

Couple recounts Toronto ordeal

By TERI BANAS

For almost two hours on Saturday, Jim and Nancy Seavitt listened to the screams from nearby rooms and waited.

As smoke filled their Toronto hotel room, only a forced optimism kept thoughts of the recent tragedy at the MGM Hotel in Las Vegas at bay. Neither of the Seavitts was sure if help would come or if they would face a fiery blast.

Two days later, Seavitt, a sales manager for Hines Park Lincoln Mercury in Plymouth Township, was back on the job, as was his wife, an agent for Elkin Travel in Oak Park.

The souvenirs they brought back were memories of spending one hour and 45 minutes on the 22nd floor of the Inn on the Park, a hotel on the outskirts of Toronto where fire claimed the lives of six people last weekend.

On the top floor of the hotel, the Seavitts were 20 floors above the fire

Solar energy alternatives workshop at Wayne State

The Wayne State University Safe Energy Coalition and Detroit Safe Energy Coalition are sponsoring a workshop on photovoltaic cells and solar electricity.

The two-day session will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31 to Feb. 1 in Wayne State University's Student Center Building, Room 203.

The workshop will be led by Dr. Richard Komp, who has a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Wayne State. He has taught physics and astronomy at Western Kentucky University. He has built a passive solar heated house, has eight registered patents and has researched solar energy and photovoltaic cells for many years.

Komp calls the sessions "a hands-on workshop for constructing solar cell arrays." It will cover the subject of photovoltaic cells and how to make them. Participants will build some of the photovoltaic cell arrays used to supply electric power.

DR. KOMP believes that solar electricity does not have to be expensive and that any reasonably competent hobbyist can build cheap solar cells systems to power, forever, home appliances such as stereos, TVs, even toothbrushes.

"By purchasing cells that do not meet rigid industry specifications at a substantial cost reduction, one can pick, choose, match and ultimately create highly functional arrays," he said.

A fee of \$35 will cover the workshop and all materials.

Free potluck lunch and drinks will be provided on Saturday, and free coffee, tea and refreshments will be provided to workshop participants Sunday.

The workshop is limited to the first 30 registrants.

Registrations will be taken by calling Jennifer Putney, 356-4402. Inquiries will be taken by calling Safe Energy Coalition, 531-8943.

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Vet goes on shooting spree

By ARLENE FUNKE

A Canton veteran who allegedly fired shots Tuesday because "he thought he was in Vietnam" has been hospitalized for psychiatric evaluation.

The unidentified man, said to be in his 30s, surrendered quietly to police about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, outside his mobile home on Poplar Street in Holiday Estates park, said Police Lt. Dennis Joker. The park is off Geddes, west of Canton Center Road.

Two hours earlier, the man's wife had gone to the Canton police station to report that her husband had fired shots in the house and that "he thought he was in Vietnam." She said her husband had been a prisoner of war in Vietnam, and that he thought someone was trying to hurt him, said Joker.

On the scene at the mobile home park were officers from Canton and Van Buren Township. Police evacuated several nearby homes and told other residents to seek cover, added Joker.

They then asked a neighbor to phone the man and "invite him over for a drink."

"He walked out and (officers) began talking to him on a pretext of looking for an address," said Joker. "He was calm — like a guy taking a walk. He said he would like to go to a hospital."

Canton police are considering pressing charges against the man, who was taken to a branch of Northville State Hospital on Wayne County property off Michigan Avenue and Merriman in Westland.

which started on the second floor, unformed for more than an hour of where the fire was, where it was heading, and when they would be rescued.

"The most horrifying thing about it was never knowing when the fire would reach us," said Seavitt. "There was little we could do. We knew we couldn't jump or get to the roof. And we knew the fire trucks' ladders couldn't reach us."

THE SEAVITT'S trip to Toronto was a last-minute arrangement.

As a travel agent, Mrs. Seavitt often accompanied her tour groups and she was scheduled to go to Florida for the weekend. A last-minute change of plans, however, took her to Toronto, accompanied by her husband who decided to join her also at the last minute.

With them was a group of 44, mostly Ford and General Motors employees from Dearborn, Troy and Warren.

According to news reports, it's not known what started the fire. Those reports also point to accounts of faulty instructions given to guests from hotel telephone operators, inadequate sprinkler systems, and fire alarms that were barely audible or not working.

Recovering from the fire, Seavitt confirmed at least two of those complaints based on his own experience.

At about 2:30 a.m. Saturday he was awakened by a noise that both he and his wife believed was noise emitting from a "stuck elevator."

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