Eye opener

Affliction brings sufferers together

YOU'VE CERTAINLY driven down the road, sun glaring through the windshield, and felt the need for toothjeks to keep your cyes open. Imagine, then, the shock and fear of Alice Hawk, a Farmingion resident whose eyes shut suddenly several years ago as she was driving on a busy highway. "I panicked," she says. "I still don't know how I got over to the shoulder. It happened five times again before I got home. Then I was coming down the stairs and it happened again."

coming cown the stairs and it happened again."
Hawk has an affliction called essential blepharospan. You may
have heard of it if you listened closely to Sally Field's new movie "Surender." Otherwise it is probably a
new word to you. Don't feel bad. Onit recently, a lot of doctors weren't
familiar with it either.
In medical lingo, "blepharo" is derived from a Greek word meaning
cyclid," spasm," of course, is an involuntary, convusitive contraction of
muscles, "essential" means of unknown cause.

PUT IT ALL together and you have people whose eyes close suddenly and unpredictably for no known reason. As bleak as that definition is, it is a godsend to some of the blefres, which is what the afflicted call themselves.

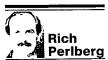
Knowing that you have a disease is a lot better than thinking you are head case. And after a lot of people, including professionals, suggest just that, well.

including protessionals, assessment, assessment, as that, well.
"You start to wonder," says Joanne Judy, a Bloomfield Hills woman who went to 30 professionals in a two-year period and couldn't find anyone who could explain why she was squinting so frequently and so tolerative.

so violently.

When she found someone who could diagnose her she felt "a tremendous surge of rellel" even though she also learned there is no though she also learned there is no cure for essential blepharospasm and its kissing cousin, Melge syndrome, which can affect speech and manifests itself in muscle spasms in the lower face, mouth, tongue, neck and other facial areas. The some time, the preferred treatments involved sometimes

drastic and risky surgery or drugs that often came with unwanted side



Now the treatment of choice for many is periodic injections of the eye muscles with a toxin made by the bacteria that cause botulism.

THE AFFLICTION has trends but few absolutes. It seems to prefer women in their 50s and 60s but some blefros are younger men. For some, stressful situations worsen the symp-tons. Judy, however, does better when she is concentrating on a de-

manding task.
Last week, for instance, she played an integral part in hosting the Birmingham appearance of Mattie Lou Koster, a 73-year-old Texan and blefro who has mounted a one-wom-

an national campaign, complete with a research foundation, to spread the word about essential biepharospass.

About 75 attended the meeting, Roughly half of them were afflicted; the other half did they. Hawk and Koater tell their stories because there are people suffering like they one did who don't know that there is not only support, but treatment available.

once did who don't know that there is not only support, but treatment available. If you think you have this affliction, or you know someone who does, call Judy at 268-8744, Voril like the person on the other end of the phone. Although she says the affliction is characterized by frustration, confusion, rejection and isolation, and doesn't dwell on self-pity. Just the opposite.

opposite.
"I look at people with disabilities in a completely different light now," she says. "I'm enriched by knowing Mattie Lou Koster and for knowing all of these blefros."

a field oay, particular, vestigation turned up other suspi-cious deaths.

"SUBURBAN PHYSICIAN is charged in death of his part-time nurse." screamed the Detroit Free Press from the top of Page 1 and equally prominent was the Detroit News story headlined, "Death of 2 nurses brings investigation of doc-tor."

tor."

The tabloid New York Sunday News gave top play to "Sex, death and Dr. Clark," and Master Detective magazine kept the pot boiling with its article, "Mysterious death of

Voters seek security at the polling booth

SOME MUSINGS OVER election trends during the last clear and sunoy days of the year.
Appears that suburban voters are
punching their bailots in support of
the tired and true. Could be that new
candidates lost out more to voter security after the Black Monday
stock crash than to opposition candidates.

stock crash than to or, dates.

