CHAT ROOM



TRACEY FINLAYSON

$A\ word\ or\ two\ of$ thanks from Miss *Farmington*

As esses of community is the thread that ties human beings to one another. That is what I felt when I came back from my Miss Farmington/Oakland County going away party.

Located at Heritage Park at the Nature Day Camp Center, friends and family gathered together in the spirit of the Miss America Organization to wish me good luck. I must say that it feels wonderful and very comforting to know that my community is behind me.

And regardless of the outcome of the Miss Michigan competition, I am content knowing that I have had a remarkable journey representing our county as Miss Farmington/Oakland County 2002 (although I have until July 13 before I give up my title—the Miss Oakland County pageant is that night at the Farmington Hills Costick Activities Center!).

Earth Day 2002

Earth Day 2002

I would like to send out a heartfelt thank-you to the following elementary schools: Kenbrook, Highmeadow, Gill and Wooddale of Farmington Public Schools and Grandview and Botsford

Schools and Grandview and Botslord Elementary Schools in the Clarenceville school district. Seventh graders at Power Middle School also received seedlings. I would like to thank all the participating schools for

received seedlings. I would like to thank all the participating schools for their support.

Harrison High School students and community members will also be planting 1,000 seedlings to be placed along the hillside as a buffer system between the high school and I-696 expressway. Ron Aten, Farmington Public Schools architect, organized that tree planting, I also had the pleasure of working with Tim Lewicki of Future Lion Oaks Park in Royal Oak, Jim Hardy and Randy Lovett from San Marino, and Farmington Hills City Naturalist Joe Derek. I gave them over 1,500 seedlings to be planted in the parks and golf courses that they oversee.

Did you know that 6,000 tree seedlings (except for Black Walnut species) does not take up that much space? Just about 10 square feet in the courtyard of Farmington Hills Costick Center. Thanks to the "natural" hospitality of Bryan Farmer, head of the apecial services department at the Costick Activities Center, be graciously allowed me to store the tree seedlings there until I could deliver them on Earth Day to the various schools.

Backdraft

Backdraft

ious schools.

Backdraft
What does carrying around 63
pounds of equipment for three hours, breaking windows, crawling on hands and knees, breathing through a mask, and ripping newspaper have in common? These are all things that I did when participating in the Farmington Hills Fire Department training burn. Thanks to Chief Marinucci and his gracious invitation for my involvement, I became the first Miss Farmington/Oakland to be a firefighter for a day. This was one of the most awe-some things that I ever did in my life. I would like to thank the Farmington Hills Fire Department and especially Fire Station #3 (which by the way, has an excellent pull-up bar in their garage of which I did five pull ups on Just ask the Chiefn.

Special thanks goes out to Assistant Chief Bob Rebtoy for his help to prepare me for the big night and also Deputy Chief Pete Baldwin. Deputy Chief Pete Baldwin. Deputy Chief Peter Baldwin. Deputy Chief Between when to savy put, when to savitch oxygen over, etc.

In addition to witnessing entire rooms burn down (and later the house), highlights including initiating the fre, breaking a window, using the hones, and having a picture with all of the handsome firement I would also like to thank Mary from Station #3 for sharing with me her inspirational stories. She is a true role model for women who are interested in careers not traditionally pursued by women in the past.

Moreover, Mary taught me how it is never too late to pursue your dreams.

the past. Moreover, Mary taught me how it is never too late to pursue your dream in life. That is especially important

Please see CHATROOM, C8

Lone Ranger's home rides into history

BY RUTH MOEHLMANN SPECIAL WRITER

SPECIAL WHITE.

A he home of the first Lone
Ranger has been listed on the
National Register of Historic
Places.
Nestled on a lane beside a cemetery
in Farmington Hills, but bordering the
city of Farmington, the 1860 house was
built by Orville Botsford. It was the
only house Earle Graser and his wife
Jeanne owner.

only house Earle Graser and his wife-Jeanne owned.
Earle Graser was coming home to his horse farm in the early spring morning of 1941 when he drove his car under a truck parked in front of the Methodist Church on Grand River.
Hendlines proclaimed that the Lone Ranger died. Others said that the voice of the Lone Ranger died. Neither proved true.

Ranger died. Others said that the voice of the Lone Ranger died. Notther proved true.

Earle Graser was a national celebrity with a following of thousands of radio listeners. They didn't know his name or what he looked like. His voice was all the fans knew. Keeping his real life identity a secret added to the mystique of the program.

The fictional Lone Ranger's identity was a secret on the radio show about the old west. The Lone Ranger went about his adventures doing good deeds and fighting evil.

The radio show was the creation of George Trendle, owner of Detroit radio station WXYZ. The station created an historic hero for early radio in 1933. It was a national success.

With the verbal image of silver bullets, a great white horse plus an Indian companion, the Lone Ranger rode the nir waves three times a week.

Before the sophisticated polls of listeners, the directors of the program ried to see how many listeners they had by offering a little pop run for responses of a few hundred children. Thousands sent replies. It was estimated that by 1941 there were millions of fans at 150 stations.

Earle Graser was selected to play the Lone Ranger in 1933 because of his voice. He was not tall or athletic, but his voice was just right.

Canada native

Canada native

Canada native

Earle Graser was born in Kitchner,
Ontario, Canada. His family, the
Splomon Grasers with son Earle and
daughter Eva, moved to Detroit in
1917. Earle was nine.

