

FARMINGTON
NOTES

Antiques, anyone?

The Botsford Inn Antiques Show, one of the longest-running such events in the state, is scheduled for Saturday-Sunday, March 6-7, at the historic Botsford Inn on Grand River north of Eight Mile, Farmington Hills.

About 20 Detroit-area antique dealers are expected. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Lunch and dinner are available in the inn's dining room. Antique show customers are invited to view the antiques assembled by Henry Ford during his ownership of the facility during the early 1900s. These items won't be for sale, however.

The \$2 admission entitles the purchaser to return to the show an unlimited number of times.

Financial advice

Monte Korn, one of the area's best known financial advisers, will answer questions on financial matters at the Tuesday, March 2, installment of the Farmington Library's Winter Investment Series.

The program starts at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium or conference room of the Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

There is no charge, but reservations are a must. Call 553-0300.

Candidates needed

The Farmington Area Arts Commission is looking for candidates for its Artist-in-Residence and Distinguished Service awards. Candidates from the fields of art, dance, drama, literature and music are considered.

The Artist-in-Residence Award recognizes the talent and accomplishments of a person from the Farmington area with a cash award, plaque and reception.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes outstanding service to the community in the creative arts. A group and/or individual can receive this honor.

All application material must be received by March 15. Send or deliver to: The Farmington Area Arts Commission, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills 48336.

The new postmaster for Farmington/Farmington Hills means business when it comes to controlling his budget, adding employee incentives and better serving the public.

By BILL COUTANT
Staff Writer



Mark Bate dresses in a tailored business suit, works in a modern office and oversees a budget of \$12 million and a

work force of 270 people. He's not a CEO of a major corporation; he's the new postmaster in Farmington/Farmington Hills. And at 33, he brings an energy and intensity highly valued in a business that once had little competition but now survives in a crowded industry.

"As far as a customer satisfaction index, we're well above the national average," he said. "Our people take a lot of pride in their work."

For the U.S. Postal Service to break even, some postal districts, like Farmington/Farmington Hills, Southfield and Troy, have to make a profit. While that puts the pressure on the new postmaster, it can be an advantage.

"We have to make up for smaller post offices that can't make a profit," he said. "But we can do things that overnight companies can't. We can deliver anywhere, even on Sunday. Most people don't know that."

The fact that many people don't know about all the services the post office delivers is incentive for Bate and his staff to get the message, as well as the mail, out.

"These are going to be critical years," he said. "We're bringing in new reading machines that can handle 3,500 letters a minute. They should be in place by '95. A clerk can

Down to business

New postmaster stresses professionalism



SHARON LAMIRUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Postal authority: Postmaster Mark Bate: "Our people take a lot of pride in their work."

handle 800 a minute."

That, along with other improvements, should keep the post office from having to raise prices while improving service, Bate said.

Very few layoffs

But lest his employees shudder at the prospect of losing out to machines, the Farmington Post Office on Slocum and the Farmington Hills main office on 12 Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake Roads have

been using temporary workers to fill vacancies created by retirements and resignations in order to avoid layoffs.

"We have purposely not filled vacancies so that we won't have to lay off workers," he said. "And we've never fired a worker because of performance."

Letter carriers Garry Homeszyn and Charlotte Ott, both of Farmington, say they'll try a new self-managed route system that is already used by many carriers in the Troy office, where Bate instituted it.

"It allows you to do the route the best way, because you know how to do it," said Homeszyn, a 25-year veteran of the postal service.

Ott, a postal worker for the past 30 years and a union steward, said the program is one that will improve an already good working environment.

Bate said the postal system has been handicapped in the past by having to pay off \$8 billion to the government from 1988-92 as part of the Gramm-Rudman Act.

See POSTMASTER, 16A

Spectacular Bedroom Sale



Was \$1685
Solid Cherry Bed
Now Only \$949

Solid Oak Bedroom
Was \$5125 Now Only
\$3249

Group includes Queen-size Bed, Dresser, Mirror and Chest on Chest. Nightstand Was \$810

Now Only \$399

Stewart-Glenn
2600 N. Woodward Ave.
Just South of Square Lake Rd.
Fine Furniture Since 1917

of Bloomfield Hills

332-8348
Open Mon., Thurs., Fri. 'til 9 p.m.
Sat. 'til 5:30 p.m.

THE MERRILL-PALMER INSTITUTE

Super Summers for Kids

A 1993 CAMP AND ACTIVITIES FAIR



SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 28, 1993
11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Bloomfield Hills Middle School
4200 Quanton Road
Bloomfield Hills
Free Admission
Open to the Public

Here is your chance to meet representatives of local and national summer programs who will help you choose the right program for kids ages 3 - 18.

- Co-ed Programs for Teens
- Overnight Summer Camps
- Day Camps
- Specialty Camps
- Year Round Cultural Programs
- Teen Tours
- Academic Enrichment
- Student Employment

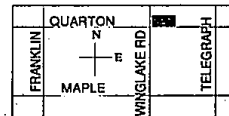
CO-SPONSORED BY
The Merrill-Palmer Institute



THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

PARENT
MAGAZINE

Special thanks to
Q Little Cakes Pizzeria
for their generous support



For further information call
Sandy Schwartz at (313) 872-1790

Due to the large number of exhibitors,
the Merrill-Palmer Institute,
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and
PARENT Magazine do not endorse or
recommend any particular program.