Reflecting on the Rotunda trip

David Litogot teaches elemen-tary school history in the Farm-ington Public Schools. He is a member of the Farmington His-terical Society.

campus pipeline

footprints in history

By David Litogot special writer

This time of year has always been special to me: colored lights, music, legitive songs. Nevertheless, as an adult, I reflect back to a time in my youth when this season meant a special trip to the Ford Rotunda in gearborn.

Newcomers to the area are, unfortinately, not familiar with that popular to units attraction that sat on the colored trip to the ford Rotunda in gearborn.

Newcomers to the area are, unfortinately, not familiar with that popular to units attraction that sat on the colored trip to the ford products, a cheater, disramas, order of Rotunda Drive and Schaeffer. The Rotunda drew thous sands of spectators year-round from 1276 to 1962. At this time of year, it was, in my mind, a truly magical place. There were hundreds of changing lights, special displays, and, of course, Santa Claus.

The 12-story high, gear-shaped

Hills pledged the Alpha Gamma chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha. She is a sophomore majoring in psychology at the University of Michigan.

Melissa Davis of Farmington pledged the Alpha Gamma chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha. She is a freshman at the University of Michigan.

The No Roblem Book

33930 Eight Mile Road Farmington • 478-1177

Christmas display.

THE ROTUNDA was especially dear to our family because my grandfather was the building's first stationary engineer. When he retired in 1958, he was proud indeed to work in such a beautiful building. It was a sad day for him and the millions of people who witnessed the beauty of the Rotunda when it burned down the afternoor of Nov. 9, 1962.

The fire started on the roof which was being required with hot tar. Somehow between the propane heaters and the hot tar being spread on the root, a fire began that moved quickly through the structure. Sheets of flame shot over a bundred feet in the air. Thick, black smoke was seen for miles. Virtually every piece of firefighting apparataus in Dearborn

was used to fight one of the largest fires in that city's history, rise ceiling in the main building and aprend behind the walls. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt and the wing with the Ford Archives was saved from damage. In that wing were millions of documents and pictures pertaining to the Ford family and the Ford Motor Co.

In 40 minutes, the interior of the main building was destroyed. Huge blocks of limestone that covered the Rotunda tumbled insward to form a huge heap of burning rubble. Arctic News reporter wrote that the "Queen of the Ford Empire" died

iroit News reporter wrote that the "Queen of the Ford Empire" ded that day.

AS THE smoke cleared away, the memory of the large Christmas tree with the huge ornaments, the new cars, the model city, and the beautiful lights still peristed.

After the 1984-65 World's Fair in New York City, there was hope that the Ford Motor Co. would move its large circular display building to Dearborn and the world would have a new Rolunda. But the cost of such concern with the contract of the Christmas fantasy, the free comic books, model cars and key chalina. Gone are sights of the colored lights, the giant ornaments on the Christmas tree and the huge ramp that Santa sat atop. Gone are the futuristic displays, the new cars, and the murals.

Gone is one of the greatest free tourist attractions in Michigan. For-

murals.

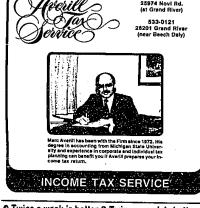
Gone is one of the greatest free
tourist attractions in Michigan. Fortunately I still have the memories
(and a keychain).

sophomore majoring in business ad-ministration at the University of Michigan. Rence Thibudeau of Farmington Hills pledged the Alpha Gamma chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha. She is a sophomore majoring in nursing at the University of Michigan.



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O Twice a week is better O Twice a week is better O





NEW PLEDGES

Maureen Amrhein of Farmington chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha. She is a

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CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmingion City Council was called to order by Mayor Tupper at 8:00 p.m. on January 3, 1889, in Council Chambers, 23:600 Liberty Street, Farmingion, Michigan PRESENTI Campbell, Hartsock, Tupper.
ARSENTI Richardson, Voder.
OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Deadman, Director Lauhoff, Director Billing, Adm. Assistant Schultz, City Citek Bushey.
Minutes of the previous meeting of December 10, 1988, were approved as written.

Minutes of the previous meeting of December 19, 1988, were approved as written.

Minutes of other Boards were received and/or filled.

Minutes of other Boards were received and/or filled.

Council agreed to select citizens for the Farmington Hills' "Year 2000 Plan" task forces in the near future.

Council popeads 53, 867 relative to child care facilities.

Council Insued the following proclamations:

PARIMINGTON AREA, ANCEE WEEK - January 15-21, 1989;

PARIMINGTON AREA, ANCEE WEEK - January 23-27, 1989.

Council established ARIBS MAINT WEEK - January 23-27, 1989, to review the 1848 Sidewalk Program Social Assessment Holl Council was informed of the DNR's recently issued drafts for the new combined sweet overflow permits.

Public comments were heard.

Council appointed Jane Maler to fill the unexpired term of John Donobue on the Board of Review.

Board of Review.

Council received the General Fund and 47th District Court financial reports for the five months ended November 30, 1988.

Monthly bills were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

RICHARD L. TUPPER, Mayor JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY, City Clerk

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS EMPLOYEE AWARDS CEREMONY AND REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 9, 1989

Mayor Soronen opened the Employee Awards Ceremony/Regular Meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council on January 9, 1889 at 7:34 p.m. Members present Mayor Sever, Mayor Pro-Tem Fox, Alkateeb, Amold, Marks, Soronen, Grand Grand, Carlon States, Ca

ant City Manager Cail, Director of Public Services Biasell, and City Attorney Bibeau.

Council approved the Agenda and Consent Agenda, as published.

Formal passing of the gavel to incoming Mayor Terry Sever.

Mayor Sever proclaimed the week of January 15-21, 1989 as Jaycee Week and the week of January 18-22, 1989 as Jaycee Week and the week of January 18-22, 1989 as Jaycee Week and the week of January 18-22, 1989 as January 16-22, 1989 as Jaycee Week and the week of January 18-22, 1989 as January 18-22, 1989 as Jaycee Week and 18-22 as Jay

control of the department of the second of t cil approved the minutes of December 12 and December 19, 1988, as pub-

cil authorized increase in per meeting pay to members of Zoning Board of

TERRY SEVER, Mayor KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk



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