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In Profile
Top spring athletes at CHS talk about sports, future.
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A Peek Into History
Clarkston Home Tour VIII takes place this weekend, with a look at six lifestyles in historical and modern homes.

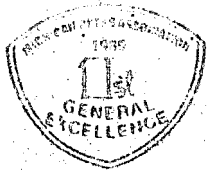
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Saving Earth
Mom starts neighborhood environmental group.

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The Clarkston News

Award-winning hometown newspaper for 60 years

Vol. 60 No. 43 Wed., May 30, 1990

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2 Sections - 64 Pages 50 Cents

Teachers, board ratify contract

BY TRACY KING
Clarkston News Associate Editor

Clarkston teachers will receive a 6.25 percent pay raise and a change in insurance beginning in August.

The elements are part of a new two-year contract ratified by both teachers and the school board in separate sessions May 29. The contract affects 298 members of the Clarkston Education Association, the teacher's union, starting in August of 1990.

Teachers approved the contract on a vote of 165 to 48. The board of education unanimously approved the package in a special meeting, several hours later.

The teacher contract is characterized by both sides as a "give and take" document.

Though the teachers will receive raises, they will also accept a major change in the districts insurance package, which is expected to save the district an estimated \$135,000.

Teachers will receive a 6.25 percent increase in August. The following August, teachers will see a 6.5 percent raise.

As part of the new insurance package, teachers will pay a deductible for claims. The district uses a Blue Cross Messa insurance policy, which will be changed from Supercare Two to Supercare One.

Under Supercare One, teachers will pay a \$50 deductible for individual policies, or a \$100 deductible for full family policies.

The change is an important one for the district, said CEA president Bill Curtis.

"Of the 28 districts in the county, Clarkston ranks towards the bottom of the pay scale," Curtis said. "(Insurance) was one of the few perks we received. To help the district contain costs, we changed our insurance coverage.

"It was not done easily on either side," Curtis added.

Memorial Day quiet in area

Independence and Springfield townships successfully survived the Memorial Day weekend casualty-free this year.

This is quite an accomplishment considering that Memorial Day weekend is one of the most accident-laden times of the year. AAA authorities estimate that Americans traveled nearly 920 million miles during this three-day period.

Across the state, 11 people died in traffic accidents as of Monday evening. In comparison, AAA reports indicate that 15 people lost their lives on Michigan roadways during the 1989 Memorial Day weekend.



Paying tribute

CROWDS gather in the Village of Clarkston for the Memorial Day parade May 28. After a short parade, the crowd then moves to

Lakeview Cemetery where memorial services commemorate those who have served in war. (Photo by Sandra G. Conlen)



Not forgotten

LOVED ONES gather to remember the deceased on Memorial Day, May 28. Mary Gregor of Ellis Road sits on the gravestone of her husband who died in 1987. He served in the Navy during the Korean War. (Photo by Sandra G. Conlen)

Correction

In the May 16 edition of The Clarkston News, Dean VanderKolk's name was misspelled in a story about mimes. Also, the story should have said that VanderKolk and fellow mime Shawn Smith entertained a group of West Germans in the United States and that they belong to a band called "Project G.O.D.," which recently released an album called "Reach Out."

The Clarkston News

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5 honored at annual community awards breakfast

BY JULIE CAMPE
Clarkston News Editor

Laughter mixed with sincere expressions of thanks at the Fifth Annual Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. May 23.

In conjunction with Independence Township and the Village of Clarkston, five awards were given at the ceremony at Spring Lake Country Club, Maybee Road, Independence Township.

George White presented the Citizen Award to Jan and Durham Downs, who have lived in the area with their four sons since 1983.

The two volunteered more than 1,000 hours to issues concerning Clarkston Community Schools, said White, mentioning in particular their work on millage campaigns.

Since schools are an integral part of any community, the Downs have contributed much, he said.

"Jan and Durham have played a very active role in the quality of life in the community," White said.

Independence Township Supervisor Frank Ronk presented the Volunteer Award to Robert J. Pilarcik for his work on the Independence Land Conservancy.

"He works hard for the community," said Ronk. "He's worked hard for the school over the years. ... In the conservancy, he is one of the key people who keeps it going.

"(The Conservancy) is going to preserve some of the things in the community that won't be taken away by the growth."

In accepting the award, Pilarcik noted that many volunteers were in the audience.

"For me, land preservation and volunteering in general is a form of prayer," he said. "It's an act of love. I love this community. I love its surroundings, and I love its people."

For the Property Beautification Award, Mary Himburg made the presentation to Margaret Roth of Lehman Investment, which renovated an auto dealership on M-15, just north of the Village of Clarkston, turning it into a retail and office building.

Himburg said the changes not only improve that particular site, but "it improves the whole surrounding area."

Roth, who accepted the award in place of her son, Ed

Adler, was pleased with the award.

"I, myself, could not believe that we had that ugly building sitting there, so I told my son, 'We have to do something about it,'" she said, laughing.

Bruce Mercado presented the Business Person Award to Richard Detkowski of Clarkston Disposal.

"He makes a significant impression on our community by improving the environment," said Mercado, mentioning Detkowski's early involvement with curbside recycling.

In addition to his own business, Detkowski has served as a speaker about recycling and solid waste management in general, said Mercado.

Detkowski said he was honored to receive the award and thanked his wife, Cherri, for putting up with his long hours at work.

"I miss meals, and she has to take care of everything," he said.

Jon Abbott presented the Historic Preservation Award to Alex and Peggy Bruni, for their restoration of an historical home on Main Street, Clarkston, and for Peggy's involvement with the Clarkston Community Historical Society.

"The Brunis did a beautiful job," said Abbott, about the house. "They've had the joy of living in that house for eight months while they went through all this."



ACCEPTING the property beautification award is Margaret Roth of Lehman Investments.



