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The NOVI NEWS

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Fuerst sister's last days ruled by legal spats

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

The last of Novi's Fuerst sisters lived out her final, bewildered days at the center of a whirlwind of attorneys, guardians, bickering friends and probate court hearings.

The 91-year-old farmer's daughter apparently was unaware she was almost a millionaire, but others weren't.

Before her Sept. 20 death from blood poisoning, records at the Oakland County Probate Court show that Ruby's legal guardian in May began docking the wages of her in-house caregiver by \$100 a week. This was to make up a sum of \$3,075 allegedly mispent or removed from Fuerst's funds without a clear accounting.

It could have been worse, according to the documents. Fuerst's \$918,000 in assets at Security Bank and Trust were frozen by the court after the caregiver, Antonia Ruk: Keems, with Ruby "in tow" al-

■ One legacy of the Fuerst family's farming days was found by the Novi Fire Department Monday — a box full of five to ten small bags of five to ten small bags of DDT-laced pesticide. The story is on page 11.

■ The Novi Parks and Recreation Commission is currently reviewing ways it can spend the approximately \$350,000 left to the city by the late Iva Fuerst. The story is on page 10.

legedly tried to withdraw the entire sum.
Ruby's sister 93-year-old sister Iva — by all accounts the shrewd fi-

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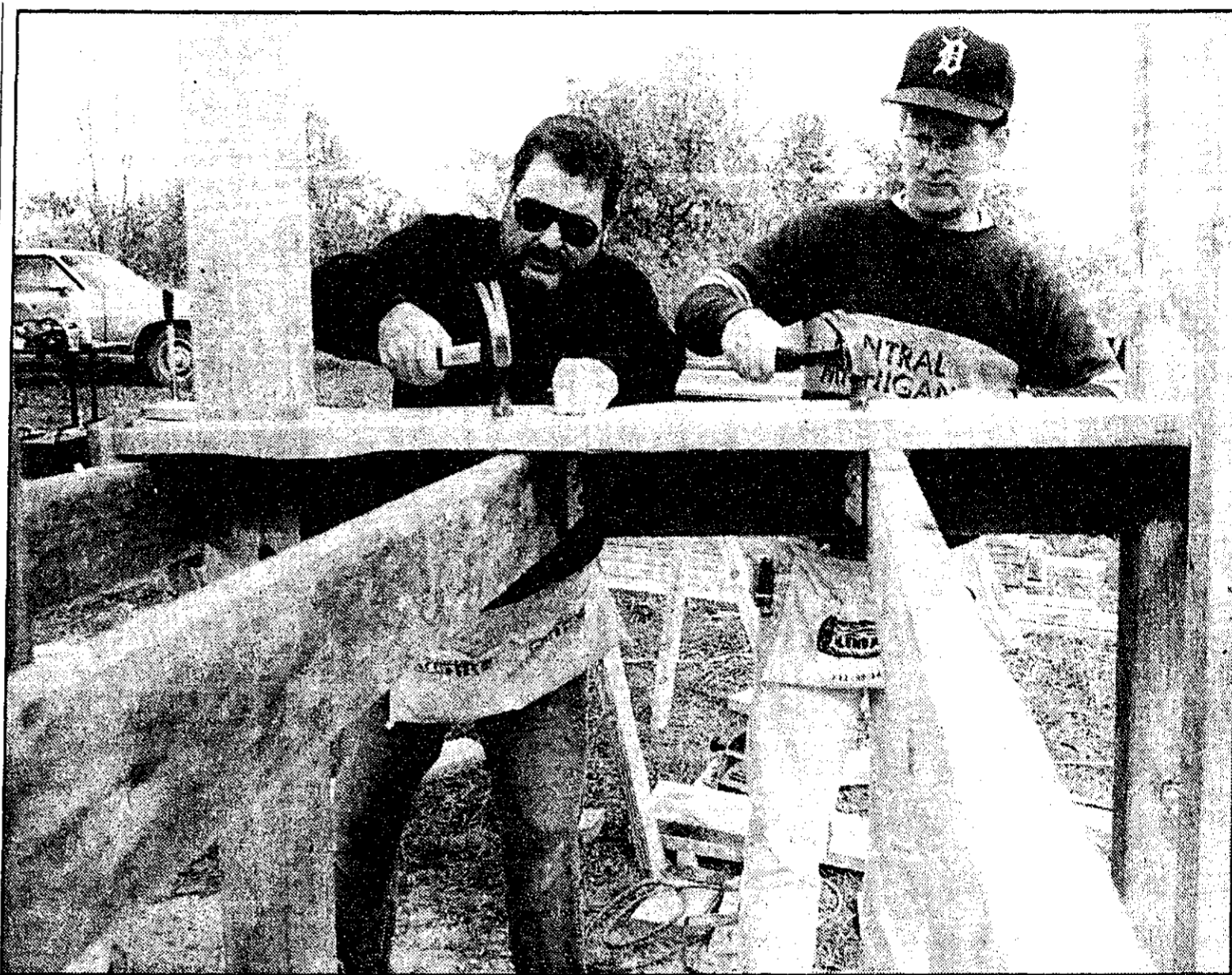


