



A business, too: The Norwegian consul, Norval Engelsen, also operates a picture framing business.

## Consulate from page 1A

### Skill in framing

So he worked for Hudson's in Detroit in the art department. He put his skill of framing pictures to good use, and would later combine his accounting and framing experience into a career as a frame wholesaler and distributor.

For the past 12 years, Engelsen has run his business from Farmington Hills.

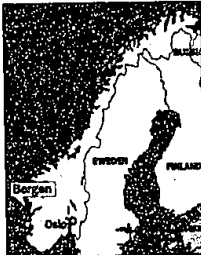
Then in 1979, Engelsen was named honorary consul of Norway for the State of Michigan.

"There's the appointment from the King (Hassard)," he says, pointing proudly to the document on the wall.

Other than some travel and other minor expenses, the post is voluntary. Engelsen's office walls on Crestview Court are full of symbols of his native Norway. There is the bronze crest of Norway, the print of the famous liner *Stavangerfjord*, which took many Norwegians, including the Engelsen, across the Atlantic.

"But in my heart," he says patting himself on the left side of his chest, "I'm American."

His three children (two Americans and one Norwegian) have grown up in this country. But with their strong ties to the Scandinavian land, the Engelsen return each year to a house they own near his hometown of Bergen, for which the New Jersey city is named.



### Many Norwegians in U.S.

If the mutual loyalty seems confusing, especially involving two countries that speak different languages, it is not a problem to Engelsen's way of thinking.

"I don't think people realize how good relations are between the two countries," he says, adding that next to Ireland, Norway has contributed the largest amount of its own population — some 800,000 out of 2 million in the late 1800s — to this country.

"There are 4.1 million people in Norway, and there are about the same number of second and third-generation Norwegians here," he says.

Engelsen says he contemplates becoming a U.S. citizen, but likes helping people through the

Royal Norwegian Consulate in his office. He must go through the staffed official consulates in Minneapolis and Washington, D.C.

"A lot of the people who come to me are dealing with estates," he says. "I was busy when I took this job. But I've never regretted it. I've been able to help people, and it's been very rewarding."

Although a few Norwegians have sought his help to move here and some 200 Americans, mostly experts in a particular field, have emigrated from here to Norway, most of his work has been to help people with estates.

### Help with estates

Often, U.S. citizens with relatives in Norway have died and left money or property to someone across the Atlantic. And once in awhile, there is the case where someone in Norway has died and left an estate to a U.S. citizen.

"We recently had a man from Norway leave a quarter of a million dollars to his daughter, who lives here," he says.

The woman had moved to Grand Rapids from the Detroit area, had lost her husband in a fatal car accident and was destitute with two young children.

"She had to come here on a bus," he says. "But she left in a new car."

And Engelsen, who doesn't look 68, retains his Viking accent.

"In fact, when I come back from Norway, my kids can tell by my accent," he says. "But when I go to Norway, I'd ask for something in Norwegian and the clerk will answer in English. Then I'd finally ask why she was answering in English and she'd say, 'because you are American.'"

Norwegians enjoy a high standard of living with very low unemployment, in part because of their north Atlantic oil and gas resources. The west coast, where Engelsen grew up and owns a house, has the Gulf Stream to keep winter temperatures mild.

"When I first came to Detroit, I had to buy an overcoat," he says. "That's something I never had in Norway. I was very cold."

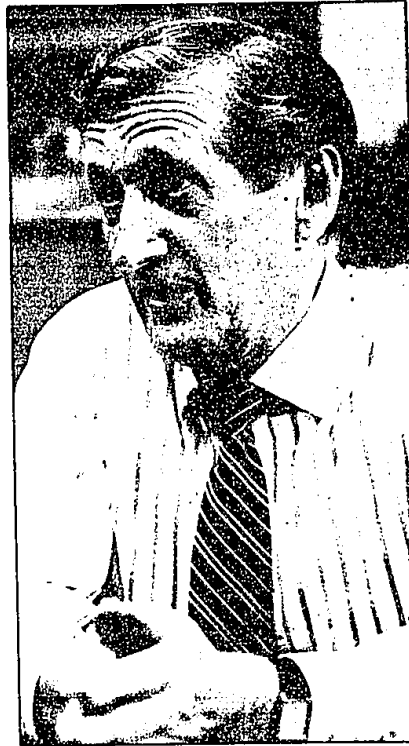
For the mountainous interior and north, the country is more of what Americans would expect of a northern latitude — lots of snow and cold.

Engelsen will be moving his company to larger digs in Novi, and says he'll take the consulate with him.

"I am used to American ways," he says. "I go fishing in Florida and I don't like the cold. I've been able to do everything here that I could at home except play soccer, and now that is changing."

