

Canton Observer

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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Message to Mom

Why is your mother special? Tell us in 50 words or less and you may win lunch or dinner for your mom (and three other people) at Max & Erma's. Mail, fax or e-mail entries by noon Friday, May 1.

MAIL:
Community Editor Tedd Schneider
794 South Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

FAX:
(734) 459-4224

E-MAIL:
tschneider@oe.homecomm.net

Be sure to include your name, your mother's name, your address and telephone number. You may send a photo, however, judging will be based on your message.

We will print as many entries as possible on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10. The contest is open to readers of all ages.

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

COMMUNITY LIFE

Worth watching: This week, area schools are celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day. But for students at Tonda and Field elementary schools in Canton Township, the environment should be honored daily. The cable channel Nickelodeon paid special attention to Field students last night. /B1

ENTERTAINMENT

Folk: Noel Paul Stookey, and his trio, Peter, Paul & Mary, will perform May 3 in Detroit with singer Chava Alberstein in a salute to the state of Israel. /E1

Music Awards: The 16th annual Detroit Music Awards recognize club bands and recording excellence in an assortment of musical styles. /E1

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Newsroom: 734-459-2700
Newsroom Fax: 734-459-4224
E-mail:
tschneider@oe.homecomm.net
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Clues sought in crash

■ The NTSB investigation of Saturday's plane crash in a Canton subdivision is under way as a student pilot and his flight instructor recover at University of Michigan Hospital.

Little is known about why a Cessna 150 sputtered out of control and crash landed in a Canton neighborhood early Saturday evening.

According to a pilot at Canton-Plymouth Mettetal Airport, flight instructor Philip Kahler, 26, and his student pilot Malcom Stinson, 41, were practicing takeoffs and landings for about 30 minutes prior to the crash about one mile south of the airport.

Residents unnerved, A3

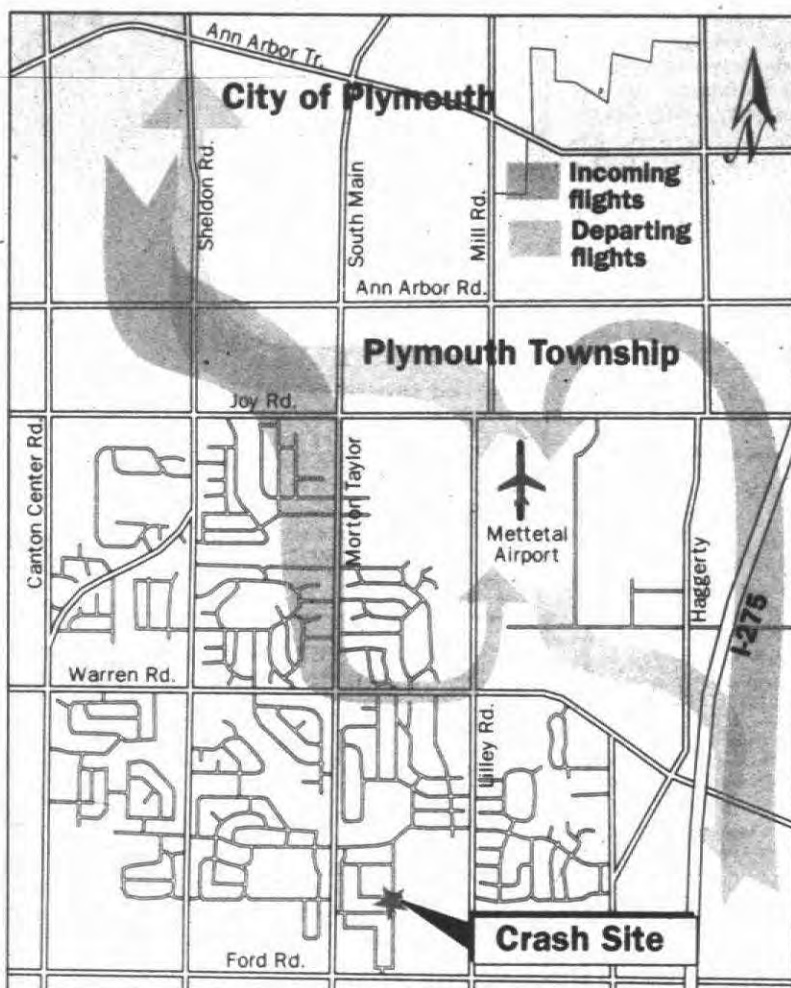
"Eyewitnesses said it was going north to south, but I don't know why it would be," said one Mettetal pilot, who declined to be named. "I assume it was headed back to Willow Run, then had engine trouble and decided to come back here."

Kahler, of Belleville, was listed in good condition Wednesday at the University of Michigan Hospital after being trapped in the passenger seat of the Cessna's cockpit. He suffered from various burns, a severe leg injury and head injury.

The student pilot, Stinson, was listed in serious condition after suffering from burns and internal injuries. It is believed Stinson did have prior flying experience as a helicopter pilot in the military, said Steve Wilson of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

A spokesman at A Different Approach Flight School at Willow Run Airport said Stinson was a private helicopter pilot. Kahler has

Please see PLANE CRASH, A3



Flight patterns at Mettetal Airport

The neighborhood where the Cessna 150 crashed Saturday evening is nearly one mile south of where the airplane was to turn east to line up with the runway at Canton-Plymouth Mettetal Airport. The troubled Cessna reportedly was heading north to south. Speculation is that the Cessna was returning to its home base at Willow Run Airport, experienced engine trouble and doubled back toward Mettetal. Mettetal is a "left hand traffic" airport with one runway. Flight patterns are recommended, but not regulated by the FAA because the airport doesn't have a control tower. Suggested flight patterns avoid most residential areas, including the entire city of Plymouth due to a noise abatement.

HELEN FURKMAN / STAFF ARTIST

Whyman posts sex offenders on Web

Canton's state Rep. Deborah Whyman has made available the western Wayne County sex offenders list for those visiting her Web site at www.whyman.org.

The sex offender list includes names of 36 Canton residents convicted of charges ranging from first-degree criminal sexual conduct to indecent exposure. One of the 36 was convicted of assaulting a child under the age of 15.

The information is catalogued by zip code and includes the name and address of sex offenders living in Canton (48187 and 48188), the Plymouths, Northville, Redford, Sumpster, Belleville, Livonia and Westland.

The names were made available at local police agencies under a 1996 state law. The law was based on a national movement, known as Megan's law, named after a New Jersey girl assaulted and killed by a convicted sex offender.

"As we enter spring and kids are riding their bikes and playing outside, I think moms and dads would want to know if a sex offender is living in their neighborhood," said Whyman.

"Also as a single woman, I would want to know if a sex predator lives in my neighborhood."

At least one other state legislator, Sen. David Jaye, has made the information available on the Internet for his constituents. A council member from the city of Warren also has made the

Please see SEX OFFENDERS, A6

Roads tax hike likely for ballot

Canton residents likely will be asked at the polls once again whether they want to pay more in local taxes to improve roads.

A consensus of township board members at a Tuesday study session was to put a 2-mill tax request on the August primary ballot. An official vote will be needed before May 12 to put the issue on the ballot.

For an average homeowner with a \$150,000 house that would be approximately \$150 more per year in taxes.

The original recommendation was to levy the 2 mills from Canton's general operating tax by township board action — without asking for a vote of the people.

Canton's charter allows elected officials to levy up to 5 mills for general operating purposes. Canton levies just 1.1 mills. Police and Fire have dedicated millage.

Township Supervisor Tom Yaek, Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter and trustee John Burdziak were in favor of taking the board action route.

"Each of you will have to weigh, 'Why

Please see TAX HIKE, A3

Springtime comes to Sheldon Center Road



Home and garden show: Every April, drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians along the Sheldon Center / Canton Center connector get a springtime treat as dogwood trees reach full bloom along the easements east and west of the road. The trees are heavily concentrated in a one-mile stretch between Joy and Warren roads. Observer readers will find a list of springtime safety tips for bicyclists on today's Editorial Page, A14.

Providers come together for Project Health-O-Rama

BY TEDD SCHNEIDER
STAFF WRITER

A number of Canton-area health providers will supply time, tools and expertise to Saturday's Project Health-O-Rama at the Summit.

In addition to the major hospitals — St. Joseph Mercy and Oakwood — local specialists making a commitment to the day of free and low-cost health screening include a dentist, optometrist and audiologist. A mental health professional will even be on hand to help clear your state of mind.

"I think it's a great idea. Our office does nurse school visits to help educate kids about proper dental care and this is another excellent way to reach out into the community," said Dr. Bonnie Misiak.

Misiak, who works out of dentist

Janice Hayward's offices on Sheldon Road, will perform an oral cancer screening for Health-O-Rama participants. She will use a dental mirror to examine the mouth and throat for lesions in a painless procedure that will only last a minute or two.

Barb Douglas of Personalized Hearing Care in Westland will be on hand with her audiometer. The machine checks an individual's hearing against a range present to "the lower level of normal," Douglas said.

Douglas said only about 16 percent of family physicians regularly make hearing screenings part of a routine check-up. "I don't think the general population understands the kinds of common problems that result from (partial) hearing loss," she said.

"It can interfere with people's rela-

tionships or how they do their jobs."

Like Misiak, Douglas said she will refer Health-O-Rama participants with potential problems to a specialist for further treatment.

Both the oral cancer and hearing screenings are free.

Douglas has participated in other area Health-O-Rama projects but this marks her first effort in Canton, which began its local site last year.

The statewide project is run by the United Health Organization, part of the United Way. Local sponsors are Canton Township, the Canton Chamber of Commerce, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and the Observer Newspapers.

Also coming to Canton for the first time will be Lin Fox of Northwestern

Please see HEALTH-O-RAMA, A2

FOR YOUR HEALTH

- What: Project Health-O-Rama, a day of free and low-cost health screening services
- When: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, April 25
- Where: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton
- Transportation: Walk-in or take shuttle van from area senior housing and mobilehome parks
- Needed: Driver's license or other identification (participants must be 18 or older)
- Information: Health-O-Rama Hotline (248) 424-8600 weekdays or Summit (734) 397-5110 Saturday

Health-O-Rama from page A1

Community Services, who will offer a question-and-answer forum designed to screen for depression, along with other handouts on mental health.

Fox said she expects many Health-O-Rama visitors will take advantage of the screening. The setting, where lots of different health services are offered, can be less intimidating than "if you just had a forum for mental health exclusively," she said.

"We're all responsible for giving back to the community and I think this is an excellent way to do that," she added.

Other local providers in Saturday's event include Dr. Thomas Cassidy of the Vision Center, who will perform tests for vision and glaucoma.

Free shuttle vans will pick up participants from area senior complexes, mobile home parks and the Canton Commons apartments on Haggerty.

In addition to health-care professionals, the event will be staffed by dozens of volunteers from the community who will help with registration and many of the medical services.

Two free shuttle vans will pick up participants from area senior complexes, mobile home parks and the Canton Commons apartments on Haggerty.

The vans, donated by Enterprise Rent-A-Car, will make continuous loops around the township beginning at 10 a.m.

Tentative stops include the Canton Place, Waltonwood and Fellows Creek senior apartments; Royal Holiday and Academy Pointe mobile home parks; Canterbury Mews and Canton Commons apartments.



Cancer screenings: Dentist Bonnie Misiak will do oral cancer screenings at Canton's Project Health-O-Rama on Saturday.

Blood drive to run at adjacent site

Participants in Canton's Project Health-O-Rama will be able to donate blood at the same time theirs is being checked.

