

# BUILDING & BUSINESS

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THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1994

## BUILDING & BUSINESS ECCENTRIC STARS

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings and other key personnel moves within the suburban business community. Send a brief biographical summary - including the towns of residency and employment and a black-and-white photo, if desired - to: Stars, Building & Business, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is 313-591-7279.

**Claudette Y. Smith** of Southfield was named program consultant for The Skillman Foundation, Detroit. She had been an associate professor at Wayne State's College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs.



Smith

**Michael H. Tralson** of West Bloomfield, an attorney in the Detroit office of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, was nominated to the Federal Bar Association board-eastern district of Michigan. He's also co-chairs the organization's bankruptcy section.



Tralson

**Ken Rimmer** of Birmingham was elected president of Association of Health Maintenance Organizations in Michigan for a two-year term. He is executive director of Total Health Care of Michigan, Detroit.



Rimmer

**Les Klima** of Livonia was promoted to manager in the tax department of Deloitte & Touche, Detroit. He joined the firm in 1989 and specializes in expatriate and alien taxation.



Klima

See STARS, 2F



Spiffing up: Refacing existing cabinets, a new countertop and new splashblock (below) can give a kitchen a fresh, new appearance (left).

## Brighten kitchen via restoring, refacing

■ Many people aspire to a new house or at least a fresh, new look in their old place. Dreams often surpass available money. There is a middle ground for upgrades, however.

BY DOUG FUNKE  
STAFF WRITER



How to get new without spending a fortune and building totally new?

When it comes to the kitchen, one of the most used rooms in a house, consider an intensive wood-care cleaning/treatment. An investment of several hundred dollars can yield remarkable results, proponents say.

Beyond a thorough cleaning but still short of new address, there's cabinet refacing, an alternative to brand new cabinets. It's amazing what new doors, a new counter



See BRIGHTEN, 2F

## Area businesses rank high among fastest-growing

Companies headquartered in Observer & Eccentric communities claimed nearly one quarter of all the positions on this year's Michigan Private 100, an annual ranking of the state's fastest-growing, privately owned businesses.

The study measures revenue growth rates. The 100 companies combined generated almost \$1.4 billion in sales during 1993, according to Durocher, Dixon, Werba, a public/financial relations firm and co-sponsor of the study.

To qualify, companies had to have had 1989 net sales of at least \$100,000 and sales last year of at least \$1 million.

The rankings do not include companies that may have had better growth records, but chose not to participate. Some 150 entered.

A brief description of local businesses follows. The information was provided by the individual companies:

■ **The One-Half Off Card Shop**, retail chain of 30 stores selling greeting cards, party supplies and collectibles. CEO, William Zucker. Headquartered in Southfield. Ranking-6th. Net 1993 sales, \$26.3 million. Net '92 sales, \$22.6 million. Net '89 sales, \$1.4 million. Employees, 425. Founded, 1985.

■ **Flexible Plan Investments**, investment advisory firm. CEO, Jerry C. Wagner. Headquartered in Bloomfield Hills. Ranking-6th. Net 1993 sales, \$3.2 million. Net '92 sales, \$2.1 million. Net '89 sales, \$257,000. Employees, 24. Founded, 1981.

■ **Rock Financial**, mortgage banking. CEO, Daniel Gilbert. Headquartered in Bingham Farms. Ranking-6th. Net 1993 sales, \$19.3 million. Net '92 sales, \$11 million (short year due to accounting change). Net '89 sales, \$2 million. Employees, 260. Founded, 1983.

■ **CH Industries**, pre-prototype and prototype parts supplier and supplier of plastic and die cast injection molds. President, Chris Hibberd. Headquartered in Troy.

See RANK, 2F

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**RAMBLEWOOD FOREST ESTATES**

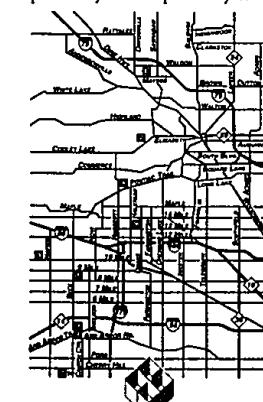
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