Photo by CHRIS FARINA

Playground raising

Just because the school's budget doesn't allow for it doesn't mean the students at Orchard Hills Elementary School will have to go without new playground equipment this year. Parents and community members worked for three days, beginning Saturday, Oct. 12, to construct the equipment. The work was phase one of a grand plan for the Orchard Hills playground. Above, Ben Beeler (left) and Curt Perry work on the structure. More photos are on page 5.

ing Saturday, Oct. 12, to construct the equipment. The work was phase one of a grand plan for the Orchard Hills playground. Above, Ben Beeler (left) and Curt Perry work on the structure. More photos are on page 5.

City looks into teen 'hang-out'

By SCOTT DANIEL
Staff Writer

After the football game is over on Friday nights where can Novi High School students go to "hang out" and have a good time?

That was the question teens placed before the Novi Parks and Recreation Commission Oct. 10. According to Parks and Recreation Director Dan Davis, the question has been raised before, without resolution. He said that may soon change, however.

"It's come up many times in the last five years," Davis said. "I think we are going to really look at the issue. We need to re-evaluate and take a fresh approach."

The city has looked at establish-

ing a "Teen Center" within the last few years, he said. But questions of where the facility would be, what activities would be provided and who would supervise such a program have sidetracked efforts.

Davis said the parks and recreation commission would study the issue over the next few months. Natalie Catt, a senior at Novi High, said teens need a place where they can socialize without getting in trouble.

"We don't have any facilities to go to," she said. "A lot of times we just drive around because we have nothing to do."

A major problem in getting such a facility off the ground is simply

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Planner strong on quality control

By SCOTT DANIEL
Staff Writer

Talking to Lodia Richards Jr., Novi's newest planning commissioner, the conversation can head in many directions.

You might first, for example, discuss the finer points of basketball card collecting. You might then move your way into a discourse on the appropriate wine for filet mignon.

"You would want an '81 or '82 Bordeaux," he said. "You never

want the wine to overpower the meal."

Like a good wine, Richards' appointment to the commission couldn't be hurried. After being passed over for an opening in July, Novi City Council voted last month to install Richards in the slot opened by the resignation of Tom O'Branovic.

The timing of the appointment was a bit of a shock, Richards said. But he says he is eager to tackle the business of the commission.

"I was really surprised," Ri-

chards said. "I really want to get involved in the community."

The 44-year-old is a three-year resident of Novi.

A longtime resident of Southfield, Richards said he moved his family to the city for a number of reasons including the quality of the schools, its location and access to shopping areas. He said he hasn't regretted his decision.

"It seems to be a place with a friendly atmosphere," Richards commented. "Everyone is friendly in the city."

Even though his family enjoys Novi, Richards' wife, Mary, may not be convinced it's better than Indianapolis. The couple, which met and grew up in that city, visit their family there many times each year.

Mary and Lodia have been married for more than 25 years.

