# Friends, neighbors remember tragic couple

Thomas and Penny Ortner, the young Garden City victims of an allegedly drunk driver the day after Christass, were model parents whose lives were centered around their children and church. neighbors and friends say. "They were the most wonderful couple I've ever known," said Mary Perez, the Ortners' next-door neighbor.

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Mrs. Ortner discovered she was pregnant just days before her death, said former classmate Judy Heiby, the godmother of one of the Ortners' two children. Both Ortner children. Mark, 4, and Brian, 2, survived the Collision last Monday night.

"She'd just found out she was preg-rant. She was telling people about it on Christmas." said Mrs. Heiby, whom Mrs. Perez described as Penny Ortners' best friend. Both Mrs. Heiby and Mrs. Ortner met their husbands while members of a youth club at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington.

Farmington. "It was senseless, very senseless." said Mrs. Heiby of the couples' tragic death. "Why don't they do something about these drunk drivers?"

about these drunk drivers?

FATHER GERALD Flamery, who celebrated the couple's Friday funeral Mass at St. Edith's Catholic Church in Mass at St. Edith's Catholic Church in Catholic Church in Catholic Church in the Catholic Church in Service St. The Catholic Church in the Service St. Th

The Ortners were on their way home from dinner at an Ann Arbor friend's home at 11 p.m. Monday night when a car driven by John Edward Horton, a Zyear old Vysilanti man. allegedly ran a red light at Ford Road and Middle Belt and slammed broadside into the Ortners 1974 Hornet station

into the Ortners 1974 Hornet station wagon.

The Ortners, both 31, were dead on arrival at local hospitals. Their children, who were back seat passengers, were shielded from the brunt of the impact by special, protective seating and suffered only minor injuries.

Horton, police say, was legally drunk when the accident occurred. He was charged with two counts of machagulate with a motor vehicle, each count carrying a maximum 15 years imprisonment.

Horton also faces charges for probation violation stemming from his

imprisonment. Horton also faces charges for probation violation stemming from his failure to pay a fine on a previous. Washtenaw County drinking-while-driving charge. His license, suspended last spring when he accumulated 18 points. Was returned to him Nov. 28.

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saying. "They were very good parents. They went everywhere with their children. If they went for a bike ride, the whole family went."

The Ortners' deaths, said Mrs. Borowski. "just shook me up. I just god a chill through my body and I still do every time I look over at their house."

The front of the Ortner house is full of gay Christmas decorations, includ-ing a door-size picture of Winnie-The-Pooh. A Christmas tree sits in the front window.

#### Trust fund set for Ortner boys

A trust fund has been established for Brian and Mark Ortner, the orphaned children of Thomas and Penny Ortner who were killed in a tragic car accident the day after Christmas. Donations to the trust fund, elished at the First National Bank of Jeymouth, may be made by sending checks payable to the "Brian and Mark Ortner Fund" to the bank at 535.

The Ortners were killed last Monday might when their car was allegedly struck by a 1974 Thunderbird driven by a 22-year old Ypaliant inan who police say was legally drunk.

The impact of the collision between the Thunderbird and the Ortners' Hornet, which Garden City Det Lt. Bill Duncan likened to "a freight train hitting a mosquito." sent the Ortner car carcening across four lanes of Ford Road, over a curb, across a parking lot, and into the side of an optometric sists office. The impact of the collision destroyed a mason pri and seven feet wide when the Ortner car smashed through it and a plate glass window. through it and a plate glass window.

Mrs. Heiby, who said the Ortner children are staying with an aunt while the family decides their future, said. "Brian's doing okay, the two year old. He doesn't know what he saw. Mark, (4), we're not sure.

"They both reflect Penny and Tom.

They have a lot of love for each other. Mrs. Heiby gave birth to her last child, now 18 months old, after study-ing the Lamaze method of childbirth with Mrs. Ortner. The two were nurs"We dated a lot together, and every-thing just sort of intertwined," said Mrs. Heiby, who added the Ortners bought a house only a block away from the Heiby's without knowing the Heiby's were moving in.

Mrs. Ortner gave classes in Parent Effectiveness at Divine Savior Parish, said Fr. Flannery, "and about 50 people took it. That's a very large number. We're only a small parish.

I'm sure she would have gotten a lot of women involved in Lamaze." Mrs. Heiby described the Ortners as excellent parents, and Fr. Flannery agreed, saying 'they have two cute little boys who are very well-behaved." You have to meet them to understand, but the boys are really very special, 'said Mrs. Heiby.

Penny Ortner is survived by her parents and two borothers; Thomas Ortner, by his parents, three brothers and a sister.

#### Math decline

## Reading scores improve

Fourth and seventh graders in the Walled Lake School District showed a slight improvement in reading scores and a slight decline in mathematics scores on the 1977-78 Michigan education of the state of

\*76.1 per cent of the entering severath graders achieved 75.100 per cent of the reading objectives measured on the reading objectives measured on the Methagan Educational Assessment Test is administered by the state department of education and is designed to reveal specific skills which students have or have not attained. In drawing up the test, educators those 18 performance objectives in the state of th

•Walled Lake's entering fourth and seventh graders in 1977 were slightly outscored by the 1976 group in terms of their attainment of the mathematics objectives.

objectives.

Alam stated further, however, that he considered a Proportions Report which depicts the percentage of students who attained a specific objective to be a much more valuable tool for educational assessment.

The Proportions Report makes a comparison of the percentage of students who have attained the specific objective over the past four years.

The Proportions Report revealed:
• District-wide, the percentage—of entering fourth graders who achieved 75-100 per cent of the mathematics objectives has shown a decline from 81 per cent in 1974. to 77 per cent in 1977.

### On the LIBRARY Line

By DENISE MOLL

With January, resolutions have been made, (and some already broken) it's a great opportunity to add new dimensions to your life. The Farmington Community, Library can help, both with books on timely subjects and programs to introduce you to new hobbies and pastimes.

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and pastimes.

A collection of books entitled "Don't Let Winter Get You Down," is now on the Winter Get You Down," is now on the Winter Get You Down, is now on the Winter Get You Down, is now of your down of the Winter Get You have a case of pact-holid yet blues. come in and browse through the collection. Maybe you'll be inspired to start cross country sking or downhill racing. If you can't face the outdoors on a snowy day, try a book on playing chess, bridge, or monopoly. How about wood carving or quilt making?

quit making?

If you're one of the many who have gained weight over the holidays, the library has diet and excercise books to help you get back in shape. If you're the type who hibernates through the winter, ask the librarian for help in selecting some good fiction or an interesting biography to make your leisure bours worthwhile.

OUR JAN. 12 book discussion at the Farmington Branch Library will cen-ter on Richard Dyer's "Your Erroneous Zones." Multiple copies are available at the library. Pick one up and join the discussion at 10 a.m. Call Roz Narbutas at 474-7770.

Indivisuals and Individuals Individual The set may also be utilized to determine which schools in Michigan offer particular programs.

A second new acquisition, Michigan College Catalogs on microfiche furnishes current catalogs for all two and four year post secondary schools in the state. Any of these microfilms can be viewed or copied at either branch library.

library.

A Ukrainian "Pysanky" egg painting workshop will be presented from 1-3 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Farmingon Hills Branch. This is an opportunity to learn to do this beautiful grt form in time for your family Easter egg coloring party. There is a materials fee of \$1.50 per person and registration is necessary. Call Carole Hund at \$53,000 for further information or registration.

FOR CHILDREN, the library will be offering several four week programs that required advance registration. The properties of the program of the program of the properties of the process of

