

Real Estate One pioneer dies

Marjorie Booth Elsen, whose late husband Staunton M. Elsen founded the Oakland County-based real estate company now known as Real Estate One, died Dec. 29, 1996 at age 90.

She was a resident of Farmington Hills, Michigan. Real Estate One is headquartered in Farmington Hills with offices in West Bloomfield as well as other Oakland County communities.

Born in Bridgeport, Conn., on Dec. 9, 1906, Marjorie Booth moved to southwest Detroit with her family at age 5. She graduated from Detroit's Southwestern High School, where she was the class secretary and editor of the yearbook. She worked at Detroit Edison during the 1920s.

Marjorie married Staunton M. Elsen, founder of Elsen Realty & Investment Co., now Real Estate One Inc., in 1927. She was involved in the family

real estate business, particularly with real estate investments.

Mrs. Elsen was very active for many years with the YWCA and was one of the founders of the Downriver Chapter of YWCA.

In 1988, Marjorie and Staunton moved from Allen Park to Farmington Hills.

She is survived by her son, Richard S. Elsen; two grandchildren, Stuart (and his wife Judy) and Daniel (and his wife Susan); four great-grandchildren, Erik, Evan, Caroline and Camille; and a niece, Sue McNutt.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 3, at the Martenson Funeral Home, 10915 Allen Road, Allen Park. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, 1997. Burial will be at Michigan Memorial Cemetery in Flat Rock.

Federal cuts for inspecting nursing homes discussed

President Bill Clinton's proposals to limit nursing home inspections is the topic of an open meeting of the American Association of University Women-Farmington at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at

the Farmington Community Library.

Michael Connor, project director of citizens for Better Care, an advocacy organization for nursing home residents, will speak.

Raczkowski from page A1

Another campaign promise on which the new representative has already delivered is to visit Farmington schools. Raczkowski has talked to students at both Farmington and Harrison High and plans to speak to North Farmington and Mercy students as well.

"I talk to them about government and encourage them to vote," he said. "They ask good questions and they are interested in the process. Young people want to be good citizens. And I think because of my age, they can relate to me."

In addition to hiring staff and preparing for his new duties in Lansing, Raczkowski has been busy taking final exams at Detroit College of Law and transferring control of the printing and marketing business he co-owns with family members.

"I plan to come back to the business when I'm finished in Lansing," he said. "My interest has always been in business."

Like his predecessor, Raczkowski said he plans to commute to Lansing.

"I plan on sleeping in Farmington Hills six days of the week," he said.

Raczkowski said he will continue to keep several other promises to voters including not accepting gifts or gratuities, using any PAC money he has raised for the office or other district needs, not participating in the state retirement program and not voting to increase legislative salaries.

Raczkowski will make \$51,836 as a state representative.



Andrew Raczkowski

He plans to make road and tax issues a priority. And in a term-limit House, Raczkowski said he expects to be in a leadership position soon.

"I think you can be in a leadership position for four of the six years," he said.

Michigan term limits allow state representatives to serve three two-year terms.

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Rose from page A1

most dreary day.

Over the years, her duties have expanded to include writing obituaries. ("I'm on a first name basis with every funeral director in town," she quipped) compiling community calendars, typing voluminous lists of names of school students on the honor roll, writing wedding/engagement notices, business briefs, and military news.

She has worked under several editors. After Barnaby, the current editor, Tom Baer, and the current editor, Dave Varga.

She has helped pack up the office for several different locations. The first Farmington office was located on the east side of Farmington Road downtown, then it moved to the Metrobank building on Grand River, then to Farmington Road south of Nine Mile, and finally the current location at 33411 Grand River.

"I remember when we moved into that office," said former editor Tom Baer. "She was just tireless in getting us squared away."

With new technology, Butler's duties have shifted.

"From the time I came here, the job has changed, the latest being our new News Edit Pro/Quark Express computer system (introduced last spring)," she said. "The system is okay once you get used to it."

During the late 1980s, she would compile a bridal album monthly featuring all the latest marriages from the community.

The Butler family (including

five children) moved to Michigan in 1973, prompted by a career transfer for Rose's husband, Les, who worked as an executive with Unirex-Tire.

The family lived in Farmington Hills for 15 years, where children Jane, Wayne and David attended Farmington schools. Daughters Karen and Linda round out the family.

With the nest empty, the Butlers moved to downtown Farmington, where they lived three years before heading west to Novi.

"I've got to know a lot of people in the city of Farmington and in Farmington Hills over the years

and I've enjoyed it very much," she said. "I've also had really nice people to work with."

Rose plans to enjoy golf, bridge, visiting friends and traveling during retirement. Trips to Arizona, Florida and Scotland are on the agenda for 1997.

"We are all going to miss Rose, her smiling face and all the little niceties she does for people," said Jack Gurd, a retiree known as "Uncle Jack" in Farmington.

"After only a couple of weeks here," said Dave Varga, "I've marveled at the ease and grace that Rose displays in running the office and dealing with the community. She'll be sorely missed."

Bond from page A1

No one has commented during board meetings since the financial strategies committee's report was presented in November. Board members appear to be doing their own polling, though.

"I get comments from community members I run into," Brouillette said. "It's been really positive."

"I think most people in the

community understand we need to bring the buildings up to higher capabilities with the way we educate children today."

Enberg received "five or six good questions," she said. "And we've found answers for those."

Trustee Dave York said he had to initiate conversation on the bond issue, "which is surprising," he added.

"Most people say, 'It's a lot of

money," York said. "Then they ask me details of what the proposal is about. The reaction, without an exception, is, 'It's a lot of money.'"

Several districts have seen bond issues fail recently.

Voters in the Walling Lake district turned down several bond issues to build new schools before one for \$127 million passed recently. Rochester schools is going to voters again after a \$110 million bond issue for building and technological improvements failed.

Some board members won't let that deter their optimism.

"We're a community that historically puts a high value on public education," Brouillette said. "It's a large request, but it's not out of the question for the kind of education we expect for our children."

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