

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1992

FARMINGTON
NOTES

Coloring contest set

Hey kids, get out the crayons. ERA Country Ridge Realty Inc. is sponsoring a Halloween coloring contest.

There will be three age categories — 1-5 years of age, 6-10 and 11-18 — and first- and second-place winners will be picked in each. First-place prizes will be \$25, and \$10 will go to the second-place finishers. The first 200 to submit an entry will receive a special prize.

Entry forms may be obtained at the ERA Country Ridge's Farmington Hills office, 35550 Grand River, Farmington Hills. Call 474-3303 for more information.

Entries must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. Nov. 1. Winners will be notified by phone on Nov. 4.

He's reappointed

William W. Bowman III of Farmington Hills has been reappointed by Gov. John Engler to the Construction Safety Standards Commission.

The commission attempts to prevent construction accidents by setting standards in accordance with the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act. Members are appointed with the advice and consent of the state Senate.

Bowman is president of Thompson-Brown, a developer and real estate firm. He is a member of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors, a former director of the Wayne/Oakland Board of Realtors, president of the Community Industrial Development Corp., and chairman of the Industrial Development Committee in Farmington Hills.

Bowman's term ends March 8, 1995.

He's promoted

Joseph M. Syrowik of Farmington has been promoted to senior account executive at Ross Roy Communications, a Detroit-area advertising agency.

Syrowik is responsible for the management of Chrysler's Sales Club Incentive and Sales Certification programs. Previously he was an account executive at Ross Roy. Before that he was an account executive at MARS Advertising.

He is a member of the Adcraft Club of Detroit and a volunteer with big Brothers/big Sisters.

Headlee family aids Romanian orphans

■ The Headlee clan — 17 members strong — and their friends conducted their own mission of mercy to Romania in April, taking food, clothing and other things for orphans there.

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

In these parts, the "Headlee" name often means politics. But it holds a much different meaning for 100 children in one of the many orphanages in Bucharest, Romania.

Seventeen members of the Headlee family and friends from the area traveled to the struggling country for two weeks in April to take 40,000 pounds of donated clothing, food, playground equipment and other needed items and to work with the children there.

"They introduced music, dancing and playing to these children — many who had been strapped to metal beds in ramshackle rooms all of their lives.

Included in the group were Mary and Dick Headlee of Farmington Hills, their eight children and spouses, and two older grandchildren. The family is spread throughout the country and decided to make the trip in lieu of a traditional family reunion.

"The people who grow up in America just really don't have a clue," said son Doug Headlee, who lives in Novi, discussing the poverty, lifestyles and problems they encountered on their family trip. "I kind of went over thinking it wasn't going to be a very easy trip — really tough."

"It was a rewarding experience, especially among the adults. It really helped strengthen the family."

Moving experience

As a foster parent and adoptive fa-



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Helping hands: Doug Headlee and his mother, Mary Headlee, display a photo of their extended family taken during a reunion in Utah. The plan to help the Romanians was developed at the reunion.

ther, Doug said he was especially moved by the children.

Dick Headlee is the former Michigan gubernatorial candidate, father of the 1978 Headlee constitutional amendment to limit tax increases, and chairman of the Farmington Hills-based Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. He also heads up the Headlee family, whose members decided one year ago to forego exchanging Christmas gifts to do this family service project.

In soliciting items for the trip, the Headlees explained to supporters about the 23-year Nicolae Ceausescu regime in Romania, which outlawed birth control, banned abortion, and directed women of childbearing age to undergo regular fertility testing. Most recent estimates show that 200,000 children were born to people unable

to care for them and ended up in state-run orphanages, which were often little better than human warehouses.

Horrible conditions

The horrible living conditions of these children were discovered when

See A1D, 16A



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