Canton VFW Post 6967 will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in conjunction with the local Health-O-Rama site at the Summit.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID SALE OF VEHICLE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., May 7, 1998 for the sale of the following vehicle:

1996 FORD, 655C LOADER/BACK-HOE, EXTEND-A-HOE, 4382.7 HOURS OPERATED - MINIMUM BID: \$14,995.00

The equipment is available for inspection during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Contact Ed Olson at (313) 397-8066 for appointment. Bid is to be submitted to the Clerk's Office, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188. Envelope should state "Sale of 1996 Ford 655C Loader/Back-Hoe". The vehicle will be sold in an "as is" condition. The township reserves the right to reject any or all bids. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: April 23, 1998

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON (CORRECTION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept bids up to 10:00 a.m., April 30, 1998 for the following:

FELLOWS CREEK GOLF CLUB DRAIN TILE INSTALLATION

Specifications are available in the Finance and Budget Dept. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: April 23, 1998

Canton Observer

(USPS 663-670)

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INDEPENDENCE PARK PHASE II BASEBALL COMPLEX

Sealed bids for the construction to the proposed Canton Independence Park Baseball Complex shall be received by the Charter Township of Canton until 10:00 a.m., May 14, 1998 at the office of the Clerk, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188-1699. Sealed bids shall be opened and read aloud at 10:00 a.m.

Contract documents may be obtained at Beckett and Raeder Inc., 535 W. William, Suite 101, Ann Arbor, MI, (313) 663-2622 on or after April 23, 1998. A non-refundable plan deposit of \$30.00 shall be required, checks payable to the Charter Township of Canton.

Late bids will not be accepted. Canton Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Canton Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: April 23, 1998

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VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: April 23, 1998

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Observer Newspapers

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ATTENTION CANTON OFFICE PATIENTS

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Aftermath: Neighbors and public safety officers take in the damage after a Cessna 150 crash landed in front of a home on Avon Street Saturday. Residents played a key role in rescuing the pilot and passenger.

Plane crash from page A1

been a flight training instructor for three years.

Investigators from the FAA sifted through the wreckage this week to determine a cause for the crash. The findings will be turned over to the NTSB, which is expected to release a preliminary report in one week. It could take more than six months before a final report is made public, said Wilson.

mouth due to a "noise abatement."

"There's no legal basis for any municipality to have any binding regulation over (noise and flight patterns). If the city of Plymouth is being avoided, it shouldn't be receiving anything different than any other area," said Amann.

In 1997, Mettetal recorded 72,000 flight operations, according to the 1998 Michigan Airport Directory. Metro Airport had 496,000 operations and Willow Run had 153,590. More comparable to Mettetal, Grosse Ile Municipal Airport had 63,000 operations in 1997.

Too populated?

Some residents and local officials have questioned whether Canton has become too populated to house the state-owned Canton-Plymouth Mettetal Airport. The issue first became controversial in 1992 when the state bought it, rescuing the airport from financial trouble.

At the time, residents were concerned about a future expansion at Mettetal with state and federal money backing it. A citizens advisory committee was formed to oversee the airport operations and has met monthly ever since. Chairman Mark Meranti declined comment regarding the crash.

"There's always been safety issues with residents living around Mettetal. You can watch the planes coming in over Joy Road... It's almost in a kamikaze-type fashion. If a truck comes through, it looks questionable as to whether its going to clear it," said Amann.

Ironically, Larry and Ronnie Seubck looked at buying a new home east of Lilley Road, near Mettetal Airport, about 24 years ago.

"When the state bought it, I always said there was something else there. Still to this day I don't know what that is... Obviously, this is a sore subject for me," said Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack.

A week before Saturday's airplane crash, Yack fired off a letter to Gov. John Engler, several state legislators and the state aeronautics board with a news clipping regarding a small Troy airport being sold to a private developer for an industrial site.

"We walked out of the first model and saw a plane bunk to the left. Then, we walked out of the second model and saw the same thing. We decided we didn't want to live there," said Larry.

They decided to buy about one mile down the road on Avon Street where there was less air traffic.

On Saturday, the Sebucks' worst fear became reality when a Cessna 150 dropped from the sky on their front lawn. The propeller was 25 feet from their front door.

Yack said the state claimed it

gives information on the runway opening and weather conditions, said a pilot at Mettetal.

According to Mettetal pilots, there are suggested flight patterns that run north and south along I-275 and to the west of Morton Taylor. To the east and west the traffic runs along an area south of Warren Road and the other side of the city of Plymouth.

Tax hike from page A1

was I elected?" said Aaron Machnik. "It is a hot potato, and now you have it."

"The roads are in a crisis situation, everyone agrees. It's not the time to form another committee. It's time to take a leadership role and take the bull by the horn. It won't be the first time Canton is blazing the trail," said Budget and Finance Director Tony Minghine.

The staff recommendation came after digesting a \$15,000 study by Plante & Moran to determine if it made financial sense to take over the county roads in Canton. The township board commissioned the study two months ago after years of criticizing the county for not giving Canton its "fair share" of the state road aid.

took the helm of the county road department. A better working relationship would net more dollars, he said.

The money Canton contributes from a successful tax vote would be partnered with state and county money and maximize road improvements.

Canton spends \$500,000 to \$1 million annually on road projects through partnerships with Wayne County and the Michigan Department of Transportation, said Machnik.

"You guys won't be in office next year if you do that your self," said Ron Lieberman, a Canton planning commissioner attending the study session.

"I think they've given us the responsibility when they voted us into office. I think we should

just do it on their own," Burdzik said.

Clerk Terry Bennett said she was reluctant to do increase the tax rate by board vote because the dedicated taxes may be needed by future boards in growing Canton.

"I think we can be successful going to the voters. Last time I don't think we did a good job in public awareness," she said.

In 1995 a 15-year, \$12 million bond issue failed by just 48 votes.

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Witness: 'I'm sure they (kids) heard his screams'

The only sign that a Cessna 150 crashed on the front lawn of an Avon Street home in the Ford Road and Lilley area is a slightly torn lawn, a burn mark on a driveway and a missing mailbox and post.

However, the tragedy is etched in many people's memories and likely won't be forgotten for some time.

Canton police and firefighters will meet with residents 7 p.m. Friday at Miller School to review events surrounding the crash and answer questions.

sure they heard his screams," said Bob Loveland.

"I know every time I lay down I replay the course of events. Those people were severely injured. Some people brought kids down there. I'm worried about some of the kids. When you're a kid you think, 'cool' as 'wow,' then, later it wakes you up in the middle of the night. I'm sure a lot of them will be having nightmares."

"The thing that most concerns me is how the neighbors are going to handle the images that they saw," said resident Bob Loveland.

"As things calm down, people are going to realize some of things they saw are real hard to deal with. I'm concerned some of them with have problems down the road."

"Just knowing everyone went through the same thing helps," said Michelle Loveland. "If someone sees a neighbor outside, others go out to talk about what happened. I think that helps a lot."

"The Sebucks said it's the 'ifs' that keep them thinking about the tragedy.

"It was odd that we were both home at that time on a Saturday night and even more odd that we were both in the front of the house. I was upstairs in the bedroom... (Larry) was in the front room, right over here, using the computer."

Canton Public Safety Director John Santomauro said police and firefighters will meet with residents 7 p.m. Friday at Miller Elementary School to review the events of the night and answer questions.

"I think its therapeutic to have the police come out and talk about what happened," he said.

Of course, police are not trained health professionals, Santomauro said. He suggested residents seek help through their health care provider if they are having difficulty sleeping or coping.

Residents rushed to the burning plane with garden hoses and fire extinguishers to douse the flames. Several of the residents with the help of police Officer Andy Kurry, who was the first officer to arrive at the scene, pulled flight instructor Philip Kahler, 26, from the passenger seat of the cockpit.

The student pilot, Malcom Stinson, 41, was trapped inside the cockpit and had to be rescued by Canton firefighters using the Jaws of Life. Firefighters Mike Caruso and Greg Kowalaki worked on Stinson for several minutes to stabilize his condition while the pilot lay on the front lawn of Larry and Ronnie Sebuk's Avon Street home.

"I'd like to see some recognition given to that pilot. I firmly believe that when he saw he was headed straight for our house, he nosed down," said Ronnie Sebuk.

"Thank you, God. That's all I got to say," she added.

Most neighbors agreed that no one slept the night of the crash with the vivid events of the tragedy fresh on their mind.

"There's no legal basis for any municipality to have any binding regulation over (noise and flight patterns). If the city of Plymouth is being avoided, it shouldn't be receiving anything different than any other area," said Amann.

The two-seat single-engine airplane not only was stopped, but spun by its wing to the left by the Sebucks' mail post. The plane missed two parked cars in their driveway and came to a stop between a row of hedges on the front lawn and a tree on the other side of the sidewalk. The propeller was 25 feet away from their front door, said Larry.

Stolen air bags recovered in search

A search warrant executed at a Wayne auto scrap yard resulted in the seizure of 150 suspected stolen air bags.

Members of the Western Wayne Auto Theft unit conducted the search Wednesday at Scrapbusters, 39223 Maple Road.

"Some of the air bags have been identified as stolen and we're working on the others," said Michigan State Police Lt. William Darnell, who heads the regional unit that includes officers from area police departments. "There were no arrests pending further investigation."

The value of the air bags were estimated at about \$80,000. Darnell said the search warrant stemmed from information received on an earlier case in which more than 1,100 stolen air bags were recovered last year from a Detroit business, C.J. Metro.

jump around

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7 Injured When Plane Crashes Into Supermarket

Observer Staff Roundup

Seven persons were injured, but miraculously none was killed, when a twin engine plane crashed into the roof of the Farmer Jack supermarket Tuesday night in downtown Farmington.

A possible disaster was averted when police worked quickly to prevent the possibility of a fire from starting which could have set off a series of explosions and damaged surrounding buildings and persons.

Fortunately, few were in the supermarket when the plane crashed into the bread department near the front of the store located on Farmington Road just south of Grand Rier.

Injured were: a customer, two teenaged employees, and four passengers in the plane.

Those injured were: Mike Markovich, 30, of 29285 Point of Woods, Southfield; Bernard

Sloane, 24, of 10127 Eckles, Plymouth; Donald J. Vassel, of 32356 St. Martins, Livonia; David Dalpina, of 36632 Richland, Livonia; Carl Roberts, 29, of 22508 Longacre, Farmington; Frank Staron, 16, of 28492 Shady Lane, Farmington; and Mark Yegerlawer, 17, of 34012 Moore Drive, Farmington.

Riding in the plane were: Markovich, Sloane, Vassel and Dalpina. Roberts was shopping in the store and Staron and Yegerlawer are Farmer Jack employees, believed to be stock boys.

Four persons taken to emergency at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington included two passengers, one employee and Roberts.

THE OTHER three injured were taken to emergency at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

Lieut. Daniel Byrnes, acting public safety director, City of Farmington, described the injuries two hours after the incident as being limited and apparently not critical.

It was anticipated all the victims would live. "The danger of fire and explosion was a real one," adds Byrnes, "because aviation fuel had spilled all over the store floor."

Ambulances evacuated the injured and firefighters from the city, and Farmington Township, moved quickly to keep the fuel from igniting.

The biggest immediate problem, after removal of victims, was handling the large crowd that assembled and in controlling traffic.

The area surrounding the store was roped off.

THE CRASH occurred at 7:22 p.m. and was witnessed by Sgt. Richard Miller, director of the city's traffic safety division. Miller said he saw the plane coming down and heard its engines sputtering on and off.

"The plane went into a tailspin and crashed nose first," Miller stated, adding that "it was flying from the southwest."

Another witness reports having seen the twin-engine Beech-Craft Baron flying at a low altitude over Novi, leading to speculation that the aircraft had departed from Mettetal airport at Lilly and Joy Roads in Plymouth.

Don McGregor, a resident in Bel-Aire subdivision in the city, about a mile from the supermarket, reports seeing the plane flying low and dropping.

A strange sidelight to the incident was that employees in the Farmington Public Library, which is immediately south of the supermarket, failed to hear any noise from the crash and were unaware of what happened next door until another library employee phoned in the news.

The impact of the crash broke all the glass windows in the building. There was glass and debris seen near the store but nothing had been thrown onto Farmington Road.

