

Stevens is 1st inmate college graduate

By BOB ERICKSON

LIVINIA — Mark Peter Stevens of Livinia is an inmate of the State House of Correction and Branch Prison at Marquette. He has been there for the past three years.

This week, Stevens is due to be paroled just in time to receive his bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University. He will be the first inmate, prison officials believe, ever to earn a four-year degree while in a Michigan prison.

Moreover, Stevens will be graduating with top honors. He holds a 4.4 grade average and last year took a law school entrance exam which placed him in the top two per cent of students taking the test across the nation.

Ironically, Stevens was sentenced to

prison, originally for 10-25 years, in connection with the bombing of a biology lab at Oakland Community College in the spring of 1970. Earlier, he had been expelled from Schoolcraft College in Livonia and arrested (but later released by the circuit court) for allegedly yelling obscenities during a meeting of the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees when that board reprimanded several state members whose names had appeared on an anti-war pamphlet.

Then 21, Stevens was sentenced, along with two other students for conspiracy to bomb and to plot to bomb with intent to do so. The bombing resulted in "several thousand dollars" worth of damage to the Orchard Ridge Campus lab. Stevens was sentenced to the lengthy term by Oakland Judge Arthur Moore. That

sentence was later reduced to 4-10 years by an appeals court. With "good time," he is being released after serving just over three years.

Stevens hasn't much to say about the bombing except that "then we saw it as supportive" of the student strikes and campus riots that were taking place over the war issue and allegedly racially discriminatory hiring practices at the college.

Whether the man in prison repen-

tions has changed Stevens' political and social, radical views is impossible to judge until he is actually returned to society. His plans for the future and his conduct in prison, both inside the walls, and more recently on the prison farm where security is minimal, were apparently major factors in his early parole.

Stevens said that while he passed

the law school entrance exams with flying colors, he doesn't "think much of lawyers," and has no intention of going to law school.

However, after his graduation from Northern this week, he intends to return to graduate school and pursue a law master's degree in history and a pre-med curriculum simultaneously. His bachelor's degree work already includes majors in both history and social studies and a minor in English.

If Stevens is to pursue a medical career, however, he will be forced to petition the courts for a rehearing of his case. State laws would currently forbid him from the practice of medicine because of his felony conviction.

Stevens said that while he passed

White incarcerated Stevens has apparently been a remarkable prisoner. Before being sent to the prison farm — a minimal security farm — he had been teaching inmates inside the walls, working in remedial reading and helping those without high school diplomas to prepare for their high school equivalency tests.

Most recently, he has been working outside the walls on the prison farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stevens, young Stevens' parents, are quite naturally excited about his upcoming release and his graduation which will take place coincidentally on his father's birthday.

Mrs. Stevens, who is a social worker, is like any mother, proud of her son's recent accomplishments.



MARK STEVENS



FARMINGTON HILLS RESIDENT Frank J. Lohan keeps his eyes constantly open for pieces of hard wood like the one shown here, which he has turned into a fountain. Metal pieces fastened to the wood allows for a picturesque flow of water from top to bottom. (Staff photo by Bob Woortring)

READERS' FORUM

Police draw praise

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to Ronald Holko, chief of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Last night an 80-year-old neighbor girl from our subdivision in Farmington Hills ran away from home and ended quite a stir. Everything worked out great in the end. Earlier, the father had asked for police assistance and it was prompt. Your department, the officers in the patrol that stopped at the home repeatedly and the detective in charge did a commendable job.

I am sorry that I didn't write down their names, so they could again be told "special thanks for a job extra well done."

I spoke freely at work today about what happened and how your personnel got involved and truly showed strong interest. Comments back said something like this — "They don't show that interest in our city or village."

Let me tell you gents, I am real proud that you're in our city and helping us.

Keith Kester
Farmington
May 21, 1974

CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Farmington was held on Thursday, May 16, 1974. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by Mayor Yoder.

ROLL CALL: Allen, Richardson, Yoder present.

Absent: Tupper, Hartsock, Richardson.

