

OBITUARIES

SUSAN MARIE DIEHL-JONES

Mrs. Diehl-Jones, 42, of Farmington Hills died June 22.

Born in Detroit, Mrs. Diehl-Jones was a chemistry teacher at Brother Rice High School.

Survivors include her husband, William; father, Cornan Diehl; brothers, Jay and Douglas Diehl;

sister, Beth Hippis.

Mass was celebrated June 26 in St. Patrick Catholic Church, Brighton, with the Rev. Thomas Meagher officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Arrangements were made by the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

JOHN G. DUBROVIN

Mr. Dubrovin, 76, of Farmington Hills, died June 23 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Sebewaing, Mich., Mr. Dubrovin was a machinist for Ford Motor Co. He was a World War II Army veteran and a member of RIMAS Club.

Survivors include his brother, Alexander; many cousins.

Services were June 26 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Andrew Wurmovich of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Detroit, officiating. Burial was in White Chapel, Troy.

Real help



Food drive: Kristy Kramer helps load one of the more than 150 cases of canned goods and other non-perishable food items provided to two local corps of the Salvation Army recently by the Western Wayne Oakland County Association. Food was collected at member offices of the association as well as nearly \$2,000 in cash donations from Realtors and affiliate members. The Farmington Salvation Army Corps will distribute the food to those in need in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Redford, Southfield and Livonia.

Area man once styled hair for Thai royalty

By SHIRLEY ROSE IDEN
STAFF WRITER

When Don Ongart left the tiny Thai village where he was born to make his way in the world, he didn't really have much to lose.

"My family was there, but where I was born, people have nothing," said Ongart, now a successful Southfield businessman. "They grow their own rice and raise kids, and that's it."

Ongart had seen enough American movies to realize that some people make money, wear nice clothes and work harmoniously with others. His own work experience was sweeping the floor in a barber shop at the train shop where he learned to cut men's hair.

"I wanted to get out of the village," he said. "There were just two ways if you have a little schooling, to become a tailor or to become a hairdresser."

Ongart's village was in the southern part of Thailand. "I lived in the jungle there, and I told my mother: 'I'll be a good hairdresser.'"

With just a few pieces of clothing and 50 cents, Ongart took a 24-hour ride on a local train which carried him to the big city of Bangkok. There he learned to cut and style women's hair.

Ongart started training in hair styling at age 14. "I worked while I went to school," he said. "At age 18, I was a professional."

Within a few years, he opened his own shop and was called upon to style hair for Thai royalty on occasion.

Though it was a big jump from the village to Bangkok, after five years the young hair stylist took his American bride, and moved to get another pond. Milan, Italy where he

worked and studied with accomplished hair stylists.

Ongart's next move, in 1983, brought him to Michigan where he opened his first salon in Southfield. In 1990, with a partner, a Farmington Hills shop was opened.

"I've been in the U.S. 10 years," said Ongart, who lives in West Bloomfield. He and his wife, who have a 10 year old daughter, Danielle, are divorced.

Dressed in a black silk suit with red shirt, he keeps his own straight, black hair tied back with a band.

Ongart gives his undivided attention to clients, men and women. "I look every 30 minutes," he said. "I cut and style hair and give perms, but I don't do color. I think one should do one thing and do it well."

His clients come from Ann Arbor, Flint, up north, Chicago, and New York. "Mostly they are people who used to live here," he explained.

Ongart said his schedule is mostly: "work, work, and work" 10 to 12 hours of about 45 hours a week, but he does not discount the possibility of opening other shops.

Now 40, Ongart, son of a rice farmer, is a success in his profession. His dreams have largely come true: he makes good money, wears good clothes, and works well with others.

Six years ago, he returned to Thailand to see his parents just before the Southfield shop was opened. "Whatever they need I get them. I give my mother everything," he said.

At Don's Salon, the proprietor smiles a lot and relates well with his clients and others in the shop. "I like people and they seem to like me," he said.

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Catholic Central grads listed

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Christopher McGrath, Gregory Much (had perfect attendance for all four years), Mario Moutafis, Joseph Platon, Jon Rajkovich, Daniel Rieple, Robert San Juan, Jeffrey Sawicki, Stanley Targosz, Jeffrey Uller, Eric Vogelheim, and Scott Zacharias.

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