Farmington police called Motor Crane at Eight Mile and Lahser in Southfield to furnish a crane to remove the wrecked plane from the store.

AT PRESS TIME, Byrnes said he was sure there was no one lodged underneath the plane.

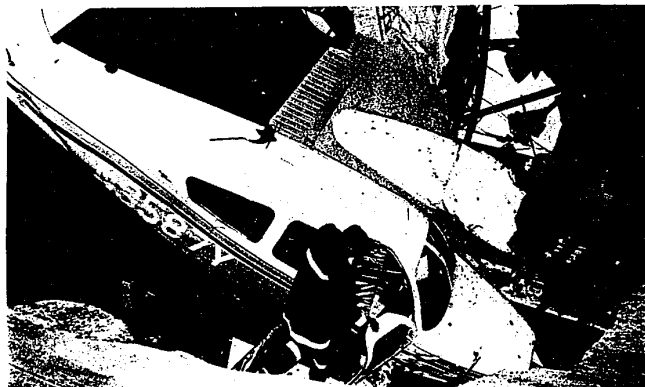
The city had sent all its police cars to the scene and Farmington Township dispatched five squad cars. Also present were State Police and about four fire trucks from city and township departments.

An hour after the crash, police were still digging through debris to make certain there were no persons remaining inside and were still trying to keep in hand the leaking gasoline.

By 9:30 p.m. the threat of fire or explosions had ended, and police were assured all injured persons had been found.

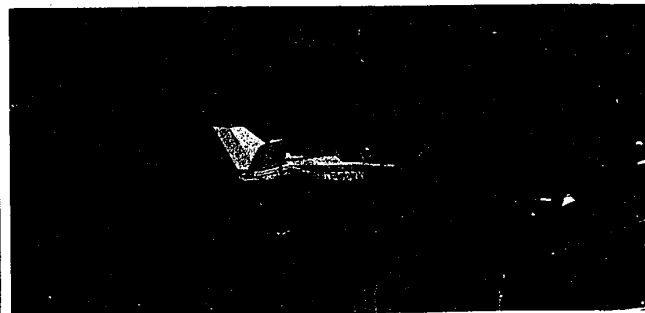
Description of the injuries and cause of the crash were unknown at press time. It is known the plane had gasoline and so it suspected an engine failure caused the crash.

One report was heard that the plane had been last inspected in March.



PHOTOGRAPHER NICK MERRICK climbed atop the roof to take this picture of firemen checking the wrecked plane for gasoline

leaks. This shows how the twin-engine plane dove into the supermarket but was still some four feet above the store floor.



PHOTOGRAPHER RALPH EVERT was on the spot in the right place when a huge crane

from a Southfield firm arrived to pull the plane out of the supermarket.

Deadman Okayed As City Manager

Robert Deadman has been appointed permanent city manager for the City of Farmington, and the transition from professional cop to professional municipal administrator has been completed.

Deadman's permanent appointment was made at Monday night's council meeting which also involved the reappointment of a number of persons to city commissions and committees.

DEADMAN'S appointment ended a 90-day "probationary" period as acting manager.

Deadman had accepted the "acting" status to make sure he wanted the position permanently and to give the council the opportunity to decide whether he could make it as city manager.

After John Dinan resigned as city manager, effective Feb. 1, the city received more than 75 applications for the job and interviewed several candidates.

After the lengthy screening process and three months of watching Deadman perform on the job, however, councilmen decided the former public

safety director was the best candidate to become permanent city manager.

Dinan resigned to pursue a private business career, selling mobile homes in the Taylor - Romulus area in western Wayne County. He has since accepted a position on the Farmington Public Library's board of directors and maintains residence in the city.

DEADMAN, 36, started police work in the City of Farmington 14 years ago and has been public safety director since 1966.

Before being named director, he was in charge of the traffic safety division and served as shift commander, public safety officer, and juvenile officer.

He was born in Boyne City and moved to Detroit at age five, eventually to graduate from Cooley High School. Deadman graduated from the police administration program at Oakland Community College, has taken accounting courses, and management oriented courses.

Deadman has or does belong to the following community groups: Farmington Youth

Assistance: Farmington YMCA board; Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) board; Rotary Club of Farmington; and member of Family Life Education committee on substance abuse for Farmington Public Schools.

He is married, has three children, and lives on Maple St. in the city. His wife, Virginia, is about to graduate from Eastern Michigan University with a business education major.

REAPPOINTED to the city's planning commission for three year terms were Don Stoddard, Dennis Phenev, and Councilman John Allen.

Stoddard and Bayard Tupper were reappointed to three-year terms to the zoning board of appeals.

Reappointed to two-year terms on the beautification committee were Mrs. Carol Kurth, Mrs. Joan Barbrick, Mrs. Dorothy Cassell, Mrs. Shirley Richardson and Walter Sundquist.

The votes to appoint Deadman permanent city manager, and all reappointments, were all unanimous.

today's hot line

Volume 83, Number 68

what's inside

Top Prep Trackmen

Page 3B

The OCC Race

There's a hot race going on for two trustee posts at Oakland Community College. Here's a rundown on the active candidates that ought to help you make up your mind.

Page 11B

C'ville Speakout

Clarenceville school board candidates got their first chance to meet on the same stump Monday, and we were there to get their views. (Watch the weekend edition for our endorsements.)

Page 9C

Monday's Election

Monday is election day and Farmington residents must choose from a field of 12 candidates the two they want to serve four-year terms on the Farmington Board of Education. The League of Women Voters has provided a guide on the candidates and on the same page is a school precinct map for your convenience. Also inside is an announcement of views from one of the 12 hopefuls and a letter to the editor about the election.

Pages 3A, 5A, 6A

Another Triumph

Art students of Sister Mary Ignatius of Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington have again swept the field in a national art contest. She has been teaching at Mercy for 50 years now and is proud of all six of this year's national winners.

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Classified Want Ads	1-17D
Cooking, by Ely	15B
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Court Jester	5B
Readers' Forum	17B
Regional Affairs	14B
Sports—Prep and Pro	1-5B
Spotlight on Women	1-7C
Turf Tips & Quips	4B

A small investment gets the job done



When a small boy's sweet tooth starts to demand satisfaction, you might think it would take much more than an investment in a penny machine to solve his problem. It's hard to believe that a penny can still buy so much pleasure. But the truth is, there are still a number of things which cost little and deliver much. Observer Want Ads are a good example. They cost little but will sell, buy, hire, rent or find. Call 622-0900 for friendly assistance in placing your ad.

WANT ADS GET THE JOB DONE!

Another plane crashes following Mettetal takeoff

By Teri Banas
staff writer

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials are investigating the second case within a month of a plane crashing almost immediately after leaving Mettetal Airport.

A 27-year-old Westland man was uninjured when the single-engine two-seater plane he was piloting came down about 6 p.m. Monday.

In both crashes, pilots blamed engine

malfunction.

Scott Hebron attributed the crash Monday to a power failure in the plane's engine.

ACCORDING to Michigan State Police, the Tailwing W8L came down about 400 feet from the airport's sole runway in a vacant field northeast of the airport. The Canton Township airport is near Lilley and Joy roads.

Damage was minor and limited pri-

marily to the plane's landing gear and propeller. Hebron estimated damage as under \$500.

He said the 17-year-old plane, owned by his father, was last flown two days before the crash.

Hebron, a quality control supervisor for Aero Marine Inc., a family-owned business, did not seek medical attention. He had X-rays taken a few hours later and they showed no sign of injury, he said.

The Westland man said he planned to

fly west from the airport on a pleasure trip when he took off.

HE SAID HE noticed the first sign of trouble as he was about three-quarters of the way down the runway.

The "engine quit" as he was about 100 feet off the ground, said state police. The engine briefly started up again as he circled back to the airport and landed in a nearby open field.

"I was planning to fly west and then come back when I realized the power

loss within seconds," Hebron said. "I tried to select the most desirable spot to land, one that wouldn't endanger life or property."

"I didn't have enough altitude to fly back to the airport," he added.

STATE POLICE said Monday's crash was less severe than the crash June 19 of a single-engine Cessna just north of the airport in the Gould Industrial Park.

Two persons of the four-member family riding in the plane were injured.

Pilot Stephen Jakobowski, an airplane broker from Lighthouse Pointe, Fla., suffered facial cuts. His wife was hospitalized for three days with a broken nose, a broken arm and cuts. Two Jakobowski children were not injured.

Jakobowski told FAA officials a failure in the plane's propeller forced the plane down about a half mile north of Mettetal.

The FAA is continuing to investigate that crash.

Canton Observer

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Thursday, July 16, 1981

Canton, Michigan

56 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

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School budget axes 6th-grade camp program

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will not be offering sixth grade camp this fall.

The school board Monday night decided to stick by its original budget cut, and eliminate the camping program.

The board earlier indicated it would consider a request to restore 6th grade camp if the program could be put on a self-paying basis.

The administration had developed a plan which would put the camp on a self-sustaining basis. But some financial risk still was involved, and so the board decided against reconsideration.

The camp remains a victim of the '81-'82 budget cuts.

The administration did not specifically recommend restoration but only furnished trustees with information they requested, according to Michael Homes, assistant superintendent.

After a lengthy discussion Monday night, the board voted 5-2 to stay with the decision eliminating the camp. The two dissenting votes were from trustees Tom Yack and Sylvia Stetz.

AMONG THE changes recommended to make the camp self-sustaining were to change the student/teacher ratio from 15-1 to 20-1, increase the tuition fee charged parents from \$35 to \$45, ask service clubs to provide camp scholarships for needy students, use

student teachers in place of substitute teachers, and use parental transportation in place of district busing.

Dan White, director of finance, reported that normally about 95 percent of all sixth graders attend camp each year. On an average, 90 percent pay their fees to camp.

Trustee Flossie Tonda argued that every learning experience the students have at the camp is available at the school farm program.

The only difference between the curriculum being considered for the school farm and the camp program is that students do not spend the night at the farm, she added.

A lot of families go camping these days and many other youngsters have camping experiences through the Scouts, said Mrs. Tonda, who argued the money would be better spent on the school farm.

"We could offer the program in-district and save money for the parents."

However, Mrs. Stetz said she really believed in the value of the school camp experience. "It's important for children to get away a few days from family and close friends and spend time with other adults and peers. I'd like to see the camp continue."

Noting that the farm property included woods and a nature trail, board

Please turn to Page 4A

New center offers vocational training

Residents of the Wayne-Westland district are going to find themselves going to school to get a job in the future. The district will begin operation of its new vocational education center this summer on a limited basis.

The new center will be open this fall to all juniors and seniors in the district's high schools, as well as students in the district's adult, alternative and continuing education programs.

"We're trying to make sure that the building is completely utilized," said Marlene Bruner, a placement specialist for the district. "We have offerings for the whole community. We've had a tremendous response from our post graduates."

"I've taken last year's seniors through on a tour, and they've said, 'Why wasn't this here two years ago? It's too late for us.'"

But Mrs. Bruner explained that the district is offering programs with the entire community in mind.

