Vintage from page C5

ny that eventually became part of the Detroit United Railroad Company, purchased a right of way and laid tracks along what has become Orchard Lake road. The company was in business for the first third of the Twentieth Century. It provided rapid transit. Many people traveled the DUR right of way, thinking it was a road.

Feared invasion

The Grand River trail originally went from Detroit to a trading post on the Grand River. Over the years, the road has had numerous routes along the same northwest direction. Governor Cass was afraid of invasion after the War of 1812. He persuaded the federal government that a military road was needed to protect the area.

A military road had already been built leading to what became Chicago. In 1833, the federal government appropriated funds for the Grand River military road which came through Farmington Township. This road was built by soldiers who received extra rum rations for road building. The road didn't exactly follow Grand River Avenue as we know it today, but went in approximately the same direction. The Grand River military road was designed to move troops in time of war.

Fortunately, settlers and stage coaches, not the military, used that road to travel to the interior of Michigan. Farmington had inns to feed and shelter some of the settlers and travelers. The earliest inns were in private homes.

By 1848, when the state capitol was moved from Detroit to Lansing, the need for better roads was met by privatization of the roads. After Michigan became a state in 1837, federal funding for the roads had stopped. The Plank Road Act of 1848 enabled companies to build roads and charge for their use.

It cost two cents a mile for a horse drawn vehicle, one cent for a horse and rider or a sleigh. Cattle or sheep using the road were charged by a group of 20. Cattle cost more than sheep. Two cents a mile for 20 cattle and a half cent a mile for 20 sheep. The animals walked in flocks tended by drovers.

The road was 16 1/2 feet wide. The lower layer was logs. Planks were installed over the logs. The Detroit bound traffic had the right of way. When the two met, the outbound traffic had to get off the road, sometimes into the mud.

The Detroit to Howell Plank Road Company had toll booths every 10 miles. There was a toll gate at the current Grand River and Inkster and another just past the village and the famous gate six (number XI) was in Novi.

The little village of Farmington would experience growth as a transportation center.

Ruth Moehlman is a local historian and author of Heritage Homes of Farmington.

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

ULLER-SLANKSTER

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Uller of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Michele Marie, to Andrew Hale Slankster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Slankster of Novi.

The bride-to-be graduated from Mercy High School in 1994 and from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor in 1998 with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She works at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor in the Womens' Birthing Center as an RN.

Her fiance is a 1994 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School and a 1998 graduate of Kalamazoo College with a bachelor's degree in business and economics. He works as a pension consultant at The Allied Companies.

A May wedding is planned at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington with a reception to follow at Meadowbrook Country Club. The couple will make their new home in Livonia.

JUD-SPRINGER

Ron and Ellen Jud of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Andrea Lynne, to Mark Lewis Springer II, son of Mark and Paula Springer of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a 1995 graduate of Harrison High School. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in architecture in 1999 *from Miami University in* Oxford, Ohio and is employed as an architect with the firm of Arcadia Giffels in Southfield.

Her fiance is also a 1995 Harrison High graduate. He earned a bachelor of arts degree (summa cum laude) with a major in English from Miami of Ohio in 1999 and currently works for The

Gale Group, a publishing company in Farmington Hills, as a technical training specialist.

A summer wedding is planned at St. Alexander's Church.

ASK THE NATURALIST

Use common sense on ice safety

As I travel around the city, I sometimes see children and adults walking on some of the ice covered ponds. I have taught ice fishing classes in the past and always emphasized common sense when it comes to ice safety. Remember that no matter what anyone says, no ice is safe ice. That is quite evident on a yearly basis when someone has to be rescued by the Coast Guard as they float away toward Lake Erie. I've always thought that this was nature's way of attempting natural selection. Here are some ice safety tips I wish everyone would keep in mind.

If you are skating, fishing, etc. on a frozen body of water, always try to go with a friend. It's not a bad idea to take a length of rope along just in case it's needed to toss to someone who *has fallen in.*

My rule of thumb is six inches or more of good ice. I know that others may think just two or three inches are OK, but I've always thought the risk is never worth it. I fell through once in high school and I've never forgotten it. It's a very scary adventure should you survive to remember it.

The best ice is the first ice of the year. Ice tends to break down a bit as the weeks go by. On very cold nights an inch of ice can form about every 24 hours.

If heavy snow blankets a pond, it will insulate it and slow down the ice forming process.

Ice formed over a spring, river or creek is generally less safe than in other areas. A pond or lake with any shallow muck or swampy area may retain more heat and also have unsafe ice.

After a day of rain, ice can quickly become unsafe. As rain travels downhill it will travel under the ice and cause the ice to become honeycombed, thus weakening it.

A group of people standing, skating, or fishing on a given body of water doesn't mean that the ice is safe. Use your own judgment.

I would never drive a vehicle out on the ice. The risk in my mind is too great.

My best advice to anyone going out on any frozen body of water is to go with or ask the advice of someone who knows. Any wintertime activity on a frozen pond or lake surface can be a fun time but can certainly lead to injury or death if caution and care is not exercised.

Joe Derek is the city naturalist for Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message at 473-9574.

Hills native finds commitment to Israel

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Doron Spielman will never forget his experience eight years ago at the Golan Heights, a region near the Israeli border with Syria.

