

A big 25 years

Hamilton has become a Hills landmark

Charles Schultz, 54, of Plymouth sold the first life insurance policy for Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America 25 years ago May 5.

Schultz, president of the Charles K. Schultz Agency in Plymouth, was among the 900 employees, elected officials and business leaders who helped Alexander Hamilton Life celebrate its 25th anniversary today at the landmark home office adjacent to the I-696 freeway in Farmington Hills.

Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America, which received its insurance charter from the State of Michigan in May 1964, is now ranked among the top 100 life insurance companies in North America.

With insurance operations expanded to all 50 states, Canada and the United Kingdom, Alexander Hamilton Life today has \$3.3 billion in assets, 650 full-time employees in the Farmington Hills home office, and a national sales network of 8,000 agents.

Insurance in force has surpassed the \$20 billion mark.

For the past decade, Alexander Hamilton Life, under the leadership of CEO Richard Headlee and COO Robert Young, has received the highest possible management performance rating. Aplus Superitor, from the A.M. Best Company, the insurance industry rating service.

Also present to help launch the 25th anniversary year were, in addition to Schultz, two of the other life insurance agents for Alexander Hamilton Life who



Helping celebrate the 25th anniversary of Alexander Hamilton Life Friday were Robert Young (left), executive vice president; Richard Headlee, chairman; Senate Majority

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rank among the most successful in the first quarter century. They were: Peter Glasb, Jr. of New Boston and Carmen (Duke) Scrafano of Southfield.

Vernon Lunn, retired senior vice president and member of the board of directors, returned from his home in Olathe, Kansas, to provide the historical perspective for the occasion.

"Insurance agents Dick Lax (Plymouth), Dean Hamlin (Plymouth), Bob Flynn (Southfield), Paul Hamlin (Home Office Regional Director for Michigan), Tony Tones (Southfield), were among the sales force that brought in \$16 million in sales, and over 1,000 clients, during the month of May 1964," Lunn said.

"That dynamic growth continued from our original home office in Plymouth, to four additional office buildings, and then in 1987, to our current 12-acre site in Farmington Hills," Lunn said.

The Farmington Hills home office, recognizable by its Williamsburg Colonial

architecture, has been expanded twice to now cover 150,000 square feet. To the east of the company parking lot, Alexander Hamilton Life is constructing a 3-story operations center due for completion later this year, which will provide an additional 92,200 square feet, Lunn said.

Lunn listed the four founders of Alexander Hamilton Life as E. Keith Owens (who was only 28 at the time), now of Newport Beach, Calif.; James H. Milby, Brentwood, Tenn.; Charles Bruce, Denver, Colo.; and Robert O. Safford, New York, N.Y.

Headlee received a proclamation from Terry Sever, mayor of Farmington Hills, stating in part: "Alexander Hamilton Life's motto, 'Someone in Here Cares,' philosophically identifies its personal connection to the community, to the people it services and to its employees, and reflects its commitment to the high ideals and virtues that strengthen our society."

"Alexander Hamilton Life is deeply dedicated to acting on its beliefs by encouraging the support of public service agencies such as the Jaycees, the Y.M.C.A., Boy and Girl Scouts of America and fund-raising efforts for numerous charitable organizations," Sever added.

An 11-foot-high bronze statue of Alexander Hamilton, the first treasurer of the United States, was unveiled in the main courtyard. Alexander Hamilton Life commissioned noted sculptor Dennis Smith to create the original casting. The permanent statue replaced the bust of Alexander Hamilton that was mounted on a pedestal on the same spot. Throughout the years, local high school students had occasionally "borrowed" the bust, but it was always recovered undamaged.

Also participating in the celebration Friday were state Sen. Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills and Sen. Majority Leader John Engler of Mt. Pleasant; state Rep. Jan. Dolan of Farmington Hills; David Iveys of Utica; and Mat Dunaskis of Lake Orion.

Former Gov. George Romney and his wife, Lenore, and James Barrett, president of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, also participated. Romney was on the board of directors of Alexander Hamilton Life when Headlee was elected president, and Young, executive vice president, and Young, executive vice president, of the then faltering company in 1972.

Alexander Hamilton Life became a wholly owned subsidiary of Household International in 1977.



A bronze statue of Alexander Hamilton was unveiled in the courtyard at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America's 25th anniversary celebration May 5.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

WEAPONS CHARGE

A 45-year-old Detroit man is charged with carrying a concealed weapon in connection with the discovery of a fillet knife in his car during a traffic stop Wednesday afternoon along Eight Mile in Farmington Hills.

Arrested Thursday before visiting District Judge Charles McDonald of Farmington, John Hester Jones stood mute and a plea of not guilty was entered. He was released on \$10,000 personal recognizance bond pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court.

Jones faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

CAR FIRE

An electrical fire caused approximately \$25,000 in damage to a tree removal vehicle on 13 Miles Wednesday afternoon.

The owners told investigators they were working on the vehicle when the engine compartment flashed over, according to a Farmington Hills Fire Department report.