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: City Manager Deadman, Clerk Viane

PUBLICHEARING ADOPTION OF BUDGET

A. General Fund 1974-75 Revenues and Disbursements

Mayor Yoder opened the public hearing asking for comments from interested persons.

Comments were heard from Mrs. Anna Ogden, representing the Farmington Democratic Club. Mrs. Ogden questioned the funding for Recreation, particularly Youth Groups and Senior Citizen activities, as well as Revenue Sharing Funds and trustee.

Judge Michael J. Hand requested additional funds for his budget allowance to be used for increases in employee salaries. There was considerable discussion regarding this allowance.

There was a motion by Councilman Allen to authorize an \$800 increase to the District Court budget for Full Time Salaries but the motion died for lack of a support.

Mayor Yoder suggested inasmuch as there were only three Councilmen present, it would be advisable to adjourn tonight's meeting and meet again tomorrow (May 17, 1974) at which time possibly a full Council could be present to make a decision.

It was agreeable with Council members to meet at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, May 17, 1974 and that the necessary notice should be sent to Council members regarding the meeting.

Motion by Richardson, supported by Allen, to close the public hearing on the General Fund. Motion carried, all ayes.

B. Water & Sewer Fund 1974-75 Revenues and Disbursements

Mayor Yoder opened the hearing and asked for comments from interested persons. There were no comments from the audience.

Motion by Richardson, supported by Allen, to close the public hearing. Motion carried, all ayes.

Motion by Richardson, supported by Allen, to adjourn until Friday, May 17, 1974 at 7:00 P.M. Motion carried, all ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

RALPH D. YODER,
Mayor
NEDRA VIANE,
City Clerk

Shelves are bare in clothing depot

Two Farmington women who operate a clothing depot for inner-city families at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit are putting out a new appeal for donations.

"We're really out of good used clothing for babies and children," said Mrs. Donna Bachelor, who has been working with Mrs. Pat Schwartz for several years to staff the operation at Linwood and Chicago two days a week.

"We have to turn people away, and that's terrible, with the economic situation as it is today."

Several inner-city parishes help staff the center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Mrs. Bachelor said, but most of the contributions have to come from the suburban areas.

"We need whatever we can get our hands on, as long as it's in good condition," she added. "We'll store what we can't distribute immediately."

Some things for adults are on hand, she said, but stock of clothing for babies, children and teens are badly depleted.

Contributions may be taken to the homes of either of the women. Mrs. Bachelor lives at 24144 Elizabeth Court, Farmington, and Mrs. Schwartz at 23025 Maple, Farmington.

SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION BIDS CITY OF FARMINGTON

BIDS FOR APPROXIMATELY 21,276 Sq. Ft. of 4" Concrete Sidewalk including removal of existing sidewalk and tree root cutting; and approximately 4,276 Sq. Ft. of 6" Concrete Sidewalk, including removal of existing sidewalk and tree root cutting, to be installed on local streets within the City of Farmington, at the City of Farmington, 2600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan until 10:00 A.M., Monday, June 3, 1974.

PROPOSALS shall be in sealed envelopes marked "SIDEWALK PROJECT" and the name of the bidder; and shall be delivered to the office of the City Clerk on or before the time specified above.

The City reserves the right to accept any bid or reject any or all bids; also, to waive formal defects in bids should it deem it for the best interest of the City to do so.

NEDRA VIANE,
City Clerk

RESOLUTION FIXING TAX RATE FISCAL YEAR 1974-75

Motion by Richardson, supported by Tupper, to adopt the following resolution:

That the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1974 in the amount of \$2,082,491 be prepared by the City Manager and the same is hereby approved and adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That to meet a portion of the budget cost, the City Treasurer be and is hereby directed to spread taxes upon real and personal property in the amount of \$9.25 per thousand State Equalized Assessed Valuation.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Hartsock, Richardson, Tupper, Yoder, Allen

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED MAY 17, 1974.

NEDRA VIANE,
City Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

RALPH D. YODER,
Mayor

NEDRA VIANE,
City Clerk