SUPERVISOR Frank Ronk of Independence Township presents Robert Pilarcik with the volunteer award for Pilarcik's work toward preserving land in the area.



RICK DETKOWSKI gave credit to his wife, Cherri, when he received the business person award for his contribution to the cause of recycling. She kept the household running while he worked long hours in his Clarkston Disposal business, he said.



AFTER breakfast Wednesday, May 23, award-winners talk before getting their pictures taken. At left are Peggy and Alex Bruni, winners of the historical preservation award. At right are Jan and Durham Downs, winners of the citizen award.

Environmental concerns targeted by area group



MOTHER of two Tammy Thompson of Fox Chase, Independence Township, has begun a compost pile in her backyard, behind her children's swingset.

BY TRACY KING
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Amid the clamor of her kitchen, Tammy Thompson talks animatedly about the events of the night before. The first meeting of her new environmental group had drawn 25 people to her living room, she says. Featured speaker Ann Hobart was fantastic. So was Clarkston Disposal owner Rick Detkowski. Oakland County Commissioner Richard Kuhn was there. And so were Food Town owners Bob and Peggy Roth. Though buoyed by the meeting she organized al-

"I'd like to see Clarkston really getting into this. It seems that if the village started together to believe in ideas, we could work together."

Tammy Thompson

most single-handedly, the feisty, red-haired mother of two young children laments it wasn't good enough. "We passed out 250 fliers!" she says, disappointedly. "The kids and I went out door to door, and only 25 people showed up." A former resident of Waterford, Tammy and her family moved to Independence Township two years ago after "the bulldozers came in and the wetlands were (See ENVIRONMENTAL, next page)

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Going Away On Weekends?

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Name of Clarkston Oaks grocery store uncertain after Kroger announces buy-out of Great Scott!

BY CURT MCALLISTER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Officials don't know yet if the vacant Great Scott! building at Clarkston Oaks plaza, Dixie Highway, Independence Township, will become a Kroger or remain a Great Scott!

Two weeks ago, Kroger Co. announced an agreement to purchase a majority of the Meadowdale Foods' Great Scott! stores.

According to Great Scott! officials, a contract could be finalized within two to three months. It will take that long to work out various technicalities such as government filings and union arrangements.

Under the proposed agreement, Kroger will acquire most of the operating assets of Meadowdale's Great Scott! retail division, including 30 operating Great Scott! stores and four new stores under construction. In the deal, a third company, Foodland Distributors, will also acquire the operating assets of Meadowdale's Abner Wolf Dis-

tributors' wholesale division, as well as the four remaining Great Scott! retail locations.

Great Scott! currently operates 34 supermarkets in the metropolitan Detroit area and has four additional stores under construction that Kroger expects to complete and open. Kroger, which currently operates 29 supermarkets in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, expects to operate most of the acquired Great Scott! stores under the Kroger name.

However, it hasn't been determined yet if the vacant store at Maybee Road and Dixie Highway will remain a Great Scott! or be converted to a Kroger.

According to Ron Sperlock, merchandising manager at Kroger Co., the decision of store designation probably won't come about until the finalization of the contract.

"We've yet to look at the specific numbers of stores to see which ones could gain the Kroger name or remain Great Scott!," Sperlock said. "We'll take a look at the stores once a contract has been closed, but it'll probably take two to three months to get through this process."

When asked if a transfer of title could affect the proposed July opening of the Clarkston Oaks store, Paul Coleman, director of communications at Meadowdale's, said he had no comment until a contract settlement had been reached.

Ed Boutros, the developer of Clarkston Oaks, said he probably would be notified of the store's opening date within a couple of weeks. He added that the building would probably be converted to a Kroger, but it wouldn't have to be modified to accommodate a different supermarket.

"I've viewed one of Kroger's 'new generation' stores in Garden City, and it's very similar to today's Great Scott! supermarkets," he said. "The store is going to be very, very nice and far different from any Kroger you've ever seen."

Environmental group is formed

(ENVIRONMENTAL, from previous page)
destroyed in the back of the (Waterford) neighborhood."

Though her call to "save the earth" joins a chorus of others on this Earth Day anniversary, her voice has been yelling longer, and perhaps louder, than many others.

Her children have been hearing about her fight since the day they were born, she says.

"We can't stop development," Tammy admits. "But if we don't have trees, lakes and fresh water — do you know where our water supply comes from?" she demands.

"Lake Huron," she answers. "Can you imagine what that water has to go through?"

"I'm not a professional," she admits. "All I do is read. But, see, it's information that is going to help us."

In an effort to share information, Tammy has fought to organize the environmental group in her neighborhood.

Though the group has no formal name yet, meetings will be held regularly to pool information, determine target areas of improvement and take action.

Fast-food restaurants rank high on the hit list: Tammy invited local Burger King and McDonald's representatives to the group's first meeting.

"Burger King is really doing great," Tammy comments, "(but) we're going to go and get into McDonald's face."

Grocery stores are another target; Food Town has consented to purchase canvas bags for customers requesting them, and the group hopes to get the new A & P and Great Scott managers to do the same thing.

"I'd like to see Clarkston get a trash day," she adds, ticking off several other environmental concerns.

"We're going to come up with what bothers us most and target that and go down the list," she says.

"I'd like to see Clarkston really getting into this," Tammy muses. "It seems that if the village started together to believe in ideas, we could work together."

"We need to start caring again," she adds.

The group's next meeting has been set for June 19. To attend, or to receive more information, call 623-2685.

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Summer begins

Julie Campe



A stream of consciousness before Memorial Day weekend:

While there are no clowns or free candy or huge decorated floats in Clarkston's Memorial Day Parade, it is my favorite of all Clarkston's parades. It's not that I don't like the festivity of the other occasions — but I like the solemnity of the Memorial Day observation.