NO SALES LICENSE

Two men in a van received misdemeanor tickets for trying to sell stereo speakers without a license to passing motorists on Eight Mile at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

According to a Farmington Hills police report: Officer Michael Farley watched as the men, a 25-year-old from Southfield and a 19-year-old from Troy, three times pulled alongside vehicles and tried to motion the drivers over.

After one of the drivers told Farley the men were offering stereo speakers for sale, Farley stopped their van. He found it filled with stereo speakers and confirmed the

men were trying to hawk them.

Farley ticketed the men, impounded the van and confiscated the speakers.

CAT BURGLAR

A Farmington Hills man awoke to find a burglar taking a wallet from the bedroom dresser in a house on Ashley at 2:30 a.m. Thursday.

According to a Farmington Hills police report: The burglar fled when the 34-year-old awoke. Police found the rear door open and a front door open. In the yard, they found a compound bow believed taken from the house.

A Michigan State Police tracking dog tracked the burglar's scent to a nearby house on Fink, where a getaway car apparently had been parked.

In the yard of the house on Fink, police found a compound bow and a rifle believed taken from that house.

On the rear porch, they found stereo components believed taken from the house on Ashley. Inside, they found a camera, a radar detector, binoculars and a flashlight all believed taken from the house on Ashley.

FELONIOUS ASSAULT

A man pointed a gun through the open driver's window of a car about to leave a parking lot at Eight Mile and Orchard Lake Road Tuesday.

According to a Farmington Hills police report: At 2 p.m., a man leaving Little Valley Mobile Sales saw a man walk toward his car. Thinking he knew him, the motorist rolled down his window.

But when the man approached, he produced a gun and pointed it through the window. He didn't announce a holdup or demand money.

The motorist then drove off. The gunman chased the car for a short distance before walking away.

BREAK-IN

A house on Shilwassee in Farmington was broken into, and a purse and car was stolen from the property May 7-8, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

The 1986 Buick and purse contents were valued at \$7,577.

According to the report, both telephones in the house were discovered unplugged and one left off the hook during the incident. The car was recovered May 9 at West Oaks Shopping Center in Novi with fresh body damage to the passenger's side.

VEHICLE RECOVERED

A U-Haul vehicle was found in the Orchard Lake Road and 12 Mile area May 4, with nearly \$2,000 in damage and theft done to it.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, the vehicle had \$1,110 in damage to the dash, all windows and antennas. The stolen was a cargo ramp, flare kit, radio and battery valued at \$750.

THEFTS REPORTED

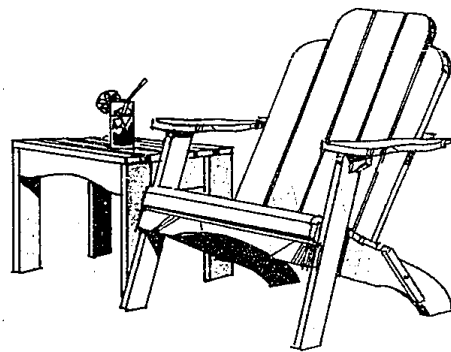
A power mower valued at \$375 was discovered missing from a garage on Tall Pines, Farmington, May 10. The owner said it had been taken sometime since mid-March.

A gas grill valued at \$300 was reported stolen from a porch on Colfax, Farmington Hills, May 6-7. A pocket knife and U.S. coins valued at \$104 were reported stolen from a house on Colgate, Farmington Hills, May 9.

A lawnmower valued at \$390 was reported stolen from a garage on Arden Park, Farmington Hills, May 9-10.

DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$500 when the window of the Baskin & Robbins ice cream store in downtown Farmington was broken with a rock May 6-7. The store is at 23629 Farmington Road.



AN AMERICAN CLASSIC, \$149.

Once the weather-treated wood Adirondack folding chair appears on the lawn, you know that easy outdoor living has begun! By Rivenwood. White finish solid Canadian maple slats, wide arm rests. Matching pieces in the collection: End table, \$59. Not shown, foot stool, \$49.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard, VISA, and American Express. Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Farmington budget hearings tonight

Required public hearings for the 1989-90 city of Farmington budget will be held tonight at the start of the regular city council meeting at 8

A budget hearing and Truth-in-Taxation hearing are scheduled.

City officials are proposing to roll back the tax rate from 10.65 to 10.40 mills, but not enough to negate a 5.6

percent average increase in property taxes. The city also plans to dip into its fund reserves for about \$68,000 to balance the budget.

The proposed budget would total \$6.8 million, with \$4.3 million constituting the General Fund budget. The Water and Sewer Fund would total \$1.4 million and the Highway Fund \$1.1 million.

More than half the city's operating costs are funded by local property tax dollars. A total of \$2.3 million is generated in local property taxes, \$895,000 from intergovernmental revenues and \$130,000 from state shared revenues and grants. The ever-shrinking federal revenues dropped in half this year to \$53,000.

The council will adopt a city budget in June.