



David Maben begins his day by sorting the mail for his route.

RT: 2405
START: 6:30
BREAK: 8:00
LEAVE: 8:31
RETURN: 2:33
END: 3:00



Postal clerk Irene Arnason waits as Maben signs for the certified and registered mail that he will carry on his route.

Experience Carrier's best friend

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Each morning as the first commuters of the day turn on their headlights and fight their way to the freeway, David Maben is already at his job in the Farmington Hills post office sorting the mail he'll deliver on his route.

Maben, 28, is one of the 65 mail carriers serving Farmington and Farmington Hills. During the course of a day, he'll visit about 365 homes and businesses which are along his route near the Downtown Farmington Center on Farmington Road south of Grand River.

But a mail carrier's day involves more than handing out letters, smiling at the customers and strolling down the block.

They get a chance to do some fancy side-stepping around dogs with a mid-morning snack on their minds, not to mention trudging across sidewalks covered with an urban version of permafrost.

Before they get a chance to face the elements, carriers such as Maben report to work at 6:30 a.m. to sort out their mail so the neat stacks in their

pouches correlate with the homes and offices they will pass later in the day.

Depending upon the time of year and the weather, it will take Maben about two hours to set up his route while standing in a wooden cubicle lined with pigeon-holes, magazines and assorted letters.

AS VARIOUS CARRIERS leave for the routes or check in to start their own sorting, Maben files the letters and magazines in the appropriate nooks before finally bundling them up according to addresses and streets and placing them in trays.

In one corner of his cubicle is a narrow little pigeon hole for letters which aren't deliverable. Early on Thursday morning, the little space is almost filled with other persons' mistakes.

Once the mail is sorted, Maben heads for his small truck and drives to his route. Some of the mail is placed in drop-off boxes so the carrier doesn't need to take all the mail with him throughout the route.

Maben's confirmed walking route (Continued on Page 4A)



Freezing cold and deep snow can make for a long day.



Parcel post packages are picked up before loading the truck.

INSIDE ANGLES

BY LOUISE OKRUTSKY

MOVIES, MOVIES AND more movies are on the agenda for Farmington-Farmington Hills as OCC's Orchard Ridge campus schedules enough winter showings to keep a portion of area fans happily in the dark.

The list includes the following movies shown at 7 p.m., Thursdays in J-294 of Tirrel Hall. Admission is 75 cents for students with a current ID card and \$1 for the general public.

On Jan. 22, "Silent Movie" features Mel Brooks as Mel Funn, a reformed alcoholic movie director on the silent comeback trail.

Jan. 29 will bring "Magic" based on William Goldman's best-seller about a ventriloquist and his dummy.

On Feb. 5, "The Wanderers" roam the streets of the Bronx in this movie which portrays a gang's life in 1963.

"Harold and Maude," the movie showed what happens when a boy falls in love with a much older woman, will be shown Feb. 12. Ruth Gordon plays Maude who meets young Harold while attending a funeral.

OCC'S WOMENCENTER wants to put you into one of their T-shirts. The shirts, priced at \$6 are available with the following slogans: "Every Mother is a Working Mother," "ERA . . . It's About Time," "Men of Quality Are Not Threatened by Women for Equality" and finally, IA's own favorite, "Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society" (Those knitting needles can be brutal!). The shirts are available at the Womencenter, 27055 Orchard Lake Road on the OCC campus.

INTERESTED IN Individual Development? The Farmington Area Jaycees and Jayceettes sponsor an Individual Development Leadership Training Program from 1-5 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Farmington YMCA, Farmington Road north of 12 Mile. The public is invited to the series of free seminars and workshops dealing in personal growth the Jaycee way.

THE FARMINGTON HILLS Parks and Recreation Department and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan sponsor a cross country ski race at 11 a.m. Feb. 1 at the Glen Oaks Golf Course, Farmington Hills. The race is one of six to be conducted during January and February to promote physical fitness in the winter months. Entry forms are available at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, 31555 11 Mile near Orchard Lake Road. Registration fee is \$3 for entries postmarked by Jan. 28. There is a \$4 fee for late registrations.

THE AMERICAN RED Cross warns that there is a shortage in the community's blood

supply. The cold weather, snow, high unemployment and delayed starts in production are cited as contributing factors to the situation. The most acute shortage involves type O blood. Collections, which once averaged about 900 units of blood a day, have been down to less than 650 units a day, according to the Red Cross. If you want to donate blood, call 833-4440 for information on where you can go to help.

AT THE Gathering Place in Mercy Center (gate 4), Ann Fogle, a student at Madonna College will teach a lip reading class at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and a sign language class at 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays. Both classes begin Jan. 20 in the Gathering Place, 11 Mile near Middlebelt. Classes are available to persons with hearing loss and to those who have good hearing but wish to acquire these skills. A certificate of achievement will be awarded at the end of the classes. For further information call Loretta Conway at 474-6115.

THE YWCA Women's Employment Center sponsors a job seekers seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 5 in the YWCA of Western Wayne County, 26279 Michigan Avenue in Inkster. To register, send \$5 by Feb. 2 to the Y. Bring your own lunch; beverage will be provided. For further information call the Y at 561-4110.

INSIDE ANGLES, that jaunty geometric figure is taking off to sharpen its skating skills upon the frozen reaches of Sausage Lake, the place to skate among the geometric crowd. IA plans on spending its hiatus brushing up on its figure 7s. (Yes, IA is aware non-geometrics prefer the figure 8, but 7s are just so, so angular.) Before IA takes off, it wants to take note of another departure — IA's human buddy Ly Louie Okrutsky has been transferred to another paper in the Observer & Eccentric chain. As a farewell gift, IA has agreed to send out all sorts of salutes to any number of persons which Ms. O. chooses. (Yes, IA knows it's too, too generous.) So here are some salutes to a few persons IA might have missed in the past few years: To Nancy Leonard, Farmington City Hall watcher, library patron and woman about town: XXXXXXXXXXXX (think of it as cross stitching). Here's an extra XXXX for Nancy's pals in the back row at Farmington City Council meetings. A chorus of "Solidarity Forever" to Aldo Vagnozzi, Farmington Hills City Council watcher. A special salute to Observer reporter Mary Glniewek: mapletalemapletalemapletalemapletale. A collective salute to: Loretta Conway, George and Adele Pomin, the employees at the dry cleaners next to the Observer office, Fred and Georgette Tam and the twins and most of all to everyone who's ever enjoyed an IA salute:



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