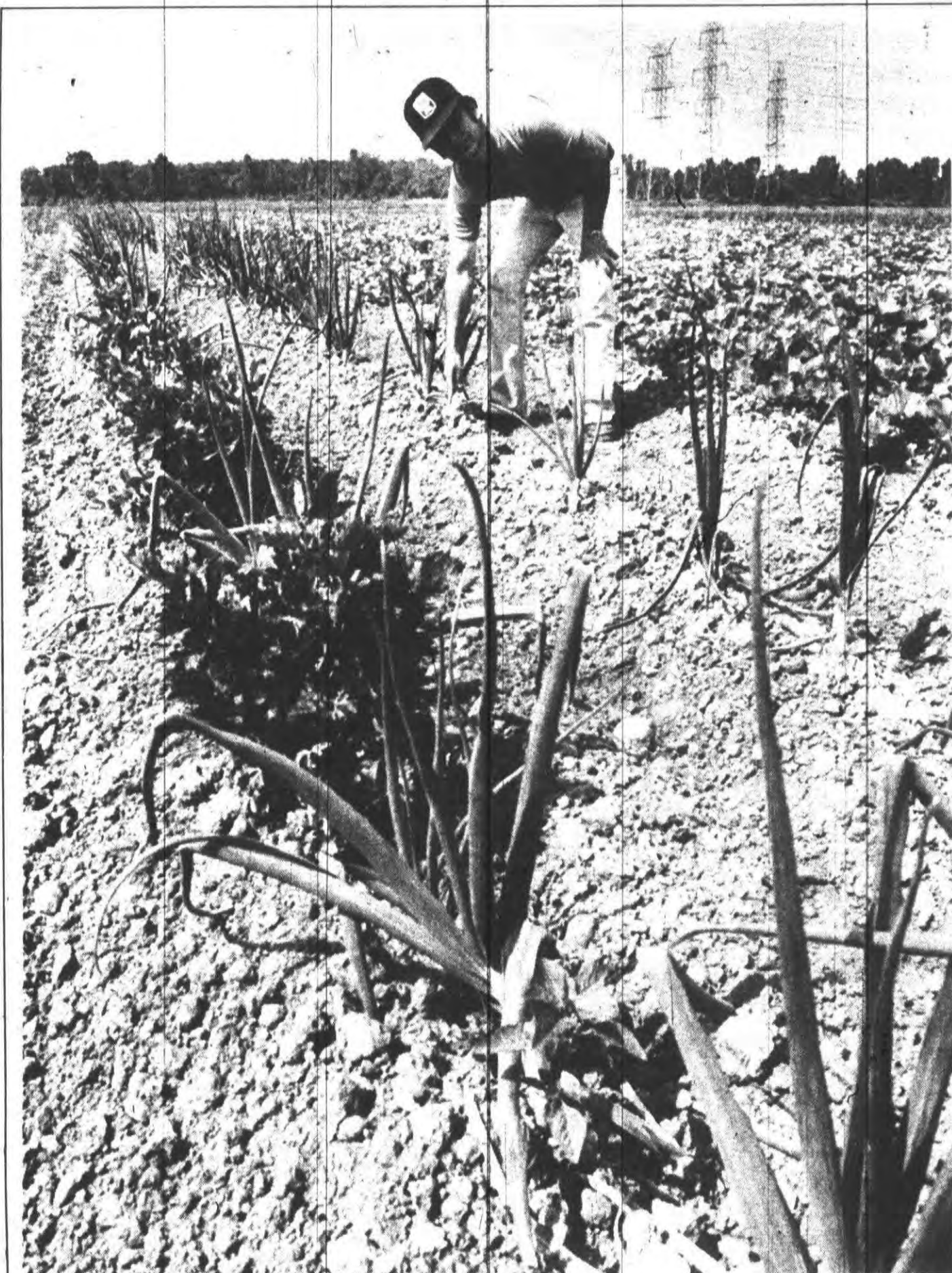
High-school students will attend two

Wayne-Westland schools

daytime sessions in which programs will run 2½ hours all year long and earn them 2½ academic credits. The new center can accommodate 867 students in daytime classes that each have 22 students.

A third session from 3-5:30 p.m. will be offered to district residents, including those from the Canton Township area, who have already graduated. Tuition is free to those students who haven't yet reached the age of 20 by Sept. 1, or who are older than 20 but haven't entire community in mind.

Please turn to Page 4A



To market, to market

The vegetables in this field soon will be on their way to Canton's farmers market, which opens Saturday. Ernie Costantino (above) helps his par-

ents on their Canton farm. Read about the market on Page 3A.

A school for the gifted

Privacy facility plans program for elementary kids

Another new private elementary school is opening in the Plymouth-Canton community.

Called "Steppingstone," it will be geared to the needs of gifted children.

The school will be located in the New Horizons building owned by the Plymouth Church of the Nazarene.

The building is located next to and east of Pioneer Middle School on Ann Arbor Road, west of Sheldon.

KIYO MORSE, a resident of Plymouth Township, is administrator of Steppingstone.

"Gifted children have as many problems existing in the normal classroom as do learning disabled children," says Ms. Morse.

"One problem is that they do not have a peer group with similar interests and capabilities — something which the average or normal child can take for granted in the usual classroom."

"Another problem is that gifted children often require accelerated and in-depth learning, as well as enrichment, to prevent intense boredom and frustration."

"Most schools cannot provide this type of environment for the gifted child, and that is why we are starting Steppingstone."

Mrs. Morse, 36, is the mother of three daughters and has a master's degree in genetics from the University of California at Davis. She has lived in Plymouth Township for five years.

Mrs. Morse has been on the steering committee of the Plymouth-Canton Association for the Academically Talented (PCAAT) since 1979 and taught science to a group of gifted pupils at Tanger Elementary School during the 1980-81 school year.

It was during her interaction with these pupils, she says, that she fully realized how much of the potential in gifted children is left undeveloped.

The financial woes of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and discussions with two teachers interested in teaching gifted children provided the impetus to start Steppingstone, Ms. Morse added.

THE SCHOOL will operate on a traditional school year from September to mid-June.

With two full-time, certified teachers, Mrs. Morse plans on accepting 30 students and expanding as the need arises. The faculty members are Elizabeth Dennis, 27, and Marcia Spontelli, 25.

The curriculum will include individualized instruction in math and language

arts, science, theater arts, social studies, physical education, dance, French, art and music.

The math-science program will be directed by Mrs. Morse's husband, Philip Morse, who is an assistant professor of biophysics at Wayne State University.

Theater arts will be taught by David Skopp, who has acted professionally across the country, while Ron Urbin, a professional musician in the Detroit area, will be in charge of the music program.

Diane Benick, who is completing a degree in education for the gifted at Wayne State University, will be available for private piano lessons.

Arrangements have been made for ice skating lessons once a week in the Plymouth Cultural Center, and dance instruction will be provided by Maureen O'Connor, who studied with the Royal Academy of Dance in England, with the Martha Graham troupe, and locally with Alvin Ailey.

At 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, the public will have a chance to meet with Ms. Morse and the staff of Steppingstone in the New Horizons building.

The 30 students are expected to be divided into two classrooms of 15 each with students age 6-11 being accepted in grades 1-6.

Officials investigate garbage bill excess

Township officials still haven't made a decision about how they will try to recover an estimated \$100,000 in overcharges for rubbish collection over a three- to five-year period.

"Right now we're in the investigative stages," said C. Gerald Hemming, township attorney. "The township hasn't taken a policy. We're trying to get an accounting."

According to finance director Mike Gorman, the overpayment is based on a bookkeeping "misunderstanding" which began in the mid-to-late 1970s, when Canton was trying to keep pace with a terrific housing boom.

Fees charged the township by the rubbish contractor are based on a master list of addresses supplied by the building department. That list was updated each month with new housing permits.

"ONE (permit) is temporary and one is permanent," explained Gorman. "Somewhere over a time, there was a duplication of figures given to the garbage people. We don't know exactly what period it started."

According to preliminary estimates there is a billing discrepancy involving about 1,300 houses, at a monthly cost of about \$3,000, Gorman said.

Township officials are checking their records back to about 1975. Two companies — Municipal Disposal Company and Canton Recycling — have had contracts for garbage pickup back to 1975.

The probe has been developing over a period of about six months. Gorman said former Township Supervisor Noel Culbert earlier had suspected that Canton was paying too much for its rubbish pickup, but "there was no way of checking."

The discrepancy in the number of households began unfolding in December and January when township officials asked Detroit Edison for a computer printout of addresses in the township. The information was requested for a challenge of U.S. Census population figures in Canton.

Ms. Morse says the school will meet the "performance objectives for certified elementary schools" as established by the Michigan Department of Education.

Ms. Dennis, director of instruction, has a BA in elementary education from Oakland University in Rochester and an MA in early childhood education and administration from OU.

She participated in the British primary school system in 1976, and presently is enrolled at Madonna College working on a music education endorsement.

Ms. Spontelli, teacher, has a BA in early childhood education and development with a minor in social sciences from Michigan State University.

Dr. Morse has a BA in zoology from the University of California, a PhD in zoology with a specialty in membrane biophysics from the same university, a post-doctoral fellowship in the department of pharmacology at University of Bern in Switzerland, and a post-doctoral fellowship in the department of biophysics at Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. Since 1975 he has been an assistant professor of biological sciences at WSU.

Tuition will be about \$1,500 plus a registration fee of \$190 and an application fee of \$20.

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Roller rink plans dropped after crash

A local developer has scrapped plans to build a roller rink in Plymouth Township — near the site of a plane crash Monday night.

Woody Lynch, Plymouth developer and owner of A&J Construction Co., said feared "bad publicity" over his business venture and a presumed public "fear of flying" have caused him to build his rink elsewhere.

Lynch was to appear before the Plymouth Township Planning Commission Wednesday for conditional use approval for the site near Mettetal Airport. He said Wednesday he had taken

his "name off the agenda" following Monday's crash. (Related story on Page 1A).

He said he planned to build a 28,500-foot single-level roller rink on a five-acre site off Joy Road until "that damn thing came down at 5:55 p.m. Monday."

Lynch says he now plans to put the rink on another site in Canton Township, which he owns, even though he got Federal Aviation Administration approval for the Plymouth Township project.

"We found no problem with the application," said Bob DeRoock, an airport engineer. "He had moved the location of the building so it wouldn't interfere with the air space."

The building plans were altered so that the proposed development would rest to the rear of the five-acre site rather than on its south-side, facing the airport.

"I've never tried to do anything that wasn't up to snuff," said Lynch, somewhat embittered. "I'm a gambler. And I don't want to gamble against the possibility of adverse conditions."

Plymouth car plates available

License plates reading "Plymouth Michigan" are available from the Plymouth Jaycees.

The plates can go on the front of automobiles to replace the state of Michigan plates, which no longer are required.

The Plymouth Jaycees are undertaking the plate project as a continuation of a two-year Pride in Plymouth program which began 18 months ago with the distribution of "I'm Proud of Plymouth" bumper stickers and posters.

The license plates cost \$3 and are available from Plymouth Jaycee members. Persons also may call Bill Joyner, project chairman, at 455-1390 or send a check for \$3 to the Plymouth Jaycees and sent to Joyner at 45951 Amesbury, Plymouth 48170.

The bumper stickers also are available at Plymouth City Hall and at Plymouth Township Hall.

"The city of Plymouth is a great community in which to live and work," says Joyner. "The Jaycees want to give every resident the opportunity to show that pride in the community that we in the Jaycees feel."

"For that reason and based on the success of our bumper sticker program, we are making the license plates available."

Skilled trades pact reached

An agreement has been made between the school board and the district's smallest union.

The union, Local 547 of the International Union of Operating Engineers — Licensed Technicians, contains exactly five members — two electricians, one heating and ventilating technician, one plumber and one refrigeration technician.

The agreement calls for an increase in hourly rate of 8.5 percent plus improvements in life-insurance coverage and dental-care insurance.

On Monday night the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education also reached agreement with employees in miscellaneous job classifications, including security, crossing guards and substitute secretaries.

That agreement provided for an 8-percent increase in salary and some fringe-benefit improvements. The pay for co-op students and substitute secretaries remains unchanged.

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A5 Canker Sores
A6 Success With Dentures
A7 Are Dental X-Rays Really Necessary?
A8 Teeth Straightening
A9 Preventing Dental Disease
A10 Bleeding Gums and Bone Disease
A11 Broken Teeth and Sports Injuries
A12 Dental Causes of Headaches
A13 Baby Teeth
A14 Abscessed Teeth and Root Canal Treatment
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State seeks PEP views

The State Energy Administration presently is writing up case studies of Plymouth residents' experiences with the "infrared" home photo program and energy fair conducted last winter and spring by Plymouth Energy Program (PEP).

