

# Crime lab team support sheriff's department

By ROBERT A. SELLAR

OAKLAND COUNTY—They work behind the scenes, in the demanding field of crime and accident investigation. Their dedication is undeniable and their accomplishments are amazing.

They comprise the Oakland County Sheriff's Department scientific crime laboratory team, based at the department headquarters in Pontiac. County Prosecutor L. Brooks Peterson characterizes them as dependable collectors of physical evidence which can be used to build a successful case in court.

"I have nothing but the highest praise for their work," says Peterson. "I always feel comfortable calling on them and their technical abilities to help solve even the most serious cases."

The laboratory team consists of four identification technicians and one chemist. Donald F. McLaughlin and Nelson L. Gelinas are senior I.D. technicians. Dale R. Rose and Jack R. Ryan are junior I.D. technicians. George M. Hannah is the chemist. McLaughlin, 29, joined the team seven years ago. He previously was a detective for the Bloomfield Township Police Department and a patrolman for the Sylvan Lake Police Department.

Gelinas, 36, joined the team five years ago. He previously was a fingerprint technician for the East Lansing Post of the Michigan State Police and an I.D. technician for the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department.

Rose has been a team member for 22 months. He previously belonged to the sheriff's department road patrol for more than five years. Ryan has been a team member for six months. He previously served as a corrections officer at the county jail for more than six years.

All four I.D. technicians are deputized. And all have earned diplomas from the Institute of Applied Science in Chicago; the correspondence-school diploma signifies expertise in fingerprinting, police photography, firearm use and the "modus operandi" or method of operation, of criminals.

Hannah transferred to the team four months ago from the New York Police Department's chemist detail. His responsibilities will increase markedly once \$50,000 worth of new chemical-analysis equipment which is on order arrives.

"WE'VE BEEN more effective since Dale, Jack and George joined us," noted Gelinas. "Because we're now able to spend more time in the lab, processing and evaluating the physical evidence which we gather."

The crime lab functions as a support unit of the sheriff's department technical services division, supervised by Lt. Lewis M. Doyle Jr.

Doyle, a 10-year veteran of the sheriff's department, says "what's really commendable about the (laboratory) members is that they are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and I've never had a problem with any of them."

At least two I.D. technicians respond to emergency calls for violent crimes such as homicide, suicide, kidnapping, rape, armed robbery and felonious assault. At least two technicians also respond to the scenes of serious-injury or fatal traffic accidents plus to the scenes of major burglaries, drownings, civil disorders and suspected or known arson.

A response run may range from two hours to 20 hours, so a technician's personal lifestyle must be flexible.

LAST YEAR, the laboratory team investigated 640 crime scenes and made 150,000 examinations of physical evidence gathered at those scenes by either team members or other law enforcement officers. The team identified 376 items during the examinations.

The laboratory team primarily does investigation for communities in the county which contract for sheriff's department patrol protection. These communities include Avon and Oakland townships. The team does extensive investigation for other governmental agencies which request assistance too.

Last year, approximately 70 governmental agencies not under contract with the sheriff's department requested such assistance, including 23 county police departments and 21 county fire departments. Among these agencies were the Rochester Police Department and the Rochester, Avondale and Brooklands volunteer fire departments.

Other governmental agencies drawing assistance were Oakland University's Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Treasury Department and the state police.

DOYLE SAYS all county police departments have access to "our polygraph technician. Det. Sgt. Henry R.

Hansen, plus to our firing range, training courses and record bureau. "This assistance has saved county taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars," observed Doyle. "It would be very costly for local police departments to try to duplicate our resources."

A key facet of the crime lab operation is the mobile unit. The 1973 GMC Suburban truck is fully equipped with investigative materials such as an eight-band radio, a post-mortem kit, a metal detector, cameras, fingerprint kits, along with plaster casts to make tire and footprint impressions.

Specially treated garments and boots to enter fire-damaged structures and shovels, tools, evidence bags and portable lights are also carried in the unit.

