

Changing times

Old, new intersect on roadway

Continued from Page 1

Look: wild fruit. Look: past not yet overtaken by future. Ten feet from the road wild grape vines another apple tree, but the tree manages to produce fruit shrunk nearly to cherry size. Grapes hang in thick clusters. Some bushes grow 15 feet high, their fruit a deep red. It's a deer fantasy come true, but the white tails are mostly gone, now.

When the cars stop passing for a moment, cicadas and crickets play their violins and bees hum their kazoo. Summer bleeds its death on a young sugar maple, whose premature red is vivid against the storm-faded green of the other trees and plants.

Near the grape vines, a 12-inch wire sticks out of the ground, waving a little, orange flag; the flag, a sign of the times, says: "Buried TV Cable."

ANOTHER ANACHRONISM lies south of Eleven Mile. It is the Orchard Hills Mobile Home Park. In upwardly mobile communities, mobile home parks generally are not highly regarded. When the road wideners come through, followed by the developers, the mobile home park likely will become another thing of the past.

The place used to be a chicken farm. Where the sign out front now announces a trailer park, a giant fake rooster once stood.

The farmhouse still stands, serving as office for the park. The roof over the front porch is long gone, but its massive, beautifully crafted stone supports stand proudly, more than 100 years after they were mortared together.

Just down the road is a large clearing for the Woodland Pines condominiums.



Jim Fiescher (left) and father Max have converted an old airplane hangar into a thriving bump shop.

lums. One model has been built; behind it are acres of cleared emptiness, a big pile of wood chips all that's left of the pines and hardwoods that grew here.

ORCHARD LAKE goes back to four lanes at Ten Mile. Outside Greene's Hamburgers, a sign welcomes everyone to Farmington. Greene's is surrounded by fast food joints — Wendy's, Big Boys, McDonald's, Pizza Hut.

The Indians used to hunt on their trails. On today's roads, food hunts man. Between Fourteen Mile and Twelve Mile, there are 54 places to eat. Thirty of them are in Tally Hall, but that still leaves 24 spread over two miles, sandwiched, so to speak, between medical centers and office buildings. There are seven restaurants at Ten Mile and two more near Grand River. The food ranges from raw squid to souvlaki to tacos, the service from instant to fast to come on in, sit down, and enjoy yourself.

Unlike most of the others, Greene's has some history to it. It is a classic in American fast food design. Outside, it gleams like white porcelain, inside everything sparkles of tile and stainless steel. Customers sit at the counter or on revolving stools by the windows.

Cops hang out here. Farmington and Farmington Hills buy their prisoners' food here. The burgers and onions are fried, giving the whole intersection a distinctive smell. Nothing has changed since it opened in 1957 except for the prices. Burgers are 50 cents instead of 12.

"I CAME HERE in 1957," said owner Jake Jenkins. James Greene

owned the place, then. Jenkins began working for Greene in 1953 at a burger house at Six and Wyoming, then moved north. "I leased it in 1977 and bought it in 1981 when Mr. Greene died."

Why not change the name. "You don't knock success," said Jenkins. "I do more business now than I ever did. The competition brings business. Mr. Greene was a manager for White Castle in the 30s. The burgers they made then, that's what we make now. Fresh meat, fresh onions."

Like White Castle, he ships burgers to those grown addicted. The most recent order? Six dozen to a former cop with the Oakland County Sheriff's department who lives in Los Angeles.

"We still serve the same people today as the day we opened," said Jenkins.

One of them is Del Kirby, a retired carpenter who put up houses at Nine Mile and Grand River in 1948. "I remember when lots 1,300 feet by 175 feet were going for \$2,500," he said. "You could get an uncleared acre for \$250 and small cleared lots for \$800 each."

Six years ago, a Friendly's ice cream store went up catty-corner to Greene's. The contractor came over to apologize to Jenkins for putting him out of business. "They were open less than a year," laughed Jenkins.

"I'm looking for a manager," he said. "It's getting to be too much. We're open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. I can't sell capital gains would kill me. But I would like to slow down."

