Longtime school supervisor recalled as everyone's friend



Malen Terry comforts school bus driver Deborah Coleman fol-lowing a September 1990 traffic accident in Farmington Hills. Terry died suddenly Saturday while in Northern Michigan on

vacation. The 50-year-old maintenance supervisor for Farmington Public Schools was known for his compassion and earing for others.

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overwhelming thing in his life. I just
think he was the perfect example of
living the Golden Rule."
Terry was a Farmington Public
Schools employee for more than 31
years.

years.

He started as an assistant custodian here at age 14, eventually rising
to head custodian at Longacre. He
moved to the district's bus garage in
the 1970s where he became the supervisor. Coleman said Terry maintained certification in 10 different
areas of hus, truck and auto repair.

areas of bus, truck and auto repair.
Hundreds of friends and family
members filled the rooms and haliways of the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in downtown Farmington Wednesday morning, where the
Rev. David Penniman of the Nardin
Park United Methodist Church offered prayers and friends shared
their memories. Interrment followed
at Glen Eden Memorial Park in
Livonia.

Employees of the Farmington Public Schools transportation de-partment held a luncheon in his hon-or following the services at Farm-ington High School and have set up the Malen Terry Memorial Fund in his honor.

"Everything he had, he was willing to work for," the Rev. Penaiman said during Wednesday's service.
"He could motivate and inspire people. He could lead by example."
He added that Terry was "tough as nalls when necessary, but soft as a marshmallow inside."

Don Cowan, director of building and student services for the district, said Terry took time two weeks ago to help him look at a used car for Cowan's son. Cowan said he was

ihankful now that he had the time to reminisce.

"Make talked, I couldn't help but think how sensitive he was to all people," Cowan said. "Maken was truly a beautiful person." Terry lived most of hie life in the Eight Mile? Farmington Road area and attended the Farmington schools, eventually make help carn his high school degree in 1890. Nephew Joe Hubert said his uncle death "was a shock to everybody" and that "he was a really great guy who was always ready to give of himself."

HE WAS admired and respected outside of Farmington too.

outside of Farmington too.
In 1989, Terry was given the New Horizons Award from Oakland Schools for his declication to keeping school buses safe. He designed and developed a bracket and mirror which allowed school bus drivers to see much more clearly — that design is now being used by other districts across the state.

School board member Jack Inch said he remembered Terry as "somebody who really was commit-ted to doing the best Job he can" and that he "always seemed genuinely pleased to see you." He said "Malen put to rest the Japanese theory that Americans don't work hard."

Americans don't work hard."

Malen Terry is survived by his wife, Sandra, a Farmington school has driver; and supplete-in-sive Beets, sons Mark and Robert, who also worked in the school bus maintenance department; two brothers; and increasisters. The family requests that donations be made to the Malen Terry Memorial Fund, 60 the Farmington Public Schools Transportation Department, 23500 Shlawassee, Farmington, 48336.

Civic faces bad times

Continued from Page 1

"You've got too much competi-tion in the area," he added. "Some-one has got to go and it's always the little guy. I'm the little guy. "I'm the last exhibitor in metro-

"I'm the last exhibitor in metro-politan Detroit that operates it one location exclusively and takes a living out of it."
Holter has tried some innovative marketing over the years to keep the theater going.
First, he dropped the admission price to \$1.50. Then, in 1990, he split the theater in two — known as 'winning'"—so he could show two or three movies at a time. The five-week renovation period was the only time the theater had been

closed in the past 50 years.

closed in the past 50 years.

HOHLER, LONG active in downtown business affairs, Monday resigned his seat on the board of the Downtown Development Autority, saying he was too busy taking care of the Civic.

Back in September 1990, Hohler said he was "excited about the future" during a party to celebrate the Civic's 50th anniversary, It first opened Sept. 19, 1940.

But now hard times have hit. "I'm operating on a week-to-

But now nary times nave nt.
"I'm operating on a week-toweek basis," the owner said. "I'we
laid off five employees. My son
does the cleaning on weekends for
free. Others are donating their
time."

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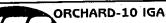
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