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Norval Engelsen



STAFF PHOTO BY SHAWN LEMMON

Norway's man: "But in my heart, I'm an American," says Norval Engelsen, the Norwegian consul.

## Survey results: Residents want restaurants, stores

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Restaurants, newstands and stores — residents want more... in downtown Farmington. That's the gist of what people would like to see on Grand River, according to an informal survey conducted by the Downtown Development Authority through the Farmington Observer.

More than 30 people responded to a coupon in the Observer, asking what types of businesses they think the downtown needs. The DDA has also sought suggestions from residents during informational meetings.

Opinions varied among those who wrote in.

Some where one-word responses: Others bordered on being heartfelt expository pieces.

"We have lived in the city for 13 years and enjoy walking and biking to the downtown area," one respondent said. "We are happy to see the many additions to the downtown area in recent years to

make it more pedestrian friendly."

Potential eateries were one favorite among readers. They cited the need for upscale dining establishments, casual restaurants with cocktails, and a bagel shop like Bruegger's or Detroit Bagel Factory.

Also, they want a Sunders-type ice cream parlor to return.

In terms of stores, everything from selling golf to garden supplies were mentioned. Other suggestions included newstands selling out-of-town papers, toy outlets, New Age stores selling books and candles, art galleries and more antique stores.

Respondents were quite vociferous in calling for more upscale clothing outlets while expressing a disdain for chains.

"Downtown Farmington does not need anymore low quality product stores," one said. And, added another: "No more dollar stores."

Several made references to

Plymouth and Northville, and said Farmington should do more to emulate those downtowns.

"We have the facilities," said one respondent. "Why don't we plan our downtown to resemble a Birmingham, or Northville, or Plymouth or Brighton or Williamson?"

DDA officials were pleased with the number of responses. They've heard some of the suggestions before.

As for the presence of chain stores, DDA officials said there is a need for a retail mix for downtown to survive in today's economy. If anything, though, those responses underscore the dilemmas faced by downtowns.

"You have to be new, fresh and innovative," DDA board president Robert Fitzpatrick said. "You also have to be small, quaint and comfortable."

Said City Manager Frank Laubhoff: "I think, for the most part, (the survey) reinforces things that are already happening and the DDA has supported."

own, because some animals are not good pet material.

"You buy a semi to haul stuff, not to drive to church," Leake said. "This dog was 160 pounds with a bad attitude."

Dogs also often reflect an owner's disposition. He said the department has had complaints about Rottweilers before, but that he has owned two of the animals.

"They were gentle and well-behaved," he said. "If a dog is raised in a chaotic environment, it's going to behave in a chaotic manner."

Except in extreme situations, where a dog is shot by a police officer, a court order is usually needed to put a dog to sleep, Leake said that often, a dog that attacks is sent away, rather than put to sleep.

"Then you are only transplanting the problem," he said.

Neither could be reached for comment, but Lt. Ron Leake of the Oakland County Sheriff's Animal Control Unit said this is a case where what you see is what you get.

"Attack dog," he said. "That's the kind of dog it is."

Leake said his unit should read up on how they prefer to

rooms and away from the boy. Paragra was also bitten, and was being treated for a bite-related infection.

The boy, Antonio Piers, was in stable condition Friday at Betsford General Hospital with a broken left arm, lacerations and a severe bite on the back of the head after five hours of orthopedic and cosmetic surgery Wednesday. The dog was put to sleep Thursday.

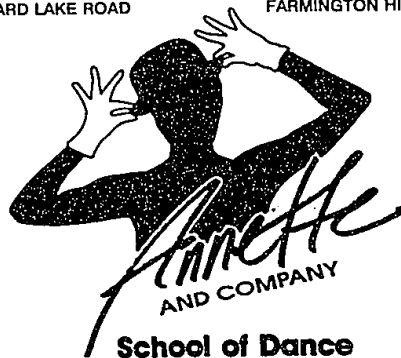
The incident started at 6 a.m., said Farmington Hills police, when the boy woke up and apparently startled the 160-pound dog. The dog began its attack and the boy's sister, Nicole Paragra, 22, was able to get the dog into a box.

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Lt. Ron Leake  
Oakland County Sheriff's  
Animal Control Unit

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## Hills teen survives dog's attack

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

A toadstool — nicknamed the "Japanese Attack Dog" — lived up to its vicious name last week.

A Farmington Hills boy, 14, found that out the hard way after a toadstool dog went after him early Wednesday.

The boy, Antonio Piers, was in stable condition Friday at Betsford General Hospital with a broken left arm, lacerations and a severe bite on the back of the head after five hours of orthopedic and cosmetic surgery Wednesday. The dog was put to sleep Thursday.

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