The biggest surprise had to be in metropolis, suburban metropolis, and was a ware ware. The biggest surprise had to be in that growing suburban metropolis. Livonla, whose mayoral seat was vacated earlier this year by longtime mayor Ed McNamara. While Ed might have been the people's choice for Wayne County executive, his influence in annointing a successor proved highly unsuccessful. Former mayoral aide Joan Düggan went down to resounding defeat at the hands of old political pro Bob Bennett.

hands of old political pro Bob Bennett.
Duggan had the money, the political backing and all the newspaper endorsements. But never mind, Bennett had the votes. Some are blaming the defeat on the idea that Livonia invit ready for a female chief executive.
Could be. But Bennett's personality also appealed to the more conservative nature of the community. Safe and traditional was the way



folks voted down in Westland. Old political voices Tom Brown, Charles Pickerling and Pickerling and Pickerling and Pickerling and Pickerling and Tom Brown could be elected to just about any office he chose.

Brown's tenure of service goes way back to Nankin Township supervisor, trustee and treasurer. He was the city's first mayor, served as state representative for a decade and now serves on the city council.

Farmington Hills' Aido Vagnozzi has probably been defeated for more offices than Brown has been elected. But this week the traditional labor candidate was elected to the Farmington Hills city council. The last time Aldo held elective office was on the Farmington school board in the early '70s.

FARMINGTON voters carried security to the ultimate degree. Three seats were open on that city council and the only people running were the three incumbents. The vote tally brike down in this sequence, William Hartsock, 438, Ralph Yoder, 435, and Richard Tupper, 431.

Yoder has been on the city council for more than 20 years. His close buddy, Dick Tupper, has been around for almost as long, taking a short leave while his father filled the spot for one term. Hartsock, none known as the bright young man of Farmington area politics, has been affile many of us isn't so young anymore.

But this long line of tradition soon could come to an end. Yoder continually threatens to step down and dominants to thinking of retirement in the next live years or so.

next five years or so.

next five years or so.

But Garden City Mayor Vince Fordell, the father of that city's charter,
found out that it takes more than a
reputation to get elected. He was almost bumped out of office by a
strong challenge from Pal Nunneley
who lost by only 100 votes. Rumor
has it that the mayor didn't spend a
lot of time campaigning.

New trial stirs memories of 'truth serum' medic

THE RECENT announcement that Dr. Charles Fisher soon will be tried a second time on a charge of having murdered his wife stirred old memories at this typewriter, focusing mainly upon the "truth serum" medic, Dr. Ronald E. Clark, who was sent to prison for manslaughter.

The chain of circumstances that eventually put the feisty Dr. Clark behind bars at Jackson had its innocus beginning just 20 years and two days ago, Nov. 3, 1967.

It was on that evening when Police Officer Dale Hall of what then was Farmington Township, now Farmington Hills, was doing routine partend duty and spotted a vehicle parked illegally outside the Clark clinic at 30337 Grand River, it would have been difficult for Hall not to take notice, the vehicle beling a bears.

take notice, the vehicle being a bearse.

The officer called on the doctor and learned the hearse had been summoned from a funeral parlor to carry off the body of Mrs. Grace Neil, 43, a Livonia resident who was his part-time nurse. She had just died in the office and hater Dr. Clark was accused of having caused the death by administering a lethal dose of so-



the Michigan nurse." Oh, yes, I also wrote thousands of words in coverling the case from start to finish for these newspapers through ese newspapers.
The bearded physician fled, only bifocals

Fred DeLano dium pentohal.

The 56-year-old doctor had been in trouble with the law and with the state board of registration in medicine before — trifles like revocation of his license. — but never had been charged in a fatality. The media had a field day, particularly when the investigation turned up other suspicious deaths.

The bearded physician fled, only to be tracked down and apprehendencer Fort Austin at the top off Michigan Thom Judge William Beer Forthed a change of venue, the Clark trial was shifted to the Ingham County courthouse at Mason. Dr. Clark began a three-to 15-year prison sentence the following summer after a jury found him gulty of manslaughter. He died March 23, 1972. While he was on stage, there were two unforgettable scenes.

The first came at the time of his

scenes.

The first came at the time of his arraignment in Farmington Township justice court when he fought with officers and then interrupted court procedure by screaming an accusation of "torture" at a township

Then, on the day he was sentenced by Judge Beer, he fought to break

the shackles when he was ordered handcuffed. "Oh, God," he screamed, leaping for his chair and slamming his wrists against the corner of the defense table. "These hurt like hell. God darnn it." HE WAS LED manacled from the countrooms 14.48 nm.

courtroom at 4:08 p.m.
So now back to the Dr. Fisher

so now back to the Dr. Fisher case.

