

# Baron by default

## Former area resident inherits castle

By Kevin Brown  
staff writer

Former Livonia resident Dick Himmelsbach has just become a baron.

Say hello to Richard James Von Liebig Himmelsbach, now adopted heir of Baron Frherr Von Liebig of Germany.

And Himmelsbach — that's the proper German spelling of his family name — is inheriting the oldest castle in Germany.

Himmelsbach's family has reacted to the chain of events with "total disbelief," he said.

IT ALL started when Himmelsbach — a 45-year Livonia resident who left in 1959 — was watching the TV show "A Current Affair" at his home in Spring Lake, 17 miles outside of Muskegon.

Through the program, the count advertised for an heir to take ownership of the \$10.5 million castle. Like 10,000 others, Himmelsbach applied.

"The fact of the matter is our family befriended the baron's family," said Himmelsbach, explaining they had sent CARE packages to the baron's family after World War II.

**The man was one of 10,000 who applied after the count advertised for an heir on a segment of "A Current Affair," the TV program.**

"As a result he remembered the name and asked me to come to Germany for an interview," Himmelsbach said.

Himmelsbach, an entrepreneur who owns two companies, said he has two sons, two daughters and four grandsons, who helped his chances of being selected.

Also, "I have a strong German heritage" he added. In addition to his own German lineage, his wife's mother is from Germany. Upon meeting the baron, "We hit it off right from the very beginning. He's a real great guy."

HIMMELSBACH SAID the baron had agreed to sell the castle to a German businessman who could not

meet financial obligations; hence the search for an heir.

To inherit the castle, Himmelsbach must pay \$3 million, a cost the businessman indicates he can handle.

Several times now, Himmelsbach has toured the castle, roughly 90 kilometers northwest of Frankfurt. The castle grounds, overlooking the Mosel Valley, include vineyards, five buildings and a memorial park, or graveyard.

In the graveyard, some Roman senators are buried, said Himmelsbach, adding the castle was known to be in use in 560 A.D.

The castle buildings include two palaces, with 100 bedrooms and dining facilities that could accommodate 350 knights.

"When I had a chance to see it and walk around it, it was almost a spiritual experience," said Himmelsbach.

Now in the process of visiting business clients and saying goodbye, the new baron said he expects to move his family to Germany "in six to nine months." Himmelsbach said he'll keep his residence in Michigan.

He's also negotiating with a major hotel chain to use part of the castle as a hotel.

# Enumerators hired to obtain statistics for '90 U.S. census

The 1990 federal census is two years away, but preliminary work already has started in Farmington Hills.

The Bureau of the Census has hired 35,000 temporary census workers (enumerators) to help prepare a master address list for use in delivering census questionnaires to every household in the nation.

These workers will go door to door counting heads and houses, and taking note of correct addresses. They'll sometimes ask residents about their housing unit.

Temporary census workers will be hired to work in their own communities. The census bureau advises all residents to ask census workers who visit their homes to properly identify themselves. There have been cases where unauthorized people have impersonated census employees.

Each census worker will wear a red, white and blue identification badge. On the front, the badge carries the title "U.S. Census Enumerator," the name of the enumerator and the date the creden-

tial expires. The enumerator's signature appears on the back.

This badge must be worn by all enumerators working in an official capacity.

SOME FIELD work for the decennial census began in May. Most of the work will occur from January through August 1990; the heaviest activity will be in April and May.

From the census, statistics will be obtained that are needed to apportion the seats of the U.S. House and redistrict the state Legislature, and distribute state aid to local governments.

Billions of dollars in federal and state assistance to local governments will be allocated based on the next census. Developers will use census tract information to plan such projects as schools and shopping centers.

Questions about an enumerator's employment can be directed to the Farmington Hills Police Department at 474-6181 or the Bureau of the Census Regional Census Center office in Southfield: 354-1990.

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