

Lawyer says slain man's associate fears bandits

(AP) A Rhode Island associate of a slain Farmington Hills computer executive has remained in hiding because he fears armed bandits may try to harm him, the man's lawyer said in a report published recently.

The FBI wants to question Edward Hughes of Coventry, R.I., in the death of Brian McCarthy of West Bloomfield Township.

McCarthy's nude body was found Feb. 9 in a shallow grave about 120 miles northwest of Mexico City, Hughes called Mexican police, and said he and McCarthy were traveling together when they were kidnapped by armed bandits.

Hughes said he was freed and ordered to get ransom. Hughes then went into hiding.

Hughes' wife, Gloria, contacted Wednesday by The Providence Journal, said she knew where her husband was but declined to say more, the newspaper reported today.

She referred further questions to Hughes' lawyer, Joseph Palumbo, who confirmed that the FBI has contacted both him and Mrs. Hughes. Palumbo told the Journal that he didn't know where

Hughes was, but that he spoke with him several times by telephone.

"Based on what the FBI has told me, there's nothing they know that would lend any basis to Mr. Hughes being a suspect" in McCarthy's death, Palumbo said. Nevertheless, he said, Hughes has stayed in hiding because he is "in a state of extreme concern and fear for himself and his family."

Palumbo said Hughes feared

harm by armed bandits, but the attorney did not elaborate.

McCarthy, 40, was president of Automation Software Inc., based in Farmington Hills. Automation Software also has offices in North Kingstown, R.I.

Hughes, 49, is a former vice president of Automation Software Inc.

According to another press report, authorities were negotiating with a lawyer representing

Hughes to have Hughes come forward for questioning by the FBI. The report did not name the lawyer.

FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office officials in Detroit said Wednesday they were unaware of any such negotiations.

Mexican authorities have said they suspect a U.S. citizen in McCarthy's shooting and said they believed the story of kidnapping by bandits was made up.

Advocate for environment, Fred Harrison dies at 84

BY TOM BARR
STAFF WRITER

Fred Harrison loved smelling the flowers. A framed motto on his kitchen wall made that perfectly clear: Don't hurry. Don't worry. And don't forget to smell the flowers.

Mr. Harrison, who died Feb. 16 at age 84, had ample opportunity to experience the joys of nature



Fred E. Harrison

"You know, on a beautiful day like today (Friday), he'd be sure to be out there taping his maple trees."

A strong advocate for the environment, he could always be found at the "Clean the Rouge" days every spring.

Mr. Harrison was a founding member of the Farmington Community Center in 1976, and has served on the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission since its inception.

He had developed many friends in the Farmington area.

"He was a neat guy and quite a character," said Nancy Leonard, a Farmington resident and close friend. "He made you feel like he was really glad to see you every time you ran into him."

Born in Fairgrove, Mich., in the Thumb, Mr. Harrison was self-employed in the advertising specialty field. He started Harrison Enterprises in 1958 and retired in 1978. His wife Marie, whom he married in 1939, died in 1977.

Survivors include his sons, Michael and Daniel; two brothers; and two grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated Saturday, Feb. 19, at St. Alexander Catholic Church, Farmington Hills. Memorials may be made to the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills 48336.

Arrangements were made by the Heen-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

were always welcome and were treated to a personal nature walk through the trails that he maintained.

"He loved his trees, his birds and his animals," said son, Michael Harrison, a Farmington resident. "Anyone who came to his house just had to stay around for the guided tour."

without leaving his home on Whittington in Farmington Hills.

A retired business owner, Mr. Harrison spent much of his life developing the eight acres of woods and streams on his property into a tranquil haven where one could not help but stop and smell the flowers.

He and his wife, Marie, cleared the land and built their own home in 1939. He lived there until his death.

He was widely known in the area as "The Birdman of Farmington" because of his interest in wild birds. Pictures record the fact that chickadees would land on his pipe stem and take a sunflower seed out of the bowl of the pipe.

Mr. Harrison's property has been kept to this day as a natural wildlife sanctuary where visitors

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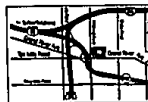
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