

Bus service will be expanded

Farmington will get several new bus routes, and expansion of some old ones, under the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) plan for public transit in the suburbs.

Orchard Lake Rd. will become a bus line under the new plan, with a bus running from the city limits at Eight Mile to Pontiac Trail in West Bloomfield Township.

Twelve Mile Rd. will be another line, running from at least Orchard Lake to points east.

Service on Northwestern Highway will eventually run from Northland to Orchard Lake.

Grand River, which currently has buses in the morning and evening, will have five runs added, five days a week.

No start up time or schedule dates have been announced.

SEMTA's transportation plan, received Monday by the Farmington city council, will be financed from approximately \$22 million re-

ceived by the agency from state gas and weight tax returns.

The plan includes programs for 1974-75.

The plan includes improvements in six counties covered by the SEMTA region.

SEMTA proposes a far-reaching acquisition program, including buying the Detroit DSR system, Martin Lines in the Royal Oak area, the Pontiac Municipal Transit Service, Great Lakes and

Metropolitan Transit. The aim is to unify the bus systems in the area.

SEMTA recently announced the intent to purchase 300 new buses for new services, 120 buses for replacement, 30 high capacity buses, and 12 mini-buses. It also plans a \$2 million dispatch center.

Bus use in the Farmington area has been light, and few currently serve the area.

"If you look at those empty

buses on Grand River, you see the need," Councilman John Richardson said.

An attempt to provide a service for senior citizens via a special low-rate taxi has been met with lukewarm re-

ception, with only a handful of riders using the service the first two days.

Farmington Hills recently attempted to sponsor a car-pool program, but so few applied it has been unable to match any riders.

Why 'Observer & Eccentric' will be bigger and better

Early in March, the merger of the Eccentric and the Observer Newspapers will take place, and the result for local readers will be bigger and better publications.

A formal merger agreement has been completed under which the newly formed Suburban Communications Corp. (SCC) becomes the successor company to Synercom Communications Corp., Suburban Newspapers of Michigan and Observer Newspapers Inc.

Henry M. Hogan Jr., who headed Synercom and Suburban Newspapers, becomes a co-publisher of all newspapers in the Detroit metropolitan area. Hogan will function as president and chief executive officer of the new SCC.

Philip H. Power, president of the Observer group, will also be a co-publisher of metropolitan area papers. Power will be SCC's chairman of the board, chairman of the executive committee and editorial chairman.

"WE'LL CONTINUE to publish the highest possible quality, locally involved community paper," said Hogan. Power added, "Readers can look forward to these changes in March."

All 11 SCC newspapers in the metropolitan group will be called "Observer & Eccentric." These include six in Oakland County - Birmingham - Bloomfield, Farmington, Rochester, Troy, Southfield and West Bloomfield - and five in Wayne County - Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford and Westland.

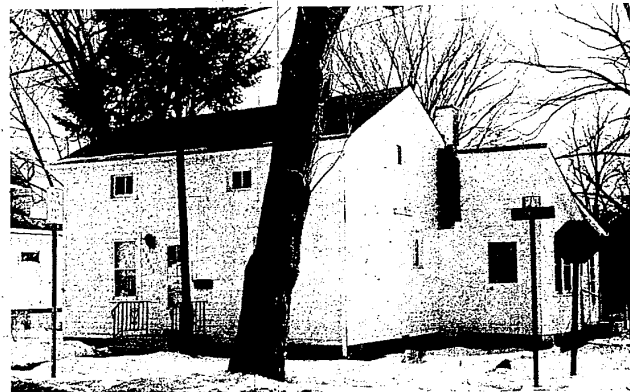
All will be published twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. To readers of the present Observer papers, this will mean a change from the current Wednesday - Friday schedule.

This newspaper will have a new format of six wide columns, instead of eight narrow ones. It will be an easier-to-read, more attractive newspaper.

Now that the newspaper shortage has eased sufficiently, the small "tab-



CO-PUBLISHERS Henry M. Hogan Jr. (left) and Philip H. Power sign the merger agreement.



LATEST OWNER of the Auten house is Mrs. Louis Fink, who has been supervising extensive remodeling of the home built about 1860. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

At 78, a Farmington lady tackles rebuilding job

By CORINNE ABATT

Although her friends were sure that Josephine Fink had bitten off more than she could chew," she showed them. It had to do with the white house on Shiawassee which she bought last year.

She moved into it last fall from the home on "Haynes" where she and her late husband had lived for some 30 years.

The house on Shiawassee is the latest in a long list of challenges which Mrs. Fink, 78, has met and overcome. When she first visited the house, known in Farmington history as the Auten house, Mrs. Fink says, "Frankly, it was a mess, but I saw the possibilities."

Mrs. Harold Westfall of Farmington who was one of the Auten family, estimates the house to have been built about 1860, maybe earlier.

Mrs. Fink hired all local people to help with the remodeling. "I think a person should use local business people, you get more cooperation."

