

A postman reviews past 25 years

By W. W. EDGAR
Arnold Werschin, the veteran mailman, fondled the service award he had just received for 25 years of safe driving on the Farmington routes. He had been asked to recall the most unusual experience in his long years of service and he was deep in thought.

Then, with a shy look toward Postmaster Louis Gay, he said, "Well, one day, some years ago, I delivered a registered letter to a woman in her bedroom. And I don't think many mail carriers ever did anything like that."

Realizing that he had surprised the postmaster and his listeners, Arnold explained what had happened. "That morning, when I arrived at the home to deliver

the letter and get a signature, a young lady answered the door and told me his mother was sick and was in her bedroom."

"Now remember," He went on, "in those days doors were seldom locked like they are today. So, I walked right in to the bedroom and got the signature for the letter."

Then, with a smile, he admitted that it was the strangest experience he ever had on his route and confided that such a thing couldn't happen today.

"People keep their doors locked today and many of them have dogs," he added, "so a fellow has to be very careful. That's why delivering a registered letter to a woman's bedroom has to be the most unusual experience I ever had."

Asked what other experiences he could recall, Arnold, who was born and raised in Farmington, thought for a moment or two as if weighing some unusual events. Then he said: "Delivering mail is a sort of hum - drum job, but there are times when it is a bit different. Like the last snow storm we had in December. That day I walked 10 miles through the storm to keep my record intact of never missing a mail. And 10 miles through that storm sure was unusual."

Over the years he has been attacked by dogs, but bitten only once. He keeps a can of spray with him at all times to ward off any animals that look vicious.

Arnold doesn't say much about the close calls he has had while keeping up the creed of the postman that the mail always must go through. But he has had some exciting times during the heavy winter snows on the gravel roads. And more than once he narrowly escaped injury when skidding into the ditches.

As he looks back on those days now, he has the satisfaction that his record of mail delivery will stand by itself. He has a record of 16 years on one route.



ARNOLD WERSCHIN

I worked like that for five years and then went on as a regular. And I've been at it ever since."

He likes to recall that there were only seven carriers for the Farmington mail when he started compared to the 80 on the job now.



DENISE DINGEE (center), Farmington High School senior, and 4 -H colleagues talk over a recent visit to social agencies in Lansing as part of Michigan's pilot 4 -H TEAM (Team Enrichment and Maturity) program. With her are Bill Strautz (left), representing Wayne County, and John Lopez, state 4 -H extension assistant.

Dems hear state rep

FARMINGTON — State Rep. Philip Mastin Jr. (D - Hazel Park) will speak to members of the Farmington Democratic Club Thursday, Feb. 7, at 8 p.m. at the Community Center, Farmington Rd. north of 10 Mile.

Mastin will talk on the proposed extension of the I - 696 expressway along North-western Highway. He is chairman of a legislative

committee which investigated the need for such an extension.

The committee is urging the Legislature to reverse the decision to build the road.

Democratic Club members also will hear a progress report on the campaign for election reform at the local level and an amendment of by - laws to provide a vice chairman to represent the organization before the city councils of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Miss Dingee serves 4 -H

FARMINGTON — Denise Dingee, Farmington High School senior, has been named one of 31 select participants in Michigan's pilot 4 -H TEAM (Teen Enrichment and Maturity) program.

The program is designed to create social awareness opportunities for older 4 -H youth. It already has included visits to a shelter home for wards of the court, Pine Knob Lodge drug rehabilitation home, Glass House home for alcoholics and a Methadone clinic.

John Haller wins award

FARMINGTON — Navy Radioman 3c John M. Haller of Farmington has been named "sailor of the month" aboard the heavy cruiser USS Newport News homeported in Norfolk, Va.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John I. Haller of 28610 Roschill.

Haller was honored for his outstanding performance of duty, leadership, initiative and example to fellow Navy-men.

He is a 1971 graduate of

North Farmington High School and joined the Navy in June of that year.

Randy Styes is in Army

FARMINGTON — Pvt. Randy P. Styes of Farmington has completed basic training at the U.S. Army training center, armor, Ft. Knox, Ky.

Styes, 19, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis R. Styes of 3046 Shawassee.

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