After the infrared photos of individual homes were taken, meetings with individual homeowners were held at

schools and in churches throughout the city so homeowners could view infrared pictures of their homes and discuss energy conservation with volunteers and neighbors.

Residents willing to share any benefits of the program are asked to call either Kurt Brandenburg or John Behman at 453-1234 to find out more about the state case studies.

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Canton Observer

Volume 16 Number 3

Thursday, July 26, 1990

Canton, Michigan

80 Pages

Fifty Cents

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Officials probe deadly mid-air plane crash



GUY WARREN/staff photographer

Three men were killed Monday in the mid-air collision of two small airplanes in the skies over western Plymouth Township. A federal official was to continue examining the wreckage of each

plane today, before completing the investigation. For more on the crash see page 3A.

More pictures, 3A

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

The M-14 freeway is a more likely place to die.

That's because every day at 60-70 mph, drivers pass and switch lanes just yards from one another between Beck and Ridge roads.

But Monday, just a few hundred yards south of M-14, the only two aircraft on the horizon collided in the sky, killing three men.

"Big sky — little airplanes," said National Transportation Safety Board investigator Gene Doub.

The victims were Daniel Starr, 34, of Cedar Springs; Robert Gunn, 65, of Livonia; and Charles Nix, 55, of Detroit.

THE COLLISION occurred at 9:35 a.m. just south of M-14 and west of Beck. While the main wreckage of each airplane was separated by several hundred yards, debris from the crash was scattered over a two-mile area from Hilltop Golf Course at Powell and Beck roads to Gotfredson Road in Salem Township, said Plymouth Township Officer David Hayes.

Deputy Chief Chip Snider said no one on the ground was injured from falling debris.

Officials investigating the crash declined to speculate on the altitude of the two aircraft when the collision occurred. Ashley Heimbaugh, Mette-

'In a mid-air collision, you always have to explain why the pilot of the striking airplane struck the other airplane.'

— Gene Doub
National Transportation
Safety Board investigator

tal Airport operations manager, said Gunn and Nix weren't flying "at a set altitude. It could have been anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 feet."

Hayes said township police spoke to several witnesses who saw at least one aircraft trailing smoke after the collision. Neither aircraft was on fire when township police arrived about three minutes after the crash, Snider said.

"Two bodies were found in the wooded area in the field south of M-14," Hayes said. The bodies were identified as Gunn, an instructor on a training flight, and Nix, an experienced pilot taking instruction. Their aircraft, a single engine Piper Cherokee, had taken off from Mettetal Airport in Canton.

Doub said the two men were thrown from the aircraft after the impact.

STARR, PILOTING a Federal Ar-

Please turn to Page 4

Crash won't be concern in possible airport purchase

By Diane Gale
staff writer

A mid-air accident that killed three pilots Monday shakes up an already controversial issue about whether Canton should buy Mettetal Airport.

However, township officials say safety hasn't been a big concern and the question centers around how much township money will be used to buy and maintain the airport.

"SAFETY HASN'T been an issue and it still isn't," said Dan Calabrese, Canton administration assistant and chairman of a committee studying the possibility of Canton buying the airport.

"It's beyond dispute that crashes are rare," Calabrese said. A recommendation from the study committee to the board of trustees is due Aug. 1.

The accident occurred Monday above a field southwest of Beck

Road and M-14. Charles Nix was taking advanced flight instructions from Robert Gunn. He was flying a single engine Cherokee owned by a club that operates out of Mettetal, according to Lou Maitland, aircraft owner, mechanic and pilot. Daniel Starr, 34, was flying alone in a twin-engine Piper Aerostar.

Between 150 and 200 planes fly in and out of Mettetal daily accounting for about 51,500 flights annually, according to Ashley Heimbaugh, who along with his wife, Susan, own the general operations of the airport. About one-third of the flights are instructional, he said.

PILOTS FLYING out of Mettetal don't use a control tower where someone directs pilots. "It's all done by the pilots," said Larry Butske, a former Mettetal employee.

The Cherokee was "climbing out at about 90 mph," Butske said. And the Piper can "top-off" at 230 or so. The Piper likely was traveling so

much faster than the Cherokee that "maybe there was a bug splotch on the window and he didn't notice the plane."

Canton Supervisor Tom Yack said the accident "would not unduly color my opinion on" whether the township buys the airport that opened in 1939.

The accident, however, "underlines community concerns" about potential hazards caused by the airport.

"The reality of the situation is that people die on expressways each and every day. It's a fact of life. When

people are involved with transportation there are deaths."

The chances of a plane crashing into people are minuscule, according to Larry McCartney, Federal Aviation Administration operations supervisor.

"It's probably a lot safer than standing on the side of the road with automobiles going by," said McCartney.

IN FACT, for every 100,000 hours of pilots flying there were .077 accidents involving planes hitting buildings or residences, according to the

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

The FAA investigation of the Plymouth Township crash is expected to take at least six months.

"I don't know if anyone knows why it (accidents) happens," McCartney said.

The FAA doesn't keep figures on where planes, involved in accidents, are coming and going.

However, pilots at Mettetal said the most recent fatality involving the airport was in 1967. The pilot was killed during take-off on the airport field.

Heimbaugh, Mettetal manager, said he doesn't believe Mettetal Airport was involved in the accident Monday.

"The aircraft had already made its departure and that could have been any airplane out of any other airport," he said. "It's like standing between two skyscrapers and in-

Please turn to Page 2

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— Dan Calabrese

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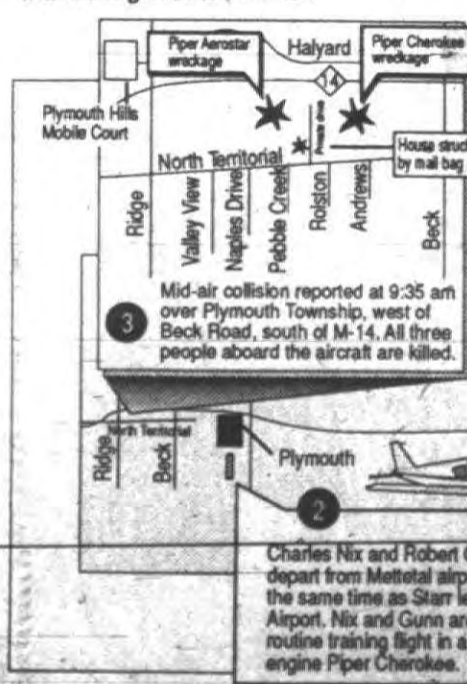
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Check bag from plane crashes through roof

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

Todd Miller, 21, was sleeping in his upstairs bedroom shortly after 9 a.m. Monday when "I heard something hit the roof. It was so loud it woke me up and shook the whole house."

"I could hear something moving on the roof. I could hear something shifting. My first reaction was to get out of the house."



Miller, who had just flown home the night before from Florida, thought a plane might have crashed into the house off North Territorial Road, he said.

"I wasn't sure what hit. Cars were rushing by."

"I threw some clothes on and ran outside. I saw a hole in the roof in the back of the house. It was big enough that I could stand through it. You could easily push a basketball through it."

MILLER THEN saw the remains of a twin-engine Piper Aerostar plane that had nosedived moments before in a hayfield several hundred yards north of his house. Papers were flying everywhere.

A zippered, locked deposit bag about 1 1/4 by 1 foot square had penetrated the Millers' shingled roof and entered the attic, where it landed on insulation.

"It didn't come through the roof, but it was

right above my parents' bedroom. I'm lucky. It was a little too close for me."

Miller's parents were out of town. He was alone in the house.

CHECKS COVERED the roof and the entire back and side yards, Miller said.

"I've never seen so many checks. They were

Please turn to Page 4

Witness: crash like seeing a war movie

Witnesses of the mid-air plane crash Monday gave these accounts of what they saw:

• Ray Michalik, Hilltop Golf Course groundskeeper, said: "I heard a big noise and I looked up in the sky and saw things all over. A big plane went into a tailspin and went straight down. All the debris kept spilling out. I thought I heard a long, drawn out scream. (He said he wasn't sure it came from the plane or witnesses). I think it came from the plane impact. (He said the scream was high pitched and might have been female)."

• Brian Smith, owner of Elite Carpentry was working in a subdivision on Powell and Beck in Hunter's Creek subdivision three quarters of a

mile south of the accident, said. "My laborer said to look at the plane, because it was real low and it was coming over the job site."

"The one plane was real low and it was wobbling around and it looked like he didn't have real good control of the aircraft."

"We went back to work. A couple of seconds later we heard a big crash. I saw the planes when they were falling to the ground. There were a lot of pieces and we knew that someone definitely just got killed."

• John Benton, of Detroit, said: "I heard the pop and looked up and the debris was off the plane. I saw the

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REAL ESTATE SECTION

IN EVERY MONDAY
AND THURSDAY ISSUE

Young witness shaken by mid-air plane crash

Continued from Page 1

tail section fall off. The plane flew a few feet and went straight down. I didn't see the other plane."

• Rick McGarry was in his home at Hix and Joy roads in Livonia, when the crash occurred. "It sounded like an M-80 going off and my wife saw the flash. It shook my house, I know that."

• Rose Van Hemel said she was standing in her kitchen nearly ready to leave for work when the air outside suddenly appeared to be thick with chicken feathers floating to the ground. From her living room window, which faces M-14, Van Hemel "saw the plane hit the ground and splatter all over. I immediately ran out. I didn't hear a loud noise — that's the part of it. It was like a big boom. There were canceled checks floating all over."

• John Van Hemel, whose backyard served as headquarters for the coroner and the media, said he went to the site of the Aerostar crash. "You couldn't even recognize a body in there. It was terrible looking."

• Steve Woods was putting cement down at a residence near Ridge and Powell when "all of a sudden there was a big boom. It startled me for a minute. I didn't know what happened."

• A woman who lives near the crash site and asked not to be named said "debris was scattered all over. We called 911 and couldn't get through. The planes exploded when they hit. We were all out in the fields searching for the people."

• Jennifer Dixon, 13, saw the crash while sitting on her front

porch in the Plymouth Hills Trailer Park. "They hit wing tips. One plane blew up and the other one went around in a circle. Then it was like he decided he was going to kill himself. He just went down and hit. There wasn't any fire." Jennifer's mother, Shannon, said her daughter "turned stone white. She was shaking like a leaf. She kept going, 'Oh my God, two planes hit.'"

• Shannon Dixon heard the crash, but living so close to M-14 and hearing tires pop so often, she figured that was the cause. "It was just a pop — it sounded more like a car tire, not a truck tire. I saw the big plane coming down. The other plane was in pieces already. It was like seeing a war movie. The only thing flying was debris from the second plane."



Jennifer (left) and Shannon Dixon describe the crash they heard from their home in Plymouth Hills Trailer Park.

Compiled by Diane Gale, Kevin Brown and M.B. Dillon.

Air safety won't be issue in airport sale

Continued from Page 1

stead of lightning striking them it strikes you. It's one in a million."

Mildred Murphy, an airport study committee member, said her main concern was the amount of tax money that would be spent on Mettetal. "It (accidents) can happen and we were all aware that it could," she said. "That doesn't make my decision for me. I don't want our tax money going to an airport."

"It's lucky it didn't happen over a subdivision. They do come over our

houses," said Murphy, a resident of Pickwick subdivision, one-half mile south of the airport.

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Investigators comb area of crash

Onlookers line road near site

THE MID-AIR collision of two small airplanes over western Plymouth Township on Monday killed three men.

Daniel Starr, 34, of Cedar Springs; Charles Nix, 45, of Detroit; and Robert Gunn, 65, of Livonia were killed in the 9:35 a.m. collision just south of M-14 and west of Beck Road.

