

CHRISTMAS IS...

Santa, Kids, Gifts, Parties



AN EARLY GIFT -- Denise and Darline Moody unpack and assemble their doll house immediately following gift-giving from Santa during the Farmington Jaycees children's Christmas party held in Gill School on Dec. 20.

(Evert photo)



A GIFT FOR PAUL -- Paul Porter receives a gift from Santa at the Farmington Jaycees children's Christmas party Dec. 20 in Gill School.

(Evert photo)



CLOWNING WITH DARCY -- Little Darcy Lynn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harris of Farmington, enjoys a chat with the clown who was one of the attractions at the Farmington Elks Christmas Party on Dec. 16.

Masons Elect Cermak Master

FARMINGTON

The Masonic Lodge in Farmington elected a new slate of officers who were honored recently at an installation banquet.

The new worshipful master of Farmington Lodge 151 F. & A.M. is Dale Cermak, the 83d worshipful master in the lodge's long history which dates back to 1883. He succeeds Henry Prentice.

During 1970, Curtis Cobb will serve as senior warden and Joe Fowlkes as junior warden. Officers include: Dexter Van Wicklin, treasurer; Howard Legg, secretary; and Barry Calhoon, chaplain.

Elected to other positions were: William Avery, senior deacon; Burton Lake, junior deacon; Wayne Turton, junior steward; Richard Owens, senior steward; Ray Smith and Fred Wright, associate stewards; James Champagne, marshal; George Dorset, historian; and Lake, editor.

New trustees are Champagne, Edward Hammond and Prentice. Members of the Temple Board are: George Dorset; Manning Seder; James Williamson; Richard Steele; Avery; Prentice; Jack Curry and Paul Miller.



MASON'S PARTY -- The Farmington Masonic Lodge held its annual children's Christmas party Dec. 20, one among the youngsters visiting Santa was Joanie Maier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Maier.

(Evert photo)

Death Interrupts Airman Plath's Holiday Leave

Less than six months ago a tall, gangling, personable, energetic, new graduate of Michigan State University joined the staff of the Observer Newspapers as a summer intern with the Livonia editorial staff.

Monday, the body of 2nd Lt. Michael Plath, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Plath, 2030 Olympia, Redford Township, was flown back from Springfield, Mo. in an Air Force plane.

Mike died shortly after 1 p.m. Sunday from massive head injuries in a head-on collision five miles west of Marshfield, Mo. on Route 66.

Mrs. Elizabeth Plath, 22, his wife of less than four months, was at the wheel when the car hit an icy spot, skidded and spun in front of an oncoming car in the westbound lane, according to Missouri State Police reports. The accident happened at 9:30 a.m.

MIKE APPARENTLY shattered the windshield, and his wife was pinned behind the steering wheel.

The second car, driven by Joseph Bertollio, 43, of Bethes-

da, Md., contained his wife, Cecilia, 37; sons, Joseph, 15 and Chris, 8; and daughter, Kathleen, 12.

Ambulances rushed all seven to Lester Cox Clinic Hospital in Springfield, some 20 miles away, where Mike died.

Mrs. Plath is in serious condition, according to hospital reports, with a broken jaw, pelvic injuries and a fractured right leg.

Mrs. Bertollio is in serious condition with severe head injuries, and her daughter is listed as critical with massive head injuries.

Bertollio and the two sons were released from the hospital with minor abrasions and facial cuts.

IN THE SHORT time of six months, Mike had lived a lifetime, as events turned out. He received his degree from Michigan State in June and then joined the Observer editorial staff.

He married Elizabeth Parr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Parr, 1545 Fox, Redford Township in September. Parr is superintendent of Gibraltar Public Schools.

He received his commission in the Air Force, where he hoped to become a pilot, in mid-October and he and his bride shipped to Big Springs, Texas for additional training.

Mike had completed the first phase of that training and purchased a new car Saturday. He and his wife started home for the Christmas holidays Saturday afternoon in the new car—but the trip ended in tragedy just 20 miles from Springfield, Mo. on US 66. A lifetime of hope ended with it—a lifetime that lasted only six months.

MIKE WAS the only child of the Plaths. He was born Oct. 20, 1947.

He attended Stackey Elementary School, Pearson Junior High and graduated from Redford Union High in 1965.

As a college student, the strapping 6-4 Plath worked for the Garden City Post Office and Burton Hollow Swim Club in Livonia as a lifeguard.

He earned his bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Michigan State University last June and was commissioned a



2ND LT. MICHAEL PLATH In Wedding Portrait

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Merry Christmas

It's the season for walks in the snow... for fires burning brightly on the hearth... for wishing friends the very best! Lindy Berry and all the staff at:

BERRY'S HOME SUPPLY and WAREHOUSE OUTLET

27414 JOY ROAD at INKSTER