"Life is just so rich there, because it's always hanging in the balance," Spielman said. "I remember seeing the face of individuals who remember the fear they felt when the Syrian military attacked in 1967, yet they still want to live there."

In 1992, Spielman had just graduated from North Farmington High School and spent most of the summer in Israel on a voyage that gives many teenage Jews a deeper cultural and spiritual appreciation of Judaism.

"That trip changes people but it had a deeper impact on me," Spielman said. "I could sense people working toward a common goal."

The Farmington Hills native has devoted his life to Israel in a effort to strengthen the spiritual home of Jews across the world.

"As I watch my children grow, I want to watch Israel grow into a peaceful, prosperous nation," he said.

He was born Darren Spilman, youngest of three sons of Murray and Geraldine Spilman. As an adult, he became Doron Spielman, the Hebrew equivalent of his given name.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in international relations of the Middle East. Following college he participated in the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit-sponsored fellowship called Project Otzma.

Doron Spellman

The project sent Spielman to Israel for 10 months for social, economic, political and spiritual studies and experiences. He got a crash course in the Hebrew language.

He lived in a kibbutz and used his education and training later to help high-tech companies in towns in northern Galilee.

He came home in 1997 for about a year, but returned to Israel for religious and philosophy studies. Spielman sought Israeli citizenship.

He recently visited his parents in West Bloomfield but returned to Israel in January.

We need to do whatever we can to keep this land we've lost and make it a strong state."

Teen depression video now available at schools, libraries

As part of its mission of addressing the needs of youth and families, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families has produced an informational videotape on adolescent depression and teen suicide.

The commission is making the 22-minute videotape available to the public in a number of ways. It will be broadcast on cable television, be available in both city halls, the library, police departments, schools, places of worship and local hospitals.

In Farmington Hills there has been 17 teen suicides or attempts in the past three years. The video uses medical professionals to answer commonly asked questions from teens and parents about the causes, symptoms and treatment of adolescent depression. Local resources for getting help are listed.

For information, call program coordinators Alice Taroyan or Todd Lipa at 473-1841.

Nominations sought for youth recognition program March 15

The Farmington Hills/Farmington Commission on Children, Youth and Families annual program to recognize volunteers and present the George and Lenore Romney Volunteer of the Year Award will be Thursday, March 15 at 5 p.m.

The volunteer recognition ceremony will be part of the fifth year celebration of the After-School program and will be held at the William Costick Activities Center.

This year the awards will focus on individuals involved in activities that support the young people of the community. Nominations are currently being sought.

Questions may be addressed to Joan McGlincy, volunteer committee, Commission on Children, Youth and Families at 477-4688 or e-mail: Mcglincy@aol.com

Farmington Hills/Farmington Commission on Children, Youth and Families

Commission on Children, Youth and Families

Young people are the nation's most precious resource. Volunteers in youth related programs contribute to the positive development of this valuable resource. If you knew someone who deserves recognition for his or her youth related volunteer activities, the Commission would like to acknowledge their efforts at the

Five-Year Celebration of the "After School Program"
TO BE HELD:
Thursday, March 15, 2001 at 5 p.m.
Wm. Costick Activities Center
28600 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI

Nominee _____
Address _____
Tele # _____
Organization Represented _____
Nominated by and/or contact person _____
Tele # _____
Reason for Nomination _____

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2001
MAIL TO:
Farmington Community Library
32737 West 12 Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Attn: Beverly Papal / Vol Night

FARMINGTON CLUB CIRCUIT

EXCHANGE CLUB

The Farmington Exchange Club will meet from noon-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Brass Point Restaurant in Farmington Hills. Photographer Monte Nagler will be the guest speaker.

ARTIST CLUB

The Farmington Artist Club will meet at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Greg Stephens from the Scarab Club in Detroit, will explain his ability to throw paint, creating large-scale, abstract splatter paintings, reminiscent of Jackson Pollack. Call 473-1816.

EMBROIDERERS

The Farmington Hills Embroiderers Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 7, at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills. Call 926-0899.

AAUW

The Farmington branch of the AAUW (American Association of University Women) will meet for its annual winter luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at Hong Hua Restaurant on Orchard Lake Road. Beverly Papai, head librarian of the Farmington Library System will be the speaker.

FARM. GENEALOGY

The Farmington Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the downtown Farmington Library. The program will be *Where Do I Go From Here: Getting Back to Basics* presented by FGS members.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB

The Christian Women's Club of Farmington Hills holds meetings at Maples Country Club, 31240 Wakefield Dr. in Novi. Including brunch, the cost is $10.50. Dates are March 8, and April 12 from 9:30-11 a.m. For reservations, call Brenda at (248) 661-4205.

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David's Bridal
Directional Strategies Travel
Equity Residential Properties
Envision
Group USA
Glogorama
Gents Unique Bridal
Indian Trails
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JD Entertainment Services
Jessica McClintock
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Mellel
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Perfect Wedding Guide
Professional Catering
Precious Memories Chapel
Premier Bride
Princess House
Rowlinson Photography
Rick Jellerles Entertainment
Sally's Gourmet Cakes
Royal Prestige
Seven Seas Travel
Sound Productions
Target
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