He graduated from a Detroit High
School as he grow up in the city and
then attended Detroit City College
which became Wayne State University.
After graduation he went to law school
while carning his living as an actor.

Once he became the voice of the Lone
Ranger he presented every broadcast
until his unfortunate accident.



Historically speaking: This house, which was once owned by the voice of the Lone Ranger Earle Graser, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Earle Graser had never ridden a horse or fired a gun, but he had a great voice and was an accomplished actor. Once he married Jeanne and the young couple were expecting a baby, they moved to a horse farm in Farm-

ington Township. Sections of the house may have dated back to the 1840s.
Earle was renovating the house. He replaced the fireplace. The Grasers bought antique furniture for their house and although he knew little about borses, Earle got into his character and as a hobby started to raise horses.

Fatal night

Fatal night
Formington Township, at that time had many country estatos and horses were a popular hobby.
The night of the accident Graser and his fellow actor, John Todd who played Tonto, has presented a late night breadcast for the west coast. It was never known if Earle Graser has fallen asleep at the wheel or what happened at 5 a.m. when the accident occurred. The car went under a truck where the driver was parked and sleeping. Graser's neck was broken.

The body was taken to the Heeney Funeral Home and a service was held at the Salem Evangelical Church. People lined Grand River as the funeral procession took the body for burial in a cemetery in Detroit.

Earle Graser was dead but his voice lived on. George Trundle said he didn't want 'the little tikes' to know what happened to their hero.

The radio Lone Ranger had an accident and couldn't speak. Tonto spoke. Then for a few programs the Lone Ranger whispered.

Brace Beemer took over the role. For many years later it was the recorded voice of Earle Graser who called out, 'Hi yo Silver away' to end the programs.

gram.

In Farmington the house was always known as the Lone Ranger's House.

Now it is recognized nationally as a national historic place, fifty-nine years after Earle Graser's death.

Farmington YMCA honors outstanding young volunteers

The Farmington YMCA recently held its annual community breakfast to cel-obrate area volunteers. The following students received awards:

students received awards:

■ Both Diehl is a 2002 graduate of Harrison High School. She has been actively involved in a variety of community service activities. As chairperson of Community Services for the past two years, Diehl has coordinated many different programs designed to help people in need, such as raising money for the March of Dimes, the Salvation, Farmington Community Foundation. She has also been involved in many social, educational and athletic programs at Harrison. Diehl has corned her varsity letter in soccer all four years of high school, organizes off-season training opportunities, and volunteers as a coach for the Farmington Soccer Club. She is planning to go to Grand Valley State University and study physical therapy. Diehl was nominated by Tom Russell, English teacher at Harrison High School.

■ Joe Karl is a 2002 graduate of North Farmington High School and member of the National Honor Society. An integral part of the leadership in the St. Fabian Youth Group 600-700 hours per year. Karl participates regularly in education, service, social projects, liturgy and discussions.

Joe assists regularly in bringing projects to fruition and helps make things happen. He volunteered at a soup kitchen. Children's Hospital, and Alterra House with Alzheimer patients. For the past three years, Karl has spent a week in Appalachia provid-

ing home repairs to those in need. He was nominated by Hene Audette, Youth Minister at St. Fabian Church.

■ Alex Rosenhaus is a 2002 graduate of North Farmington High School. She has been an active volunteer in many activities throughout high school, including the Michigan Cancer Institute where she collected, organized, and distributed gifts for over 40 children at their annual holiday party, and tutored bilingual students at Wood Creek Elementary School, Rosenhaus was nominated by Ms. Kathleen Maiser, Service Coordinator, and teacher at North Farmington High School.

at North Farmington High School.

Ratic Stieber is a student at Mercy High School and member of the National and French Honor Societies. Stieber's involvement in SADD, and as an active Lector and teaching catechism all show her high level of responsibility to the parish and community at large. She is on the Beechview Swim Team, Farmington Family Y Stingrays, and is a lifequard and swim instructor at the Costick Center.

Each year Stieber goes to Appalachia or repair the homes of the disabled and underprivileged. She has also served on parish council as the youth group's representative. She was nominated by Hene Audette. Youth Minister at St. Fabian Church.

Courtney Wilkinson is a 2002 graduate of Mercy High School. She is a National Honor Society student, Lacrosse, and field hockey player, and

Please see YMCA, C6

June 27 outdoor concert

2000 US National Scottish Fiddle Champion Jeremy Kittel will bring his renowned energetic performance style to beautiful Heritage Park in Farmington Hills as part of the City of Farmington Hills Sars in the Park free summer concert series, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June-27, Kittel

27.

Kittol will be joined by guitarist John Behling.

Kittel performs a wide selection of Celtie music with excursions into jazz and bluegrass.

Kittel has performed on "A Prairie Home Companion" this winter. His wonderful Irish, Scottish and Cape Brenton sets are "full of musical surprises". Kittel's CD, "Celtic Fiddle" was released in

Celtic music is on tap at

2000.

John Behling has performed throughout the Midwest since 1986, performing with such popular artists as Patti Page, Clarke Beuhling and the Kirt Lifters, and Claude "Fiddler" Williams.

He also has his own jazz trio; their CD "Maybe I'll Fall" was released in 1999.

Behling is currently completing a doctoral degree in ethnomusicology at the University of Michigan.

The concert's rain-out site will be the Costick Center, on Eleven Mile Road cast of Middlebelt.

For more information and/or to be included on the City of Farmington Hills Cultural Arts mailing list, call (248) 473-1857.