Each year, veterans of war march, as do family members of those missing in action. Then, at Lakeview Cemetery afterward, someone recites the Gettysburg Address, and the roll call of Clarkston's war dead is read — the list of names goes on and on.

Next, the Clarkston High School marching band plays. For one piece, trumpeters are spaced throughout the cemetery, so their clear notes sound like they're floating in on the wind.

On Memorial Day — and other days, too — family members can be seen tending to their loved ones' graves.

Sometimes, it's an elderly woman, all alone, carefully planting geraniums at the grave of her deceased husband.

Other times, children accompany a parent or two, and while the adults are planting and raking, the children scramble around, racing for the water spigot or trying to make out now-faded gravestones.

Eventually, they ramble back to their parents. Perhaps it is a time for children to learn about their family history. Or maybe it is just a peaceful day spent out of doors and out of school.

The smell of freshly-cut grass reminds me of childhood. When I was really young, I didn't pay attention too much to grass stains on my clothing.

But later, I noticed how grass was slick if you slid on it. It would leave shiny green streaks — sometimes mixed with brown from moist dirt — on clothes. It was only much later that I remembered before I slid that those stains were difficult for my mother to remove in the laundry. By that age, I didn't do much sliding on the grass anyway.

Occasionally, my neighbor Cindy Criger and I would sit on a hill and chew on long pieces of grass — the type with the seeds still on the ends. We thought we were kind of like characters from television Westerns, I guess. But the grass never tasted very good — kind of bitter, instead of sweet, which I expected.

We would chew and think and talk.

Cindy and I talked about many things — all important. Like Bobby Sherman. (Remember him? The blue-eyed vocalist that sometimes found his way onto posters in adolescent girls' bedrooms.)

Or whether to include frogs in our animal cemetery that already included cats (yes, we decided). Or to include butterflies (yes). Or flies — after we killed them (yes — their wings are kind of pretty if they're not broken). Or mosquitoes (no, definitely, no).

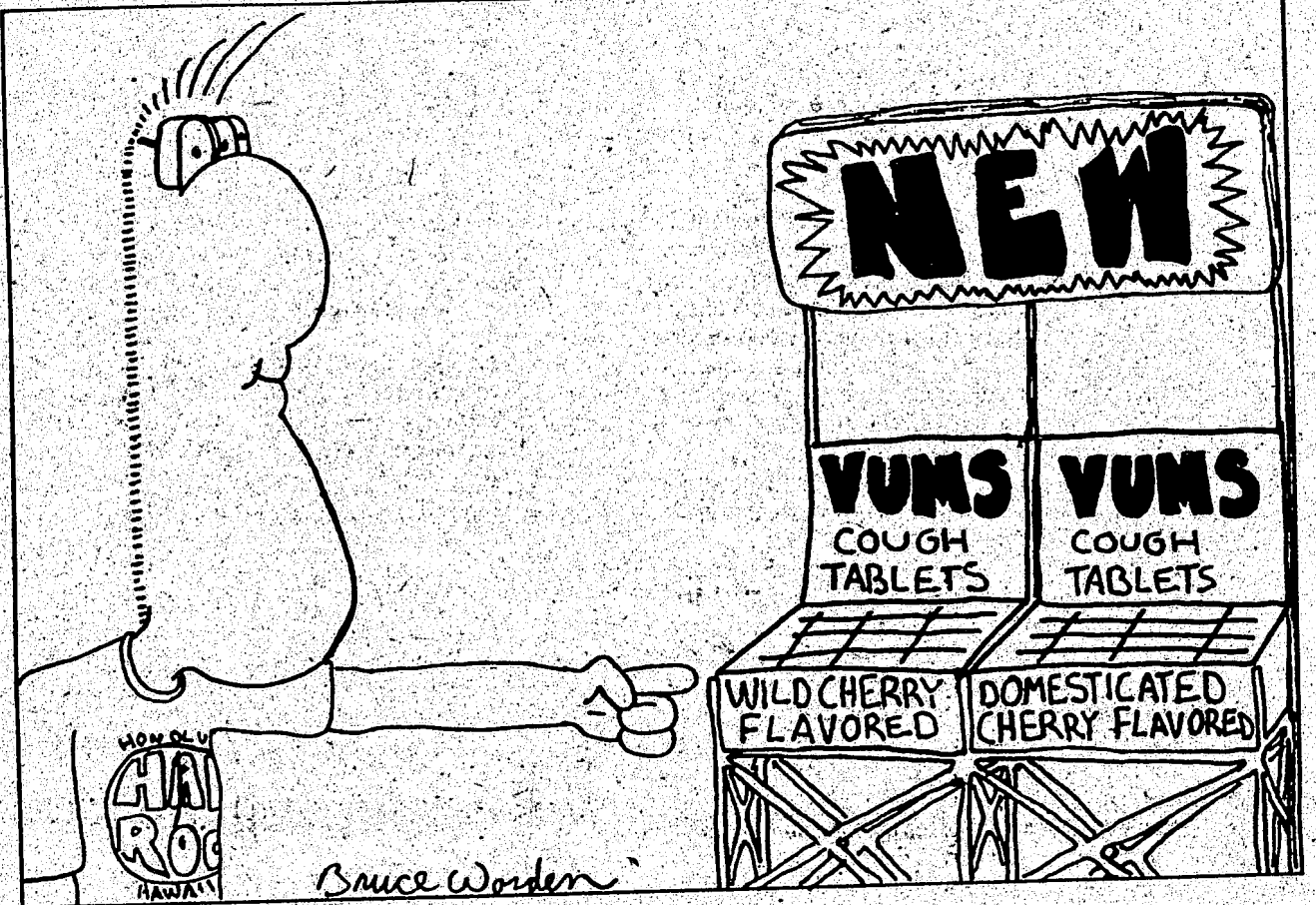
Once, we were watering the wildflowers we had transplanted in the animal cemetery, when I unknowingly watered a sweat-bee nest.

