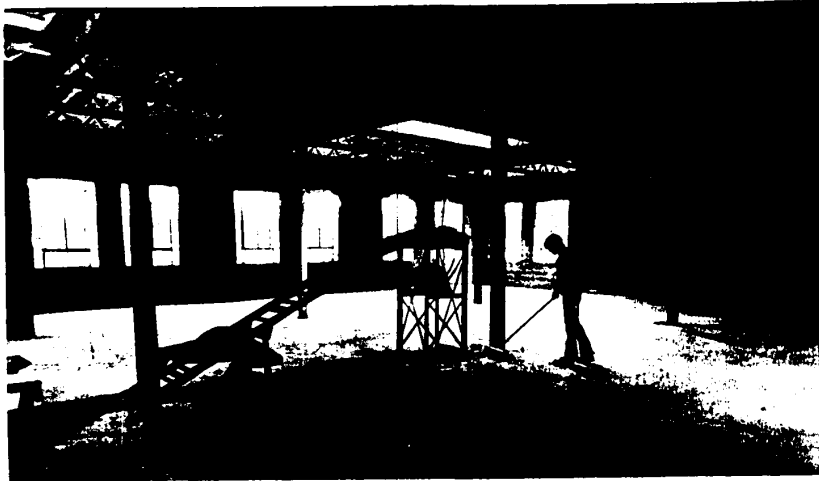




It's like walking into a place forgotten by man and time. Machines wait for their operators in the portion of the building that's closest to Grand River. Cobwebs, crumbling stairways and broken glass are evidence of seven years of neglect.



Sweeping out the second floor of the winery has become a challenge for the entire White family. James White, 18, learns

how to push a mean broom in the winery his father now owns.

CURIOUS?

Here's a look inside the old winery

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Livonia businessman John White is determined to overcome seven years of neglect and a 1961 Farmington City Council to transform the vacant 96-year-old LaSalle winery into a restaurant and office building.

Armed with a building permit and the name of a likely tenant for the restaurant, White plans to make his second bid within a few weeks for preferential treatment in the issuing of the city's only unassigned liquor license.

City officials had told White to secure a building permit before his request would be considered. Three other prospective developers have lost interest in the building during the last seven years, administrators want proof of serious efforts at restoration.

There is one party that is more interested in the building than the others. White said of the three groups that are interested in operating the restaurant. "But the deal hasn't been closed yet."

White's manufacturing representative's firm, Stirling and Whitley, is scheduled to move into the building within a month.

Meanwhile, he has removed 150 bushels of labels, four truckloads of rubbish and weeds and four vanloads of junk from the three-story building.

AFTER REPLACING HALF of the 2,400 square feet of window glass in the building at a cost of \$160 a square foot, White still finds himself plagued by vandals. Over the Labor Day weekend, someone cut holes and stole tools which were stored in the building.

White expects to invest between \$50,000 in the building. The cleanup has cost him \$11,000.

The building was closed for about seven years, he said. "Although there were others interested in it, no one else had tried to clean it up."

White is stymied by a patchwork of wine labels pasted to the floor of the building's offices. "We've tried to scrape them off. We poured water on them, hoping that

would make it easier to remove the labels," he said. "We want to scrape them off before we put a new floor over the old one."

The wood-paneled offices were damaged when the building's drains couldn't handle the runoff during a rainstorm.

"We had a lake on the roof," White said. "Most of the paneling is still good," he said. "We're going to keep as much of it as we can."

The winery's storeroom still houses records from 1959, the year the LaSalle left the building. An opened wood-paneled safe yielded old receipts. The safe remains open because its combination has been lost.

In the wine tasting room, a planter which had been mounted on the ceiling dangled halfway to the floor.

The faucets have been taken from the room's yellowed sink.

Downstairs, where diners may someday enjoy their meals inside the glass-lined vats, workers step over puddles of wine.

The interiors of the 86 vats are now nearly inaccessible. The only openings on the first floor are three feet high and three feet wide. White hopes to preserve the openings and the winery's wooden machinery as historical curiosities.

THE VATS AVERAGE 10 to six feet in diameter. Most of them extend to the second floor.

The hydraulic elevator will also be restored, White said. "Edison has asked us not to run it because they feel it might not be safe. But we had it running before they came out, and it runs perfectly," White said.

The steel machinery will be sold. Two wineries and a vinegar manufacturer have expressed interest in it. In one room, bottling machinery is still hooked up to electricity. An undetermined quantity of wine is still in the machine's tank.

"I haven't turned it on," White said. "I'm afraid I'll get wine sprayed all over the room. This place is dirty enough."

Staff photos
by
Harry Mauthe



Checking out records left behind by the LaSalle Winery has become part of John White's daily routine. The company left its receipts and records when it moved from its building on Grand River.



Fixing windows is one job that Jeff White, 18, thought he wouldn't have to learn. The windows in the winery are being replaced with a

sturdier substance to fight the vandalism that has taken its toll.

Cops await

(Continued from Page 1A)

form the language of the contract," Majorson said. "The judge granted an oral motion to dismiss the case. That brought us back to where we were before. There's a misunderstanding in the contract."

Majorson believes that the contract's wording was the result of a mutual misunderstanding between the city and the patrolmen.

"There's no mutual mistake," McKenzie said.

Hills officials will allow the union to make the next move after the court decision.

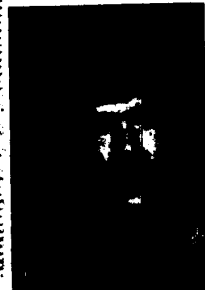
"If we can't get reform through the courts, we'll enter into binding arbitration," Majorson said.

"Arbitration can't fail."

"We tried to arbitrate before and the city didn't want to arbitrate," McKenzie said. "I'm bewildered by this."

"They were afraid they'd lose," he said.

Michael D. Boutell, son of Farmington Hills resident Margaret E. Boutell, has been promoted to legal officer in Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit's legal department. He holds degrees from Western Michigan University and the Detroit College of Law, and joined the bank in 1972.



Autumn overview: the sweatercoat from PETER G. Thick, natural wool knit into a soft surrounding. Hooded and toggled into a coldweather cover for the great in and outdoors.

In oatmeal wool, with patch pockets. Sizes S-M-L. \$80. Contemporary Collections, at Hudson's Northland and Oakland stores.