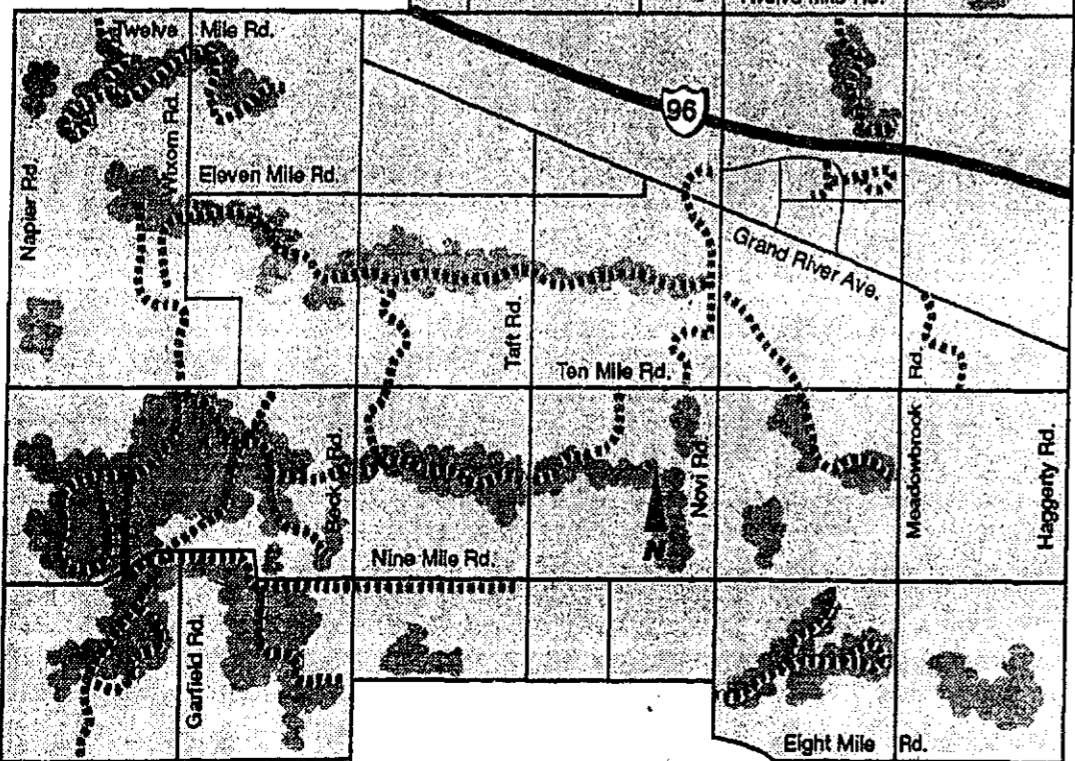
"I met my wife in the first grade," Richards said. "It seems like we've always been together."

Richards has also been with General Motors for a long time.

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Proposed Greenway System

..... Path of Greenway
Wooded areas



SOURCE: Novi Community Development Dept.

Map by ANGELA PREDHOMME

Gifts make greenbelt grow

By SCOTT DANIEL
Staff Writer

Slowly but surely, the pieces of Novi's Linear Greenway System are falling into place.

A Farmington Hills-based development company, The Selective Group, recently agreed with the city to donate an easement for the system on its property, near Wilkom Road between Ten and Eleven Mile roads, stretching nearly a mile. The trail, which meanders throughout much of the city, is in the early stages of development.

"It will evolve over 10 to 20 years," said Novi Planning Consultant Brandon Rogers.

According to Linda Lemke, a city planning consultant with Rogers' firm, the greenway system was created to connect the city's woodland and wetlands area. She said the trail would help fill a void in Novi by providing passive recreation area.

"We wanted to do a plan that would tie all the (woodlands and wetlands) together," Lemke said, "and provide access for residents to these beautiful areas that they wouldn't otherwise have a chance to see."

The system, which has been accepted by the city as part of its Master Plan, is divided into 12 segments. Each segment, Lemke said, will stress the past, present and future of Novi.

The segment titled "Seasons," for example, will focus on poetry with sign posts scattered throughout its length. "Tracks" will focus on Novi wildlife.

The greenway path will cover 34 miles.

Lemke said much of the trail will be in the form of a woodchip path. A small portion will be paved, she added.