Those small insects let me know in a hurry that I was flooding them — they stung me a dozen times or more on my stomach. I dropped the water hose and ran as fast as I could toward home. Cindy ran along with me part of the way, offering ice or whatever. But I just kept running, and she, I'm afraid, was left to return and turn off the water.

Cindy has always been a dependable friend.

Opinions

OFF TRACK



Jim's Jottings

Jim Sherman



An ex-truck driver with 20 years experience told me it was common to drive 36 hours without sleep, sometimes 48. He said they learn the trick of altering their log. He learned to live without sleep. He got off the road because his wife was constantly worrying about him. An accident in a heavy fog might have helped with the decision.

I think blue herons are the most skittish birds in the world. They have great delicacy and grace on land or in flight. It's great to watch them, but I can never get very close.

I think it's wonderful how something as fleshy and pliable as your tongue can do such a great job as a toothpick. And, it's so handy, too.

Did the American public really ask all the car manufacturers to put bulbous, bulging backs and road-kill-scooping fronts on so many models?

I wish flowering crab trees stayed in bloom longer and that lilacs lasted more than a day or two in a vase. Along the same line, a field of dandelions is beautiful, but they lose that beauty when scattered about my yard.

Driving west on I-69 past Durand you can see perhaps the highest wooden obscuring-wall in the world to the left, just west of the "Scen" outdoor theater. It was put up years ago to stop railroad personnel on the Grand Trunk from spending undue time in that area switching cars around after shows started.

Grandson Danny, 5, came into his house after

playing with a neighbor boy. Mother asked, "What have you been doing?" Danny said, "I learned how to be sent home and Steven learned how to be sent to his room."

A golf outing had been planned for months. Came the week of the "event" and Dick Light's brother died. Dick said he'd still be making the trip because, "My brother was a golfer and he'd understand." It was just a light remark (no pun intended). Dick attended the funeral.

Did you see where a Rochester Hills man was arrested when he tried to board a plane for Paris with \$700,000 in cash in his luggage? Then, at his arraignment he said he could not afford an attorney and asked the court to appoint one? And we taxpayers will pay for it.

In the same newspaper there was a short article that said, "Legislation is pending in the state Senate that would allow motorists to pass school buses while children are getting off the bus when children don't have to cross the street." No mention of the idiot senator who proposed that head-on crash, child-killing law. Who knows which way a kid will walk? Come on, reporters, tell us who did it!

The person who proposed the above piece of legislation should take the advice of the old philosopher who said, "silence is the best and surest way to hide ignorance." I'll now show you how quiet I can be.

Letters to the Editor

Attack was unjust

A letter published in the May 23rd edition of The Clarkston News under the guise of "Setting it Straight" marks a new low in political dialogue in the Village.

The letter, which appeared above Harold Goyette's signature, dealt with a recent denial of a zoning change for the Goyette funeral home and residence.

Typically, I would not dignify such a letter with a response; however, I feel compelled to come to the defense of the Village of Clarkston Planning Commission Chairperson, Stephen Arkwright, as the accusations and innuendoes were so despicable.

In an attempt to make his point, Mr. Goyette saw fit to personally attack the integrity of Mr. Arkwright based primarily on his being "a member of our community for less than two years" (in actuality the Arkwrights have lived in the village for four years) and his place of employment.

Mr. Goyette clearly implied that Mr. Arkwright was unduly influenced by myself in this matter merely because we happen to work for the same firm.

While it is true we are both proud members of same financial services company; my duties include supervision of 55 branch offices spread throughout 12 states. Mr. Arkwright, on the other hand is entrusted with the enormous responsibility of managing individual and corporate financial affairs locally.

I regret that I haven't had the opportunity to interact professionally or socially with Mr. Arkwright in over a year other than a chance meeting at the Clarkston Cafe on May 21.

Mr. Goyette may rest assured that neither his name, nor business, was mentioned at that time.

Clearly, Mr. Goyette had sought favorably zoning solely for his particular piece of property and individual business. When he was denied preferential treatment he became unreasonably upset.

I remind Mr. Goyette: "Ours is a nation of laws, not men."

Privilege, when it involves the law, must be granted by the citizenry, not demanded on the grounds of tenure.

It is most unfortunate that Stephen and his wife Jennifer after unselfishly contributing their time and efforts to our community, must be subjected to such a

personal attack based solely on their relative newness to the village and the coincidences of Mr. Arkwright's employment.

Mr. Goyette allowed his disappointment to turn into an unwarranted personal attack and he owes the Arkwrights an apology.

Clarence G. Catalo

Downs and Hughes for board seats

There are several reasons why the team of Downs/Hughes makes sense for Clarkston's school board.

School board members are supposed to be advocates for the kids, and that's what both Durham Downs and Sheila Hughes believe.

They have children within our school system and are more familiar than most citizens about what goes on inside our buildings.

Second, they regularly attend school board meetings and are thoroughly familiar with the tough issues facing Clarkston.

Personally, I question the motives of candidates who have never struggled through some of our "marathon" board meetings.

These meetings reveal a lot about how the board operates and what needs to be done to change it.

Lastly, no one in Clarkston has worked harder for the kids. Whether it's volunteer time in the buildings or committee work in the district, Downs and Hughes have been committed to spending time to make things better for Clarkston schools.

They know the issues, and they can smoothly step into leadership positions that will make a difference in Clarkston. Please give them your vote on June 11.

Barbara Johns

Thanks, sign crew

A big thank you goes to Mel Vaara and his crew for hanging the SCAMP Home Tour sign on Main Street, Clarkston.

Gini Schultz

'If it Fitz...'