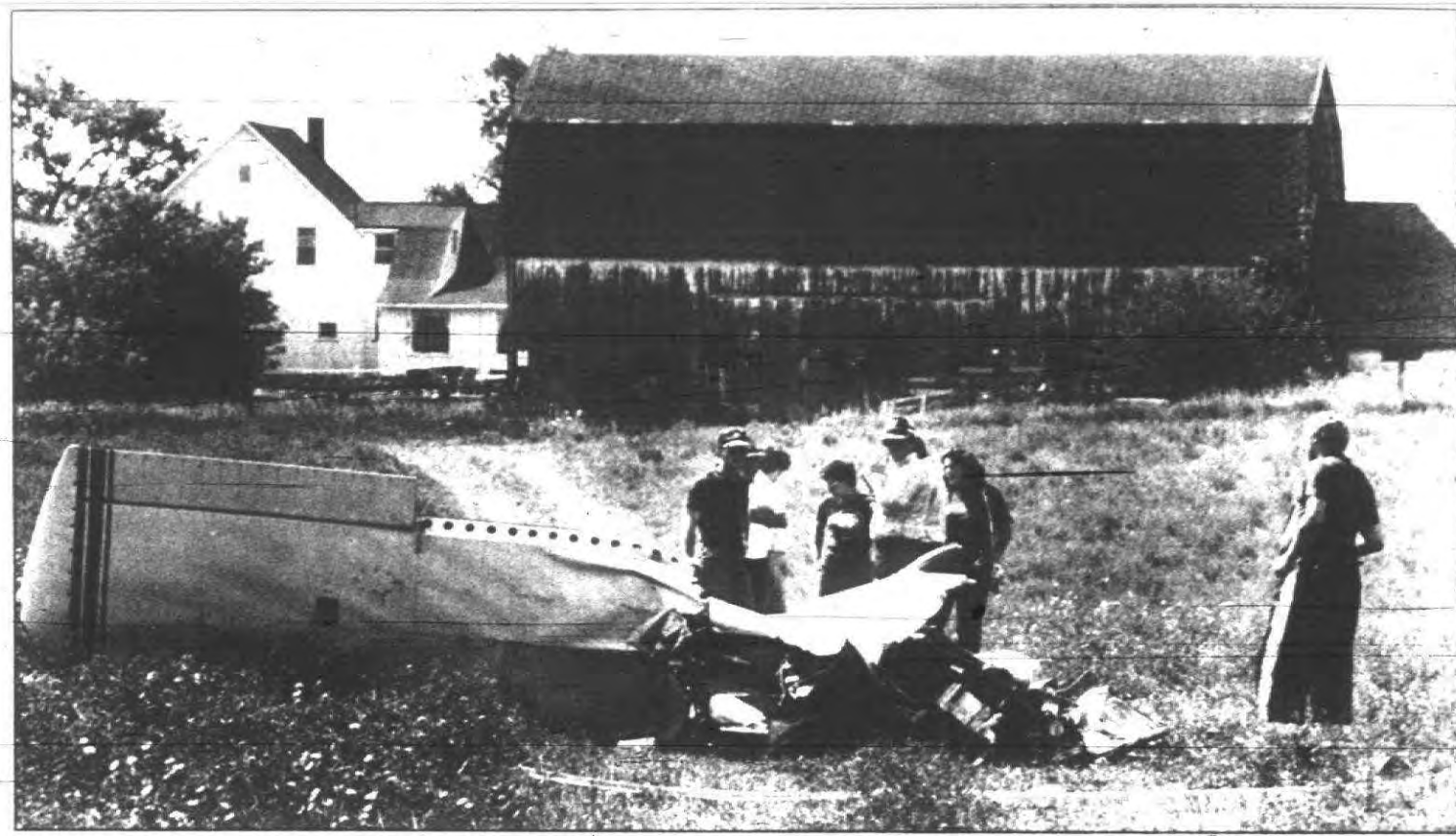
By late Tuesday, wreckage of each airplane was to be transported to a Mettetal Airport hangar, where a National Transportation Safety Board officials planned to reassemble each plane for

clues as to the crash under clear skies.

As local police and Wayne County Sheriff's Department deputies sealed off the area, onlookers lined North Territorial Road and traffic slowed to around 25 mph along M-14.

By noon Monday, police closed North Territorial to through traffic between Beck and Ridge roads, to keep onlookers from jamming the area. The road was opened by mid-morning Tuesday.

The investigation is expected to be completed Friday, a NTSB spokesman said.



Residents of the crash area stand near a wing of the single-engine plane flown by Charles Nix.



Plymouth Township firefighters scan the area near the wreckage of the plane flown by Daniel Starr.



Ashley Heimbaugh, Mettetal Airport operations chief, gestures toward the field where the aircraft flown by pilot Charles Nix came to rest.

"It's like standing between two skyscrapers and instead of lightning striking them it strikes you. It's one in a million."
—Ashley Heimbaugh, Mettetal Airport



Federal investigators survey one of the crash sites just south of M-14 near Beck Road.

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Continued from Page 1

mor Air Service plane, died inside his twin-engine Piper Aerostar.

"All three were classified as multiple injury accidental. Whether it (death) occurred while they were in the air or when they hit the ground, I can't differentiate," said a spokesman for the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office on Tuesday.

THE COCKPIT of the single engine plane was empty. Officers found the mangled bodies of Gunn and Nix about 40 yards apart,

about 200 yards from their plane. On the day after the crash, Douh — his blue coveralls stashed with mud after spending hours searching the alfalfa fields for debris — said, "A mid-air collision is a rare occurrence anytime."

"In a mid-air collision, you always have to explain why the pilot of the striking airplane struck the other airplane," he said — adding this wouldn't be known until the investigation is finished — possibly as early as Friday.

The skies over rural Plymouth Township were "as clear as a bell" when the two

small planes collided, said Heimbaugh. They were exactly where they were supposed to be," he said of Gunn and Nix, flying in the single engine Piper Cherokee. Nix was training to earn an advanced license for foul-weather and instrument flying.

Both of them were professional pilots, very experienced pilots," Heimbaugh said.

LARRY MCCARTNEY, a Federal Aviation Administration operations supervisor in Detroit, declined to speculate on why the crash could have occurred at a time when conditions were clear.

"I don't know of a good reason to give for that happening," he said.

By the FAA's preliminary investigation into the crash, McCartney said, "We think the Aerostar left Detroit City (Airport) at approximately 9:30 (a.m.) The Cherokee left at about the same time," he said, from Mettetal Airport in Canton.

He described the twin engine Piper Aerostar, piloted by Starr, as "twice as fast" as the Piper Cherokee.

DOUB SAID the remains of the two aircraft were to be moved to a hangar at

Mettetal Airport by late Tuesday to be examined as evidence.

To help determine how the planes collided, "We're looking at the men, the machines and the environment," he said.

"We'll look at the sun angles when the crash occurred, paint scrapes, we'll look at the dimensions of the pilot in the actual cockpit," Douh continued.

He said the aircraft will be reassembled in the hangar and positioned as they were upon impact, to aid the investigation.

— M.B. Dillon contributed to this report.

Thieves take guns, cameras, VCR, cash from residence

Five handguns valued at more than \$1,500 were reported stolen from a Saltz Road house last weekend, police said.

The homeowner believed the thieves got into the house through an attached garage.

Two cameras valued at \$630, a \$400 watch, a blood glucose tester, \$100 cash, a video cassette recorder and a telephone were also reported stolen, police said.

WHOOO DUNIT: Two cement ovis were reported stolen from the front porch of a home on Franciscan Court. The statues had not been bolted down, police said.

NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHT: Eight people on Trails Court were standing on two porches screaming at one another last weekend, police said. Canton officers broke-up the fight.

HOME BREAK-INS: A man's ring, valued at \$1,000, was stolen from a house on Merimac last weekend, police said.

A \$300 microwave and \$400 VCR also were reported stolen.

A house on Joy Road netted thieves a \$150 ring, \$200 gold chain and \$600 in cash.

An apartment on Brookpark was broken into last weekend. Thieves reportedly took a \$400 AM-FM radio, a \$250 equalizer, a \$425 am-

crime watch

plifier, \$275 speakers and a \$125 radar detector.

VEHICLE THEFTS: Owners of a motor vehicle on Michigan Avenue reported these goods stolen: a \$100 drill, \$150 jigsaw, \$150 hand saw, \$50 power stapler and a \$500 camera.

A \$554 stereo was reported stolen from a 1987 Camaro parked on Honeytree last weekend, police said.



GUAY WARREN/staff photographer

Todd Miller was awakened Monday morning by the sound of cargo from a crashing plane plunging through his roof. The damaged area, covered with a light-colored patch, is visible in the upper right hand corner.

Resident startled when bag hits roof

Continued from Page 1

They were in bundles everywhere. Envelopes were tucked in the gutter.

"A big box, about 2 feet by 2 feet square, was crunched on the driveway. Inside there was a brown deposit bag with a zipper lock, envelopes and a smaller deposit bag from P&M.

"Most of the deposit bags were from First of America. The checks were in bundles all made out to the same store or small business. They were from places like Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor and Benton Harbor."

In his yard, Miller found a piece of chrome trim that appeared to have come from inside the plane. A worn logo was barely visible.

Miller called the Federal Reserve in Detroit, whose number was listed on the canvas deposit bags.

"At least five Federal Reserve people were here between one and two hours after. They filled up plastic

bags with checks from the yard and the field."

YVONNE MONTGOMERY, assistant vice president of the Detroit Federal Reserve, said her office is working overtime to recover the estimated 300,000 canceled checks that were lost.

She is urging people who find checks to call 964-6200 anytime.

"We will either have a courier come out if they're going to be home, or if they're not going to be at home, if they could drop the checks off at the nearest police station, our courier will go there," she said.

"We have over 50 percent of the checks as of today (Tuesday). They're pretty much intact."

Callers from a wide area have reported finding checks.

"We've been surprised at the number of calls. We got one call last night from Ann Arbor. We don't know if it was a crank or not, but we sent someone out."

Bush tax shift riles some local lawmakers

By Mary Rodrigue staff writer

President George Bush's declaration late last month that tax increases will have to be a part of any deficit reduction plan won him few new fans on either side of the congressional aisle.

One area Republican expressed disappointment with the president while another said he'll adopt a wait-and-see attitude and supports the president. Area Democrats expressed I-told-you-so glee.

"At least now he's fessed up," said U.S. Rep. William Ford, D-Taylor, who represents Garden City, Westland, Canton Township and part of Livonia.

"You can't run government on credit cards and expect our grandchildren to pay for it."

Although Bush's words lift a burden from Democrats, who have long feared being blamed for any new taxes, Ford doesn't believe the president deserves kudos for admitting the inevitable.

"He doesn't know anything now that he didn't know in '88. He was sweet-talking voters when he should've been shouldering responsibility," Ford said.

THE OFFICE of Management and Budget released its midyear review July 15.

OMB director Richard Darman said he expects the fiscal 1991 deficit to be about \$168 billion.

Ford, like other House Democrats, would like to see a shift in the tax burden to those in upper income brackets.

"In my district the average person



"I was disappointed to hear the president say he believes that tax increases must be part of the solution."

— William D. Ford
R-Lake Orion



"He doesn't know anything now that he didn't know in '88. He was sweet-talking voters..."

— William D. Ford
D-Taylor



"The question remains what will the summit package look like. Will it promote economic growth that will benefit all Americans?"

— Sander Levin
D-Southfield



U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, said he feels neither betrayed nor is he disappointed in Bush.

Pursell said Bush's "read my lips" comment on taxes was aimed principally at the personal income tax.

As to what kind of package he'd like to see, Pursell said it would include across the board spending cuts.

Pursell also supports a balanced budget amendment and encouraged the president to exercise his veto on appropriations bills.

Pursell said he'll wait to see the whole budget package before making any decision.

