

Tale of earthquake terror sports link to Hills

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By Todd Schneider
staff writer

The aftershocks of the San Francisco earthquake reverberated across the country Tuesday night to a Westland house where David Wiecek anxiously awaited a telephone call telling him that family members — some from Farmington Hills — were alright.

Relief finally came about 11 p.m., when Sylvia Kozorosky-Wiecek, using a working telephone in the room of another guest at The Marriott-Airport hotel, told Wiecek they were shaken up but unharmed.

Kozorosky-Wiecek, executive director of Westland's senior resources department and a Wayne-Westland school board member, was in San Francisco with daughter Melanie Sheridan to watch son-in-law Pat Sheridan play for the San Francisco Giants in the World Series. Pat and Melanie recently purchased an off-season home in Farmington Hills.

Kozorosky-Wiecek was in her ho-

tel room, baby-attling the Sheridans' 3-month-old granddaughter, Paige, when the quake hit at 5:04 p.m. (8:04 p.m. Detroit time), Wiecek said.

AT LEAST 250 people were killed and thousands may have been injured in the earthquake, according to news reports Wednesday morning. "She (Kozorosky-Wiecek) said she saw the walls shaking and plaster falling and she grabbed the baby and hid underneath the crib," Wiecek said.

"After things had calmed down, she went down to the lobby and a gentleman from Maryland was nice enough to let her use his phone to call home."

Wiecek, administrator for the 18th District Court in Westland, said his wife and stepdaughter returned to their rooms about 11 p.m. California time "safe and sound, but pretty shaken."

Melanie Sheridan, who took an unpaid leave of absence from her job as 18th District Court probation coordinator when Pat was traded by the Tigers to the Giants this summer, had just arrived at Candlestick

Park and was in the parking lot when the quake hit, Wiecek said. "She said she saw the ballpark swaying and felt the ground moving," Wiecek said.

ONCE THE game was postponed, the Sheridans were reunited in the parking lot and made their way back to the hotel.

Wiecek said his wife made the trip primarily to act as a nanny for their grandchild during the series.

"We had gone to the playoffs in Chicago, and since we went to the games, Melanie had to stay with the baby," he said. "We thought this way Melanie could go to the games."

Wiecek said his wife was largely unaware of the extensive damage caused by the quake because of the widespread power loss to the area. During their brief conversation, he filled her in on the information and pictures television networks were showing Detroit-area viewers some 2,500 miles away.

Wiecek said he tried to remain calm during the three-hour wait for news about his family. "I know the

phone lines were going to be down or tied up and that it might be a long time before I heard anything," he said.

"I just tried to be as relaxed as possible," he said.

He said neither he nor his wife had previous experience in such a situation.

"WHEN SYLVIA was in Pennsylvania (where she was born and raised) they went through some floods, but nothing like this," he said. Kozorosky-Wiecek was scheduled to fly home to Westland early today but Tuesday night Wiecek said her travel plans were "on hold for the time being."

Pat Sheridan grew up in Wayne and graduated Wayne Memorial High School. He was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds but chose to attend Eastern Michigan University on a baseball scholarship.

An outfielder, he has played for the Kansas City Royals as well as the Tigers and Giants.

Hills zoning decision upheld

Continued from Page 1

contingent on rezoning. When the city denied rezoning, the developer filed suit in July 1985. They currently hold the property, pursuant to an option, according to Gans.

"There was substantial testimony and documentary evidence to support the proposition that RA-1 classification . . . is in conformity with a comprehensive plan both as developed and as implemented by the city of Farmington Hills," Beasley's opinion said.

"Plaintiff's (developer's) claim that the non-residential use of adjacent properties of the intersection evidences both the unreasonableness of the current zoning and the reasonableness of plaintiff's proposed commercial enterprise is without merit.

"The adjunct uses are not 'commercial' as defined within the zoning ordinance. Rather, they are 'office' uses, which are characteristically less intensive than a commercial use and often are utilized as a buffer between residential district and commercial districts.

"This buffer function for light office developments was contemplated by the Farmington Hills zoning ordinance and the Farmington Hills Commercial Areas Plan.

"Plaintiff's characterization of the entire length of 12 Mile as a 'commercial corridor' is unfounded. The proofs seem to indicate that, for at least one mile in either direction, the north side of 12 Mile has been largely zoned and developed residentially, while the south side has been developed for office use."

EVEN WITHOUT rezoning, the appeals court said, the land is still valuable to the current owner, who paid \$23,000 for the land. RA-1 zoning also permits such uses as condominiums, manufactured housing and such public uses as elementary schools, libraries, parks, recreational buildings, municipal buildings.

The appeals court noted Ziem based his decision on the facts existing during 1987 and earlier, adding

"The real property in question is located in a rapidly changing and constantly developing area. It is possible that future events will support possible re-evaluation of this zoning."

Gans said he was encouraged by this statement. "They recognize it's (the area) changing," he added.

If you're a woman of 30-50, take this quiz on . . .

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- Are you Caucasian or Oriental?
- Are you slender?
- Do you smoke?
- Does/did your mother or grandmother have a "dowager's hump"?
- Do you exercise less than 3 times a week?
- Do you have irregular periods?
- Do you avoid dairy products?
- Have you never been pregnant?
- Do you consume more than 2 alcoholic drinks a day?
- Do you drink 5 or more cups of coffee daily?

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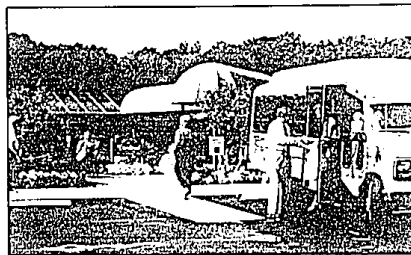
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