Debts can be a problem



Jim Fitzgerald

It's possible that co-worker relationships are slightly strained in the Detroit law offices of Charfoos & Christensen. Or maybe not. Lawyers are well known for battling fiercely in the legal arena and soon after enjoying a pleasant lunch together.

Whatever. My May 9 column commented on the financial difficulties of Larry Charfoos of Charfoos & Christensen. He'd just been hit with a court order to repay \$500,000 in bank loans and, according to the newspapers, the judgment came in just one of several lawsuits seeking \$1.3 million from Charfoos for defaulted loans.

"It's a matter of cash flow and it is no big problem," Charfoos said, adding that business was never better at his law firm. I was impressed - even awed - and wondered if perhaps Charfoos had simply left the \$1.3 million in his other pair of pants.

A few hours after that column was published, I was faxed a message from Sharon Lutz, managing shareholder at Charfoos & Christensen, which lists 12 lawyers on its masthead, with Larry on top. I think Lutz's position is similar to Douglas Brackman's on television's "L.A. Law." She probably sits at one end of the long table and worries about the bean count.

A week later, I heard from Lutz again, this time by certified letter. I was getting the impression she had a message for me and wouldn't mind if I shared it with you. So here are excerpts:

"The default judgments which have been obtained against Larry Charfoos are based on personal loans to him and/or his wife and/or Gazelle. I understand that Gazelle is a cosmetic business of Mr. Charfoos and/or his wife along with other private investors, NONE of whom are members of this law firm.

"PLEASE in the interest of fairness and accuracy, continue to make perfectly clear the distinction between the law firm of Charfoos & Christensen, P.C. and Mr. Charfoos' personal financial dealings."

End of message. It's interesting to note that the managing shareholder only understands that Gazelle is a cosmetic business, etc. In legalese, does that mean there's some question about it? If so, why doesn't Lutz simply ask the lawyer at the other end of the table? Or, according to my understanding, she could ask Arnie Becker and/or Stewart Markowitz and/or Ann Kelsy and/or Victor Sifuentes and/or Michael Kuzak to ask him.

In that May 9 column, in further awe, I mentioned Peter Spivak as another apparently successful Detroit lawyer with financial problems. Spivak said it was through a mere "glitch" that he was \$327,207 behind in mortgage payments. And, for some unknown reason, I was prompted to recall a long-ago experience with a wealthy deadbeat who claimed it was simply smart business to operate on, and earn interest off, other people's money as long as possible.

There was a reassuring reaction from John F. Muller, the lawyer listed first on the masthead of the Birmingham firm of Muller, Muller, Richmond, Harms, Myers & Scroi, P.C. In closing, in gratitude, I quote Muller:

"Congratulations on your article regarding society's attitude toward payment of their obligations. Thirty some years ago I was introduced to the field of commercial collections when I worked my way through law school at Dun & Bradstreet Inc. Today, our firm is one of the largest commercial firms in the country. Everyday we see examples of people using every trick in the book to avoid payment of obligations.

"Through the years I have seen the public's attitude change from being proud to pay one's obligations to where now it seems, it is a good business practice if you can avoid paying your creditors. People were embarrassed to file bankruptcy. Today it seems they take this route as the easy way out.

"Repeatedly, we see people living luxuriously at the expense of their creditors. Unfortunately, public opinion seems to accept this as the American Way. It was refreshing to have a voice in the wilderness cry out for integrity - even if it results in a few less dollars in one's pocket. I hear that we are in the minority."

From This Perspective

Small world, you say

Tracy King



Reaching a comfortable cruising altitude and air speed, the pilot announces a flying time of three hours and 45 minutes.

Groaning inwardly, I adjust my legs and arms into the tiny seat, careful not to encroach on the elbow space shared with my overweight seat mate.

Quickly, I engage my air-survival tactics, and reach for the thick book I have packed for the purpose.

About every chapter or so, the pilot interrupts. "New Mexico on the left," he clips. "Lake Tahoe in the distance."

My seat mate safely asleep, I lean to the window and ponder our position.

Amazing, that we can traverse the country within the span of a few book chapters, I muse, rethinking what now appears to be a very short flight.

What a small world.

I think back to another time, a few months ago, when I recalled thinking the very same thing.

It was a train, and another long trip.

We had traveled the entire length of Italy and were beginning the long slope across the southern end.

The terrain was stark, rural and lifeless. Had we reached the ends of the earth?

"Excuse me," interrupted a rare English speak-

ing passenger. "Do you work for Apple Computer? Pat, stupefied, answered yes. We both think of the logo on his t-shirt.

"I start with them in two weeks," the young American, continued, explaining he had been working at the company while a student at the University of Michigan.

"You're Steve Horowitz!" Pat shouted.

I gaped at him, openmouthed.

"I've heard a lot about you," Pat said excitedly.

Steve Horowitz's girlfriend came over at the sound of the commotion and we all began to talk at once.

"You live where?" I gasped. She lived two streets away from us in West Bloomfield.

What a small world, we all exclaimed over and over again.

Smiling at this memory, I finally arrive in sunny California. Feeling refreshed from the short flight that has transported me across the country, I stroll down the San Jose tarmac towards the baggage area.

"Tracy! Tracy!" someone shouts.

No. It can't be. Two friends from Pat's office.

"What a small world," they say.

I know. I say smugly, I know.

Sheriff's Log

Wednesday, May 23, a dog-bite incident was reported on Lavon Road, Springfield Township.

Wednesday, a flute valued at \$450 was stolen from the band room at Clarkston Junior High School, Independence Township.

Wednesday, someone drive their vehicle across a lawn on Indianwood Road, Independence Township, crushing two small pine trees.

Wednesday, a vehicle sustained \$200 worth of damage when someone tossed a cigarette through its open window on Middle Lake Road, Independence Township.

Thursday, items valued at \$470 were stolen from a truck on Sashabaw Road, Independence Township.