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Right-to-die issue stirs up strong emotions

By Janice Brunson staff writer

Shoppers queried at random recently at Westland Shopping Center agree with the results of a recent Wayne State University study in which an overwhelming majority of Michigan residents believe they should have the final decision over whether to maintain life-sustaining treatment.

The majority of those asked in both the mall and the study also favor stopping life support systems if there is no hope of recovery and half favor letting doctors give lethal injections to terminally ill people who request such treatment.

"A person oughta have the choice," said William Bradshaw, 70, of Plymouth, whose 94-year-old mother is in a nursing home in Florida. Attendants there have been instructed to withhold life-sustaining treatment in the event his mother becomes ill, Bradshaw said.

Bradshaw, however, may not have a similar choice here. Michigan is one of only 10 states that does not recognize living wills, granting individuals the final decision in sustaining life and allowing them to decide in advance what measures doctors can take in keeping them alive.

OF 900 PEOPLE interviewed by phone in the Wayne State study conducted by the Center for Urban Studies, 94 percent favor letting people decide in advance. Eighty-six percent said they would want feeding tubes removed if they were unconscious and had no chance to recover and 52 percent favor letting doctors give lethal injections to terminally ill people who can think clearly and request such treatment.

Jim Corp, 35, of Westland believes "we should have the right to make individual decisions" regarding life and death. But in the event he should become unconscious or otherwise unable to make such a decision, he believes his wishes should be set aside, with the final decision based entirely upon the wishes of family members or those making the decision.

"They're the ones who have to live with it. After all, I'd be unconscious and never know," he said.

Natalie Pence, 65, and daughter Karen, 27, of Canton, also believe in the right of choice.

"I don't want to be on any machine," Natalie said. Karen agreed, "It should be our right to decide."

But on the issue of lethal injections, the two disagreed. "No, no. It's God's will. Not mine," Natalie emphasized. Karen believes it is an individual right of decision, but not one she would choose.

Richard Konjarevich, 32, of Livonia, also supports the right of choice in all life and death matters, but said there is no hope of recovery and half favor letting doctors give lethal injections to terminally ill people who request such treatment.

THOUGH HOSPICE is devoted to "natural death," the issue of lethal injection has been a topic of discussion by hospice patients since the suicide death last month of an Oregon woman who used a device provided by Michigan pathologist Jack Kevorkian.

"We have had a couple of patients who have said to families, 'That's what I want,'" said Marilyn Keeth, patient care coordinator for Hospice Services of Western Wayne County in Garden City. Last year, the facility provided services for some 60 patients.

"I can understand those feelings but we recognize natural death as a normal process of living. We neither hasten it nor prolong it," she said.

Sister Giovanni of Angela Hospice Home Care in Livonia said "families have been talking about it," likely as a result of media exposure about Kevorkian's device.

"We support death with dignity but we don't do anything to take life," Giovanni said. Last year, Angela Hospice provided services to 135 persons.

A right-to-die bill, rejected for 16 consecutive years by state legislators, is once again pending before a state Senate committee.

Other results of the Wayne State study include 36 percent who said yes when asked if it is ever right for a person to kill a spouse who is in pain from a terminal illness. Fifty-one percent said no.

Parks host family fund-raiser

Families are encouraged to ride, walk or run through the Wayne County Parks Saturday, July 28 as part of a fund-raising event for the county park system.

A six-mile segment of Hines Drive will be closed 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for joggers, strollers and bicyclists. Each dollar pledged at the event earns participants a chance a winning the grand prize — a Labor Day weekend trip for two to Mackinac Island.

Participants will gather at Nankin Mills, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. The grand prize drawing will be at 3:30 p.m. Participants need not be present to win.

For more information, call 361, 1999.

Madonna holds registration

Full term registration has opened at Madonna College, Livonia. Registration will run through Monday, Sept. 10. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, through Friday, Aug. 17. Hours will extend to 7 p.m.

after that date, though no Friday hours are scheduled Aug. 20-31. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4. More information is available by calling 591-5052. Madonna is at 1-95 and Livonia.

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HUDSON'S

Day care busing program to stay

There's good news for working parents who'd like their children bused to and from a baby sitter's home.

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education voted to keep in place a pilot program launched last year to transport elementary school students to and from their day care provider, rather than to their home.

The policy change was made after parents asked administration for the accommodation.

Transportation can be provided if the babysitter's residence is in an eligible area, even if the student's residence isn't in an eligible area.

"Parents will find this very useful. This taps into parents who need it most, those who have baby-sitting done for them," said Dick Egli, community relations director.

Students will be able to use the service if the babysitter is located within the school attendance area; if there is an existing stop; if the transportation is needed in the morning and afternoon, five days per week; if there is no incremental cost to the district; and if there is space available on the bus.

Parents will be responsible for transportation if the babysitter cannot care for the child.

"Although it was our recommendation to not approve the initial request, it was approved on a pilot basis and implemented last year," said Dale Goby, director of transportation/safety.

"With the new before and after school (day care) program for the 1990-91 school year, there may be a decreased need for these services. We recommend that the program continue without change and that it remain, for one more year, a pilot program."

Twenty-two requests were made by parents last year. Four were denied.

The school board approved the recommendation, 7-0.

Requests for transportation services must be made in writing. They should be directed to Ray Hoedel, associate superintendent for business and operations, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth 48170.

Middle and high school requests should be directed to the school principal. They'll be forwarded to Dale Goby for review.

Requests for transportation services for students going home with a friend on a one-time basis must be approved by the building principal. A note from the parent to the bus driver also is required.

Airplane mishap

The Plymouth-Canton area's second airplane mishap in three days resulted in no injuries to the pilot and a passenger. Pilot Michael Larson, 30, of Canton and his brother, David Larson, 33, of Mount Clemens, walked away from the blue and white Cessna 172 single-engine plane Wednesday, after it flipped as the pilot tried to abort a 3:36 p.m. takeoff from Mettetal Airport in Canton, Plymouth Township police said.

"He was taking off and failed to keep airborne, he skidded across the road," said Plymouth Township police Sgt. Robert Smith. Smith said there was no indication that the plane came close to motorists as it skidded across Joy Road into Plymouth Township, before flipping and landing on its top in a grassy area just across the road. Federal officials at the airport investigating the stored wreckage of two planes that crashed Monday in Plymouth Township said they would investigate Wednesday's mishap.



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

obituaries

LOIS M. HOBBS

Services were held for Lois M. Hobbs, 92, of Plymouth Township Monday, July 16 at Schrader Funeral Home. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth.

Mrs. Hobbs is survived by four daughters, Dorothy Basset of Plymouth, Ruth Wingard of Plymouth, Edna Bauman of Plymouth and Beverly Kirby of Lewiston; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hobbs was born Feb. 7, 1898 in Livonia. She died Friday, July 13 in Garden City. She was a homemaker.

Mr. Sanford Burr presided at the service. Memorial contributions may be given to the American Heart Association of Michigan.

MARY E. FAULDS

Services were held for Mary E. Faulds, 91, of Plymouth on Thursday, July 19 at Schrader Funeral Home. Burial was in Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

Mrs. Faulds died Monday, July 16, in Ann Arbor. She was born Jan. 18, 1899 in Brazil, Ind. She came to the Plymouth community in 1978 from Detroit. She was a member of the Brightmoor Christian Church, the High Gate Chapter in Highland Park, and of the Victoria Chapter No. 290 of the Order of Eastern Star and Rainbow Girls, with whom she held several state offices. She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Faulds is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Dr. William M. Stahl presided at the service. Memorial contributions may be given to The First Baptist Church of Plymouth.

DALE E. HILDEN

Services were held for Dale E. Hilden, 31, of Detroit on Saturday, July 21 at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Livonia. Burial was at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

Mr. Hilden is survived by his wife, Helen Hilden of Detroit; one son, Michael Baldwin of Detroit; two daughters, Jacqueline Mitchell of Detroit and Sandra Hilden of Detroit; and parents, George and Geraldine Hilden of Plymouth.

Mr. Hilden died Wednesday, July 18 in Detroit. He was born April 8, 1959 in Garden City. He was employed as a screw machinist operator at Tompkins Screw in Detroit.

The Rev. Roland Troike, of Timothy Lutheran Church in Livonia, presided at the service.

ELIZABETH C. PARKER

Services were held for Elizabeth C. Parker, 88, of Lansing Saturday, July 21 at the Schrader Funeral Home. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Mrs. Parker was born April 28, 1902 in Stonehouse, Scotland. She died Tuesday, July 17 in Lansing. She came to the Plymouth communi-

ty in 1960 from northwest Detroit. She was a nurse and homemaker and a past worthy matron of the Plymouth Eastern Star.

Mrs. Parker is survived by her son, Dr. John A. Penner of East Lansing; two granddaughters, four sisters, Isabel Hendry of Plymouth, Jean Grosser of Plymouth, Sarah Ford of Plymouth and Rebecca Hanbury of Plymouth; three brothers, John Hendry of Plymouth, Melcomb Hendry of Florida and Watson Hendry of Florida; and one niece.

Pastor Jesse Abbott officiated the service.

DAVID TUGMAN

Services were held for David Tugman, 74, of Farmington Hills, on Thursday, July 19 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington. Bur-

ial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mr. Tugman died Monday, July 16 in Farmington Hills. He was born June 1, 1916 in Detroit. He formerly lived in Detroit. He was employed as a powerhouse engineer at Stroh's, Chevrolet (Warren) and Goebel's Rison Dairy. He was a former merchant marine on the Ford ships and former officer in the U.S. Navy. He was a member of VFW - Port Sanilac and American Legion.

Mr. Tugman is survived by his wife, Lois Tugman of Farmington Hills; daughter Mary Ann Check of Plymouth; two sons, David Parr of Livonia and Richard Parr of Westland; one sister, Ellen Biron of Fowlerville; one niece and seven grandchildren.

The Rev. Colum Morgan officiated the service.

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- How much is admission?
- Who can the public call for further information?

Please provide the Observer with the name and telephone number of a person with whom we can verify the information.

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Identify people in the photograph from left to right and by their first names and surnames as well as by the towns in which they live.

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Girl Scouts make Jacob's ladders at the camp in Central City Park.



Crystal Bradley, 14, makes a Jacob's ladder during the annual Girl Scout day camp, held last week and this week at Central City Park.

Old-fashioned bonnets and themed T-shirts were donned by more than 200 Girl Scouts during the 22nd annual Wayne-Westland day camp.

photos by ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Golden opportunity

Girl Scouts learn about past in day camp

MORE THAN 200 Girl Scouts are enjoying a step back into time during the 22nd annual Scout day camp.

With the theme of "Gold Rush '90," the Scouts made candles, quilts, butter and old-fashioned toys last week and this week, said camp director Judy Curtis.

The girls were dressed in 1890's-style bonnets for the camp, at Westland's Central City Park, west of Carlson, south of Ford.

In keeping with the '90s theme, the girls traveled to the nearby Westland Historical Museum, 857 N. Wayne Road, for a tour and a look into the community's past, and to the Cadillac Memorial Gardens West Cemetery to find the grave sites of local pioneers.

Musicians are scheduled to drop in Friday to perform on dulcimers, Curtis said.

Joann Vasely, the camp's certified first aid staffer, said the

camp during the past two weeks enjoyed the best weather experienced by the scouts in many years.

INCLUDED IN the camp are several junior high school-age Cadettes who worked as assistants, helping adult scout volunteers.

Alison Zalewski, 12, said she helps the leaders, watches the Scouts, and aids them in cooking.

Another Cadette is Kristine Vasely, 14, who has been in Scouting for nine years.

Mrs. Vasely said the use of Cadettes gives them an excellent leadership training experience.

On a modern tack, the girls enjoyed the nearby outdoor swimming pool, behind Bailey Recreation Center.

With Curtis as director, Belinda Nelson and Elaine Rowell served as co-directors.

The day camp is one of nine offered by the Huron Valley Girl Scout Council. The camps are manned by volunteers.

Investigation continues into fatal mid-air crash

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

The M-14 freeway is a more likely place to die.

