

# Farmington Observer

Volume 91 Number 64

Monday, May 26, 1980

Farmington, Michigan

36 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

© 1980 Scharba Communication Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## 10 exposed to excessive radiation levels

By MARY GNIEWEK

Forty-three employees at two Farmington Hills industrial firms were exposed to radiation — 10 to excessive levels — in a 30-month period, according to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) investigators and an NRC medical consultant who met with the workers Thursday.

The NRC report completes a five-month investigation of American X-Ray and Inspection Inc. which had its license suspended in February for doing industrial radiography work in

the Farmington Industrial Center without taking precautions to control radiation exposure to the public.

The NRC report will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Justice which may proceed with a criminal investigation against the now defunct Farmington Hills firm owned by Andrew Strzyk.

The 10 workers received an estimated 3.1 millirems (REMS) of radiation an hour which is acceptable for workers in the nuclear industry but in excess of the 2 REMS an hour limit set by the NRC for public exposure.

All 10 were employed at McDonald Enterprises, 24004 Haggerty, which shared a common wall with American X-Ray. The radiography work was done between February 1977 and July 1979 in a garage adjoining the x-ray firm's business office.

"THE LEVEL WASN'T at the point where you'd expect to see medical effects," said Jan Strasma, an NRC spokesman from Chicago who met with reporters in a Friday press conference in Farmington Hills.

Strasma ruled out any serious threat

to the health of employees last April, but refused to comment further until meeting with the workers.

Dr. Eugene Saenger of the University of Cincinnati, an NRC medical consultant, answered questions Thursday raised by the 43 employees who worked at McDonald Enterprises and MEG, Inc., the other company which shared a common wall with American X-Ray.

Exposure estimates were based on company records, customer records, interviews with former American X-Ray employees and simulated tests.

"The estimates were based on the

worst possible case," Strasma said. "We assumed they all worked on the machine closest to American X-Ray."

"At maximum, radiation exposure was small compared to what a person would receive in a lifetime."

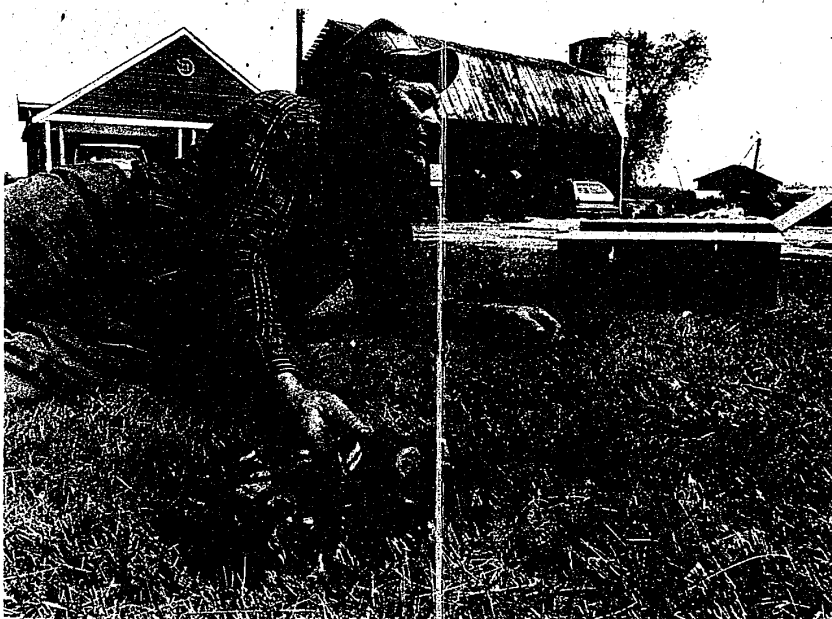
American X-Ray personnel weren't overexposed, according to the NRC, which checked film badges worn by workers to detect radiation levels.

Gorsira X-Ray Inc. issued a cease and desist order last February while operating at the same address as American X-Ray, received a license to operate May 16.

Though Gorsira had no association with the charges against American X-Ray, the latter transferred its license to Gorsira in February contrary to NRC regulations.