Thursday, a Sashabaw Junior High School student was charged with indecent exposure on school property, Independence Township.

Thursday, a vehicle's hood was scratched by an unknown vehicle on Allen Road, Independence Township.

Thursday, two recycling containers were stolen from a driveway on Clintonville Road, Independence Township.

Thursday, a vehicle sustained \$150 worth of damage from vandalism on Davisburg Road, Springfield Township.

Thursday, an open-door alarm was found sounding on Bridge Lake Road, Springfield Township.

Friday, a 12-pack of beer was reported stolen from a convenience store on Maybee Road, Independence Township.

Saturday, a house was bombarded with various items on Hawksmore Road, Independence Township.

Saturday, an Edison light on Wellesley Terrace, Independence Township, was shot out by a gun.

Saturday, an unidentified vehicle damaged a front gate to the Pine Knob Music Theater on Sashabaw Road, Independence Township.

Saturday, a c.b. radio valued at \$145 was stolen from a vehicle on Mary Sue Drive, Independence Township.

Sunday, four 12-packs of beer were reported stolen from a convenience store on Clarkston Road, Independence Township.

Sunday, \$36 in cash was stolen from a purse on Mary Sue Drive, Independence Township.

Sunday, someone threw a gallon of white paint into a swimming pool on Almond Road, Independence Township.

Sunday, someone tossed white paint onto the front end of a parked truck on Almond Road, Independence Township.

Monday, a mailbox valued at \$20 was stolen from a residence on Andersonville Road, Springfield Township.

Monday, a fishing pole valued at \$70 was stolen from a residence on Clinton Road, Independence Township.

Monday, a drive-thru sign valued at \$400 was damaged at a Dairy Queen on Paramus Street, Independence Township.

The above information was compiled from reports at the Oakland County Sheriff Department.

More Letters

Merci beaucoup

We want to express our appreciation to Mrs. Freda Meyland, a French teacher at Clarkston High School, and Dr. Robert Burek, the principal at Clarkston High School, for allowing our son, Michael, to attend second-year French class during the first hour of the 1989-1990 school year at Clarkston High School.

Michael was able to continue his French studies and learned much vocabulary and grammar. Mrs. Meyland encouraged our son and spent much extra time to include him in her class. We certainly thank Mrs. Meyland for her extra effort. She is an excellent French teacher.

The highlight of Michael's year of French was the trip that he took to Quebec with the Clarkston High School French classes.

Mrs. Carol Arend, another French teacher at Clarkston High School, planned this five-day bus trip along with Mrs. Meyland. The 22 students who journeyed to Quebec, Canada, from May 10-14 were able to use their knowledge of the French language as they experienced French culture.

Michael had a wonderful time and learned so much from the trip. Both Mrs. Arend and Mrs. Meyland receive our high praise for making such a trip possible. They really do care about their students and want them to learn the French language!

Encore, merci beaucoup a Mrs. Freda Meyland, Mrs. Carol Arend, et Dr. Robert Burek pour la classe francaise et le voyage a Quebec! C'est fantastique!

Tom, Carolyn and Michael Romein

Earth tip

The amount of garbage a typical American will throw away in a lifetime will equal at least 600 times their adult weight. The average American family produces about 100 pounds of trash every week.

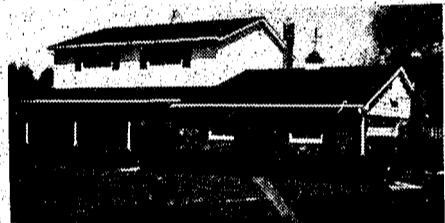
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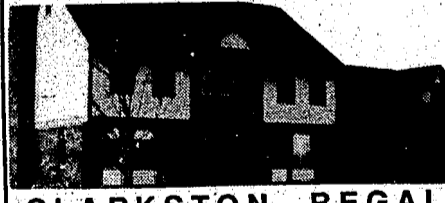
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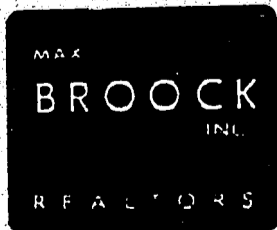
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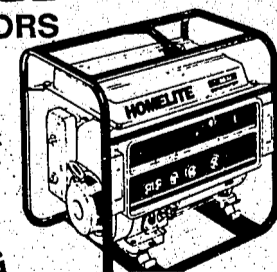
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VIETNAM VETS stand at attention during the "Star Spangled Banner" on Memorial Day.



THE DRUMS keep beat as the Clarkston High School Marching Band moves through the parade route on Memorial Day, May 28.

Memorial services at Lakeview Cemetery, Independence Township, honor the the country's soldiers. (Photos by Sandra G. Conlen)



