# Debt from page A1

said Nichols. "I couldn't go out and play, there was no TV back then, and our radio didn't work consistently. So I had to road, Because of that, I became a reader, and really interested in education. I think I'm a teacher because of it. "It also made me a fanatic abjut athletics." While polic offlicted Nichols."

it also made me a fanatic control of the mountains, I wasn't going to make it to Florida."

While polic afflicted Nichols left-leg, his right leg grew stronger to compensate. In 1956, the set the Farmington High School high-jump record, (It was troken soon after by the only Olympic gold medal winner to ever come out of the Farmington area.) Nichols was also voted Farmington High's Most Outstanding Athlete.

Pattern of success

His athletic success set a pattern for life. While his career as a teacher, professor and administrator flourished at several different schools, Nichols also became a hardcore runner, racking up an estimated 32,000 miles over the years. However, he knew that jegging would take far too-much time for his current fund-raiser.

So he decided to become a cyclist.

Nichols slowly worked his way up to a 75-mile-a-day average before giving himself a trial by

\*\*CONSIGNMENT\*\*

fire - biking through the mountains of Tennessee and Georgia

tains of Tennessee and Georgia last summor.

"Before March 1996, I had never ridden a bike more than two miles from my house," said Nichols. "I know if I couldn't do the mountains, I wasn't going to make it to Florida."

a few sponsors for Nichols' trip: the Florida Citrus Growers are donating beverages, and Evian has contributed bottled water. Starting from the University of Windsor (where he was an adjunct professor), Nichols will parallel 1-75 south through six states, and hopes to make it to Key West by July 25. The plan is to jog 150 miles, and bike the reat of the route, averaging 75 miles a day with every third day off for rest and publicity.

#### Biking for Babies'

There are already plans for a CNN interview in Atlanta. Nichols' wife Alice, also a graduate of Farmington High, is following him in a van and hopes to convince Rush Limbaugh to mention Nichols on his syndicated radio program. ed radio program.

"If I can get a five-minute fea-ture on CNN, that's 65 million viewers," said Nichols. "I'm doing overything I can to get publicity."

Along the way, he will be solic-iting donations and distributing pledge cards, which people can use to spensor him for a certain

use to sponsor him for a certain amount per mile.

Nichols' trip also coincides with the national convention of the National Education Association in Atlanta, to which he is a delegate and will pay a visit.

But Nichols isn't killing only two birds with one cross-country trip when he can do more. As

secretary of Michigan Polio Network, he hopes to spread the word show Post-Polio Syndrome along his travel route.

Nichols himsoif suffers from the syndrome, symptoms of which include chronic pain and cold extromities. The syndrome can affect polio survivors even 40 years on in life.

"I have friends in my notwork, some who are completely paralyzed today," he said. "I want to identify polio survivors who are having physical problems four decades later, and get them to contact me to send them information about post-polio."

He may have and doubts about whether he can physically pull it off, but Nichols is keeping a special thought in mind to carry him through any rough spots.

"I call this my Biking for Babies project," he said. "Instawhit it really is. So that babies can live quality lives, even if they to born with a birth defect.

"That's my motivation. When I get tired on the back roads of Kentucky and Georgia, that's what it weak a contribution or the safe to the contribution of the safe to the safe to contribution or the safe to the safe to

To make a contribution or pledge for Nichols' journey, call the March of Dimes at (810) 423-3200.

For information on post-polio syndrome, contact Nichols (in about a month) at (248) 340-6922.

# Mercy teacher dies

Mathematics teacher Sister Connie Banks died from renal failure on June 23 at McAuley Rotirement Center in Farmington Hills. She was 58.

Born April 21, 1939, she joined the Sisters of Mercy in 1958. She served as a mathematics instructor at Mt. Mercy in Grand Rapids, Mercy College in Detroit and Mercy High School in Farmington Hills ever 35 years. She is survived by her sister. She is survived by her sister. She is survived by her sister and her religious sisters in the Mercy Community.

"We at Mercy High School will remember her for so many things," states Sister Regina Doelker, principal of the school. 'She loved teaching, especially the upper level classes, but she also loved computers. They chal-lenged her, and she would not give up until she solved our com-

puter problems and glitches both here at the high school and on the Morey campus.

"She was one of the most faithful people I have ever met. She would ask what I needed and then say, "I can do that." And she did. No matter how much work was involved or how many complications arose, she did lift. Her students will remember her for her brilliance, the challenging classes she offered. Sister Regins said, and for her shility to make even the most complex problem comprehensible. Funeral services will be held 6:30 p.m. today, June 26, at Mercy Centor Chapel.

Memorials may be made to the Tuition Assistance Program of Mercy High School, 29300 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills 48336; or the McAuley Renovation Fund, 29000 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills 48336.

## \$20,000 gone in produce heist

burglars carried off two safes with a total of \$20,000 in cash and two guns — including an Uri 9mm semiautomatic — during a break-in of a Farmington Hills produce market after it closed Sunday night.

Thioves broke in sometime between 9:15 p.m. Sunday and 6:45 a.m. Monday at Farmer John's on Haggerty Road. It's Police believe they used four wheel carts to haul out both solicities the thieves parked in the east lot and then cut the







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