The system will be a place for residents to walk and jog in summer months. In winter months activities such as cross country skiing will be featured.

Entrances to the path will be marked by arched gateways, Lemke said. Seeding will help increase the beauty of the system, she said.

Rogers said developers have been receptive to the plan. The city has received easements in five of the segments, he said, from such developments as Chase Farms, Ma-

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Kelley Blakemore and Becky Russell

Kelley always knew Becky's schedule. Sometimes when they got together, Becky would take Kelley roller skating or to the library. Or they would just "hang out."

And today, although Kelly and Becky no longer live in the same town, they are still great friends. In fact, they have quite a unique relationship. Becky is Kelley's big sister, and they are not even related.

Kelley Blakemore is in the seventh grade. When she first met Becky, her parents were divorced and she lived with her father and 16-year-old brother (her father has since remarried). Kelley's father wanted her to have a positive female role model, so he called the Big Brother/Big Sister office in Albion and requested a big sister for Kelley.

Becky Russell, a recent Albion College graduate whose father is Rev. James Russell of Northville, became interested in the Big Brother/Big Sister Program last year. Russell said she has a good relationship with her real little sister at home and wanted to do something "consistent and service-oriented."

Russell knew of other students who had strong relationships with their "Albion" little sisters, so she contacted the program director.

After almost a semester of interviews, Russell and Blakemore were matched up.

It did not take Russell and Blakemore long to get to know one another. "Kelley and I hit it off really well," Russell said. "Kelley is a very energetic, very bright girl."

For their first meeting Russell bought poster board and magazines, and they cut and pasted their favorite things on the poster board. It was a good ice breaker, Russell said.

Next, Russell made a schedule book for each of them — to let each other know what the other one was doing during the day. For Blakemore, they decorated a pink note pad with Blakemore's favorite stickers and some ribbons. It contained Russell's entire schedule inside. "We go bowling together, go out to dinner and she comes over to my house. Sometimes she takes me to church or we eat at McDonald's," Blakemore said.

Russell describes Blakemore as a "very outgoing girl." "Kelley feels comfortable with people right away," Russell said, adding that Blakemore "loves Baldwin (the campus cafeteria), loves to see my friends and loves to dance and do cheers."

Russell also tries to instill in Blakemore the importance of an education.

"I tell her school is very important and there are a lot of different activities to be involved in," she said. Blakemore currently attends Washington Gardner Junior

High School and plays the trombone in the school band.

"We also work through problems together," Russell said. They talk about everything from schoolwork to boys, she added.

"I can express things to her (Becky) that I can't to my own family," said Blakemore.

"The neatest thing," Russell explained, "is showing her a different perspective of life that she doesn't see at school."

Russell said becoming a big sister was a big commitment, and she tried to be consistent regarding the amount of time she and Blakemore would spend together.

When Russell began to come close to her graduation date, the two began to talk about it.

"I told her that I will always be her big sister. We'll always have each other's address and phone number so we can keep in touch," she said.

And indeed, they have kept in touch since her graduation last spring. Becky now works for a major accounting firm in Detroit and spent the summer touring Europe, but the two still keep in contact.

"Recently we went out for dinner," Jim Russell said. "Kelly is a very bright girl. I told her if she goes to college, I will pay for her books."

Apology to
other driversCristina
Ferrier

To the people who have shared the road with me — I am sorry. I haven't always taken your safety into concern. There have been many times when I drove

while thinking about other things, my mind on "automatic pilot" even though my hands were on the wheel and I was looking at the road.

I'm not going to do that any more. I recently covered a tragic accident at Pontiac Trail and Beck roads where a woman was killed because someone else ran a red light.

The driver who ran the light wasn't drinking or using drugs. She was even wearing a seatbelt. But I bet I know how she came to run that light.

She just wasn't paying attention. The obvious and terrible tragedy of this accident is the driver who was going through the green light. She died, and her family is in deep grief because they don't have her anymore. The pain must be unbearable.

But I am sure the driver who caused the accident — who escaped uninjured — is living her own personal hell.

She's only 26, and her life will probably never again be the same as it was before she ran that light.

