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Home Is Saved By Passing Teenagers

By DAN MCCOSH

A disaster for the George J. Hill family, 35440 Lyman, was averted by the quick action of two neighborhood teenagers, according to Mrs. Hill.

She credits the two with

extinguishing a blazing paint-remover-soaked piano in her basement shortly before the fire spread to the rest of her home.

The two disappeared so quickly after the incident that it took her several days to identify them as Don Lilly,

26275 Drake, and Richard Gibes, 36328 Lyman, in order to thank them.

Mrs. Hill was refinishing a piano in her basement last week taking precautions such as leaving the window open and a fan running to remove the fumes while she worked.

She left for a moment to go upstairs, and when she returned the piano was in flames. Firemen later theorized sparks from the electric fan may have set off the highly flammable fumes.

Her immediate concern

was for the safety of her family, and Mrs. Hill rushed her children next door to a neighbor, Mrs. George D. Patton.

Mrs. Patton took in the children and ran out to the street, stopping a car that came by.

Lilly and Gibes, the two in the car, went into the smoke-filled Hill basement, extinguished the fire with a pail of water and removed the full can of paint remover from the area of the flames.

When Farmington Hills

firemen arrived, the two refused to identify themselves and quietly slipped away.

Mrs. Hill finally tracked them down through her neighbors and discovered they lived a few blocks away.

"It's really tremendous to have neighbors like this," she said.

"We just finished this house, I designed it, and my husband built it. I could just see it all going up in flames."



AUXILIARY AT WORK — Ptl. R.S. Mitchem (left) works with Aux. Lt. R.W. Nawrocki and Aux. Capt. F. Gillon. (Evert photo)

Volunteers Are Needed To Help City Police

By W.W. EDGAR

Without fanfare or bluster, a group of dedicated citizens has set about the task of making Farmington a safer and better place in which to live.

Officially, the auxiliary police have been at work for the better part of a year and would now like to increase their membership to the point where they can be a real asset to the city.

The group now numbers only 17, and plans are afoot to expand to at least two dozen — provided they can meet the formidable standards for membership.

"We didn't organize to supplant any of the officers now on the force," John Gilin, captain of the group, stated. "Instead we want to augment the force and lend a helping hand wherever we can."

The members of the auxiliary are unusual because they are professional men with a strong desire to help the city. At the same time, many are realizing a child-

hood dream of becoming a "cop."

"All my life I had dreams of being a cop," Gilin stated while proudly showing his badge, "and now I have realized that ambition in part."

The auxiliary is an outgrowth of the old civil defense program that originated in 1957. But it has grown in stature. A candidate now must pass a rugged training course of 180 hours, be between 21 and 40 years old and stand at least five feet, eight inches tall.

Sgt. John Saneomaura, coordinator of the group, explained the various activities of the members.

They ride with the road patrol as the second man on duty, help out on special assignments such as parades, and all emergencies.

"They also are on call for anything that might happen," Sgt. Saneomaura continued, "such as air crashes and doing duty at super markets on special days."

"Understand," he emphasized, "they are not attempting to replace anyone on the force. They just want to augment the force and thus make Farmington a much safer place in which to live."

Much of this duty is put in on the afternoon shifts as members, for the most part, are professional men in well paying positions.

Gilin, for instance, is in the advertising department of the Sears, John Hart Co., and many of the other members are salesmen who tour the area.

Sgt. Saneomaura explained that the auxiliary was eager for the opportunity to serve and in that service be a factor in keeping taxes down.

"Under our present budget in the city," he said, "it would cost about \$18,000 a year for each officer added to the police force."

"The city can't afford the luxury of adding officers at that price — so we help out

by augmenting the force at little cost."

Under the present plan, members are provided uniforms, revolvers for use only when they are on duty, and ammunition when they are on the pistol range.

"We are very proud of the part we are playing," Capt. Gilin said. "and we are proud of the training program that also includes a well worth while first aid course."

"The first aid course alone is worth the effort and I sure hope we can attract the new members we need to become more of an asset to the city."

