

Hills man digs up car and brother's fraud attempt

A Troy couple has been bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court on charges of fraud, which resulted when the car they reported stolen was found covered in plastic and styrofoam buried on land in northern Michigan.

The couple, Richard H. 33, and Carol J. Skeen, 33, 5103 Bayview, faced their preliminary examination Monday before Blainfield District Judge Carl F. Ingraham.

Their arraignment was set for Nov. 4 before Judge Farrell Roberts. The Skeens are free on \$5,000 bond each.

They were arrested Sept. 27, almost one month after Mrs. Skeen's brother-in-law John Peake of Farmington Hills, called the Presque Isle County Sheriff's department and told them the car was buried on his property.

The car, a 1975 lime-green Buick, was reported stolen on April 19. The Skeens received the insurance payment of \$9,500 for the car within a month after it was reported missing.

The couple's attorney, Donald A. Brown, said Tuesday he would seek to dismiss charges against Mrs. Skeen.

I agree that insofar as Richard Skeen is concerned they made out a question of fact," said Brown.

However, regarding Mrs. Skeen, he said, they failed to prove her participation in the case. "Only that the insurance company issued a check in the name of Carol and Richard Skeen."

Peake also testified that on July 4 he had another conversation with Mrs. Skeen, during which time she told him not to talk about the car in front of the couple's three children.

Testimony was also given by a Presque Isle County excavator, Jay Free, who was contracted by Skeen in early June to grade the driveway on the property and dig three garbage trenches.

He testified that he filled two of the three trenches with old cars. The trenches were approximately eight feet wide, 20 to 30 feet long and six or seven feet deep. He said he put nothing in the third trench.

The excavator also testified that he saw a quantity of styrofoam stored and other articles stored in a shed on the property.

Peake testified that he noticed the car was missing from the barn on Aug. 27. He said that on the same day he disturbed the dirt in one of the trenches, saw some plastic and under it the Buick.

He returned to his Farmington Hills home, he said, and two days later called the Presque Isle County Sheriff's department and told them what he had found.

The deputies investigated and found the car, which was, according to the testimony of Deputy Terry Flewelling, wrapped in plastic, styrofoam and tin.



Microwave Cookery

Vincent McCallum (right) explains some of the fine points to a student in his classes on microwave cookery in Farmington Community Center, which continues Oct. 28. The course covers areas of the modern cookery innovation ranging from preparation of the simplest dishes to gourmet specialties. Registrations for the course are being accepted now in the center.

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Swine flu shots set in Farmington

Senior citizens and persons 18 years or older with chronic health problems will have a chance this week to obtain their swine flu immunization at Oakland County Health Division sponsored clinics.

On Monday, persons can go to the American Legion Post at 3175 Grand River, Farmington, between 1-3 p.m. On Tuesday persons can receive their shots at Marian Oakland West home at 29250 Ten Mile.

Farmington Hills Shots will be given between 10 a.m. and noon.

"For older people and those with chronic heart and respiratory conditions, influenza has the potential for being a very serious illness," says Dr. Robert Lacey, director of the division.

"Swine flu isn't the flu virus which has affected us in the recent past and almost no one has any protection against it."

Brodhead attacks GOP

(Continued from page 1A)

be pardon Nixon and then he did. He said he would never run for president and, unfortunately, he did. Nixon set a high standard of dishonesty. Ford seems honest by comparison.

Brodhead alluded to "difficult times in the senate race," referring to "distortions, misquoting and dredging up from the past" personal allegations about Don Ruple.

Finally, he touched on his own campaign and termed his opponent, attorney James Burdick, "a big campaign spender." Brodhead expressed confidence in the voters' ability to "cut through the rhetoric, media blitz and signs in vacant lots" tooting his Republican challenger.

"I WANT THIS community to be a better place and I don't believe in lacking signs on trees and telephone poles," he asserted. "I do believe in good candidates and good issues and we have those in spite of the opposition's efforts to distract people from the real issues."

Getting back to Ford, Brodhead charged him with cutting good programs across the board with a "moral axe." These included aid to Israel, law enforcement and selective budget cutting, the congressman maintained.

The Democratic Congress voted for \$8 billion less in spending than the president

recommended." Brodhead claimed "Obviously he has no concern about jobs, housing programs or the American people."

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