And deep down, I know that it could have been me.

I've driven over the speed limit countless times. Worse, I've sometimes sped up instead of slowing down when the light turned yellow, and I've watched it turn red the moment before I drove under it.

I've been gifted with two traffic tickets recently. One was for an illegal left turn in downtown Northville. I was heading north on Center and turned left onto Main because I wasn't observant enough to notice a huge sign saying "No left turn."

The other was issued by a state trooper who caught me driving 72 mph on I-696.

But instead of taking those tickets as the warning I should have — that I'd better start driving more carefully — I just cursed my bad luck and complained about the money I had to pay.

Now I'm thanking those officers for those tickets, and I'm thanking God and fate and the stars and everything else that those tickets are all I got.

I'm so, so sorry for the family of the woman who was killed in that accident at Pontiac Trail and Beck. I'm changing my driving habits so I won't cause any accidents like that.

I hope those who share the road with me and those I love will make that same decision. If they haven't already.

Volunteer



BERNICE SPRINGER

Retired librarian
keeps helping out

What does a retired librarian do? Well, if she's like Bernice Spengler, she volunteers in a library.

Three years ago when the police department was moving out and the Novi Public Library was taking over the whole building, Spengler, who had retired from almost 40 years as chief librarian of the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library, went to the reference librarian and asked if, when they moved into their new quarters, they would need help in checking or shelving?

She was taken on right away and, she said, "I have kept going one day every week, putting in six hours, including lunch time," working on a variety of assignments.

"Reading the shelves" was one of the first things she did — checking each book to see that it was in its proper place. "That took a couple of weeks."

Once she was given a "shelf card," listing "a bunch of cards to pull from the catalog drawers because the

books were out of date or lost." That's not just one card for one book, but three — one for each author, subject and title.

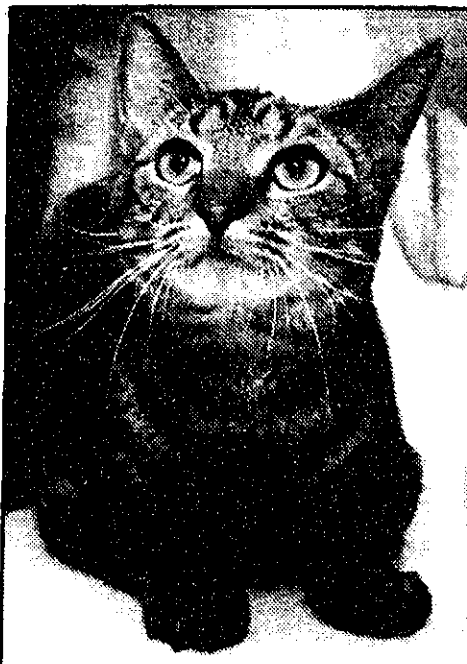
"They give me a variety of things to do," Spengler said. "They're capitalizing on my experience."

Volunteering at Novi is different from working professionally at Burton, Bernice Spengler said, not just because of her relationship with staff but also because of the difference in clientele and subject matter.

At Burton, the patrons were university students and people who wanted to trace their ancestors. Here at Novi, there are people of all ages coming in and, she exclaimed, "I'm getting all this new fiction."

If others would like to volunteer at Novi Public Library, Spengler said, "They wouldn't get the jobs I do" because they wouldn't have the same background experience, but "there are volunteer jobs that especially high school kids come in to do."

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REAL ESTATE CREATIVE LIVING

REAL ESTATE

Buying a new home gets a little easier

By James M. Woodard
Copley News Service

The "window of opportunity" for home buyers is opening wider in many regions of the country.

In many cases, first-time buyers are successfully taking the big step into home ownership. The key reasons for the widening opportunities are very low home mortgage interest rates, new and creative loan types, lowering home prices in many areas and a pentup demand for homes by purchasers who have long been waiting for the right conditions.

Some of today's first-time home buyers are combining new and innovative mortgage loans with financial assistance from a family member.

"We're selling an increasing number of homes to first-time buyers," said a particularly active broker. "Some of those buyers produce a 'gift letter' from a parent, indicating that the parent will give (not loan) an amount of money toward the down payment for the couple's first home. This makes it

easier for the buyer to qualify for a mortgage loan."

