

Edison wants to cut cord on drugstore bill-paying

Continued from Page 1

ing about 1,200 in the metro area, Bufalini added.

Bufalini said that customers can call the telephone number on their Edison bills to find out the nearest authorized pay stations.

Edison's stance, however, hasn't stopped the small chain from continuing its traditional courtesy to customers: 250 Edison bills are forwarded each month, both from the New Orleans Mall store in Southfield and Farmington Hills store to the Mulrond Square.

Another 150 are dispatched out of Efros' Orchard Mall location in West Bloomfield, he said.

Because the Efros stores are unauthorized, Edison does not pay them the five cents per bill fee it did before last year's consolidation of

'Once again, senior citizens are getting the short end of the stick and it's time somebody said something about that.'

— David Efros

collection/forwarding spots, Efros said.

BESIDES CONVENIENCE, seniors would be hurt in the pocketbook if Efros is forced to quit handling the utility bills due to the 25 or 30 cents they would be charged at banks.

Meanwhile, Bufalini said a problem with the lower-volume stations

was that payments sometimes were not received in a timely fashion.

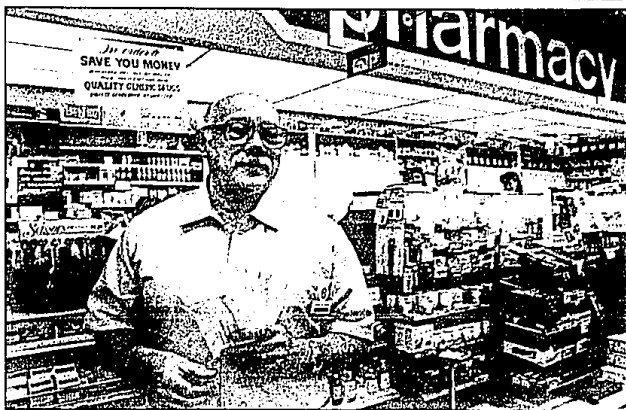
But Efros disagreed, stressing that "there's rarely an occasion" where seniors don't pay bills on time.

Efros said seniors are becoming aware of the situation and are upset about it.

Three federally subsidized senior citizen apartment complexes are within walking distance of the Southfield store, said manager Mike Packard.

Those are Highland Towers, Lincoln Towers and the Jewish Federation Apartments, said Packard, who noted that he took care of about 25 customers' utility bills between 9 and 11 a.m. Monday alone.

"These people are in subsidized apartments because they can't afford rent," Packard said. "So they're trying to save a few pennies."



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Jerry Efros, founder of the three-store drug store chain, holds 21 Detroit Edison electric bills collected earlier in the week from senior citizen customers of his Southfield store. The utility company has told Efros to stop taking care of the payments.

Botsford doctors win research grants

The Michigan Health Care Education and Research Foundation, the research and philanthropic affiliate of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, has awarded a \$5,000 research grant to two physicians at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Drs. Bruce Sack and Toby Hazin of Botsford General Hospital received the grant to develop a pro-

posal to study treatment and recovery potential of older psychiatric patients.

The Botsford grant is part of the foundations Research Support Venture for Physicians. It gives up to \$5,000 to physicians interested in conducting clinical research and needing assistance in writing research proposals. Physicians may be

eligible to apply for a \$50,000 research grant after a proposal is developed.

As the research and philanthropic affiliate of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, MHCERF research and grant programs focus on the quality of health care, cost containment and access to health care, primarily for the older population.

No Sweat!

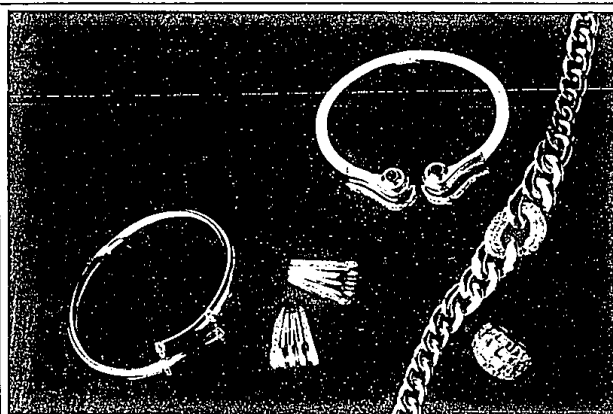
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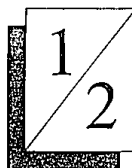
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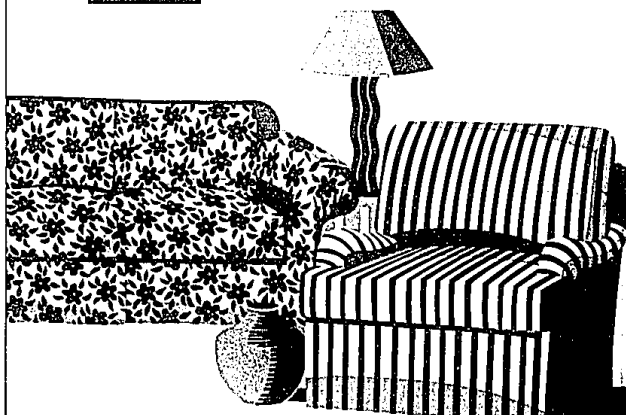
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