Earns ribbon

First Lieutenant Robert T. Browne son of Thomas P. Browne 15700 Providence Drive, was recently awarded a distinctive service ribbon. He is a deputy missile combat crew commander at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo., with the 90th Strategic Missile Wing that earned the award for meritorious service from July 1 1973 to June 30 1975.

Reunion slated

The Hamtramck High School graduating class of January and June 1936 celebrating the bicentennial will have a reunion at the Polish Century Club on Sept. 18. Admission is by reservation only.

For details of the event call Frances Kowal at 885-7418, Al Glonek at 365-6760 or Ray Shemke at 226-3200.

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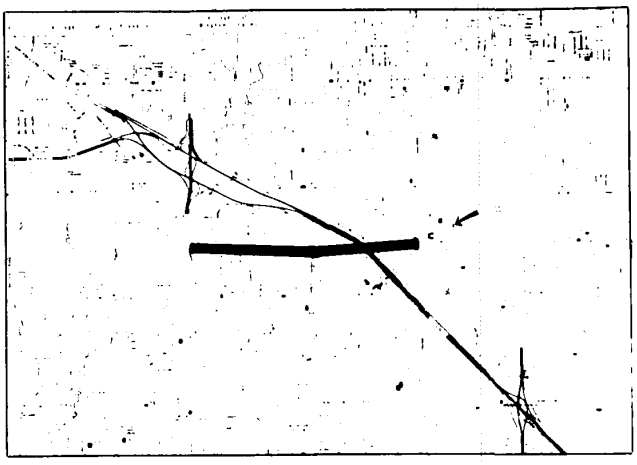

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Couple sues city for $4.3 million for son's injuries

By JACKIE KLEIN

A Southfield couple has filed a $4.3 million lawsuit against their landlord and the city's building department claiming their son was injured because of a defective shower door.

The lawsuit was filed in Oakland County Circuit Court and a jury trial was requested by plaintiffs Thomas and Olivia Faye Coleman 25525 Briarbank C. L. Bush named as a defendant is builder owner and lessor of the home according to the Colemans' Southfield attorney Robert F. Wick.

The couple's son Thomas was injured when his hand crashed through the glass in the shower stall door according to the complaint. He suffered deep cuts from the jagged edges of the glass.

WICK CONTENDED the glass wasn't laminated or glazed as required by a state statute adopted July 1 1973. Southfield City Atty. Sigmund Beras said building construction permits were issued for the home including installations before the law not retroactive was passed.

Beras also maintained the City of Southfield Department of Building and Safety Engineering is an improper party to the litigation and only the city itself a municipal corporation can be sued for damages.

Bush obtained a permit from the Southfield Building Department in August 1971 to construct the Briarbank home the lawsuit states. The final inspection was Feb. 15 1974 and the dwelling was occupied three days later.

The Colemans' son according to the lawsuit tried to get out of the stall after taking a shower May 11 1976 and the shower door jammed at the bottom of the jamb. The upper part of the door opened and the boy's hand slipped from the handle the lawsuit says.

"BECAUSE THE door had jammed and didn't release itself from the door jamb at the bottom the door sprang back rapidly and Thomas's right hand came in contact with the glass portion" Wick said. The glass wasn't laminated or glazed as required by law.

The lawsuit states the boy was permanently injured because of the deep cuts inflicted on his hand when it crashed through the glass in the shower stall door. The accident wouldn't have happened according to the lawsuit if the glass required by statute had been installed.

Bush was under obligation to install laminated or glazed glass in the shower stall door either under the statute or under his duty and responsibility to the lessees Wick said.

Thomas lost about three pints of blood as a result of the injury the lawsuit says. His mother was in the hospital when the accident happened and was informed her son had been seriously cut and injured.

"THOMAS WAS IN surgery more than two hours and it wasn't until six hours later his mother heard of his condition" said Wick. Mrs. Coleman suffered emotional trauma distress and mental anguish as did her husband and other son Joseph.

When Mrs. Coleman arrived home she saw the dried blood broken glass and debris still littered in the bathroom and was subjected to further mental stress.

In issuing a certificate of occupancy for the home the Southfield Department of Building and Safety Engineering violated the statute prohibiting non laminated or non glazed glass in hazardous locations including shower doors the lawsuit stated. Even in the absence of the statute Wick said the department was negligent.

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City seeks addition to bikeway

The City of Southfield has applied for an Michigan federal grant to provide a demonstration bikeway program.

The Federal Highway Administration a division of the U.S. Department of Transportation says it will make available 80 per cent of funds for the Southfield project. The city will provide $50,000 in cash or in matching funds.

The project will supply the connecting east-west link in the city's master bikeway and urban trail plan, said Southfield Administrator Peter Crisciotto.

The bikeway will be along Civic Center Drive from McDonnell Senior Citizen Tower to the Civic Center complex and will demonstrate alternative means of transportation for commuting and recreational use.

The east-west link in the city's master bikeway and urban trail plan is located in 1976 as a 2.2 mile area with concentrations of residential dwellings and community facilities buildings and needs adequate modes of transportation, Crisciotto said.

Chill onions

To prevent tears when cutting or grating an onion keep it in the refrigerator for one or two days before using.

For quick meals

Season ground beef and shape into patties. Freeze the patties and use them as needed. This is one of those tips that really comes in handy.

Read the Southfield Observer & Eccentric

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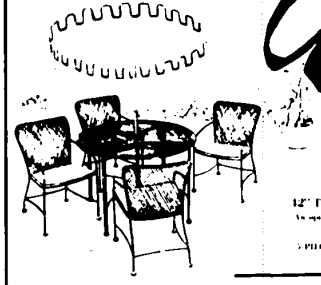

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