

Carrier of the Month Farmington



RAY VOSS

Ray Voss, 11, of Farmington Hills has been named Farmington Observer Carrier of the Month for January. He is the son of Roy and Ellen Voss and the brother of Chuck Voss. Ray started his route in Kendallwood Sub-division in 1976. He is a fifth grade student at Kenbrook and enjoys math. He belongs to the YMCA basketball and to the YMCA basketball teams. He is a member of the Trailblazers Club.

If you want to be a Farmington Carrier, Call

261-3800

Better luck next time Almanac falls off pace

By MIKE SCANLON

If you want the sordid details of the last pregnant woman to be hanged in Massachusetts, or if you want to know the secret of how to vanquish varmints from a vegetable patch without violence, probably the best place to turn—and maybe the only place—is The Old Farmer's Almanac.

But if you're after a weather forecast, try Sunny Day.

With the track record The Almanac's famous predictions have had so far this year, even a glance out your window might do you more good.

THE BLIZZARD that temporarily laid waste to most of the Midwest last week started on a day The Almanac predicted would feature "snows on and off, fairly heavy east." The storm brought more precipitation in two days than The Almanac said would fall here for the whole month of January.

"We're not that accurate as yet, but I think we are a hell of a lot better than guessing. I think we've got an inside track," said The Almanac's editor, who's blessed with a name—Judson Hale—as fitting to The Almanac's hometown of Dublin, New Hampshire, as a rocky New England meadow.

"I do feel that eventually, because weather is not haphazard any more than anything else in the universe is haphazard, I do feel we'll be able to predict the weather day-to-day in an advance."

Hold the cheers—"but that's 100 years off," said Hale.

Hale understandably coy about revealing The Almanac's secret recipe for present-day long-range forecasts, but he did say much of the predictions are based on "varying forces from the sun."

THOSE FORCES, said Hale, include sunspots, solar winds and magnetic fields. Every year, starting right about now, The Almanac's folkloric solar scientist, Dr. Richard Head, makes observations of those forces that eventually will help comprise the predictions for 1978, which Hale said will be finished in May, 1978.

Hale said Dr. Head performed similar observations for NASA, helping with plans for the early Mercury series launches.

Much of the way The Almanac predicts weather has been altered in "the

last dozen years," said Hale, who has been editor 10 years and on the staff 20 years.

Hale said another change, this time in some of the boundaries for the 15 areas The Almanac uses in making its weather predictions, are coming for the 1979 edition, but he refused to be more specific.

But Hale said the original methods, used as early as 1786 by founder Robert Thomas, are still fairly valid.

Using those and the new-fangled ways, The Almanac predicted the recent end of the two-year western drought. And even with the so-far-chancy predictions for the Detroit area, Hale's still standing behind his product.

"When we look back on your winter in April, I'll decide on the accuracy of the prediction," said Hale.

In fact, Hale's reluctant to admit defeat even in light of last week's blizzard, saying, "at least we called for snow."

SNOW IN JULY, 1816, was predicted by founder Thomas. When the prediction miraculously came true, it achieved for The Almanac what has so far proven to be a very long-lived fame.

"He was ill, he had a fever, and the printer came in and told him the predictions for July were due. 'Tell 'em snow,' he said, 'and then it snowed,'" recounted Hale.

There were dozens of Almanacs published in those days when there were still plenty of farmers to read them, and it was that fluke forecast that's probably at the root of the Almanac's celebration this year of its 187th anniversary.

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Farmington Hills City Council will meet at 7:30 P.M. Monday, February 6, 1978 in the Council Chambers, 3155 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan to hear all interested persons regarding the Federal Community Development Block Grant Fund Application for the fiscal year 1978-1979.

The Hearing will cover a proposed list of projects that are planned to eliminate or prevent blight and deterioration of the City's housing stock.

All interested persons will be given a chance to express their views regarding this program at the above time and place. More information regarding the Public Hearing may be obtained by calling the City Manager's Office at 474-6115.

FLOYD A. CAIRNS
City Clerk

Publish: February 7, 1978

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John Davis

Davis named treasurer

John Davis, a sophomore at Western Michigan University was named treasurer of the Student Alumni Service Board, recently.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Davis, 28857 Kendallwood, Farmington Hills. He is a biomedical science major.

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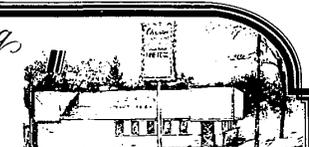
Lasky is law school graduate

Charles L. Lasky, of Farmington, was one of 93 graduates to receive their juris doctor degrees, Jan. 15, from Thomas Colley Law School, Lansing.

Lasky graduated cum laude from the law school.

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