## Cowleys'

from page 1A

### by its owner to stop by "for a nip" will likely call in their markers.

That's fitting on March 17 since Cowleys' Village Inn is an archive of an Irish-American od-yasey.

### Lots of Irish flavor

Amid the liquor bottles and beer taps, an Irish tri-color and Old Glory are displayed promi-

beer taps, an Irish tri-color and Old Glory are displayed promi-nently. A hurling stick sits stop a wooden Budweiser keg. Nearby, a team picture of a Gaelic football side shares opace with one of the Detroit Red Wings' famed "Pro-duction Lina" of Gordis Howe, Sid Abel and Ted Lindesy. The curator of this tribute is expected to be a teary-oyed, senti-mental sort. But gruffness is part of the publican's charm. He recites his background mat-ter-of-factly. Achievements speak for themaclyes, having been born in an Iriand "under British rule" in 1921. John Cowley played Gaelic football, an Iriah variation of seccer and rugby. He wistfully re-calls performing before crowds of 60,000 at Croke Park in Dublin. His gait still resembles that of an athlete. A elight hitch reveals one deeveral knoe injuries, which curtailed his fervent pursuit of the sport. "Gaelic football was all I had,"

"Gaslic football was all I had,"

he said. Then he met Marie O'Rourke.

### Married in Ireland

Married in Ireland She was born in Flint bot moved with ber family to Ireland. She caught his eye while he was en route to a Gaslic match. "I asid, "Who is that girlt" John Cowley recalled. Their romance hrough thin to North America, though he had to reside in Windsor while immigra-tion papers were pending. The two returned to Ireland to be mar-ried in 1951.

two returned to Ireland to be main-ried in 1951. They returned to Detroit and raised three sons, Greg. Michael and Pat. John Cowley worked in a paint factory and set marble to

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Taven brain trust: John Cowley (right) is behind his bar with wife Marie and son Patrick, who now runs the popular establishment.

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Statistication of having helped set the 7-knot matches the 7-knot matches of the bar all John for the bar all John Cowley loaded to see the 7-knot matches of the bar all John Cowley loaded to see the 7-knot matches the provide the the fact.
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He disk have the full amount, the cast of the bar at the cast on the sail of the bar at the set on two stopsing in sull Farming.
The said 'hr have the full amount, the said 'he said

occasionally to play a few hands. "That Sid Abeil" said Cowley repeatedly to a visitor, pointing to the autograph photo behind the bar. His rargy Irish volce makes Abel's name sound more like the brand of a belt-sander.

There are limits He's a friend to the Farmington police, too, but even that has its limits.

police, 60, but with the limit. A police officer once ticketed a customer for blocking the alley, Cowley said. He argued on behalf of the offender, pointing out the officers had asked him to recently sponsor their softball team. "don't drink and I don't play softball," the officer replied. Cowley threw up his hands and muttered the Lord's name. "And I'm not Jesus Christ," the officer said while writing the tick-et.

Cowley credits longtime em-ployees like Ellie O'Connor, "who

came with the place," and his sons who have all worked there. The pillar maintaining the business' auccess has been his wife of 43 years. Maric Owley has the tough spots her husband may may be a solution of the solution of the said, "If it weren't for Marie... as made the Cowley family." To that end, he has some ad-not to drink with the customers. Anothy with patrons. John Cowley said he's done more of the former than the latter. "When I get mad I all them to get lost and I shouldn't have," he said, "The customer is always right." When a wide why it was time to pass on the business, John Cow-ley doesn't let sentiment shell it can't tay here forever."

## Arena going up right on schedule

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The sized skaleton is up for the new ice areas being built at Foun-ders Sports Park in southerm Parnington Hills. "Although much work has al-of the construction will be tha sout the standard of the state ant City Manager David Call. "Bite preparation is complete. Underground utilities and water ing and foundation are in place. Everything to date has been satis-factorily completed and wo're on schedule, "Call said. The ice surna, which is sched-uled to open Sept 1, will consist of two ice surfaces, a concession stand, and a pro shop. Space is and the may be developed lat. ... The 70,000 square foot facility

er. The 70,000 square foot facility will accommodate dry floor activi-ties when the ice surface command

the when the to summer the to a summer to be a summer to be a summer to be a summer to be a summer work will be to be a summer work will be a summer work will be

follow. Later this summer work will be done on parking lots and road-ways leading to the facility locat-ed on the north side of Eight Mile Road between Parmington and Halsted. A traffic signal will be installed at the main entrance in

Haisted. A traffic signal will be installed. A traffic signal will be installed at the main entrance in the spring. "We are very encided about the recreational opportunities this will open up for Parnington Hills residents," asid ice arens mans-ger Jerry Nelson. The sale of was approved by voters in August 1994. Since that time, a building committee has been working with staff to make recommendations regarding bid-ding and construction issues. The sity council has also ap-pointed an advisory control sesues. The dity council has also ap-pointed and procedures for opera-tion of the lee arena.