It has its own intriguing elements, although not as melodramatic as those in the Clark saga. But it too has a label, the 'duct tape' murder.

To refresh your memory, Dr. Fisher lived with his wife, Ella Maria Mercado-Fisher, in Canton Township, almost at the boundary between Wayne and Washtenaw counties. He was a microbiologist at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Ann Arbor. The wife, a registered nurse, was working for a medical temporary emergency help agency and seeking a graduate degree in transcultural nursing at Wayne State University.

The physician elamed instanton

University.

The physician claimed intruders

knocked both of them unconscious and left the pair bound and gagged, including wrapping the wife's head in duct tape murmmy style. D? Fisher asserts that he eventually managed to free them both, although, Mercado-Fisher died five days after the assault.

Mercado-Pisher died live days after the assault.

A Wayne County Circuit Court introduced in the first degree, a crimpur found him guity last year of morder in the first degree, a crimpunishable by mandatory life in prison, but the verdict was set aside by udge Claudia House Morcom because of what she called "improper conduct" in the presentation by the Wayne County prosecutor's office She ordered a new trial.

The Michigan Supreme Court now has unanimously upheld her right to do this and Dr. Fisher is due to face a new large in the more county in January, this time in the court of Circuit Judge Thomas Foley. As this real-life drama unfolds, you can bet that it will be far more interesting than any fictional competition from the TV screen.



How to avoid boredom in your bedroom.

A warm and cozy down comforter, luxurious cotton sheets and comforter covers, a handsome brass bed loaded with sleep and decorative pillows, a comforting wool pad or a snuggly featherbed.

Come to the Scandia Down Shop of Birmingham for quality, service and everything you need for an exciting new bedroom. One of our best white goose down comforters - the Aerico is on sale now at 30% OFF. Egyptian cotton covering. 10 year warranty.

Reg. Price 1206 1295 Twin 1231 1330 Full 1297 ⁴425 Queen 1357 *500 King

Sale limited to stock on hand. 50 units. Sale ends Nov. 15th. New arrivals - all wool and cotton blankets.



Scandia Down Shop of Birmingham 255 S. Woodward (Entrance on Brown St.)

420 Our Bette Wandert, Canada (\$17) 231 4324

Open: 14 to 10 on Syon. 17 7:1 Syon, So 12 nove 5

Long part de managem Wanders serve de The Red Child Sen

313-258-6670

Mon.-Fri. 10-6; Thurs. 10-9; Sat. 10-5:30

With the money you save at Jindo Furs you can afford a cold winter.

They should call him Cold Man Winter, he can be such a mass, chap. He'll be here susmer than you know it. But don't worry. We here at Jindo Furyknow how to deal with Mr. Jack Frost.

We complement have up with one of our exquisitely designed and self-crated for ours. A humanous long for for CT That keeps som warm. And with the money was see by busing at linds, you can allord higher heating bills, a new pair of gloves and even an extra set of nocturnal longiohns.

Only at finds will you find high quality fine turs at such reasonable prices. That's because of Jindo's self-sufficient approach. We send our buyers to automass which lad, feets and dust the pelits ourselves, design and manufacture out own garments, then self them directly to you. See white we mean by value.

US\$1,995/CDN\$2,595

Our Classic Fully Let Out Mink Coat, shimmer ing in either Natural Mahogany or Dyed Ranch with soft stand collar and sultry set-in sleeves.

US\$595/CDN\$795

The eason's electest Fur-lined Raincoats with full sweep and removable liming. The ultimate all-weather coat

US\$1,395/CDN\$1,795

A long and losurious Brightener-added, Saga* Blue Fox Coat with plush collar and sensious

US\$1,795-8,500/CDN\$2,395-11,095 A sporty collection of Natural and Dved Long-haired Coats. Our exclusive designs in Raccoon, Beaver, Coxote, Tanaki, Golden Isle, Silver, Cyrstal and Red Fox.

There's more! Raccoon, Coyote, Saga*, Blackglama*.... Indo furs range from \$295 to \$9,995, Indo Furs. A fashionable alternative to hibernation

Hurry in, these items are specially priced for a limited time only.



IMPORTED FURS LABLEET TO SHOW COUNTRY OF ORIGIN ANGAS. REG TH MAND ALL BURS SUBJECT TO FRICE SALE OF 1881, IMAGE INC.