GELINAS, McLAUGHLIN and Rose actively share their knowledge and skills with other crime and accident investigators.

Gelinas teaches fingerprint investigation and fire investigation in classes held across the state. McLaughlin will soon teach special investigation in classes held locally. Rose speaks on crime-lab work at senior high school assemblies in the county.

Ryan and Hannah will probably lead related learning sessions in the county after they become more acquainted with the crime lab operation at the sheriff's department.

Despite the long, tiring, unpredictable hours, the life of an I.D. technician does produce personal rewards, Gelinas says.

"Probably the most rewarding experience in this field," he said, "is when you testify in court and the jury returns with a guilty verdict."



Junior I.D. technician Dale Rose compares fingerprint from crime with fingerprints on record (Staff photo)

## Detroit concert band to perform

FARMINGTON—The Farmington High School music and academic departments will co-sponsor a series of workshops and a performance by the Detroit Concert Band Friday, April 25, in Mercy High School auditorium, 20000 E. River Road.

The performance is scheduled for 8:15 p.m. The workshop will be 3:30-4:30 p.m. the same day in Farmington High School, 22000 Shiawassee.

Conductor-composer Leonard Smith and several first-chair bandmen will conduct the instrumental music clinic and workshops.

Seating is reserved. Tickets may be purchased by mailing a check made payable to "Farmington High School Music Department" to the attention of Hal Kucanek, ticket chairman, music department, Farmington High School, 22000 Shiawassee, Farmington, 48024.

A SELF-ADDRESSED, stamped envelope must be enclosed the ticket request.

The musical performance, "Our American Heritage in Music," will be directed by Dr. Leonard B. Smith and will feature WWJ newscaster George Kendall as narrator. Also appearing will be soprano Imogene Bird, trombone soloist William E. Lane and snare drummer Eugene R. Hanson.

Edmund C. Wall, clarinetist of the Sousa and Goldman Bands, will perform. Smith said the program was designed as "a tribute to and public acknowledgment of our nation's exciting past and dynamic future—a translation into music of this country's remarkable achievements and of industry's role of good citizenship with in the community."

The event is made possible with the support from the Michigan Council for the Arts, in cooperation with the Farmington Community Arts Council and with the endorsement of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

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## Farmington candidate sees his youth as a plus

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—At 18, he may be the youngest candidate ever to seek a position on the Farmington school board, but Michael Shipce won't let that deter him: he figures he's closer to the grassroots that way.

"I have spent 13 of my 14 years in school in Farmington schools, and I should hope by this time that I know something about them," he said.

Although he may not know the details discussed in closed board meetings, Shipce said he is probably fairly well-informed of board activities, having attended their meetings for the past four and a half years.

Formerly president of student council at Harrison High School, Shipce also was a member of the Farmington School's citizen advisory council, Citizens for Better Schools and was last year named to the school board's student representation committee.

Lack of communication with residents has been the root of many of the board's current problems, Shipce said, and he proposes a rotating schedule of board meetings in different school buildings to facilitate community-board interaction.

"THE BOARD used to do this several years ago, but then they stopped," he said.

He would also like to see school board members spend a portion of their meetings sitting in the audience.

"At least then they'd remember where they came from. People seem to think you become a member by divine inspiration or from a star in the east."



MICHAEL SHIPCE

"It certainly says something when the all-time top vote-getter in the district received only six percent of the votes from those who were registered to vote."

"Any mandate you have is small at best, and you ought to remember where you came from," he said. He said he would actively seek the opinion of community members, even if that meant going door-to-door.

"I WOULD TRY to go into the community and see people at times other than millage campaigns and re-elections. I plan to go to different subdivisions and knock on doors and say, 'I'm a school board member. Is there anything you'd like to say to me?'"

Shipce favors the passage of the millage, and particularly supports the four mill request.

"As the school board and administration are currently constructed, the millage is needed to maintain the reduced level of education."

