

Interurban

Hills man turns hobby into dream

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO
STAFF WRITER

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Since he was 8 years old, Farmington Hills resident Brian Golden has loved to put together model train sets. But as he grew up he quickly grew bored by the roundabout route they take.

So Golden, now 46, began creating imaginary cities with more realistic train routes through valleys and over mountains. But last year, the Farmington Hills resident decided he hadn't taken his love of modeling far enough. He wanted to design a replica of a real line.

"I've always been interested in things of antiquity," Golden said. Golden will speak in Orchard Lake next week on the history of the Orchard Lake Division of the Detroit United Railroad.

A peek into the history behind The Winery, a building at the corner of Grand River Avenue and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington, led him to discover the local link to the Detroit United Railroad. The building was built in 1899 to serve as the powerhouse for the Detroit North-western Railroad, an electric trolley line, which was later owned by the DUR.

The Orchard Lake Division of the DUR ran from Grand River Avenue and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington along Orchard Lake Road to the city of Orchard Lake.

Because the division received little coverage in books written about the DUR, Golden did extensive research over the past year and half to gather enough information to design a model.

"Doing a model is a way of bringing it back - reminiscing," Golden said. "As I was finding

more information, my modeling had a purpose. Up to this time, my modeling had always been fictitious."

The compressed prototype of the 35-mile line is being built on a series of separate tables in Golden's basement so that he can easily transport it and piece it together.

"Area historical societies" can't wait for me to finish the model to display," however, Golden said. "It will probably take me several years."

With all the information he gathered, Golden decided he might as well write a book about the Orchard Lake Division, which is expected to be published this year.

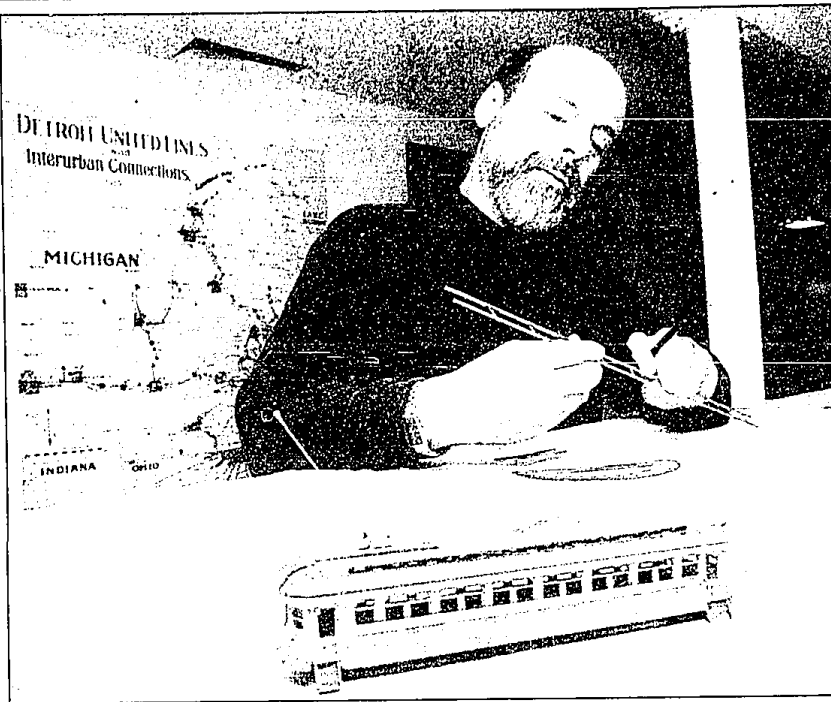
When most people didn't own cars, the DUR was an easy and cheap way for Detroiters, at 25 cents a trip, to go to the lakes to picnic, go boating, fishing and swimming, Golden said. Orchard Lake was a hot spot on the line attracting visitors to the lake, and nearby Cass and Sylvan lakes.

"They really promoted the Orchard Lake Division because it was the jewel of their line," Golden said.

The DUR also ran across the state to areas like Bay City and Kalamazoo and south to Cleveland, Ohio.

"There plan was to make a trolley line all the way around Lake Erie," however, Golden said, the DUR went out of business instead.

Existing from 1901 to 1931, the DUR purchased too many lines too quickly and ran out of money. It was purchased by the Department of Street Railways in Detroit and all trolley lines were eventually abandoned and



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Recreate: Brian Golden of Farmington Hills wants to design a replica of a real trolley line, the Detroit Interurban that ran from Farmington along Orchard Lake Road to the city of Orchard Lake. He's also writing a book about the trolley line.

replaced by cars and municipally owned buses.

"The city of Detroit wanted to have complete control over mass transportation," Golden said.

While many tracks were removed, evidence of their existence can still be found today in

Orchard Lake near Seminary Road.

Golden continues to search for more information on the Orchard Lake Division of the DUR. Anyone with personal photographs or information is urged to call Golden at (248) 701-8112, mail him at P.O. Box 551, Farmington, Mich. 48332-0551, or e-mail him at bgolden@greatid.com

VFW announces start of its annual voice of democracy contest

Commander John Love of VFW Post 2269-Broadhead in Farmington Hills announced the start of this year's Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary "Voice of Democracy" Scholarship Contest.

Students in the local area have the opportunity to compete in the 52nd annual audio essay contest and win valuable scholarships and awards.

Students that advance to become their state's first place winner are given the opportunity to expand their knowledge during a full five-day tour of Washington, D.C., plus the chance to meet and befriend students from every state.

During the many years that Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary have been involved with Voice of Democracy, more than seven million high school students have participated.

Interested students need only write and then record a three to five minute audio/essay which expressing their view of the patriotic theme "My Service to America."

All state winners receive at least a \$1,000 National Scholarship but could also win the \$20,000 first place award.

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Scholarships is awarded to student national finalists. The deadline date for student entry is Nov. 1, 1998.

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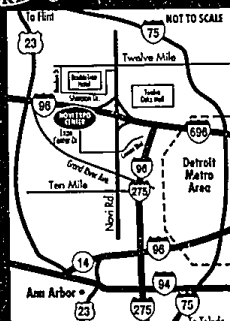
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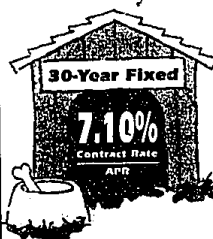
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PHILIP VENTRECH, Attorney, 400 W. Long Lake Rd., Ste. 200, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
STATE OF MICHIGAN, IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND, File No. 98-244151

DECEASED ESTATE
Estate of BRIAN CHARLES SNYDER, Deceased.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Your interest in the estate may be barred or affected by this hearing.

TAKE NOTICE: On September 22, 1998 at 10:00 a.m., in the probate courtroom, Probate, Michigan, before Hon. Sandra Silver, Judge of Probate, a hearing was held on the petition of Josephine A. Snyder requesting that she be appointed personal representative of Brian Charles Snyder who died at 4780 Ravenna, Clarkston, Michigan and who died July 28, 1998, and requesting also that the will of the deceased dated 1/24 and executed dated MAY be admitted to probate.

Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to the (proposed) personal representative or to both the probate court and the (proposed) personal representative within 4 months of the date of publication of this notice. Notice is further given that the estate will then be set aside to entitled persons appearing of record.

Dated: September 30, 1998
Attorney: Philip Ventrech, P.C. 213121, 400 W. Long Lake Rd., Ste. 200, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302.

Personal Representative: Josephine A. Snyder, 4780 Ravenna, Clarkston, MI 48304
Telephone No. (248) 874-0561
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