

### IN BRIEF

#### About camcorders

Attention, those who received camcorders for Christmas or are in the market for one: the Farmington Community Library is offering a program on them. The camcorder workshop will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Farmington Branch Library, 23500 Liberty, Farmington. Roger Avie, a local video producer and director, will cover the basic operation and buying tips. Participants with camcorders should bring them.

Call the library at 474-7770 to register.

#### On hospital board

Naft Harold Keel, a Farmington Hills resident and a retired commanding general with more than 36 years of U.S. Army service, has been elected to a three-year term on the William Beaumont Hospital Board of Trustees.



Naft Harold Keel

Keel is president of the Keel Group, a consortium involved in commercial building construction and leasing, an automotive repair facility and a glass installation company.

He has been a member of the Beaumont Foundation Board of Directors since 1988. He has also served as

a director of the Detroit Chamber of Commerce, president of the Detroit Automobile Dealers Association and state president of the Reserve Officers Association.

William Beaumont operates hospitals in Royal Oak and Troy with a total of 1,118 beds. The hospital board consists of 46 members.

#### Heads GMAC branch

John M. Hill has been promoted to manager of the General Motors Acceptance Corp. (GMAC) branch in Farmington Hills. Hill began his career with GMAC in Mansfield, Ohio, in 1965. He transferred to Columbus, Ohio, in 1967 and held several supervisory positions there until being named credit manager in Toledo in 1978. He transferred to the Detroit area as credit manager in 1981 and became a staff assistant at company headquarters in two years later.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

#### Pushin' those pedals

Three-year-old Jeff Bruce of Livonia shows he knows what to do on a two-wheeler, even though he still has training wheels. Jeff was visiting his grandmother, Dolores Bruce, in Farmington when the photo was taken.

## Court balks at appeal, wife killer has letdown

By Susan Buck  
Staff writer

James Arnold Edwards, a former Farmington Hills resident who's serving a 15-50 year sentence for the 1985 murder of his wife, Marlene, is disappointed that the Michigan Supreme Court has refused to hear his appeal.

"It's a letdown," Edwards said recently in a phone interview from the Muskegon Correctional Facility, a medium security prison.

"I'm trying to appeal it, but I've been taken for a real ride by attorneys," Edwards said. "An inmate here took me for a bundle."

Apparently, Edwards relied on the prison's legal libraries in deciding at first to represent himself.

In addition to his sentence for the second-degree murder of his wife, Marlene, 50, Edwards is also serving seven to 20 years on an arson conviction. He was found guilty of burning his house on Rhinewood after his wife's death Oct. 14, 1985.

THE MICHIGAN Supreme Court, in its ruling issued Dec. 17, denied Edwards request for case review and bond.

"We are not persuaded that the questions presented should be reviewed by this court," clerk Corbin Davis said on behalf of the court.

Richard Brown, Oakland County prosecutor, was pleased with the Supreme Court ruling. "We felt that we had a good case," Brown said.

This case was unusual because Edwards didn't have any criminal background, Brown said. "But, for whatever reason, he decided that he didn't want to live with her (his wife)."

In his most recent appeal, Edwards represented himself but later paid Carl Ziemba, a Detroit attorney, \$10,000 to pull a brief for him, he said.

Ziemba did not return phone calls.

James and Marlene Edwards were just shy of their 25th wedding anniversary at the time of her murder.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Francis X. O'Brien exceeded court recommendations in sentencing Edwards who was 56 at the time.

Parole is allowed on both convictions.

A CIRCUIT COURT jury found Edwards guilty Feb. 25, 1988, after deliberating for two days. Four different medical examiners, including Edwards' own, could not agree on Marlene Edwards' exact cause of death — "natural causes, homicide or arson."

During the five-week trial, prosecutors argued that Edwards either stabbed or strangled his wife during a family argument, then set fire to the house near Eight Mile and Halsted to cover up the act. Fire damage was estimated at \$200,000.

The couple had two daughters, Lisa and Michelle, now about 22 and 24, respectively. Edwards maintains that he is anxious to be released because his daughters are suing him for his wife's death.

Recently, Edwards said he received a Blue Cross bill for one of his daughters' medical condition.

"Since 1988, I've lost all contact with my family," Edwards said.

In addition, Werner Spitz, a medical examiner who reviewed the Edwards case has written a book which includes his case, Edwards said. "He keeps referring to my case, that's what bothers me," Edwards said.

Spitz did not return phone calls.

"Prison's a bad place, but I've met a lot of good people here," Edwards said. "I'm bunking with a guy who's been in for 23 years."

## Seminar covers life in Holocaust

Deborah Dwork, a teacher at Yale University and author of "Children with a Star," will present a weekend seminar at the Adat Shalom Synagogue, in Farmington Hills. The seminar will focus on life in the Jewish family in Europe, during the Holocaust.

"Life During the Shoah: Its Effects and After-effects" will be presented Jan. 10-12. The seminar kicks off with a Lunch and Learn session on Friday (Jan. 10), at 11:45 a.m. At Friday's session, Dwork will discuss "In the Footsteps of the Prophet Deborah: The Women's Resistance Network." Cost for this session is \$5.

Saturday, Dwork will speak during Shabbat Morning Services on "The Hidden Children." In the evening, she will lead a panel discussion with four "children" who remember the Holocaust, now living in southeastern Michigan, and whose stories are told in her book. There is no charge for this session, but reservations are requested.

This program is put on by the Adult Study Commission of Adat Shalom Synagogue as part of its winter program. All sessions will take place at the synagogue and the public is welcome. For additional information, call 851-5100.

Dwork was educated at Princeton, Yale, and University College, London.

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