woman who Louise suspects is married.

Pat, a Plymouth woman married 30 years and suffering from a condition she described as "pre-menopausal," yearns for divorce but fears "the only way out of my marriage will be death."

OTHERS ARE INTENT on maintaining marriages.

Judy, a Garden City homemaker married since the age of 15, still loves her husband of 33 years, even though he is involved with a married cocktail waitress. He was a good man once and I pray that man will come back.

Carol, perhaps the youngest of the group and married less than three years, is grief-stricken. "I still love him. He is my best friend. I don't want a divorce. There is something wrong in my marriage and I can't fix it." She silently weeps.

Rose, of Livonia, is also in love with her husband of more than 30 years. Unfortunately, after a long affair between him and Rose's best friend of many years standing, he recently divorced Rose and is now married to the friend.

Carolyn reflects uncertainty about continuing her marriage. "I was five months pregnant two years ago with our third child when he told me of seven affairs. I already knew about one."

Since the confession, "he's a changed man, everything I ever wanted him to be, attentive, at home every night and on the weekends, and caring for the kids."

But I need to learn how to go on."

The women share a wide range of raw emotion revealing attempts to cope with a crisis, that for most, promises an unhappy ending.

she sobbed. This is the first time she has ever expressed her feelings about

AN OPPORTUNITY to talk and share grief with others is why Susan, an employed mother of three, organized the meeting after learning of her husband's brief affair with a colleague at work.

"I still can't trust him. What I need, is to talk. But you can't just talk to anyone," Susan explained at the start of the gathering.

Coping with feelings of betrayal and dealing with the accompanying sense of rejection and shattered trust pose enormous challenges, according to an active member of the Oakland County chapter of Sex Addicts Anonymous.

"There's an awful lot of em-battered victims out there. And they're having a hard time," he said.

Pat, frozen into inaction by her husband's series of affairs, said, "I'm here to learn how to deal with this. Jeanne, a Livonia wife and mother of five, wants "to become healed."

Lynette, whose primary confidant until now has been a parish priest, needs support. "My attorney asks why I want a divorce. My husband pays everything and gives me an allowance. I want a divorce for my sanity." At a recent WATCH meeting she celebrates her 31st wedding anniversary.

Marilyn, married 23 years to an Oakland County minister and the mother of five, readily admits, "I don't know how to cope. I'm hurt and angry."

Rose responded "You may never trust again."

SOME HAVE responded to the deep hurt in ways that are shocking even to them.

Carol has physically assaulted her husband twice, the first time immediately after learning of the affair. He was holding the couple's infant son.

By nature, I'm not a violent person. My reaction scares me," she said.

Tom said she seriously considered murdering her lover of four years after he plotted her to marry another woman. She falls in love to get even.

Judy regularly spits on her husband.

He's really stupid. He leaves clues everywhere," said Jo of her husband, a Westland salesman who travels. Married 31 years, he entered into a love affair three years ago, after his elderly mother came to live with the couple.

Home, a Northville resident, and wife of 27 years offers hard-learned advice. "I'm not excusing their behavior, but each of us has contributed a little but our lives to this."

When she learned of her husband's affair two years ago, "the first thing I wanted to do was run to a tower. After talking to my sister, I took caution, went slow. I tried to read what was happening."

TODAY, "my marriage is working. It can be worked out if you really want."

Elaine, married to a Farmington Hills attorney, perhaps sums it up. "They are who they are."

WATCH was founded three years ago by a trio of Kansas City women. A bi-monthly newsletter is available for \$12 annually, by writing P.O. Box 14912, Lenexa, Kan. 66212.

Information on where and when the next meeting of Michigan WATCH will take place is available by calling 349-0623.

