

American dream comes true for Farmington Hills resident

By SUSAN AVERILL

Naiff Kelel of Farmington believes that a job worth doing is worth doing well. Accomplishing that belief has made him owner of the largest American Motors dealership in the world and the highest ranking Army reserve officer in the state.

He has dedicated his life to ideals considered most intrinsically American: a strict work ethic, a strong allegiance to the country, and doing what is best, whether or not you like it.

The son of a Lebanese man and an Austrian woman, Kelel considers himself more American than most.

"My father taught me, 'If there's anything you can do for your country, you do it,'" Kelel said, with an admiring gesture he must have drawn from the memory of his father's words.

It was a lesson he passed to his sons, each of whom has served his country through military stints.

THINKING BACK, Kelel said he couldn't remember a day when the flag wasn't flying from their home.

He entered the Army in 1963 and eventually was one of the troops who occupied Japan. It was a logical extension of his desire to serve his country. When he was released from active

duty after three and a half years, he saw no reason to shelve himself of his duty to his country. He joined the reserves in 1966 and transferred to the Military Police Corps four years later.

He was made commander of the Military Police Prisoner of War Command in 1969, after 10 years' with that unit.

In 1970, Kelel was promoted to brigadier general and in February of this year received his second star and the title of major general.

The highest ranking Army reserve officer in Michigan, Kelel commands the 70th division (training) in Michigan and Indiana.

Kelel earned several honors, including a meritorious service medal, a good conduct medal, an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign ribbon, and American Defense medal. Other medals he holds are a WW II victory medal, an army of occupation medal and an armed forces reserve medal.

In spite of his military career, Kelel doesn't seem to believe there could be such a thing as a "good" war. He has observed American involvement in Asian wars and has noted public reaction.

Objection to military involvement has been strong in recent years.

RESERVE OFFICERS Training Corps (ROTC) buildings on the nation's college campuses have been burned, bombed and occupied. The draft ended and enlistments dwindled. Still, Kelel is convinced that the people's sense of nationalism is strong.

"If we have the need to rally around the flag, we'll rally around the flag," he said.

But not without good cause.

"We have always championed the underdog, but there has to be a cause. I hope to the good Lord that we never have another just cause," he said. As a civilian, Kelel owns Greenfield American, Inc., an AMC dealership in Detroit. It has the distinction of being the largest in the world, although Kelel qualifies the honor.

"We're the largest AMC dealership in the world in terms of the number of cars sold. But that doesn't necessarily mean we make more money."

Beginning his civilian career as a wholesale milk distributor, Kelel quit to join the Army. When he was discharged, he became a car salesman.

It wasn't long before he owned his own dealership from 1960-1969 and then bought the AMC dealership on Greenfield and Schoolcraft.

Kelel said his work with the dealership is his avocation, his hobby. His real vocation is soldiering.

HE HAS MISSED only 10 days' work in his double career, and that for a gall bladder operation.

"I'll never retire. I don't owe myself anything. I don't owe myself any time off. I don't believe in retirement," he said vehemently.

To keep himself healthy, Kelel runs three or four miles every morning before going to work. Many family members join him, including his three and a half year old granddaughter.

He doesn't run for the sheer joy of it. As a matter of fact, he doesn't like it—but he views it as a duty to keep himself in good condition.

"Everyone exercises at my house. We've just developed good habits. I don't like it, but I know it's good for me. It's a habit."

"I thank God for giving me the body that can do that," he said.

Kelel also gave up smoking to better his health, but said that he doesn't feel any better for having done it. "I didn't feel any better. But when the surgeon general's report came out saying smoking was hazardous to your health, I decided it was better not to."

"There are enough things detrimental to your health as it is."



NAIFF KELEL

Identity crisis frees suspect

The two Bradley brothers are not twins. But apparently there is a close family resemblance—so close that witnesses to an armed robbery had difficulty deciding which of the two brothers should be charged with the crime. So two robbery cases were dismissed.

