

# 'Walking the dog' is hobby for former city councilman

When Fred Seibert left city government, he went to the dogs.

Oh, it had begun earlier. First, a casual flirting with Great Danes. A taste of dog obedience training. Then German Shepherds. Seibert was hooked.

Now he's president of the Detroit German Shepherd Dog Obedience Training Club, which holds classes each Monday and Wednesday night year-round at Farmington's American Legion Hall.

The club, formed in 1966, has met in Farmington for the past 14 or 15 years, and Seibert figures somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,000 dogs have been trained there.

IT TAKES all breeds for training and is one of only four clubs in Michigan licensed by the American Kennel Club to hold trials for degrees, which are similar to ribbons in dog shows.

"That's a pretty high honor," Seibert said.

Between classes, Seibert travels all over the country observing license trials. He has taken his own German Shepherd as far as Bermuda in quest of degrees and plans to go to Canada this fall.

"Finally, I got so involved with the dogs that I couldn't do justice to city government and them, too," Seibert said.

"I figured I'd put in my time for

the city, 10 years between the city council and planning commission. Moreover, we've an excellent city manager in Bob Deadman, and he's got an excellent staff. There were no ripples on the waters when I left."

Time away from the dogs is spent as supervisor for Ford Motor Co.'s auto assembly division pilot plant in Allan Park.

"We've always had dogs as part of our married life," Seibert said, tracing his interest in the animals.

"About four or five years ago, we got our first Great Dane. Of course, they are large animals and my wife remarked that it would be nice if we could get them to do what we wanted.

"Quite by accident, we found the classes at Legion Hall and enrolled our Dane. Then we got another Dane and had it trained.

Then we switched to a German Shepherd and more intensified obedience training and competition. Now we have two.

"Mine has been in training two years and has attained the utility degree, the highest license."

Degrees are of three kinds: companion dog, where the dog learns to heel and to come when called; companion dog excellent, where he adds retriev-

ing and jumping hurdles, and utility dog, where he learns to distinguish scent and to respond to hand signals as well as voice commands.

"MY SHEPHERD has one Bermuda license, two Canadian and three American," Seibert said. "If we can pick up two Bermuda and one Canadian, we've gone about as far as we can go."

"It's a very interesting sport," he went on. "There's always a trial somewhere—spring, summer and fall. It becomes quite a hobby.

"You not only get to see the dogs perform, but you get to see the country, too.

"IT'S AMAZING how many people are involved. I had thought that with economic conditions as they are, enrollments would go down. After all, \$20 to train a dog is not a necessity.

"But to date in 1975 has probably been the biggest in the club's history, and other obedience clubs report the same thing."

The next trials at Legion Hall will be Sept. 21. Since Farmington's is a specialty club, entries will be limited to German Shepherds.

## FESTIVAL CLEARANCE MEN'S 10-SPEED BICYCLE



• Simplex prestige derailleurs • WT: 27 lbs.  
• Weinmann continental tires  
• Quick release hubs  
• 27 x 1" wheels  
Reg. \$180  
add \$10 for assembly & adjustment  
**\$99<sup>95</sup>**  
partially assembled

## LADIES' 3-SPEED BIKE

• 3 Speed derailleurs  
• 27 x 1" wheels with wing nut release  
• Weight: 27 lbs.  
• Stainless steel fenders  
add \$10 for assembly & adjustment  
**\$59<sup>95</sup>**  
partially assembled


## 10 SPEED RACING BIKES

• Columbus tubing  
• Simplex Criterion Derailleurs  
• Marvel Criterium Crank  
• Weight 22 lbs.  
Regular \$325  
**\$199<sup>95</sup>**  
partially assembled


## RECREATIONAL LEISURE

30717 W. 10 MILE FARMINGTON

Call 474-4888 from home. Just back of Kier's Market & to the left



The Chamberlain Way Is.....



**TOM KUSTER**  
Manager

# People

We have learned over the years that the quality of the service performed is reflected in the quality of the sales associate. Our commitment to quality often forces us to reject many of those who apply for sales positions. We do this selection through an exclusive Chamberlain selection process. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU? It means, at Chamberlain, you receive the best possible representation for your home in the Metro area! It means a full time representative working full time to sell your home. This means you have over 300 Chamberlain sales associates marketing your home in over 50 communities, PLUS, exposure to thousands more sales associates through our numerous Multi List affiliations. Make an appointment with one of our professionals today

**Chamberlain REALTORS**

**Livonia/Farmington Office**  
19590 Middlebelt Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
476-9100

# Announcing... Plants... Plants... Plants!

BUY DIRECT FROM THE GROWER  
We are now specializing in  
**Tropical Plants & Hanging Baskets**



**PLANTS OF ALL KINDS**

...ferns, Wandering Jews, Boston Ivy, Spider plants, flowers and vines mean savings for you by buying direct from the grower.

Daily 9-3

## BRAINER'S GREENHOUSES

29650 HAGGERTY ROAD  
Just So. of 12 Mile  
Farmington 474-8355