

All you need is imagination for the license plate game

By CINDY FRANK

If you have ever wondered at the meaning hidden behind those personalized license plates seen so often lately on Michigan roads—the Volkswagen plate that reads "LEGS" or the Torino plate screaming "BIDDY" in bicentennial red, white and blue on the bumper—then you're ready to play the People-Plate Association Game.

There are no rules or prizes in the game, but it passes time, and according to the five-pound computerized list of personalized plates from the Michigan Secretary of State's office, there are more than 14,000 of the "vanity" plates running around our highways. They aren't difficult to find.

A few examples from the Observer & Eccentric readership area will give you the idea. You can take it from there.

ASPEN on a Bloomfield Hills car is an easy one. The driver might be an avid Colorado skier who looks upon snow as a gift from heaven. He probably keeps his snow tires on all year long and keeps his skis and poles by the doorway. Maybe it's a Greyhound bus driver from Bloomfield Hills with **DOGBUS** on his plates. **MUSH** could be a transplanted Eskimo now living in Bloomfield Hills.

In Rochester there may be a suave, dark, Franco-Nero type who loves the ladies and has **BICAL** on his personalized plates. In that city there may also be an angry type with a short temper who hates driving in the city. He has **GRHRH** on his plates.

Rochester also boasts a plate reading **I DID IT**. Now that could mean almost anything from someone who has quit smoking to **RIBNO** could be a big game hunter from Rochester who makes yearly trips to Africa in search of the wild beast (or maybe a jovial drinker who has an inordinate affection for Ribine wine).

Southfield, with lots of the personalized plates, is good territory for the People-Plate game. **BE THIN** is presumably a weight-watcher (while **FATSO** from Troy presumably isn't). Is there a lonely but attractive Southfield resident who affectionately proclaims **HUG ME** on her license plates?

SALAMI may be a Southfield delicatessen owner. A woman with 12 children may have had the **STORK** visit her Southfield home so many times that she finally put it on her plates. **ICEDD** may not look like a personalized plate at first glance, but if you could see that well, maybe you could see the significance. Maybe the plates belong to an optometrist.

A possible Birmingham pilot has **CESSNA** on his plates. Does West Bloomfield have an exterminator with **PST** on his license plates?

COORS on a Troy car is another easy one—another person who makes regular trips to Colorado, but in this case for beer and not snow.

D-DAY from Livonia and **FIRE-1** from Plymouth are World War II veterans perhaps, the former a husky Marine and the latter a push-button submariner. Livonia also has a very friendly driver with the message **HI 2 U** on his plates.

Farmington may have an avid sailor or with **DINGHY** on his car. **EISELS** may belong to a gentleman who is trying to cling to old cars and customs. "They just don't make cars like they used to," he might say.

An energy-conscious person from Farmington Hills may have had **SAVE GAS** put on his plates. The local watch repairman may be the one with **TICKTOCK** on his car.

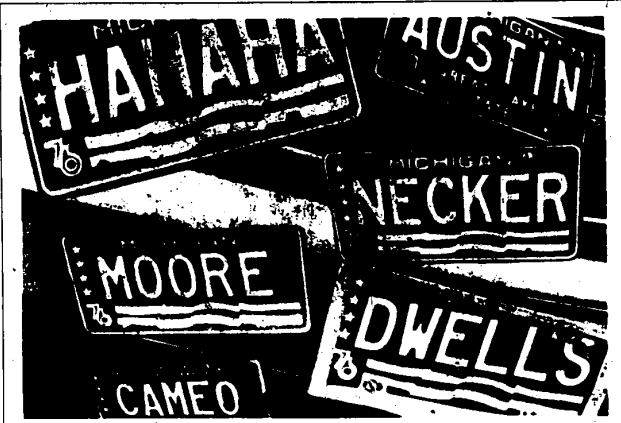
The Westland resident with **HAHAHA** must be a real rib-tickling, life-of-the-party type. Or maybe his car is bigger than yours. **CHNK** in Westland may be a compulsive eater who may take over **BE THIN** next time. Or could he be the ultimate chauvinist? An eternal pessimist drives the car with the plates that ask **WHY ME**.