Gerald Bradley, 23, of Farmington faced Judge Clarence A. Reid Jr. in 40th District Court May 9, charged with robbing Sentry Drugs, Ten Mile and Southfield roads in Southfield.

The preliminary proceedings stopped abruptly when Cathy Moore, Sentry Drugs' floor manager, identified Gerald's brother, Charles Scott Bradley, as the man who held a gun on her, forced her to lie on the floor while taking money and drugs from the pharmacist and then accompany him out the rear door. There the hold-up man released her and made his escape.

Court-appointed defense lawyer A. Russell Messina had received permission from Judge Reid to seat his client's brother at the counsel table, next to the defendant.

Earlier, Mrs. Moore had picked out Gerald from a group of mug shots and then identified Gerald in a police line-up. The problem of identification was complicated by the fact that the hold-up man wore a ski mask. Only his eyes, nose tip and mouth were visible, according to testimony.

Following Mrs. Moore's identification of Charles, 19, also of Farmington, as the suspect, Judge Reid dismissed the case against Gerald. Police immediately arrested Charles on the same charge of armed robbery.

Tuesday, Charles faced Judge S. James Clarkson for preliminary examination. The same witnesses reassembled.

But only Mrs. Moore was positive that it was no longer Gerald but Charles who robbed the store.

Daniel Bernstein, a stockboy, testified he could not positively identify anyone because of the ski mask.

"I know it was one of the other—but I can't say for sure which one. I'd need to see them with the ski mask on," he said.

Another witness, a clerk, said she had sold a six-pack of beer to the hold-up man about 30 minutes before he re-entered the store and committed the robbery.

"He was wearing a rolled up ski cap and had reddish blonde hair," she testified. She said she thought the man looked like Gerald, pointing to Gerald Bradley seated in the spectator section of the courtroom.

Gerald's hair is dark brown. Charles' hair is black.

The last witness, pharmacist Donal Picard, said he could not identify either man as the criminal.

Judge Clarkson criticized the police for not using ski masks on all the men in the police line-up.

In dismissing the case, he said, "This would never get to a jury. It's too flimsy a case. I want something to hang my hat on. Why was this man (Gerald) picked? Why was his picture shown to the witness?"

Police later said they could not give the reason for Gerald Bradley's picture being among the six shown to Mrs. Moore.

Bell rate hearing to be held June 24

If you have anything to say about Michigan Bell Telephone's proposed \$88 million rate increase, June 24 is the day to do it.

On that date, meetings will be held for residents in the northern suburbs at 9:30 a.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. in room 306, "J" Building, Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, in Farmington Hills. The college is on Orchard Lake Road just south of I-480.

The hearing is one of six held by the Michigan Public Service Commission prior to consideration of the telephone company's proposed rate increases.

Persons wishing to testify or make a statement about the rate hikes may do so at the meetings. Statements may be made under oath if the person desires.

Michigan Bell filed an application with the commission April 24 to increase its rates and charges.

THE APPLICATION states that the revenue produced by existing rates is unreasonable and unjustly low.

To attain the level of earnings previously approved by the commission, the company is asking for rate increases and changes in services offered. These changes would produce additional revenue from its Michigan operations of \$88 million, based on 1974 operating results, Bell said.

Month rates for residents with a single-party line would be increased 30 cents.

Long distance rates within Michigan would increase one to five cents a minute. Local pay phone calls would increase to 20 cents from 10 cents.

Other installation, move and change charges would increase six per cent.

Cub Scout day camp offered again

Cub Scout day camp, a new council program begun in 1974, is again a popular event this summer. Five hundred Cubs are expected to attend day camp this season at the Clinton Valley Council training and activities center at Camp Agawam near Lake Orion.

Any registered Cub Scout may attend the camp, which features swimming, archery, crafts and nature hikes. Additional information may be secured from the Clinton Valley Council Service Center.

Junior in P.R. club

FARMINGTON—Karen Stewart of Farmington, a junior at Central Michigan University, is a member of CMU's public relations club. The club recently won the Public Relations Society of America award for the East Central district.