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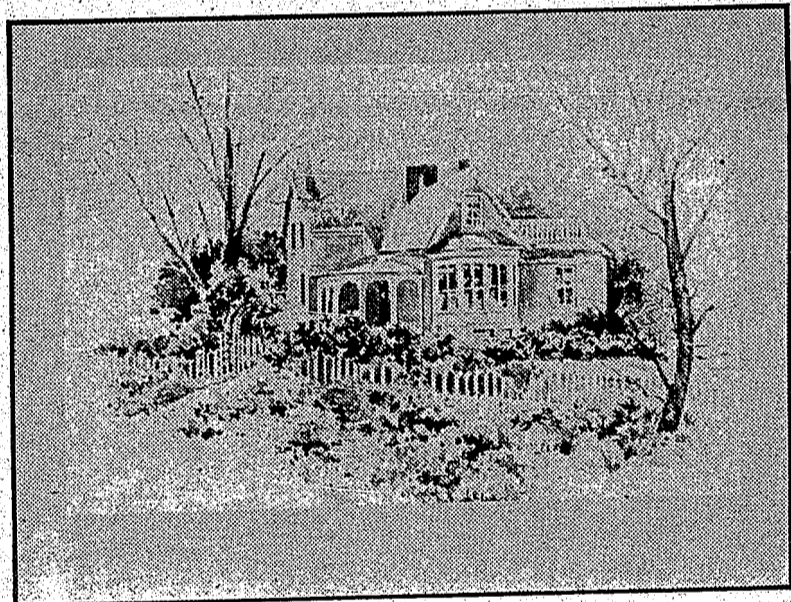
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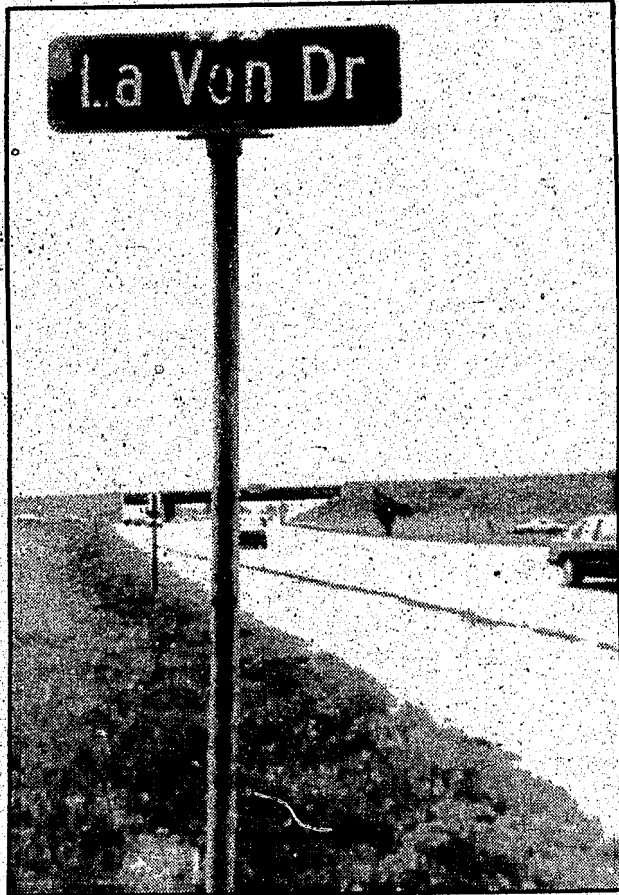
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Saturn dealership could be in by fall in Springfield

BY SANDRA G. CONLEN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The Springfield Township Board welcomed General Motors' answer to Japanese automobile competition



SATURN MOVES into the neighborhood of LaVon Drive and Dixie Highway in Springfield Township.

by approving a rezoning for an Al Serra Saturn dealership. The board voted 6-0 May 24 to rezone 14 acres of residential property on Dixie Highway and LaVon Drive to planned unit development (PUD). A PUD is a rezoning tied to a specific site plan.

Clerk Calvin Walters was absent from the special meeting.

Serra's son, Joseph, who is the dealer operator for Al Serra Chevrolet in Grand Blanc, was pleased with the board's approval.

"We're really excited about this," he said. "The location speaks for itself. It's a dynamite area."

Joseph Serra's enthusiasm extended to the township board.

"The township has been super to work with," he said.

The dealership could open this fall, according to dealership officials.

At the May 10 meeting, the board said approval would be granted if the architectural firm, Thomblinson, Harburn Associates of Flint, beefed up landscaping between the dealership and the adjacent residential area.

The township ordinance requires landscaping between non-residential parcels and residential parcels to block 80 percent of the light that could filter through the shrubs.

The architects added 25 percent more plants on the residential side — or east side — of the building site, which is next to a residential home.

At the May 24 meeting, Supervisor Collin Walls commented on the improved plans.

"That particular project will have 100 percent opacity (now)," he said.

In addition, the Al Serra Saturn dealership is to pay for the construction of a school bus turnaround for residents on LaVon Drive. The dealership is also to be responsible for snow and ice removal for the bus stop, if the Road Commission of Oakland County doesn't take care of it.

Only one LaVon resident, James Carlton, was present at the May 24 meeting.

"We're really excited about this. The location speaks for itself. It's a dynamite area."

Joseph Serra

Carlton said he was concerned about bright lights on the lot. Plus, his property value may fall if the dealership is built, he said.

Officials told him the lighting was designed to be directed away from the residential area.

After the meeting, Joseph Serra said he hoped area residents' concerns would disappear soon.

"I think they'll be pleased once they see it," he said.

Still openings for Clarkston SCAMP

Openings are still available for Clarkston SCAMP, a five-week summer day camp for youths with special needs.

The program runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, June 25-July 26, and is open to special and general education students, preschool through young adult.

SCAMP, under the direction of staff specially trained to work with children and youth, offers such opportunities as swimming, art, music, motor skills, field trips, overnight camping, academic games and more.

To apply or to get more information, call 625-3330.

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Palace Gardens: new adversary for Pine Knob

BY CURT MCALLISTER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

With the announcement of the planned 50-acre, 17,000-seat "Palace Gardens" amphitheater, a third outdoor concert facility has thrown its hat into the county's entertainment arena.

Despite the fanfare, Pine Knob's top brass isn't ready to panic in light of a new facility.

Planned to open in May 1991, the Palace Gardens is to be located on Harmony Road, adjacent to the Palace of Auburn Hills.

It is to offer a pavilion with a seating capacity of 7,500 and room for 10,000 more people on an open lawn. Three oversize video screens, suspended from the pavilion roof, are to be provided for the convenience of the "lawn goers," and 42 premium suites are to encompass the higher confines of the pavilion.