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## Here Are A Few Good Reasons To LIST WITH CHAMBERLAIN!

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# Hills cops battle salary issues

Arbitration

### BY BELL COUTANT

Negotiations between Farming-ton Hills and two of its employee bargaining units are entering a new phase.

pargaining units are entering a new phase. Although the city has settled salary issues with four of six bar-gaining units — the Police Offi-cers Association of Michigan, which represents about 68 uni-formed officers, Association of Michigan, which represents about 23 who are litutenants or sergeants — are going to arbitra-tion over a salary reopener for the flacal year beginning July 1, 1994. "These negotiations were only concerned with the salarier," said Hills Personnel Director Dana Whinnery.

Hills Personnei Director Dana Whinnery. Whinnery said because the city was unsure of the effects of pro-posed tax changes wrought by Proposal A, which cut property taxes, it negotiated saisary re-opener clauses with all six bar-psining units in contract negotia-tions.

asid. "That had been negotiated long before the tax proposals had be-come an issue," he said. "The firefighters contract runs tions. The city has about 320 full-

members of the American Federa-tion of State, County and Munici-pal Employees, which includes clerical and civilian police and fire donariment employees

through June 30 of this year. The remaining city employees are non-union, and for the most part, work with annual salary and basefit pockages. Doug Anderson, president of the Hills COAM unit that repre-sents police exrgents and Heu-tenanta, said arbitration dates have not even been set for his pal Employees, which includes clorical and civilian pollos and fire department employees. APSCME members accepted a 4 percent increase for 1993, a 3 percent increase for 1995. About 40 supervisors who are part of the Teamster's accepted a 5 percent increase for 1995. How the Teamster's accepted a 5 percent increase for 1995. In the team of the team of the poly of the team of the team of the poly of the team of the team of the poly of the team of the team of the poly of the team of the team of the poly of the team of the team of the poly of the team of the team of the poly of the team of the team of the poly of the team of the team of the poly of the team of the team of the poly of the team of team

unit. Whinnery said negotistions have historically been "smooth" between the city and its bargain-ing units. The arbitration hear-ings for the two police unions would be separate and came as a result of a failurs to reach an agreement through mediation. "There's every incentive to during arbitration," Whinnery said, adding that units other as-posed by the union or by the city, not a compromise. Parmington public safety offi-cers recently settide with Parm-ington after arbitration proceed-ings had begun.

Grant will save historic stable

A \$10,000 Michigan Equity grant will help Farmington Hills preserve a part of its bistory, said states Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farming-ton Hills. The city plans to use the grant to stabilize and preserve a 1918 horse stable including servact's quarters and grang facilities. The stable is part of the S11-scree Hari-tage Park. Total project cost is se-timated at \$100,000.

"This grant will essist Farm-ington Hills in completing its his-toric preservation project. These improvements will draw more vis-itors to the area and boost local sconomic sctivity," said Dolan. "I

commend city officials for having the initiative to pursue funds from the Michigan Equity Pro-rear."

From the Michigan Equity Pro-pram." Michigan Equity grants pro-mote cultural programs in cities, economic development and com-munity revitalization. The Michi-gan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs administers the program under the surpless of the Michi-gan Department of Commerce. "We are pleased the citizens of Michigan are eager to marks their communities more liveble," Com-merce Director Arthur Ellis said. "Our goal is to halp communities enhance their cultural anviron-

ment and continue to create sco-nomic opportunity." This year, more than \$7 million in Michigan Equity grants were awarded for 133 projects. Of those, 75 projects were awarded on a competitive basis in com-munities with populations less than 125,000. Farmington Hills competed for the grants against municipalities with populations between 40,000 and 125,000. "I look forward to seeing this project as it progresses. The im-ready szist at Heritage Park," Do-lan concluded.