

"Bright Light, Then a Bolt Across the Skies"

# Celestial Fireworks Startle Area Witnesses

Were you among the lucky ones that viewed the brilliant celestial fireworks Saturday evening?

The Observer staff received varied opinions from readers when it conducted an area-wide poll Monday.

Some thought it was a falling jet-propelled plane. Some thought it was a fireworks display. A few guessed right and thought it was a falling meteor. All agreed that it was a spectacular sight even though it was all

over within a matter of seconds.

Mrs. Evelyn Thompson, 14398 Sarasota, Redford Township, was driving east on Nine Mile Road near Northwestern Highway when the skies suddenly opened and it became light as day.

"Then there was a brilliant bolt of fire across the sky," she said. "It was close I thought it was a fireworks display since it appeared as if it would land with in a short dis-

tance of where I was driving. "It wasn't until later that I learned it was a meteor whirling across the skies. I most certainly was a colorful sight, one that I won't forget for a long time."

Mrs. Thompson was accompanied by Mrs. Chad Wells, of Hazel Park, and light was in stunned amazement for a few minutes before driving on.

The comet wasn't as close as it appeared. Matter of fact

it was more than a hundred miles away and was seen in an area that included Ontario, Michigan, Wisconsin, and parts of Indiana and Illinois.

Two Westland City Hall employees, one of whom was in Canada, had a clear picture of what the meteor looked like to them — although they didn't reach the same conclusions.

Mrs. Thomas (Edna) Parker, offset printer, said she and her husband were just docking their boat about

50 miles north of Windsor when they saw the flash of light.

"I first thought it was a flare signaling that another boat was in trouble. The object was orange and Mrs. Parker there were small things on the end of its long trail."

Mrs. Charles (Lois) Rose-

man, in the engineering division of the Department of Public Services, was a passenger in a car driven by her husband when they spotted

the meteor on Wildwood near Warren Road.

"My husband spotted it first and said to me, 'look at that.' I thought at first that it

fireworks. It was shaped like a ball with a streak on it, lit up the whole sky.

"The color was pinkish and a bit bluish. The light lasted just a few seconds and was

"The light was so bright it seemed that someone had turned on all the lights. But my husband and I weren't scared at the time. About a half-hour later, while driving home, we heard on the car radio that it was a meteor, traveling toward the earth. I thought it had landed someplace in Livonia."

"While continuing to drive downtown Detroit to keep an appointment, we heard on the car radio that it was a meteor."

"I joked about an enemy attack but we weren't serious."

Ted DeBaene, Director of Public Service in the City of Farmington, never will forget seeing the meteor last Saturday night.

"It was like a big Roman candle," he stated, "and my only regret was that it didn't last longer."

Two Redford Township firemen, who had just finished a minor run, were standing at Five Mile and Dixie when the meteor flashed across the sky.

"I knew what it was," said Lt. Joseph Tolko. "I saw the streak heading northeast on a downblast. It lit up the whole sky and was beautiful."

His companion, John Gerich, said he had seen many shooting stars at his home in the Upper Peninsula, but never anything like this.

"It was just a matter of a few seconds," he noted. "The biggest thing I have ever seen; really a ball of fire." His first thought was of an exploding jet airplane because one had passed over a few moments before.

Bill Gail, editor of the Redford Observer, driving near Howell, thought a car was coming at him. Then he saw the streak in the sky and pulled over.

"My wife, Janel, and I were really awed," he commented. "We wondered if it could be a returning satellite or an airplane. The ball of flame was dazzling and left a long trail."

## Observer Second Front Page

Wednesday, September 21, 1966 Page 3-A

## Observer Workshop Praised as "Best"

Publicity chairman of area clubs, institutions and organizations were told the story of what is expected of them and what they can expect from The Observer Newspaper Group in the second annual Observer workshop on the Madonna College campus.

The afternoon and night workshop attracted more than 300 and was tabbed as one of the most successful by the Observer Editor-in-Chief, Mrs. Myra Chandler.

Sister M. Danatha, Madonna College president, opened the facilities for the visitors, including the auditorium and several adjoining rooms in the Academic area.

Mrs. Chandler served as mistress-of-ceremonies and welcomed those in attendance. The group included a large number of Madonna students who were guests of The Observer at the sessions.

Vince Desmond, publicity aide of the Detroit Tigers, was one of the speakers in the afternoon and Neal "Doc" Penkell, in charge of the Tigers' radio and television activities, gave a tremendous keynote speech at the evening session.

Mrs. Eileen Boze told of the problems of the display advertising department and Joe Busetto explained the meaning of the classified ads and told of the beginning of

advertising years ago in the days of the Town Crier.

Then the PR people broke up into smaller groups for discussions which were headed by Observer staffers including: William Gail, of Redford; W. W. Edgar, of Farmington; Leonard Poyer, of Garden City; Mrs. Chandler, of Livonia; R. T. Thompson, of Plymouth; and Paul Lutsier, community relations director of

the Livonia School System.

Others participating were: Women's Editor Mrs. Jerry Wendt and columnist from Livonia, Redford Township, Farmington, Plymouth, Garden City and Westland.