Meadowbrook to be repaved

By CRAIG NEWMAN

FARMINGTON HILLS—Meadowbrook Hills subdivision residents complained to city council Tuesday night about the lack of notice given to residents concerning road repair assessments.

The council found necessity for repairs at a special assessment improvement meeting. Total cost of the improvements will be approximately \$201,000.

Many residents said they had not gotten any notices of meetings regarding the planned improvements.

Robert Cooper, a homeowner in Meadowbrook Hills for one year, said, "I am very dissatisfied at the subdivision. Any details I have received were very vague and ambiguous."

Another homeowner said that he had talked to several residents and found that many had not received any kind of notification. "There were several people I talked to," he said.

"Only one had gotten any notice," Bruce Macintosh, a subdivision resident, said that all were informed of the improvements and meetings. City clerk Floyd Cairns said, "Everyone was sent out a notice. Sometimes people will get them in the mail and not even look at them." "Everyone says they don't get the notices, but we send them out to everyone."

Cairns said that the city keeps a record of all the letters they send out.

The area to be repaved was subdivided into three separate sections.

"It was very difficult to draw these district lines," said George Majors, city engineer.

Majors said that the city had engineers and attorneys divide up the land.

Farmington backs equal assessments

FARMINGTON—The city council has supported attempts by other Oakland County communities to standardize assessing practices across the state.

The council unanimously backed efforts by Oakland and Commerce townships to change current assessing practices, either through state legislation or a lawsuit.

City manager Robert Deadman said the issue is the "state's inability to bring about equal taxation techniques."

OAKLAND COUNTY communities are being assessed at closer to 30 per cent of real value than other counties, Deadman said.

The higher assessing level means less state aid for Oakland County local school districts, Deadman said. The formula for school aid varies according to the assessed valuation and millage rate of a school district. The higher the assessed valuation and mil-

lage rate, Deadman said, the lower the amount of school aid it receives from the state.

"Therefore, if Oakland County is assessing real property at 30 per cent of its real value, and another county is assessing property at 20 per cent of its real value, that county will receive more school state aid under the present formula."

Deadman said Oakland County assessors have checked records in upstate counties and found lower assessment levels.

"THE COUNTIES update just are not doing the job on assessing."

The city manager added different assessing practices might not be only found upstate. The next county west, Deadman said, has "assessments much lower" than Oakland County's. Livingston County is west of Oakland County.

Deadman added Oakland County communities can't even foot state officials because their records are too good.



ED SATORY

Art is outgrowth of business career

Having been successful in several careers during his working years, Ed Satory of Farmington has found another during retirement.

He discovered he has a talent for oil painting in the classes sponsored by the Farmington Artists Club foundation, with a grant from Michigan Council for the Arts.

His paintings were recently displayed at a senior citizens arts and crafts show at the American Legion Hall.

Some of the credit for the ease with which he picked up painting, Satory said, is because of a lifetime spent in the business side of the arts. He spent the days when he did the title lettering for silent movies "a lot of fun." He later moved to lettering and graphics arts in slide films, commercial advertising and educational films for school use.

As an employee of Jam Handy of Detroit, he was involved in still photography.

After all those years using his hands and eyes to improve communication, it wasn't hard to pick up a brush and a palette and tell a story in still another way.

The big difference is that now he has more fun giving away the fruits

of his labors. Several are earmarked for his children. A painting of the head of Christ will be sent to his daughter, a nun with the Notre Dame order. His wife has spoken for a few of the paintings.

If financial support is again available through either the state office or the local government, the popular arts classes for seniors will be held again starting next fall.

Cason is appointed AMC manager

FARMINGTON—Appointment of Bill H. Cason, of Farmington, as manager of service reliability, American Motors Corporation, has been announced by George Brown, general service manager.

Cason will be responsible for product reliability liaison with warranty analysis, manufacturing, engineering and product planning, as well as analyzing servicing procedures to improve owner satisfaction, Brown said.