One increasingly popular loan, especially with first-time home buyers, is the Fanny Mae two-step loan, according to Tom Cross, sales manager for 1st Nationwide Bank — a subsidiary of Ford Motor Co.

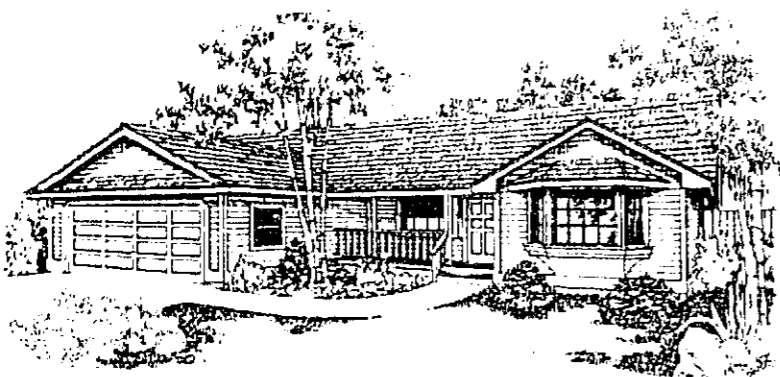
The two-step loan provides a low fixed interest rate for the first seven years, then adjusts to the prevailing rate at that time. It then remains fixed for the remainder of a 30-year term.

Another very favorable loan for first-time buyers is a convertible adjustable mortgage loan. Cross said. This loan starts at a low interest rate — currently about 7 percent. The rate is adjusted annually, but may be converted to a fixed-rate loan anytime after the first 13 months. The new fixed-rate interest will be at the prevailing rate at the time of conversion.

With such a low starting interest rate, many more families now can qualify for home financing.

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HOME DESIGNS



Bright and compact highlight Hyacinth 1

By James McAlexander
Copley News Service

Bright, compact and efficient, the Hyacinth 1 makes excellent use of space and offers several features not often found in smaller homes. The most notable of these are a guest suite, an electronic security center, three bathrooms and a recycling center.

The big country kitchen has a wide garden window and a full pantry with plenty of room for storing home-preserved fruits and vegetables. Friends and neighbors will love dropping by to sit around the kitchen table and chat. The range and oven are built into an eating bar that borders on the dining room. Handy for warming and serving a hurry-up can of soup, it also doubles as a buffet for more formal meals.

In response to an increasing interest in preserving the environment, a recycling center is built into one wall, with counter space and cupboards over the passthrough bins. Family members will appreciate the ease of placing cans, bottles, plastic or whatever in the bins during kitchen cleanup without stepping outside. Later, when the time comes to bundle and bag items for the recycler, the work can be done

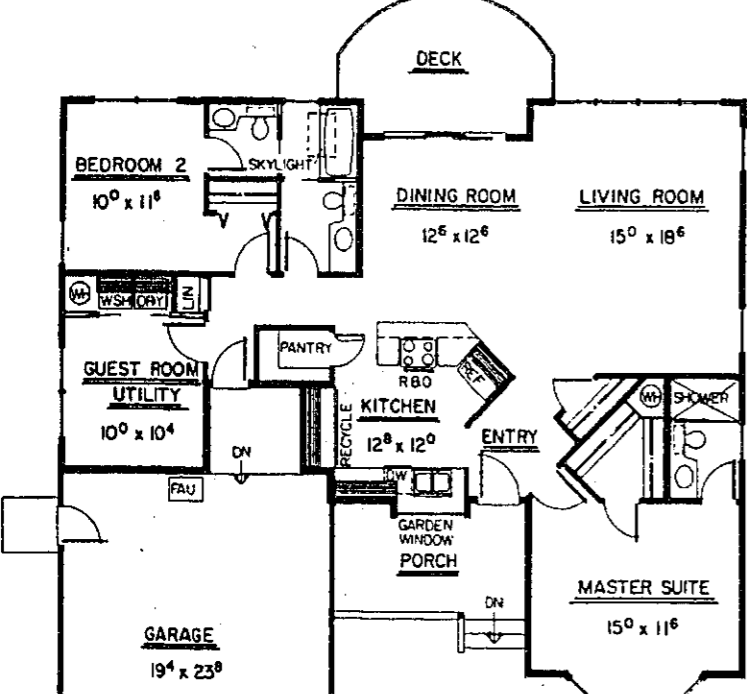
on the other side of the bins, in the garage.