Gorsira is licensed to do industrial radiography work at construction sites. It involves making x-rays of heavy metal objects to detect flaws and test adequacy levels.

The probe against American X-Ray was initiated on a tip from a former employee.



Eleven orphan ducklings, whose mother was killed by a hit-and-run driver, have found a home on the Canton farm of Duane Bordine. (Staff photo by Gary Caskey.)

## Mom-less ducks adopt new home

By DARLENE STINSON

They were only a week old when their mother was killed by a hit-and-run driver Sunday.

Without mom, the 11 babies would probably have died, too.

But the mallard ducklings, which were waddling behind their mother across a major Farmington Hills thoroughfare, got lucky.

Brian Sanders, 24, of Canton slammed on his brakes when the responsible driver kept going down Grand River near Drake Road. Sanders scooped up mother and her young and placed them in his car.

A short time later, the mother died.

Eleven noisy orphans did not daunt Sanders and his wife, Kathy, in their efforts to find a home for ducklings. They spent the next 2½ hours calling veterinary clinics, Humane Society branches and other animal facilities.

THEIR QUEST came to an end on the Canton farm of Duane Bordine. The farmer was mowing grass near his home at Ford and Ridge roads, when Sanders decided to stop and ask his advice.

To the couple's surprise, Bordine quickly offered a home for the orphans on the 175 acres he fills in western Canton.

Since taking in the ducklings, Bordine has interrupted his work schedule and sleep to feed them oatmeal and water every five hours.

He plans to build a pond near his produce operation for the ducklings' splashing and swimming enjoyment. Kids can watch the ducks, while their parents pick strawberries and beans.

The area must be fenced to pre-

vent attacks from cats and racoons, Bordine said.

"I don't know why I'm going to do it. I have so damn much to do," said the farmer, who used to raise ducks and geese.

"But I enjoy doing it. I'm human enough to take in ducklings with no mother."

The ducklings are not the first creatures adopted by Bordine.

Last year, it was a baby racoon cornered by a rooster.

"This spring, he just meandered off," said Bordine. "When the ducklings get big enough and they want to fly, I won't detain them. They'd probably come back anyway."

WITHOUT BORDINE'S offer, Sanders said he would have kept the ducklings in his Fellow Creek apartment until Wednesday, when they could be admitted to Kensington Metro Park facilities.

An attendant there told Sanders how to feed and care for the ducklings until then.

Sanders expressed dismay over the absence of keepers at area animal shelters. He called several of them following the 5:30 p.m. accident in Farmington.

"It's such a shame that these places set up as animal shelters aren't available all the time."

Sanders' 3-year-old daughter, Aimee, may be the only one upset over the Bordine living arrangement.

"The ducks kept chirping and chirping in the back seat," said Sanders. "She kept telling them not to fight."

The ducklings may have caused a few growling stomachs Sunday.

The Sanders were headed out for dinner when the fatal accident occurred.

## Residents urged to participate

### Rouge clean-up slated for June

Farmington area residents are being asked to participate in a weekend Rouge River Cleanup campaign June 14 and 15.

Residents whose property the winding river intersects are asked to pick up and package the debris at roadside, where Department of Public Service trucks will pick it up.

The Farmington Jaycees have volunteered to clean the river in the Farmington city park from Shawwassee to Power Road.

"It's important to clean the river so that it doesn't flood," said Earl Billing, Farmington DPS director.

The cleanup is sponsored by the Rouge River Watershed Council, of which both Farmington and Farmington Hills are member cities.

The council is a voluntary group committed to clean water resources.

"The council feels the cleanup will aid in enhancing the river's own cleansing process by allowing water to flow freely through the stream bed," said Marcie Colling, a spokeswoman for the Watershed Council.

"It will help to prevent flooding and will demonstrate the usefulness of the river as a recreational and wildlife resource."

"A local community cleanup will also help to increase the local residents' awareness of the value of the river."

The council hopes to establish a cleanup as a yearly effort and wants this year's efforts — regardless of size — to be successful.