There seem to be a few patriots in Garden City, one with **MY USA** on his personalized plates. The other is a University of Michigan football fan with **ON BLUE** on his plates.

Redford has a golfer who tries each and every year to **PAR 4**, just as his plates proclaim.

And in the parking lot of the Observer & Eccentric was a car with **NECKER** on it. Who could that belong to?

The people who have been created to fill the license plates in this article are all fictitious. Any resemblance to the actual owners is purely coincidental or a good guess. It's all in the game.



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Gorman's Gallery of Goofs

A Clearance Sale? Nah! It's a melange of mistakes. A mish-mash of over-bought, underpriced pieces that looked great to us once upon a time but now threaten to be with us unhappily ever after. So out they go. And we'll even include the services of our talented designers at no extra cost. Many more goofs than listed here...at big savings of 25%, 33%, 50% and more. Come in now while the selection is at its worst!

	Was	Now		Was	Now
Brown or gold Venele seven-lit ARM-CHAIR and MATCHING OTTOMAN. Perfect for fitness and fatigue. (Translation: We're sick & tired of 'em.)	\$595	\$299	Award-winning Prague bentwood CHAIRS in natural cane with black frames. At this price, it's like handing you a blank check.	\$120	\$80
Imported white WALL UNITS 7-ft. long! More storage space than Pontiac Stadium. More drawers than a ladies volleyball team.	\$1929	\$885	Thayer Coggin 45" round MARBLE-TOP COCKTAIL TABLE has unusual mirror-chrome base for people obsessed with other people's knees.	\$499	\$199
Overstuffed VELVET PRINT SOFA by Heritage. We can't pronounce the unusual color, but it's spelled "ECCCH".	\$1398	\$680	Classic Chippendale Camel-Back LOVE SEAT by Heritage. Just the thing for dromedaries and their dates.	\$698	\$348
Imported Italian 3' x 6' MARBLE TOP DESK with chrome sawhorse legs. For the man or woman who has everything...including a lot of nerve.	\$530	NOW 1/2 OFF	We've been going 'round and 'round trying to sell this huge SWIVEL LOUNGE CHAIR in glove soft brown Venele Plesse!	\$455	\$199
90-inch SOFA with walnut side panels. Custom beige fabric has perfectly matched Aztec pattern. (Frankly, it looks half-Aztec to us.)	\$1059	\$580	Modern Selig SOFA with rosewood side panels & chrome legs. Covered in gray beige felt. Looks like an understated Army blanket.	\$799	\$399
We're cleaning out our CLOCK dept. Fabulous buys on all sizes, some battery powered. Our buyer liked their faces, so the factory gave him the works.	up to 80% OFF		You'd swear the downy-bed Baser LOUIS XV ARM CHAIR came from a French chateau. We've been swearing ever since we got it.	\$1095	\$499
Huge 40" x 80" antique white OPEN BOOKCASE with inset glass shelves and bottom storage area. Take a chance. Go for Baroque.	\$539	\$380	Magnificent CHROME & GLASS EXTENSION DINING TABLE with two leaves opens to 100". Slight scratch doesn't affect the look. Only, alas, the price.	\$625	\$325
Armless MODULAR CHAIRS in thick gold velvet. Imported from Sweden. Was this trip necessary?	\$189	\$89	Selig SOFA plus matching glass-top CONSOLE plus upholstered-framed MIRROR plus contrasting LOUNGE CHAIR. If bought separately, would keep you occupied to June.	\$1479	\$799
We've taken our LUMPS on these LAMPS long enough! Over 100 in every size and style must go. Show no mercy.	up to 80% OFF		42-inch round Formica BUTCHER BLOCK TABLE and 4 BREUER STYLE CHAIRS at today's best prices. It's cheaper than steak. Yes, real deliver.	\$605	\$399
8-ft-long PARSONS STYLE DINING TABLE in misty white. Looks like a heavily starched sheet with legs.	\$399	\$188			

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