



retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Easy licensing causes worries

I DON'T really approve, but I'm now duly licensed by the state of Florida to operate a motor vehicle until July 1992.

Recently I gained a six-year extension of my driver's license by doing no more than going to the license bureau office, reading a line of letters on the screen and avoiding asking for repetition of rather soft-spoken comments on the part of the examiner.

I didn't even have to identify the shapes of traffic signs or answer questions like what do you do when a school bus stops.

I could have chosen to do absolutely nothing beyond mailing in a form and I'd have had my driving privileges extended for four years.

THIS CHOICE is offered now by the state where Joe and I have retired. It's for "good drivers" which means the ones who haven't been involved in any sort of accident or received any sort of ticket for the past three years.

And while I appreciated being able to renew my license without hassle and with only minimum vision and hearing tests, I'm not all that sure that the likes of me should be automatically permitted on highways and byways for as long as six years into the future.

My eyesight and hearing are just fine now, and I think my reflexes are about as good as ever. I'm at the age when such can change in a big hurry. So are countless others receiving extensions in the same manner.

THE SYSTEM of easier licensing procedures was instituted by the state a few years back because bureau offices are understaffed and

there have been many and loud complaints about long waits to get a license renewed.

Actually, the morning I went in, there was no one ahead of me and I didn't even need the appointment I had made. But I know that's not the case in winter months, and I understand there is a strain on staff because Florida is getting so many new residents who must be licensed.

I also realize ours is not the only state offering easy licenses like mine.

BUT NONE of these factors make the streamlining reasonable in a state that has such a large percentage of older residents. And though in other respects I can't condone age discrimination, I find a lot of sense in the proposal — occasionally put forth and quickly struck down — that drivers past a certain age be retested every year or so.

The absurdity of the easy renewals is illustrated in the case of my friend Tom. He's in his 80's, his eyesight is failing and he hasn't driven for several years. But he renewed his license by mail for identification and because he gets a charge out of displaying to friends his "good driver" designation. No questions were asked in the renewal.

Tom's license is OK because he has the sense not to use it. Mine is OK, and I certainly hope I'll know if the time comes when it isn't. But the system seems much less than OK.

Margaret Miller was Suburban Life editor for Observer Newspapers for 16 years. She and her husband, Joe, have retired to Florida, where she writes Retirement Memos.



Debono-Burt

Pamela Margaret Burt and David Joseph Debono were married in by the Rev. Gene Stone in Redford United Presbyterian Church. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren T. Burt of Farmington Hills and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Debono of Indianapolis, Ind.

The bride and groom are both graduates of Purdue University. She is employed as a chemical engineer by Eli Lilly and Co. in Indianapolis. The groom is entering his sophomore year at Indiana University Medical School.

The couple received guests in Farmington Country Club before leaving on a wedding trip to San Francisco, Cal. They will make their home in Indianapolis.

Lilly-Liesman

Dr. and Mrs. Robert P. Lilly of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Janet Mary, to Francis Xavier Liesman, son of Mrs. William E. Liesman of Farmington Hills and the late William E. Liesman.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School and Michigan State University. She is employed by Harper Hospital of Detroit. Her fiancé is a graduate of University of Michigan and Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He is employed with Citizens Bank of Flint.

An August wedding is planned in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.



Thursday, August 7, 1986 O&E

(F98)

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FARMINGTON HILLS 25200 Shilohwood (At 9 Mile) 478-8110	REDFORD 25205 Grand River (At 7 Mile) 837-3980	TROY 1004 E. Wallis (East of Rochester Rd.) 889-5711



1st in the nation

Colleen Feldpausch, a senior at North Farmington High School, won first place in the Intermediate division of the National Young Artists' Competition, sponsored by American Theatre Organ Society. She accepted the award from Jack Moelmann, president of the organ society in Richmond, Va., where finalists competed for the national awards. Feldpausch became a national finalist in competition sponsored by Motor City Theatre Organ Society this spring. The society will sponsor her in a special concert this fall in Redford Theatre.

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