Work started when she hired three youths from the Farmington Youth Employment to tear off the sunroom on the west side of the house.

It was not part of the original structure and she felt it was too close to the sidewalk.

"I supervised them, it took a couple of days and we had a wonderful time."

Then came plastering, re-writing, the scraping and sanding of the floors and the kitchen remodeling.

The work is still not finished, in fact, Val Gallmette, the "village carpenter," was there last weekend hanging a door to the study.

Mrs. Fink also wants to have a bay window in the dining room, another afterthought, removed and three windows on a straight wall put in its place.

But, meanwhile, Mrs. Fink, her Early American style furniture and her dog, "Peggy" moved in. She sits in her Boston rocker aside a small wood burning stove and contemplates the pleasant room.

"It's just perfect here, just like a little village in the city."

She looks at the new plastering, the sparkling floors, and the newly painted cupboards in the kitchen. "Everything in the house is crooked except me."

She is speaking of the slightly out-of-plumb floors, ceiling and door frames.

Not only does she like the cozy home, the neighbors and charm of the street, she likes the convenience. It takes only a couple of minutes for her to walk to the stop for the Grand River bus which she takes to downtown Detroit every morning during the week.

Mrs. Fink, who has been working since she was a teenager, is a secretary for a real estate firm in the Penobscot Bldg. She took her first secretarial job in 1914.

Describing her career, she said, "You name an unusual experience, I've had it."

For 15 years she was self-



THE BOSTON ROCKER offers a comfortable way to relax after a hard day at the office for Mrs. Louis Fink. (Every photo)

loid" format of Friday editions will be replaced by the standard 15 by 21 inch page such as the one you're now reading. This will mean more space for local news.

Sports fans will get full details and pictures of weekend prep contests on Monday, two days earlier than now.

News of any Tuesday night meetings of governmental agencies can be covered in time for the Thursday edition.

The classified "want ad" sections of both groups of papers will be com-

bined. Your ad will appear in 155,000 copies of the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.

Your retail shopping market also will be enlarged.

"THAT ADDS UP to an improved newspaper, both in size and quality, for the readers who have come to trust us," said Power.

Hogan noted that the merger joins together "the two highest income marketplaces in the entire metropolitan area. To the merchant, it will

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Executive committee

6 to guide parent company

Four appointments to the executive committee of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers are effective immediately, according to Co-Publishers Philip H. Power and Henry M. Hogan Jr.

Duane Rosenthal, Edward Horiski, Charles A. Pankstis and Margaret C. Halava, along with Hogan and Power, will form the six-member executive committee, the basic policy making group for the Detroit Division of the newly formed Suburban Communications Corp. (SCC), parent company for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

ROSENTHAL WILL also serve as general manager of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He joined the former Observer Newspapers Inc. in 1969 as controller.

Rosenthal completed a business administration course at Spencian Business College in Milwaukee followed by five years with the audit staff of General Motors.

Prior to joining the Observer group, he was with the Daily News in Beloit, Wis. where he held the positions of controller, business manager, production manager and general manager during his 13 years of service.

Rosenthal is treasurer of the Institute of Newspaper Controllers and Finance Officers and a member of the Livonia Rotary Club. Rosenthal, 46, is a resident of Livonia.

HORISKI, 35, will also serve as vice-president and general manager of the Detroit Manufacturing Division of Suburban Communications Corp.



ROSENTHAL HORISKI

Horiski joined the Averill Press division of the former Synercom Communications Corp. in 1968 as head estimator. He has held the positions of production manager and vice-president of operations for Averill Press, the commercial printing division of The Eccentric Newspapers.

Prior to joining Averill Press, Horiski was assistant production manager at Macomb College with a degree in printing technology. He is a resident of Sterling Heights.



MRS. HALAVA PAUKSTIS

PAUKSTIS WILL also serve as chief financial officer for Suburban Communications Corp. He joined WZZM stations, Grand Rapids, in 1969 as chief financial officer. WZZM stations were part of Synercom Communications at the time.

He had previously served as staff accountant with Schollenberg-Kregel & Kettle and as a member of the audit staff of Ernst & Ernst, both in Grand Rapids. Pankstis is a member of the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. He held the positions of secretary and treasurer for Synercom.

He holds an AB from Albion College and received his MBA from the University of Michigan. Pankstis, 38, earned his CPA certificate in 1963. He will relocate his residence from Grand Rapids in the near future.

MRS. HALAVA will also serve as personnel director for SCC. Mrs. Halava joined the former Observer Newspapers seven years ago as assistant to the publisher.

Mrs. Halava has served as administrative assistant to U.S. Rep. Billie S. Farnum, personal secretary to Gov. John B. Swainson, appointments secretary to Gov. G. Mennen Williams and executive secretary to the Mackinac Bridge Authority.

Mrs. Halava holds a BS in music from Michigan State University, a business degree from the Acme Business College and is a Certified Professional Secretary.

Mrs. Halava is a resident of Farmington and a board member of the Farmington Area Chapter of Commerce.

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