

Judge delays larceny exam

Attorney gets time to prepare defense

By James Radebaugh
staff writer

A West Bloomfield man charged with defrauding area ophthalmologists will find out June 10 whether he will stand trial.

Forty-seventh District Judge Margaret Schaeffer on Monday interrupted a pretrial exam to give an attorney representing Harvey Aldem more time to prepare a defense against the one-count charge of larceny by conversion. The June date was the earliest the judge, attorneys and two witnesses could agree on to reassemble.

Before the adjournment, Dr. Robert Netzel, a Bloomfield Hills ophthalmologist and a trustee of the Orchard Lake Ophthalmologist Profit Sharing Plan, testified that in 1987 he invested \$14,000 of the plan's money with a financial firm headed by Aldem. The firm, Utah Mortgage of Farmington Hills, failed to pay any interest and all but \$2,000 of the principal, Netzel testified.

Aldem, the company's president, assured Netzel that the ophthalmologists group would be repaid as soon as he foreclosed on a business. Utah Mortgage had loaned \$250,000 in 1986, according to testimony.

THE RECIPIENT OF the loan, Michael Weger, president of Weger



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Harvey Aldem in court Monday.

Petroleum, testified that his company was never subject to foreclosure and that he repaid Utah Mortgage in full in 1989.

Questioned by defense attorney Randy Davidson, Netzel testified that he made about 25 investments with Utah since the early 1980s, and that about 12 of them were paid in full.

Prosecutor Margaret Davis argued that the testimony and documentary evidence showed that Aldem failed to pay the ophthalmologists group and that he lied to avoid doing so. The prosecutor must show probable cause to believe that a crime was committed by Aldem to have the case bound over for trial in circuit court.

Defense attorney Randy Davidson countered that criminal intent must be proved to convict a defendant of larceny by conversion. "There are a number of cases all the time where people don't get paid, and these cases belong in civil court," Davidson said.

A MIX-UP APPARENTLY pre-

vented Davidson from obtaining 52 pages of documents from Davis until shortly before the exam, documents Davidson said he needed to study to argue that Aldem showed no criminal intent.

Schaeffer, upholding the defendant's right to present evidence, agreed to adjourn the exam. If convicted of the charge, Aldem could be sentenced to up to four years in prison.

A more serious false pretenses charge, which could bring a 10-year prison term, is pending against Aldem in circuit court.

Outside the courtroom, Detective Darnel Kraus, of the Farmington Hills Police, said that a number of other investors have lost money to Utah.

"A lot of people are hoping against hope that eventually they'll get their money . . . I'm not sure anybody will get their money at this point," he said.

Netzel later said privately that he's given up hope of getting the money back, but that he hopes a trial will "give us some answers."

C'ville schools chief quits over 'philosophy'

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Jerry Monticello has resigned as superintendent of the Clarencville School District after less than two years in his post, the shortest amount of time served by anyone in that position.

Monticello, who resigned last week, said he has no future plans.

"The board and I have separate philosophies," Monticello, 54, said. "I have resigned from the district. We are parting in good graces."

Monticello declined to describe his philosophy. The district includes northeast Livonia, southeast Farmington Hills, and northwest Redford.



Jerry Monticello

THE SUPERINTENDENT had two years left on his contract.

The board renegotiated Monticello's contract, dropped the last year of his contract and agreed to pay him as a consultant for the 1991-92 school year at a fee of \$80,000. Monticello was hired in July 1989.

The resignation takes effect June 30.

"I chose to leave the superintendency due to a difference in opinion with the Board of Education concerning our objectives," Monticello wrote in a May 10 letter to the Observer.

"Since it is important that a board and superintendent work closely together, I feel that it is best for the welfare of Clarencville to find a superintendent more closely aligned to the board's style of operation. I will continue to be an administrator for the next year, handling special projects."

So far, an acting superintendent had not been named. The board planned a meeting Tuesday evening to discuss their next step in selecting a new superintendent.

Vernice Dunklee, school board president, said that it was a "mutual decision" between the board and Monticello that he resign.

Monticello lives in Livonia within the Clarencville school boundaries. The Taylor school district has 14,000 students compared to Clarencville's 1,700 students.

During a 90-minute selection interview in June 1989, Monticello said that relationships between students and teachers are "really the only important thing." He told a Taylor second-grader that the school superintendent is a "teacher's helper."

MONTICELLO HOLDS a 1962 master of arts degree from the University of Michigan and a 1958 bachelor of science degree from Wayne State University.

Monticello worked 23 years in the Warren Consolidated school district holding six high-level positions. Previous to that he taught in both the Warren and Clintondale districts.

He served on the Oakland Community College board and was president of the Wayne County Superintendents Association.

"People have to have dignity and when I deal with them they have to know they have dignity. I consider that my primary task," Monticello once said about contract negotiations.

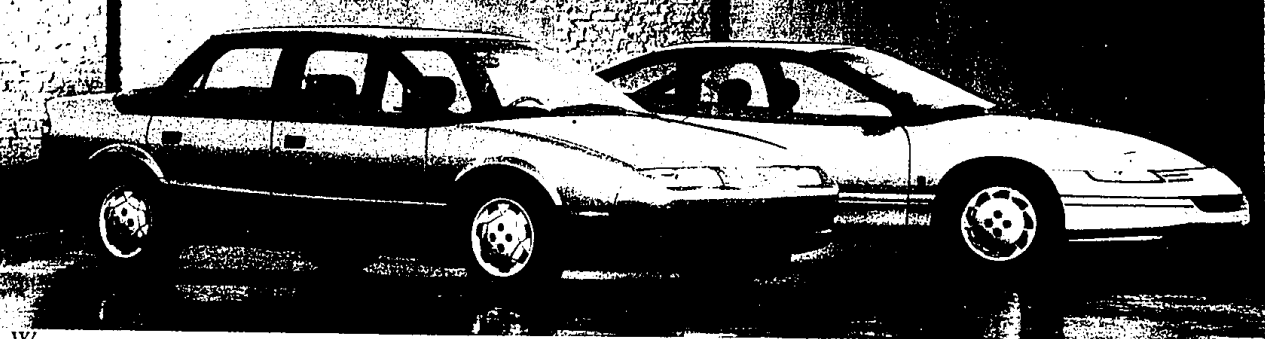
He has described his management techniques as being five-fold: involvement, personal commitment to the final product, assessment, planning and execution. "I need to have maximum involvement. I'm talking about ownership. . . . Face to face involvement. Face-to-face communication."

Previous to taking his Clarencville position, Monticello spoke about his career goals. "I am, as superintendent, what I consider at my ultimate. I am where I want to be. I have probably five good years and I want to use them as superintendent."

"I'm looking to have this as my last phase of my career. I want to have fun."

For what it's worth, you may want to hold off on that import.

The Saturn SL \$7,995* and SC \$11,775*



We certainly understand if you've spent the last several months zeroing in on the car you intend to buy. But if you're not necessarily locked into any particular mindset right now, and have an interest in keeping your options wide open, all we'd like to do here is offer up a thought for those whose real interest lies in finding an affordable, well-designed, meticulously built automobile. Give yourself a little extra time, you may find yourself a lot more car.

SATURN NORTH

8400 Dixie Hwy. at I-75, ext. 93
313-620-8800

SATURN of PLYMOUTH

9601 Masses Dr., I-275 and Ann Arbor Rd.
313-431-7890

SATURN of TROY

1809 Maplelawn, Troy Motor Mall
313-664-4160

SATURN of WARREN

7830 Convention Blvd., I-75 and Van Dyke
313-979-2000



SATURN

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COMPANY.
A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAR.