

Up in flames

Hills firefighters use house for realistic firefighting training

One house scheduled for demolition went a long way for the Farmington Hills Fire Department. "We had four separate occasions to use it for training," said Peter Baldwin, deputy fire chief. "The house was donated for our use. It was set for demolition for a new development."

The two-story house on Halsted, between Eight and Nine Mile roads, went up in flames and smoke... little by little. The house had one attached and one unattached garage, and a barn, which the fire department did not use for training. The interior of the house was used to train for fire attack. "We

are trying to teach people in a realistic way how to fight a fire," Baldwin said. "We have no department training site. So this gives us a realistic way to do that." By the end of the week, the house was finished off and definitely ready for removal.



Flames: Farmington Hills firefighter Bob Rebtov (at right) points to flames near the ceiling of a room in a house on Halsted that was used for a training burn recently. The interior of the house gave firefighters an opportunity to practice skills fighting fire under real conditions. At left, a firefighter uses tools to tear away a portion of the house to reach flames in the roof. Notice that the firefighters are wearing masks and oxygen tanks while fighting the fire that was set under controlled conditions in the house that was scheduled for demolition and lent to the fire department.

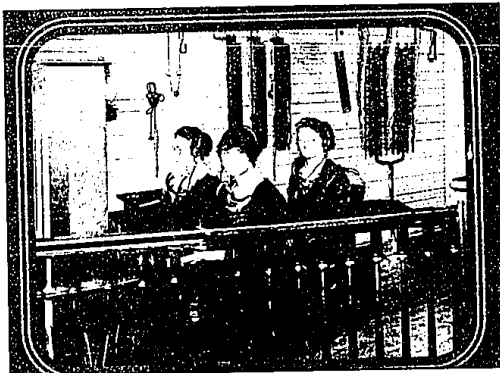


Battling: The house on Halsted gave Farmington Hills firefighters four opportunities to train a variety of firefighting skills over the course of a week.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRENNER

What's my line?



The answer: On Sept. 27, we ran a historic photo of telephone operators in downtown Farmington. Dick Carvell of the Farmington Historical Museum provided us with the photo in the hope that someone out there would recognize the young women. At long last someone has filled us in. The photograph was taken in 1926. The operators were Sarah Cairns Hopkins, Sadie Cairns Schroeder and Daisy Cairns Schwab. Sadie and Daisy were sisters and sisters of the late Floyd Cairns, longtime Farmington Hills city clerk. Sarah was a cousin of Sadie and Daisy's. The telephone operators were identified with help from Mary Sanders of Brighton, a younger sister of Sarah; Jackie Hopkins, daughter-in-law of Sarah, who now lives in Bear Lake; and Leola Cairns, Floyd's wife. Sarah had a sister, Anna, who also worked as a telephone operator. Mary Sanders told of nights when she and another sister, Rose, would stay overnight with their older sisters when they were working.

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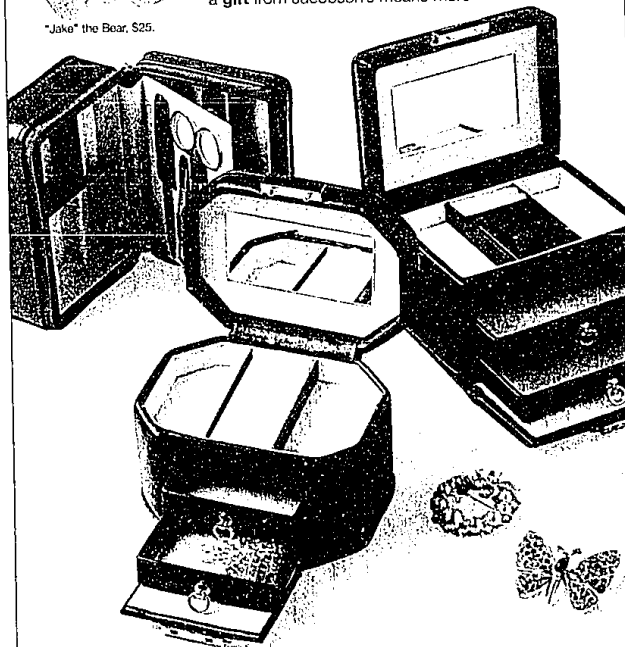
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