"But I'm also convinced that there is money to be saved in the budget," he said, though he would have to wait for his election before he could ask for a justification of the amounts being spent.

"I don't think the school board has sat down and asked the administration to justify every dollar that is spent, and this is something I want to do before I'd spend the taxpayers' money."

ONE OF the tests of society, Shipce said, is its treatment of the elderly, poor, underprivileged and young, and he wants to do his part to make sure they're treated correctly.

A member of the Farmington Democratic Club, Shipce said he has had experience in all levels of government. He admitted, however, that here might be unknown factors to take into account as a member of the school board.

"I hope that if there's something I don't know, I would ask. And who knows but that they might be questions that need to be asked?"

Shipce is a pre-law student at Monmouth College in Wayne State University. He is also president of Political Consultants, a Farmington public relations firm which conducts polls and manages political campaigns.

He is the eldest of three children and has a brother and sister enrolled in Farmington public schools.

## FAAC elects new officers

FARMINGTON—The 21-member board of directors of the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) recently elected officers for 1975-76.

The Rev. John R. Hooper, appointed to the board by the Clergy Fellowship, will serve as the group's president. Other officers are Al H. Fletcher of Farmington Hills, vice-president; Renee Josephson of Farmington Hills, secretary; and Myron Liser of Farmington Hills, treasurer.

Serving on the board are John Allen, appointed by the Farmington City Council; Robert Anderson, Farmington District; Police Officer Daniel Bryson, Farmington City Council; Jack Davis, Farmington Area Jaycees; Keith Deacon, Farmington Hills City Council; and John McDonald of Farmington.

Also on the board are Djal Mingo of Farmington Hills, police Sgt. Miri Spencer, Farmington Hills City Council; Dr. Peter Orlando of Union Lake, Charles Paul of Farmington; Anne Struble, Farmington School District; Sary Wolfram of Birmingham and Margaret Zelinsky of Orchard Lake.

New members-at-large are Daniel McGuire of Farmington and Steve Guirrier and Marie Rousheim, both of Farmington Hills.

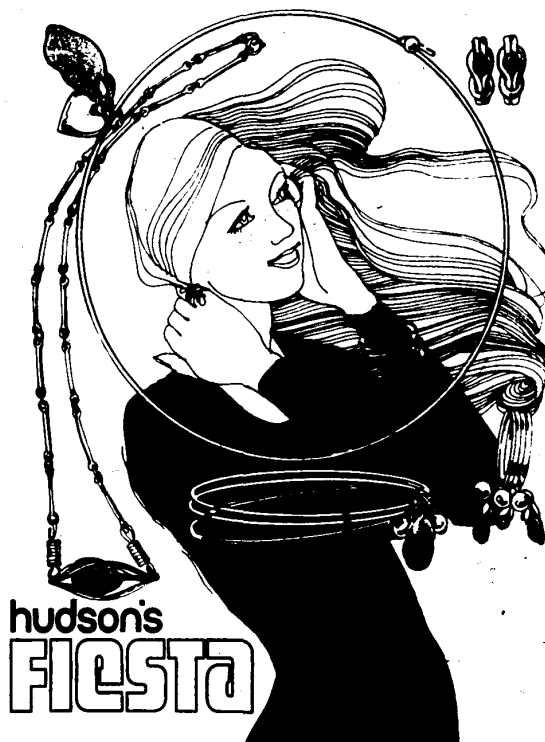
Eight of the board members are appointed, and 13 are elected at large.

Of the appointments, two are made by the Farmington School District, two from each city council, one from the Farmington Area Jaycees and one from the Clergy Fellowship.

The new board takes office July 1.

## Bejewel her in bright turquoise and silverclad metal by Hattie Carnegie. A gala look she'll love.

Here, just a few favorites from our festive couture collection for young gals, in Hudson's Girls' Accessories. Nothing chain necklace, \$3. Wire collar, \$3. Bracelet, \$3. Ring, \$4. And pierced earrings, \$3.



HUDSON'S  
FIESTA