The facility is the brainchild of the Palace's owners: Bill Davidson, Robert Sosnick and David Hermelin. The Palace Gardens amphitheater is being designed by Rossetti Associates, which also designed the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Despite the hoopla surrounding the new concert facility and its ramifications on the "outdoor market,"

"With the amount of new acts coming out in the various fields of music, there shouldn't be a problem with an added facility."

John J. Nederlander
Pine Knob General Manager

Pine Knob General Manager John J. Nederlander isn't worried about his site's future.

"With the amount of new acts coming out in the various fields of music, there shouldn't be a problem with an added facility," Nederlander said. "The Palace Gardens and Pine Knob are virtually the same size in terms of patronage, and I hope it does well."

Nederlander, whose family operates 32 theaters and amphitheaters throughout the U.S., said Pine Knob isn't concerned with trying to compete with the Palace Gardens, and operations will continue as usual in Clarkston.

"We'll continue to do what we've been doing since our family took over ownership nearly five years ago," he said. "I don't see real competitiveness between the other facilities because all of the operators are friends. There isn't a cut-throat mentality amongst us."

However, Nederlander added that he thought there were too many similar facilities within the same general area.

"I really feel that they (Palace officials) should have put the facility in another state in order to (be) beneficial to them," Nederlander said. "There are a lot of outdoor venues in this part of the state and they might have made out better financially if they were located elsewhere."

Despite the added facility, Nederlander said that ticket and concession prices will remain constant and not drop to sway concert goers.

"No, our prices won't drop. We have to keep in sync with everyone else," Nederlander added. "We're rebuilding the 'New Pine Knob,' and we've got to cover our costs due to the renovations. We hope the patrons understand that and come out to see our refurbished facility."

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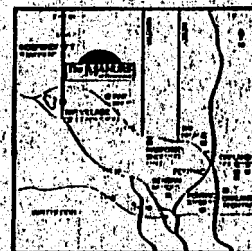
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Solemn ceremony

A WREATH is placed at Lakeview Cemtery, Independence Township, in memory of those who died to keep the country free. Gentle breezes move the flags as the long list of names are read of those who have served and died.



Photo by Sandra G. Conlen

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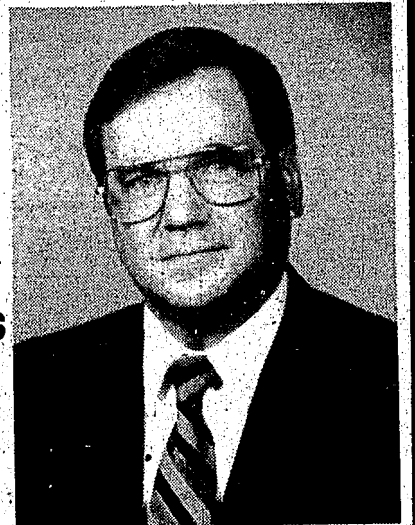
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MARY & JIM WILSON

Paid for by the committee to elect Sheila Goins Hughes & Durham M. Downs

BY CURT MCALLISTER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

A Frank's Nursery store received its first approval to locate in White Lake Commons, Independence Township.

The township planning commission voted unanimously May 24 to give conceptual site plan approval to the business, which is planned for the new shopping center at the southeast corner of Dixie Highway and White Lake Road.

The conceptual approval was contingent on the following improvements: increased landscaping at the corner of the building and alongside the west wall facing White Lake road, a "hidden" rear location for the outdoor storage shed, and the installation of a seasonal shade to drape over a low wall surrounding the outdoor sales

area. Requested by Weatherford/Walker Construction for phase two of the shopping center development, Frank's is proposed for the northwest corner of the 25-acre parcel. The nursery is to have an outdoor sales area, to be located between Frank's and the rest of the center.

The outdoor sales area is to be enclosed by a two-foot brick "knee" wall with a four-foot wrought iron fence attached to the front of the store. According to engineer Dan Klevinger, all purchases will be conducted within the main building, but larger items will be required to exit the building's rear door.

The 6,000-square-foot store is to look similar to the other storefronts within the shopping center. Plans also call for an outdoor storage facility in the rear of the building.

Outdoor nursery OK'd in concept

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Photo Inquiry

By James Gibowski

What is your dream occupation?



"Working on a ship so I could see all different countries."
Cathy Blevins
 Housewife
 Waterford Township



"A teacher. It would allow me more time with my kids, especially in the summer."
Mary Stevens
 General Motors employee
 Rattalee Lake Road
 Springfield Township



"A pro athlete because of the respect they get and the money they make."
Bill Sutherland
 Construction worker
 Perry Lake Road
 Independence Township



"A fighter pilot. It has always interested me. I have already been a helicopter pilot for the army."
Christopher Delida
 Store fixture installer
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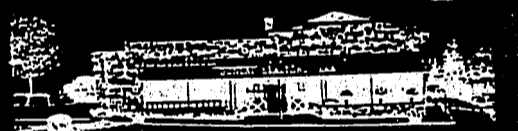
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SPRINGFIELD Cleanup on Saturday, May 5, Officer Robert Bloom said about 1,246 used tires were collected from ditches, roadsides, garages and backyards and were hauled away. (Photo by Sandra G. Conlen)

Concert kicks off nationwide tour

A Clarkston band comprised of college students begins a three-month tour with a kick-off concert Saturday, June 2.

The Project G.O.D. concert begins at 8 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Evangelical Church, Bluegrass, Independence Township. Admission is free, and tapes and T-shirts will be available.

Project G.O.D. (Giving Others Direction) is comprised of Clarkston High School graduates Shawn Smith, Heather Smith, Dean VanderKolk and Norm Duftrin; and Joe Zuzula of Saginaw is also a member.

The group plans to perform in about 60 concerts around the country in three months, said Shawn Smith, who added about the preparation, "It's been a lot of work."

For more information, call 625-5410 or write Project G.O.D., P.O. Box 528, Clarkston, MI 48016.

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Saturday, June 2
8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

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