By combining the dining and living rooms, the designers have given the area, and thus the whole home, a more spacious feeling than would be the case with two smaller rooms. Some families may wish to totally forgo formality and outfit this window-brightened area as a large family room, including a home entertainment and/or computer center. Triple sliding-glass doors open onto a small deck.

The master bedroom has a bay window, a triangular-shape walkin closet and a shower with no tub for easier and safer access. The other bedrooms are located at the opposite end of the house. A shared oversize tub, bathed in natural light from above, is accessible from both the main bathroom and another that serves the small guest suite.

Utilities are hidden behind pocket doors in a room that could be used for guests, hobbies, sewing, exercise or even as an office.

For a study plan of the Hyacinth 1330-41, send \$7.50 to Landmark Designs, c/o HomeTown Newspapers, 323 E. Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48843. (Be sure to specify plan name and number when ordering.)



OVERALL DIMENSIONS: 50'-0" x 50'-0"
LIVING: 1499 square feet
GARAGE: 480 square feet
COVERAGE: 1979 square feet



Laura Pope transfers stencil to the mirror to be etched



Pope then applies etching compound over the stencil

ETCH IT

Using glass engraving techniques, you can create personalized designs

By ALICIA GARRISON



In just a few minutes, you can turn a plain-looking piece of glass into a distinct work of art through a fun and easy process known as glass etching.

You don't have to be a skilled crafter to etch glass because the technique is so simple to do—and it's relatively inexpensive.

Glass etching does not involve the use of a diamond-tipped chisel, as most people think.

"That technique is glass engraving," said Laura Pope, owner of Laura's Craft Shop in downtown Brighton. "Glass etching is a design that is embedded into the glass by using an etching cream (available at most craft stores)."

Etching designs can be transferred to both glass and mirror. It is commonly used to personalize glassware, decorate mirrors, and makes great Christmas ornaments—use your imagination.

"Some people even use it to decorate the side light windows of their front doors," Pope said.

All you'll need to get started is some glass etching cream (Armour Etch sells jars for approximately \$4.75), a rub-on stencil (they sell for approximately \$3.25; Rub 'n' Etch and Rub 'n' Stencil are popu-

lar manufacturers), a cheap paint brush, glass cleaner, masking tape and a pair of plastic gloves (optional).

Most craft stores offer a wide variety of rub-on stencils for etching. Nearly 36 patterns are in stock at Laura's Craft Shop, 427 W. Main St. Instructions are included in the package.

Once you've gathered your materials, you can begin. Follow these simple steps:

1. Clean your glass or mirror with a non-filming solvent. Let it dry thoroughly.

2. Cut out the stencil design of your choice. Keep the stencil side (dark blue side) facing down on the white backing sheet until ready to use.

3. Measure to determine where you want the stencil to appear on your glass or mirror.

4. Separate the stencil from the backing sheet, and place it on the glass with the dark blue side touching the glass.

5. Remove the carrier sheet.

6. Secure the stencil in place by putting masking tape all around the edges of the stencil (don't cover open design spaces).

7. Use wooden applicator (comes with rub-on stencil) or popsicle stick and rub stencil with smooth, even strokes (don't dig into the stencil) to transfer it onto glass or mirror. Be sure to rub all areas, especially fine lines and the stencil under the taped edges.

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Photos by SCOTT PIPER

Pope, of Laura's Crafts in Brighton, shows the finished etching on the mirror. The entire process required 10-15 minutes.

CLASSIFIED GREEN SHEET



John Colizzi, owner of the Sawmill, is joined by store manager Chris Riley

Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

The Sawmill can do it all in wood

By RICK BYRNE
Copy Editor

It's hard being everything to everybody, but when it comes to wood-working, The Sawmill in Northville is making a game effort.

