



Santa Walking?

MERRY CRISIS says Santa on the front lawn of the John Landenbergers, 29549 Ravenscroft. The Landenbergers try to do "something different" each year, they said. Lucky reindeer don't run on gasoline. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

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Big Snow Tests Roads

The first big snowfall of the season closed the schools, tied up traffic and gave the City of Farmington Hills its first test on snow removal Thursday.

A rash of minor accidents and traffic tie-ups were reported, but no major accidents or utility failures.

Farmington Hills was still working on major roads Thursday afternoon, with another three inches of new snow predicted.

President Resigns

Mills Shifts Heads

Mills Products, Inc., Farmington's biggest employer, announced a major shakeup of top-level management with the resignation of George T. Mash, president and chairman of the board.

The company listed "personal reasons" for Mash's resignation. He became president in 1971, following the death of Vernon I. Mills, son of the founder of the company.

Mills is a producer of oven door windows, oven door assemblies, handles and fabric-

ated trim, primarily for the home appliance and commercial cooking industries.

In addition to its Farmington plant, Mills has manufacturing facilities in Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario, and Clarksville, Tenn.

The board of directors named John R. Wright as acting president to head a management group assuming operational responsibilities.

Wright has been vice president and director of Mills for five years and is currently president of Mills Appliance

Products, Ltd., and Albright Platers, Ltd., wholly-owned subsidiaries of the parent company in Canada.

Frank Andreoni, a member of the board of directors, and executive vice president of Pontiac State Bank, has been appointed chairman of the board.

Mills was started in Detroit in 1948 by Herbert E. Mills with three employees and now employs more than 500 in four plants.

A strike last year shut down the Farmington operation for several weeks.

Record Search Leads Teacher To Family

By KATHY MORAN

Peter Schaldenbrand is a genealogist but he's not a gray-haired, slightly stooped man wearing bottle-thick glasses who spends his time pouring over dusty, aged manuscripts.

Schaldenbrand has been tracing his family heritage for 14 years.

A tall, and slender, dark-haired math teacher at Farmington High School, Schaldenbrand already has a book on display in the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library which outlines the first four generations of Schaldenbrands.

Currently he's one-third of the way through a three-year project to translate the Latin records of births, marriages and deaths from St. Mary Catholic Church in Detroit between the years of 1835 and 1870.

It all began shortly after he graduated from Farmington High School in 1957. His brother married and asked if he would fill out their marriage book which included a small family tree.

That got Schaldenbrand interested in his ancestors and he began digging back further and further, using Detroit records.

"I did it the hard way," he says.

Being a novice, Schaldenbrand didn't know about the soundex system where he could look up a name and find page numbers to locate information. So, for the first

five years of his study, Schaldenbrand combed over records without the benefit of soundex.

But his study has progressed and he is an active member of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research where he served as president between 1969 and 1972.

His ancestors' history in the United States begins with

Joseph Schaldenbrand who left the German-speaking sector of Switzerland in 1844, traveled through France and boarded a boat for the United States in Le Havre, France.

"It's very fortunate that Joseph kept a diary of his trip but it ends when he ar-

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INSTEAD OF POURING over dusty, yellowed manuscripts, genealogist Peter Schaldenbrand works with microfilmed copies of pages. (Evert photo)