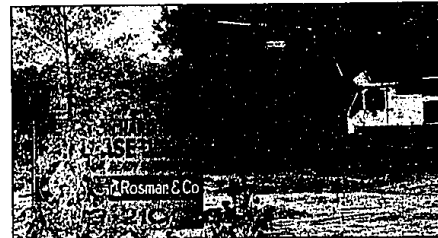
On Orchard Lake Road, not a chance.



staff photos by RANDY BORST

For 28 years, first as a hired hand and then as owner, Jake Jenkins has cranked out fried burgers at Greene's.

Sometimes, when the sun is hot, Max Fiescher goes up on the roof and sunbathes, oblivious to the constant thrum of the traffic.



The observation tower atop LaSalle's was used during World War II to search the skies for German planes.



Construction is behind schedule at 11 and Orchard Lake (above), but the wild grapes nearby are right on time.

Farmington FOCUS

ROBERTO ZULIANI, 43, a Farmington Hills accountant is the state's newest millionaire. He won \$2.539 million in Monday's Michigan Lotto drawing. "I felt that I was really ready to start a roll," Zuliani said. He bought his ticket at the Town and Country Market in Southfield. A partner in an accounting firm, Zuliani doesn't see changing his immediate lifestyle. He will use the money to start college funds for his two children and to invest for his retirement. "It's financial security for my family," Zuliani said. He has already received his first payment of \$120,723. He will receive \$120,900 annually through the year 2004, according to a state lottery official. Zuliani is the 45th person to win \$1 million or more in the lottery.

JENNIFER BURNS of Farmington Hills is among 42 upper elementary, junior and senior high school students from across the United States participating in a two-week "Youth in College Program" at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The program is designed to nurture talent in high ability students through an intensive academic experience. Each student has the opportunity to enroll in a course, investigate environmental issues, live in a college environment and meet other students eager for the same kind of challenge.

WILLIAM H. SMITH of Farmington Hills, new vehicle salesperson for Bill Soehkamp Inc., Highland Park, received an award for individual performance in selling Chrysler-Plymouth vehicles. Smith has reached the Silver level of recognition in Chrysler-Plymouth's Sales Professionals Club.

JOYCE M. BEARD MATTHEWS of Farmington Hills has been appointed director of respiratory therapy at Detroit Receiving Hospital and University Health Center. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Michigan. Before joining Detroit Receiving in 1983, she was instructor and coordinator of the respiratory therapy department at Highland Park Community College. She was also supervisor and educational coordinator of respiratory care at Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital and Medical Center. In 1959 she won the Scientific Research Paper Contest of the American Association for Respiratory Therapy. In 1974, she was inducted into Phi Lambda Theta, the National Honor Society for Educators.

TERRY B. SCHWARTZ has been named chief executive officer of Village Green Management Co., a Farmington Hills based real estate management company. He will oversee the operation of the firm's 13,000 apartment units nationwide. Before joining Village Green, Schwartz lived in Houston where he served as regional vice

president for Johnstown American Co.'s.

HOLLY BARTON of Farmington has been named by the Eastern Michigan University's Office of Financial Aid a recipient of the university's Regents Scholarship Award. This is a \$1,500 award, renewable for four years, and is the most prestigious award offered by the university. Recipients must maintain a 3.5 grade point average at EMU to renew the scholarship.

McMAHON & McDONALD INC., Farmington, has won the Silver Penguin Award for the company's outstanding program to promote frozen foods during March 1985 National Frozen Food Month. The award was the top prize in the "Foodservice Broker or Direct Sales" category for the central region of the United States.

LINDA DeANGELO, Jane Plazow and Carol Wilson of Farmington Hills have been inducted into Eastern Michigan University's Eta Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the national honor society of nursing. Membership in the honor society is by invitation and is extended to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and professional nurses who have demonstrated superior scholastic, leadership and nursing achievements.

ROBERT BOLAK of Farmington Hills was recently inducted into Sigma Iota Epsilon at Central Michigan University. Sigma Iota Epsilon is the university's scholastic business administration and management honorary. Bolak was recognized for outstanding scholastic achievement while enrolled in the CMU business administration curriculum.

WILLIAM F. HIGELMIRE of Farmington Hills has graduated from the University of Colorado.

JAMES PREVOT, son of Dr. Elizabeth Prevot, Courtney Strang, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Strang, and Deborah Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Williams, are local residents who graduated this past June from Kalamazoo College.

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Farmington Focus, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Please include a daytime telephone number.

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