The store began several years ago as a retailer of unfinished furniture. That in itself is nothing new. What is new is that The Sawmill has grown immensely. Owner John Colizzi has broadened not only the line of items sold at the retail store, but has branched out into other areas as well.

"We're not just a place where you can go and buy an inexpensive piece of furniture and take it home and paint it anymore," he says.

The store stocks everything from \$30 chairs to \$400-\$500 cherry chairs, from solid oak tables costing \$169 to ones costing \$2,000.

"Even our inexpensive pieces are good furniture," Colizzi says.

And while most unfinished furniture stores have limited themselves to Early American style, there is no limit to the styles you can find at The Sawmill. That's because the store can custom build and design a piece to meet the needs and desires of the customer.

The company even builds and sells such small items as napkin holders and paper towel dispensers.

"We have built everything," Colizzi says with confidence, and he has the pictures to prove it.

Photo albums in the store highlight some of The Sawmill's adventures in woodworking.

"We recently did a 25-foot conference table for a large truck company," Colizzi says. "We contracted out the manufacture of it, but we did all the design work."

The company also built and 18-foot cross that adorns the wall in-

Continued on 2

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WANTED:
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118 Household Pets
1 PAIR breeding
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119 Horses
12 ARAB gelding
... 119 Horses

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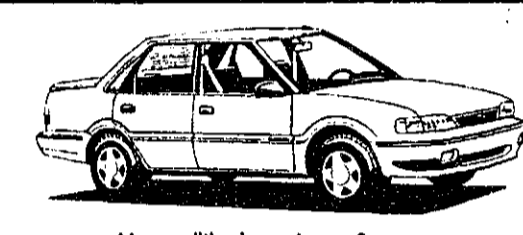
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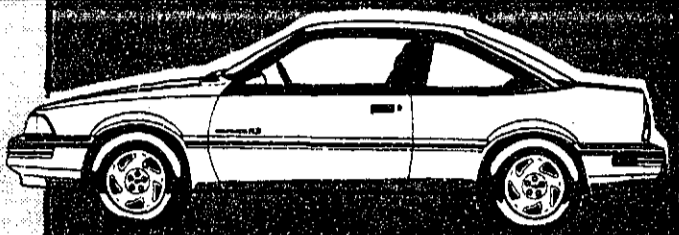
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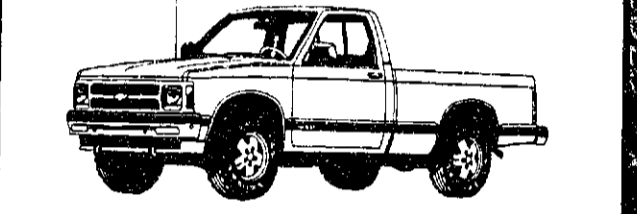


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\$159* \$8481

NEW 1992 TRACKER
 Stock No. T9066F
 Factory Price \$11,844
 Discount Savings -414
 Consumer Cash Back -700
 1st Time Buyer's Discount** -800
 GM Employee/Family Discount -800
 Your Net Trade In or Cash Reduction* -1000
\$174* \$7961

NEW 1992 FULL SIZE PICKUP
 Stock No. T9068F
 Factory Price \$11,445
 Discount Savings -700
 Consumer Cash Back -800
 GM Employee/Family Discount -800
 Your Net Trade In or Cash Reduction* -1000
\$175* \$8649

NEW 1992 CAPRICE
 Stock No. 2002J
 Factory Price \$19,145
 Discount Savings -2205
 Consumer Cash Back -1200
 GM Employee/Family Discount -911
 Your Net Trade In or Cash Reduction* -1000
\$288* \$13,799



NEW 1991 S10 PICKUP
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 Factory Price \$8839
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 Consumer Cash Back -750
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88 FORD ESCORT \$3995 <i>Low miles, great m.p.g. \$139* per mo.</i>	91 CALAIS \$6995 <i>Like new, best buy \$149* per mo.</i>	85 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER \$3890 <i>7 passenger</i>	88 CHEVY C-1500 PICK UP \$5890 <i>V-6, auto, air</i>

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