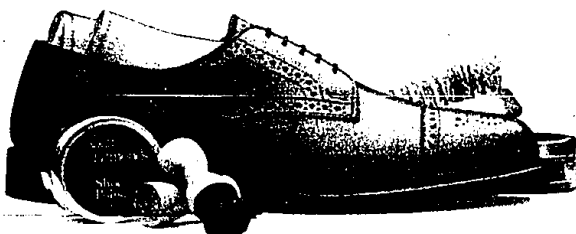
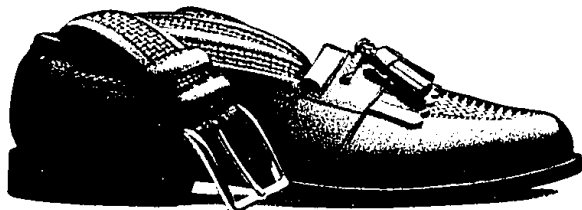
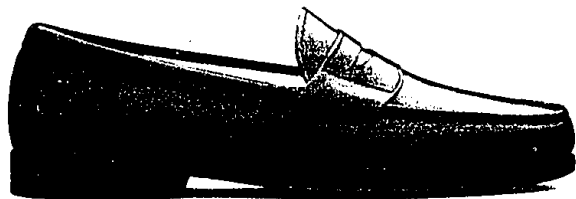


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SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2001

(F)A6

Oil dumping contaminates Rouge area

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER
kkuban@cs.homecomm.net

The trees in a section of Rouge Park tell the depressing story of a massive, illegal oil dumping that originated in a Redford creek and led to the Rouge River.

The trees bear the scars of the dumping — black rings that reach five-feet or more up their trunks. The surrounding ground is also blanketed with an oily sludge, and the surface of the creek is choked with a black and tan sheen.

Officials with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality are looking for the people responsible for the dumping of the substance into a sewer overflow chamber on West Chicago just east of the Detroit World Outreach parking lot.

Earl Friese, of the MDEQ's emergency response team who has been investigating the dump since it was first reported March 13, believes up to 10,000 gallons of the oily substance were dumped into the chamber.

During a recent rain event, the contents of the chamber spilled over into the Livonia-

Ashcroft Drain, which runs through a Redford neighborhood before entering Rouge Park near Outer Drive.

Although it will take two to three weeks to get final analysis on the samples taken of the dumped substance, Friese said it strongly resembles used motor oil and is definitely petroleum-based.

Despite the contaminated area of Rouge Park looking like a "moonscape," Friese said the impact to the wildlife was actually minimal.

"It was pretty well confined, but something like this always has an impact on wildlife," he said. "Luckily at this time of the year, there wasn't much wildlife active."

Redford officials were immediately notified of the dumping, and cooperated in the initial investigation by providing maps of the underground sewer lines. The maps helped investigators trace the dump back to the chamber on West Chicago.

K & D Environmental Services of Romulus has been handling the clean-up. The company initially cleaned the overflow basin, removing more than 2,600 gal-

lons of the sludge at a cost of around \$10,000, which Wayne County paid.

The MDEQ is covering the larger clean-up in Rouge Park, which is expected to cost \$40,000. Friese said the crews should be done by the middle of the week.

According to Detective Angela Brown with the MDEQ's Office of Criminal Investigation, whoever is responsible for the dumping could face multiple criminal charges, including dumping a hazardous substance in a state waterway. The penalty for that crime is up to two years in prison and a potential of \$1 million in fines.

"I've seen other illegal dumpings, but this one really frustrates me because of its magnitude," Brown said.

"This was all about greed. They didn't want to pay to dispose of this stuff properly. And they did it without any regard to the damage it would do to the environment or the public health."

Anyone with information about the dumping should contact Brown at (734) 953-1468.

OBITUARIES

VASILKA A. SHAFER

Services for Vasilka "Violet" Angel Shafer, 76, of Farmington Hills were held March 31 at the Church of St. Alexander in Farmington Hills with the Rev. James Wright officiating. Burial took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mrs. Shafer was born Oct. 28, 1924 in Mt. Union, Pa. and died March 28, 2001 at Providence Hospital in Southfield. She worked for the New York Central Railroad.

She is survived by sons, Michael (Linda) and George; daughters, Katherine (Lloyd) Forster and Helen (Todd) Humecy; and three grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband Edward.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Arrangements made by Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

NORMA MURMAN

Services for Norma Murman, 76, of Farmington Hills were

held March 31 at St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills.

Mrs. Murman was born in Chicago, Ill. and died March 27, 2001 in Farmington Hills. She worked as an executive secretary for Farmington Community Library.

She is survived by husband, Robert; sons, Robert and Scott; daughter, Kristin (Fred) Harvey; two sisters; and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Farmington Community Library.

Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

GARY S. DANIEL

Services for Gary S. Daniel, 50, of Farmington Hills, were held March 30 at O'Brien Chapel/Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi.

Mr. Daniel was born in 1951 and died March 23, 2001 in Farmington Hills.

He is survived by sons, Michael and Andrew; father,

Eugene; sister, Dianna Reichart; brother, David; friend and ex-wife, Barbara Daniel; and several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his mother, Daisy.

EULA M. FOSS

Services for Eula Marie Foss, 59, of Detroit, were held March 31 at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Timothy Teague officiating. Burial took place at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

Mrs. Foss was born May 14, 1941 in Chicago, Ill. and died March 28, 2001 at Grace Hospital in Detroit. She was a homemaker.

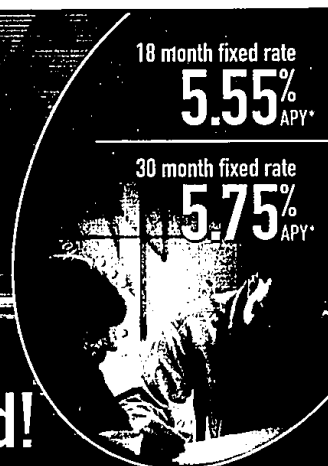
She is survived by husband, Clarence; sons, Harry (Andrea), Kenneth, Robert (Karen), Michael and Roger; brothers, Robert (Adele) and Frank (Cindy); and seven grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Harvest Temple Worship Center in Farmington Hills.

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