Mercy High Holds Play

A modern play presented by the drama department at Our Lady of Mercy High School this weekend will feature two students from the Farmington area.

Both Michelle St. Germaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice St. Germaine of 25338 Leestock Ct., and Colleen Doran, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Doran of

26771 Castlereigh, will make appearances in the play.

Bertolt Brecht's "The Good Woman of Setzuan" will be presented at 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Admission is \$1.50 at the door.

The modern play focuses on the conflict between goodness and survival.

2 Arrested In Robbery

Two suspects in the Nov. 12 robbery of Lawson's Party Store in Farmington are in Oakland County Jail with bonds set at \$25,000 each following their arraignment before Judge Michael Hand in 46th District Court.

Ronald A. McClay, 24, of 31624 Pembroke, Livonia, and Keith A. Johnson, 18, of

Farmington police credited the legwork of Det. Thomas Daniels with the arrest. The two men were arrested Friday night with the aid of the Southfield and Livonia police departments.

Dark Christmas?

Lights Dimmed By Energy Cuts

"We closed on Sundays last week. We couldn't get deliveries even before the speech."
Gasoline station owner

"I guess we won't get that now."

Farmington School District, with six buildings being heated by oil, are on a "day to day basis" according to business Manager William Prisk.

"We call when we need oil, and so far they have delivered it. When they don't, we will have to put our contingency plans into effect."

These may include closing some schools.

"It used to be a joke, turning down the heat," Prisk added. "Now it's not. We're cold."

The school administration building is one of the buildings relying on fuel oil.

The handful of Farmington gas stations formerly open on Sunday will be closed at the end of the week.

"We closed last week," said Jim Harrington, operator of the Boron station at 28508 Orchard Lake.

"We couldn't get gas deliveries, even before the speech," he added, explaining the decision was made before Nixon's message.

He has also shortened his hours during the week, closing an hour earlier than usual.

"It's the only way I can cut down," he said.

"If you limit a driver to 10 gallons, he will just go down the line and fill up again — and he gets mad. I can't afford to lose my regular customers."

The belt-tightening implied by the gas restrictions affects Harrington's pocket-book directly.

"We work on a direct com-

mission, three cents a gallon," he said.

"When they cut back my allotment, it cuts my income. I laid off three men already."

All you can do is explain to your regulars and cut back."

Speed limit enforcement has not been a major concern of local police, because they do not regularly patrol the expressways, the only place where limits exceed 50 m.p.h.

"I don't have any idea how we would enforce a federal directive like that anyway," said Capt. Dan Byrnes, of the Farmington police.

"I would suspect it would take an act of the State Legislature to reduce the speed limits."

Apparently one of the few places in Farmington you can waste gas with excess speed is on some gravel roads governed by state speed laws.

"But nobody would do that anyway," a spokesman for the Farmington Hills Police said.

"It would shake your teeth out."

No Decorations

Hills Urges Savings

A resolution urging Farmington Hills homeowners to conserve energy by the elimination of Christmas lights passed the Farmington Hills council Monday, 4-1.

The dissenting voice was William Ortman, who said there were "no facts" to support the amount of energy

which would be saved by the measure.

"The resolution is in support of the national program," Councilman Keith Deacon said in favor of the motion by Councilwoman Joan Dudley.

The councilmen all commented on the chilly courtroom where they met with the thermostat turned down.

City Manager George Majors also said a proposed building addition to city hall would probably not be able to get a permit for new gas for heat.

The council began a search for an architect anyway, and

Majors said the building might be able to make a priority list for fuel oil rather than natural gas.

He also told the council the city policemen have been directed to stop idling their engines when their patrol cars are stopped.

Gardener Is Thanked

CHARLEE McLAUGHLIN just wanted to do something for Farmington Hills. She noticed a barren area along the walkway to the front door of city hall and worked much of the summer to beautify it. The city council honored her recently with a resolution and a words of thanks. Although the flowers are gone now, there are dormant bulbs in the ground waiting for spring. (Photo by Fran Evert)



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