

Trick shooting Pistol team dazzles crowds

By RON GARBINSKI

They shoot from below the hip, around their backs, through their legs and over the shoulder.

At 20 feet they can split a bullet on an ear head or put a slug through a one-inch diameter funnel opening.

And for them it's as easy as "just pointing a finger."

There is the Farmington Hills Police Department's sharpshooting combat pistol team, a highly regarded and honored eight-member squad that travels around the country competing against other police teams in various law enforcement sanctioned matches.

During recent Founder's Day festivities, the pistol team deviated from their normal competitive schedule to participate in a public demonstration of their skills and weapons.

It was quite a show with Policewoman Linda Harris shooting with her little finger upside down and then through her legs. Lt.

Richard Niemisto dazzled the audience with his over the shoulder mirror shooting and Officer Ray Marchewitz held the spectators captive with his precision pendulum swing trick shot.

With two moving pendulums containing two trap birds each, Marchewitz broke all four with just two shots, one of the most difficult trick shots performed by the team.

DEMONSTRATING WHAT trained police officers can do with their short barrel shotguns, Police Chief Ronald Holko, officers Paul Phillips and Charles Archambeau again thrilled the crowd with their sharpshooting.

The trick shooting demonstrations during the annual Founder's Festival Week began about five years ago when Holko decided showing the public what their police department can do with its sophisticated armament weapons is a benefit for the entire community.

At that time, most members of the team had combat competition, but none had any experience with trick shooting.

"It took some time for us to become proficient at these tricks," Niemisto explains. "Yet, a lot of it really isn't that difficult for the trained, experienced shooter. Putting a bullet through a hole is all a matter of sight alignment."

"Ninety-eight per cent of it is all knowing how to handle a weapon properly. Then the rest is talent," he says.

For the Hills pistol team, showing the community what can be done with guns is all part of educating the public. Such demonstrations, Holko said, help the community realize that many of the officers patrolling their streets are experts and proficient with the weapons they carry on their hip.

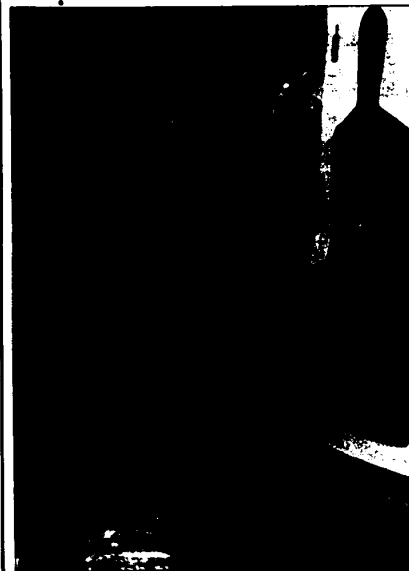
Staff photos

by

Harry Mauthe



Farmington Hills police Lt. Richard Niemisto (above) demonstrates an unusual style of pistol shooting, using a mirror to sight the .38 caliber weapon over his shoulder, aiming at a target down range. Shooting of this type is for demonstration purposes only, and Niemisto adds, whenever discharging a firearm, the use of protective eye glasses and ear plugs is essential. (Right) Hills Police Chief Ron Holko peers down range at a target torn by the .223 caliber Stoner fully automatic weapon which Holko is holding. Holko said such weapons are for use by specially trained police personnel and only in unusual emergencies. Below, Officer Paul Phillips is shown with a M-16 automatic rifle, also .223 caliber. Phillips exhausted a 30-shot magazine from the weapon in slightly over three seconds. Again, note Phillips' protective glasses and ear covering. Left, Niemisto tallies his score on the police practical pistol course. The test involves firing 60 shots at distances ranging from 10 feet to 25 yards. At closer ranges from the target, the weapon is drawn and discharged from the hip. As the course progresses, officers are required to shoot from prone, kneeling and barricaded positions. Officers also are restricted by time, necessitating speedy reloading of their weapons. All Hills police are required to qualify in weapon proficiency several times yearly. Niemisto, a member of the police combat team, inspects a nearly perfect target, hoping to return from a Windsor combat match this week with more trophies for the already burgeoning display at police headquarters.



Path meanders around I-275

FREE WHEELING

with ron garbinski

There's a new ride in town. It stretches for almost four miles through Farmington Hills and meanders alongside the new I-275 expressway in Oakland and Wayne County.

The State Highway Department has constructed an asphalt bike path that follows the expressway on the west side right-of-way allowing local free-wheelers to get out and enjoy a few hours of easy pedaling.

Those who travel the new bike path will experience level riding for the most part with several inclines at and around the overpasses.

The path itself can accommodate two riders abreast with plenty of wide open spaces for bicyclists to stop along the way and rest or just watch construction now going on.

Access points to the path in Farmington Hills are at the Nine Mile overpass and eventually Eight Mile interchange in both at the Meadowsbrook Road bridge.

Highway officials say the bike path will eventually follow I-275 throughout Oakland and Wayne Counties but the only section of the trail now open is in Farmington Hills.

When the expressway opens, both bikers and drivers will share the highway system. Bikers will be able to travel the route at all hours and are free to enter and exit whenever and wherever they please.



Carol Wolfman enjoys the new bike path alongside I-275 in Farmington Hills.

Farmington Enterprisers

JOSEPH V. TUMA OF FARMINGTON HILLS was recently appointed to the Michigan Manpower Services Council by Governor William G. Milliken. Tuma was designated vice-chairperson of the council which coordinates programs for job training and employment opportunities for the economically disadvantaged, unemployed and underemployed Michigan residents. The council is made up of representatives of labor, industry, government, community organizations and other volunteers. Tuma is coordinator of manpower leadership education projects at the University of Michigan.

Moravec, majoring in preprofessional veterinary medicine, graduated from Harrison High in 1973. Miss Lilly is a 1975 graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills.

MICHAEL J. KENDALL, 1931 Gloucester Circle in Farmington Hills has been accepted for admission to Wharton College as a freshman for the 1976-77 year. He is the son of the Walter B. Kendalls.

SOUTH FARMINGTON BASEBALL recently announced the winners in a league contest.

Those who took home cash prizes were: Jim Boswell Jr. of Osoyo, Jack Mueller, Detroit; Susan Bennett, Farmington; and Jen Stevens, Farmington Hills. Those who received gifts donated by area merchants were: Sue Hesano, Farmington Hills; Joe Jostler, Farmington Hills; John Feil, Port Huron; D. Senacito, Farmington Hills; Joseph Senacito, Farmington Hills; Robert A. Rankin, Northville; James Weller, Farmington Hills; J. Lewandowski, Farmington; D. Bonas, Farmington Hills; Bruce Miner, Farmington; and Helen Gagniak, Southfield.

Other prize winners were: John E. Henneb, Farmington; Mary Simon, Farmington; G. Melien, Troy; Martha Sarek, Farmington; B. Funkhouser, Farmington Hills; E. Clark, Commerce Twp.; L. Malatesta, Northville; R. Roberts, Farmington; S. Blakeley, Farmington Hills; and Rob Snow, Detroit.

STEVE CORLINS of Farmington was among 100 high school sophomores and juniors who attended a student leadership at Van Buren County Youth Camp last month. The leadership was sponsored by University of Michigan Extension Service.

Garden Club

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TWO LOCAL STUDENTS, Steven Moravec of Farmington Hills and Patricia Lilly of Farmington Hills, were admitted to the Michigan State University Honors College summer term. It is open to students who have attained sophomore standing with a high academic average plus commitment to both breadth and depth in undergraduate studies.