Those attending were asked to vote on the value of the program and all had high praise and recommended that it be continued in the future because of its value to all whether in the publicity end or not.



ALL ENJOYED the coffee break during the annual Observer Newspaper Group Workshop. It gave them a chance to meet and sip while they discussed plans for the remainder of the program.

## Motorcyclists Are Warned of New State Legislation

Recently the legislature enacted, and the Governor signed, a bill having far reaching effects on motorcyclists, scooter riders, and motorcycle dealers.

Officially it is Act 207 of 1966. The act will soon go into effect and those who have a motorcycle or motor scooter should be familiar with its provisions.

In brief the latest provisions are:

- 1—No passing between lanes of traffic. You must have a full lane to pass just as an automobile would.
- 2—Both the driver and rider of a motorcycle or a scooter must wear a crash helmet of a type approved by the State Police.
- 3—You cannot ride more than two abreast.
- 4—No motor scooter or motorcycle of less than 5

horsepower can have more than one person on it.

5—No bicycle or motorcycle can have more persons on it than seats. To paraphrase, one rider, one seat.

6—Do not carry packages unless you can keep both hands on the handle bars.

7—If you rent a motorcycle or scooter, you cannot let someone else use it unless he is licensed in Michigan.

If you are a dealer, you must be sure that:

1—The rider is licensed to operate a motor vehicle.

2—The motorcycle must be in a safe condition.

3—The user must be competent to safely operate the motorcycle or scooter. If he is not competent, then you must refuse to rent or furnish the motorcycle or scooter.

### Careless Drivers Pay

Three drivers charged with careless driving, were fined \$50 each, placed on six months probation, and ordered to attend Driver Improvement School by Acting Garden City Municipal Judge John L. Kadala recently.

They are Robert Hollingsworth, 3305 Marquette, Garden City; John L. Parker, and Larry Robinson, both of Detroit.

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RECEIPTS and sales slips for merchandise purchased at Wonderland Center stores were good for a \$200 check to Mrs. Campbell, of 29821 MacIntyre, Livonia. The check was presented by Federal Department store manager, Nate Trivax, as Mrs. Campbell's children, (front left), David, 21; Kathy, 6; Judy, 8; Dale, 13, and Nora, 11, all of 29821 MacIntyre, Livonia. Mrs. Campbell's husband is an employee of Tenneyson Chevrolet, Livonia.

## Missing Key Sparks Testimony

An element of cloak-and-dagger activities was injected into the traffic fixing issue last week during the pre-trial examination of Wayne County Road Patrol Inspector

Daniel D. Martin, a former Westland bar owner, and four officials of Livonia UAW Local 182.

In the examination before Judge Douglas Patterson, former Detroit Sgt. Paul Paciorek testified that his key to the traffic division office of the road patrol was stolen shortly before the ticket-fixing charges first became public in the summer of 1965.

Paciorek, who is appealing to the County Civil Service Commission his firing last month by Sheriff Peter L. Buback, said that the key was stolen but was returned about a week later.

The testimony came under cross-examination by Marvin Blake, defense attorney for Martin, who has been under suspension.

The statements concerned a conversation Paciorek had with Martin in August of 1965. The sergeant said earlier that Martin had come to the Brownstown Township farm home on a Sunday and told him to go to the road patrol and "get rid of the voided tickets."

I told him I didn't even have a key to get into the office, Paciorek said, and that it had been missing for a week.

The following morning, he continued, Martin met me at 7 a.m. at the road patrol office. He opened the traffic division office and told me to get the tickets.

I bundled up two big punches of tickets and put them in the back of his car. It was his car but I was buying it from him at the time, making monthly payments," Paciorek said.

Then Martin filled a box with more tickets—he put it in his own private car."

Despite the removals, there were still some voided tickets left in file cabinets in the office of the former sergeant said.

Martin's attorney, a 150 questioner him on the earlier statement he had made about a large quantity of voided tickets he had taken to his home in July of 1962 when the road patrol moved into its present offices at Henry Ruff Road near Michigan.

Paciorek denied that he

had been ordered to burn at the time all tickets older than five years. He said he put them in a chicken coop on his farm and didn't burn the tickets because they were county property and "I felt that they shouldn't have been destroyed."

During the lengthy cross-examination, Paciorek admitted that he had voided several traffic tickets without

Martin's knowledge.

Martin's co-defendants in the case, arising out of the Piggins Grand Jury, are Benard (Bennie) Ratkos, former owner of the Pen R Lounge in Westland, and UAW Local 182 officials Charles Gillette, president; Louis Lekar, recording secretary; John Moon, and Jackie Watson, local committeemen.

The pre-trial exam, held to

determine if the defendants should be bound over for a Circuit Court trial, resumed this week.

In pre-trial exam before Judge Patterson, Sheriff; Buback and Under Sheriff James Bonmarito were ordered to stand trial in Circuit Court on charges by Grand Juror Piggins of willful neglect of duty in the fixing of tickets and other charges.



THIS SHOWS portion of the throng of publicity chairman and those interested in the workings of a community newspaper who attended the second annual Observer Newspaper Workshop in the academic building of Madonna College.



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