ROUGE RIVER Watershed Council members include Allen Park, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, Canton Township, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Franklin, Livonia, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth, Plymouth Township,

Southfield, Wayne and West Bloomfield Township in addition to Farmington.

Those interested in participating in the cleanup project can call the council office at 522-4340 for more information.

## Primary results match state tally

By MARY GNIEWEK

The Republican-dominated cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills reflected Michigan in last week's state Presidential Primary.

While George Bush swept Michigan with 57 percent of the vote to Ronald Reagan's 32 percent, Farmington voters gave the Republican underdog Bush 973 votes to Reagan's 364.

Twenty percent of Farmington's 7,395 registered voters casted ballots Tuesday.

In Farmington, 7,011 ballots were processed out of 33,725 registered voters in that city. Bush captured 3,646 votes to Reagan's 2,161.

"We're certainly very pleased with the results," said Shirley Stadler, the Farmington Hills resident who chairs the Bush campaign for the 17th Congressional District which includes northwest Detroit, Redford, Southfield and Farmington.

She attributes Bush's success to an organized campaign, Governor William Milliken's support, and the independent crossover vote.

Stadler predicts the 17th District's three delegates to the Republican National Convention in July will be two for Bush and one for Reagan.

largest number of votes: 476 in Farmington Hills and 71 in Farmington. Harold Stassen got 17 votes.

OBSCURE REPUBLICAN presidential candidate Ben Fernandez, a California millionaire, tallied the least votes: a total of five in both cities.

On the Democratic ballot, California Governor Edmund G. Brown garnered 87 votes in both cities and former U.S. Labor Party candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. secured 34 votes.

In Farmington, 26 voters were uncommitted on the Democratic slate and 13 on the Republican. Some 223 voters were uncommitted on the Democratic ballot in Farmington Hills and 134 on the Republican.

Farmington Hills has 16 Bush, three Reagan and five uncommitted delegates going to the district convention at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills on Wednesday, May 28. Farmington will send three Bush, one Reagan and one uncommitted delegate.

A total of 17 delegates will be selected at the district gathering to attend the state convention at the Pontiac Silverdome Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7, where three delegates will be selected for the National Convention in Detroit.

In Michigan, Bush has 53 delegates. Reagan has 29.

## Suspect arraigned in sex crime case

A West Bloomfield man charged with the kidnapping and sexual assault of a Bloomfield Hills teenager in Birmingham was arraigned in Farmington 47th District Court Thursday on eight counts related to armed robbery and criminal sexual conduct.

Keith Ernest Hallberg, 51, stood mute before Judge Margaret Schaefer, who set bond at \$200,000.

That is in addition to a \$500,000 bond set last Monday by Birmingham District Judge Carl Ingraham.

Hallberg is charged with the armed robbery of two women in the Kmart parking lot on Orchard Lake Road, south of 14 Mile in Farmington Hills May 16.

He is also charged with sexually assaulting the women and firing four counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

If convicted, Hallberg could be sen-

tenced to a minimum of eight years in prison and a maximum life term.

Detective James Worthington said Hallberg was identified in a police lineup last Wednesday after being turned over to Farmington Hills police from Birmingham authorities.

Hallberg is currently being held in the Oakland County Jail.

Ingraham ordered Hallberg to undergo psychiatric examination at the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti to determine if he is competent to stand trial on 16 charges stemming from the alleged kidnapping/assault incident which occurred in Birmingham May 17, the day after the Kmart incident.

A preliminary examination is scheduled Friday, May 30, in Farmington District Court. One court officer said it probably would be put off until completion of the psychiatric examination ordered by Ingraham.

## what's inside

Community Calendar . . . 5B  
Editorials . . . . . 7B  
Inside Angles . . . . . 8A  
Obituaries . . . . . 2A  
Sports . . . . . Section D  
Suburban Life . . . . . Section B  
Shopping Cart . . . . . Section C

### THANKING BUSINESS

Farmington and Farmington Hills businesses recently were lauded for their efforts in hiring the handicapped. To see what it's all about, turn to Page 2A.