### marketplace

Manufacturers Hanover Mortgage Corp. of Farmington Hills originated more than \$1 billion in total residential mortages in 1983. This is more than double the company's 1982 total of \$435 million.

Gross, Borastein & Co. P.C. and Herbert V. Morrison P.C. have merged to form the public accounting firm of Gross, Broastein, Grey & Co. P.C. in SouthHeld.

John H. Rosen Advertising Inc. of Birmingham has been appointed adver-tising agency for J.W. Korth & Co. Inc. of Farmington Hills. Korth is a whole-saler of securities instruments to inde-pendent securities dealers.

G&D Communications Corp. of Troy has opened an additional facility in Warren for its automotive marketing, creative, photographic, video tape and show coordination services. G&D's headquarters will remain in Troy.

The Reicheld Corp./Lee Alan Productions of Southfield has been appointed advertising agency for Fisher Buick/Subaru in the Troy Motor Mail.

Joyce M. Howe, CPA, and Linda J. Russell, CPA, have opened an office in Farmington Hills. The address is 27950 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 108. The telephone number is 851-9441.

Bloomfield Savings & Loan Associa-tion has voted to change its status from a state-chartered stock association to a federally chartered stock savings and loan association. Energy Conversion Devices of Troy and Nippon Steel Corp. signed a two-year development contract and licea-ing agreement for the development of wear- and corrosion-resistant coatings in the steel industry.

WRB Associates Inc. has moved from Allen Drive to 1030 Chicago Road in Troy. The telephone number is 589-0054.

The Diaper Connection Inc. was formed by Roger and Margo Hempel of Lathrup Village to provide home delivery of disposable diapers and other baby-related products. The company will serve the tricounty area. The company's telephone number is 557-7888.

High school seniors interested in attending Pontiac Business Institute can apply for \$200-per-term scholarships through the Michigan Business Schools Association. Deadline for applications is Wednesday, Feb. 29. For more information, call PBI at \$33-7453.

Credential Check & Personnel Ser-vices of Farmington Hills offers verification of personnel references and qualifications. Its address is 31042 Ap-plewood. The telephone number is 661-

Irvine Associates, a commercial real estate brokerage and consulting company, opened a branch at 29201 Telegraph Road in Southfield. The telephone number is 357-4120.

Earl Keim Realty of Southfield has

joined the newly created Equi-Net real estate broker network.

Executive Benefit Plans Co. of Farmington Hills offers a computer-ized listing allowing businesses to compare up to 15 group health insurance plans and examine the costs and benefits of each program. The company's telephone number is 855-5330.

Betsy Ross Bed & Breakfast Agency of Bloomfied Hills lists a number of bed and breakfast homes in the ski areas of Michigan. It also sells Bed & Breakfast North America, which lists agencies with bed and breakfast accommodations in other winter sport areas of the United States. The telephone number is 647-1158.

Michigan National Corp. of Bloom-field Hills had not income for the year of 1983 of \$15.9 million (\$1.35 per share), as compared with 1982's results of \$4.04 million (\$.30 per share).

Kmart Corp. of Troy will sell AT&T telephones by mid-April in 400 Kmart stores nationwide. In addition, Kmart will sell do-it-yourself wiring and ac-

Uniprop of Birmingham has bought Continental Village, a 175-unit mobile home community in Jacksonville, Fla.

General Systems Corp. of Birming-ham was named the Memorex Author-ized Marketer of the Year Award. The company achieved the highest total dollar and unit volume of any author-ized marketer for 1983.

# Bad timing, not choice

I thought I did everything right. I looked for a slock where sales had gone up a lot, where caraings per share were also up by a very substitutial amount, and where the price was reasonable. The stock I found was Mary Kay Cozmette. When I bought it last year, sales were up from \$54 onlind in 1976 to \$223 million in 1981. Earnings per share were up from 15 cents of 35 cents a share in the same period, and I bought the stock in the spring of 1981 for \$10 a share. Everything went beautifully antil

Everything went beautifully until the spring of 1982. The stock split twice and sold above \$44 a share. And then things seemed to go completely to piec-

es.
It dropped down to \$13 and is now a little below that figure. Can you tell me what I did wrong?

You certainly did not go wrong in the stock you picked. You looked at the right figures, and, while you paid 19 times earnings for the stock, that probably wasn't out of line when you figure the outstanding growth record of the company.

company.

It was a higher price earnings ratio than anyone had pald for the stock in six years and should have made you a little cautious about the price.

IF YOU MADE a mistake, I would say it was in being too greedy. When Mary Kay Cosmelies reached \$44 a share in mid-1983, it was selling at 37 times the previous year's earnings of \$1.19 per share.

today's investor Thomas E. O'Hara of the National Association of Investment Clubs

The stocks in the Dow Jones Industrials were then selling about 10 times carnings. With its record, Mary Kay could be expected to sell at an above average ratio, but 2.7 times is a little much.

much.

I would have been inclined at that
point to let someone else own at least
half of my shares.

There is always a chance prices will
continue up, and the company's growth
will continue, but at 37 times earnings,
a correction is always a fearsome possibility.

BUT SINCE YOU have continued to hold Mary Kay, I would look at what has happened to the company and to figure out what the future holds. The company has faller, apart, and asked of those for 1923, although the firm figures are not likely to be out until February.

At nine months, sales for 1983 were up 14 percent and per share earnings were up 8 percent. That's only a poor record when compared with the company's figures for earlier years.

If that rate of growth can be produced in bad times, then the future of

the company shouldn't be too bad.

the company shouldn't be too bad.

THE PROBLEM THAT has produced Mary Kay's decline in growth rate seems to come from the difficulty in recruiting good sales people.

That is a problem all of the companies in that kind of direct sales filed experience when the country comes out of a precession. When people lose jobs in a recession, a lot of the good ones go into direct sales.

When the recruiting of a direct sales force becomes difficult.

Another company which has been experiencing that problem is the direct sales end of Dart & Kraft. Mary Kay also has some extra high expenses this year.

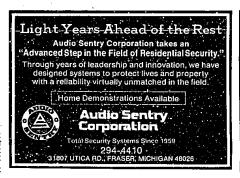
It could well be that this is the time.

year.

It could well be that this is the time to consider buying the company's stock, rather than worrying about its price decline.

Thomas E. O'Hara of Bloomfield Hills is chairman of the board of trustees of the National Association of Investment Clubs and editor of Better Investing magazine.

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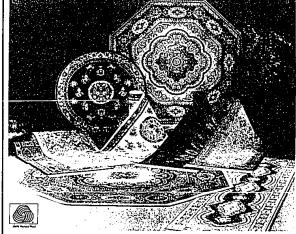
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