That's because every day at 60-70 mph, drivers pass and switch lanes just yards from one another between Beck and Ridge roads.

But Monday, just a few hundred yards south of M-14, the only two aircraft on the horizon collided in the sky, killing three men.

"Big sky — little airplanes," said National Transportation Safety Board investigator Gene Doub.

The victims were Daniel Starr, 34, of Cedar Springs; Robert Gunn, 65, of Livonia; and Charles Nix, 55, of Detroit.

THE COLLISION occurred at 9:35 a.m. just south of M-14 and west of Beck. While the main wreckage of each airplane was separated by several hundred yards, debris from the crash was scattered over a two-mile area from Hilltop Golf Course at Powell and Beck roads to Gotfredson Road in Salem Township, said Plymouth Township Officer David Hayes.

Deputy Chief Chip Snider said no one on the ground was injured from falling debris.

Officials investigating the crash declined to speculate on the altitude of the two aircraft when the collision occurred. Ashley Helmbaugh, Mettetal Airport operations manager, said Gunn and Nix weren't flying "at a

set altitude. It could have been anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 feet."

Hayes said township police spoke to several witnesses who saw at least one aircraft trailing smoke after the collision. Neither aircraft was on fire when township police arrived about three minutes after the crash, Snider said.

"Two bodies were found in the wooded area in the field south of M-14," Hayes said. The bodies were identified as Gunn, an instructor on a training flight, and Nix, an experienced pilot taking instruction. Their aircraft, a single engine Piper Cherokee, had taken off from Mettetal Airport in Canton.

Doub said the two men were thrown from the aircraft after the impact.

STARR, PILOTING a Federal Armor Air Service plane, died inside his twin-engine Piper Aerostar.

"All three were classified as multiple injury accidental. Whether it (death) occurred while they were in the air or when they hit the ground, I can't differentiate," said a spokesman for the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office on Tuesday.

Plymouth City Commissioner and Realtor Jerry Vorva was dropping off some papers at the Perlongo farmhouse on North Territorial when he saw the planes go down.

"I hate to use the word spectacular, but that's what it was," said Vorva.

Vorva was leaving the house when his attention was drawn upward by the sound of the "loud, strained noise. I looked southeast and saw a small plane out of the corner of my eye. It sounded as if it was laboring or climbing with a full load."

Not thinking much of it, Vorva looked back down, took a step and "thud. There was a loud, blunt, crunchy sound; you might have thought there was a car accident."

The single engine plane "fell in three main parts" a couple hundred yards from where Vorva was standing. "Small pieces were falling around us, too. The debris that fell into the bushes turned out to be bodies."

VORVA, a former police officer, told Edie Perlongo to call 9-1-1 and saw the second plane struggling to stay aloft. The twin-engine plane banked to the right and the nose came up.

"I thought, 'This plane is going to pull out of this,'" said Vorva. The pilot did a "traditional barrel roll" before nose-diving into the ground.

J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia. Burial will be at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia. The family has asked that memorial contributions be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Before launching his car repair business in Redford Township, Gunn operated a similar business near Five Mile and Harrison in Livonia. One of his best customers was the Livonia Police Department.

"He serviced police vehicles and the cars of police officers, even after he moved to Redford," said Lt. Michael Murray.

REDFORD RESIDENTS and township officials also discovered the master mechanic after he moved his business to Redford.

"It was a real pleasure doing business with him," said Leo Snage, the township's director of public services. "He was the most competent, most honest, most helpful auto mechanic I've known. He wouldn't nickel-and-dime you to death. He was a credit to his profession."

After selling his business in the early 1980s, Gunn became more involved in his second love of flying. As a flight instructor, he trained pilots in the art of flying, a job he was doing Monday before the plane crash.

Gunn is survived by: wife, Mazella; daughter, Janice Pomorski; son, George; sister, Carol Falte; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Master mechanic took to the skies

By Marie Chestney
staff writer

Robert Gunn was as well known to local car owners seeking an honest, competent repairman as he was to fellow pilots and other lovers of flying.

Besides his family, the retired Livonia and Redford Township businessman who died in an air crash Monday had two loves in his life — auto repair and flying.

"All he talked about was those two," said Nancy Soper, manager of King Bros. Collision Inc., 27115 West Seven Mile, Redford Township.

For years Soper worked across the street from Gunn and got to know him well. Before retiring, the 65-year-old Livonia resident owned an auto repair business at Seven Mile and Poinciana in Redford.

"He was an outgoing, friendly person, always laughing. Our phones rang here all day long Monday, because people knew we knew Bob. He was one of the most honest men in the business."

GUNN WAS the instructor on a flight from Canton Township's Mettetal Airport Monday when his single-engine Piper Cherokee apparently was struck by another aircraft.

Gunn, along with pilots Charles Nix of Detroit and Daniel Starr of Cedar Springs, were killed in the mid-air collision near M-14 and Beck Road in Plymouth Township.

Services for the veteran pilot will be held at 1 p.m. today in the Harry

Please turn to Page 4

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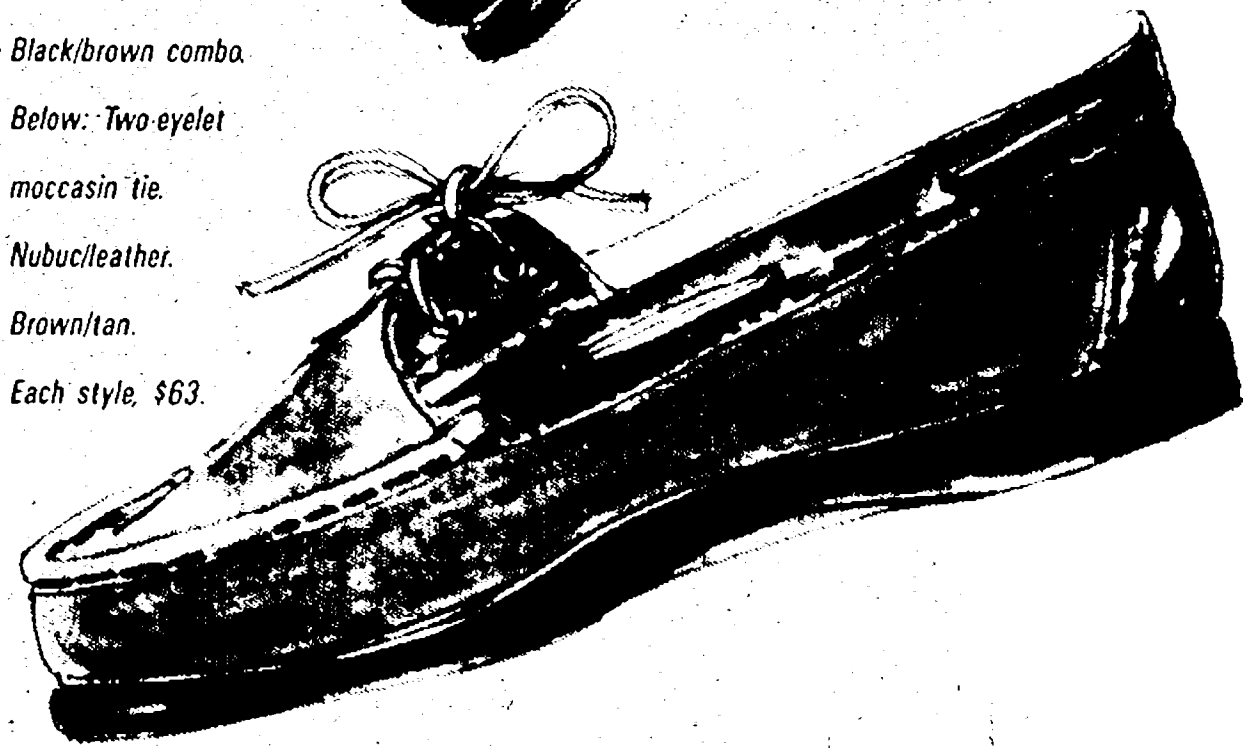
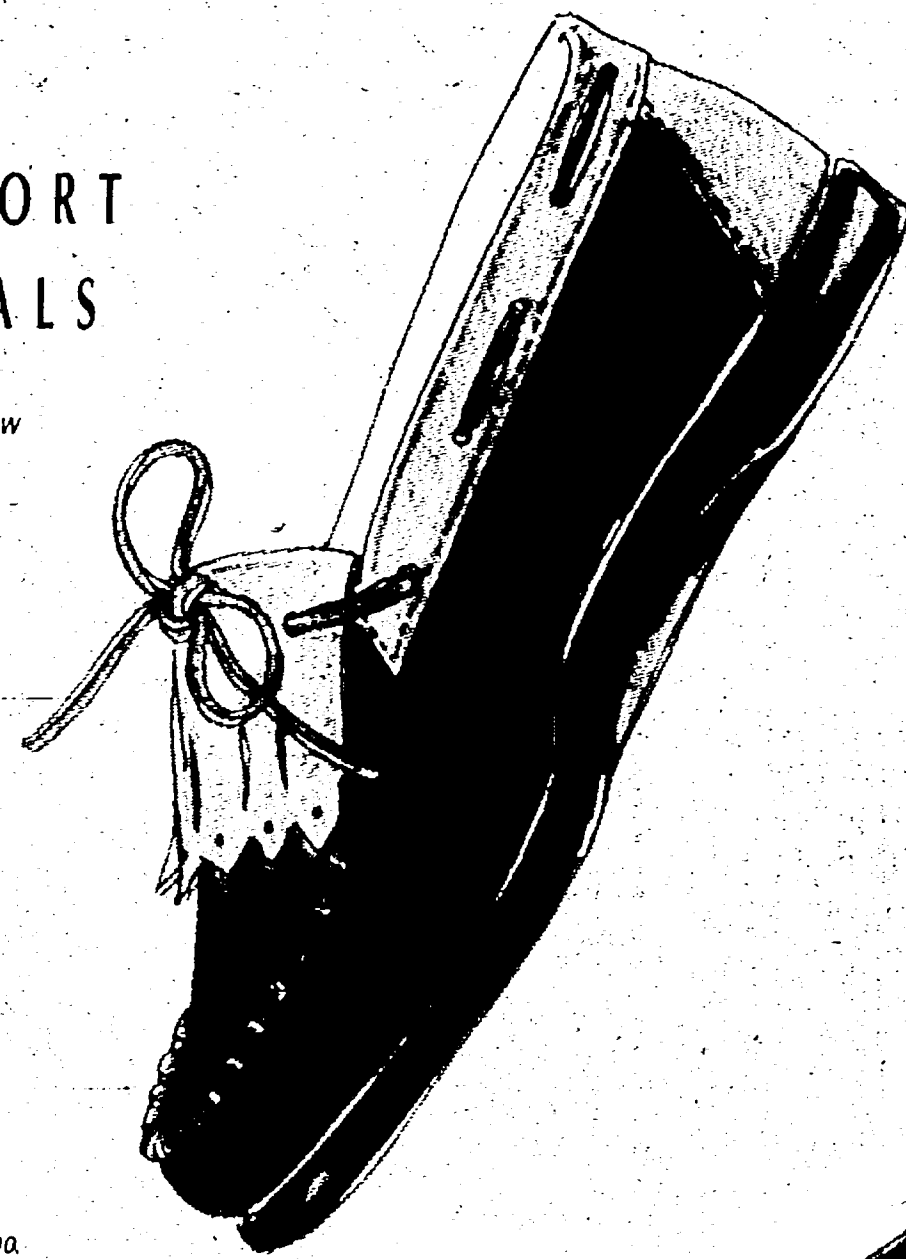
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Community Corner

This week's question:

Do you plan to vote in the Aug. 7 Michigan primary election?

We asked this question to Westland residents outside the K mart store, Wayne Road at Cherry Hill.



'Yes. It's a privilege. I think more people should vote.'
— Gary Polen



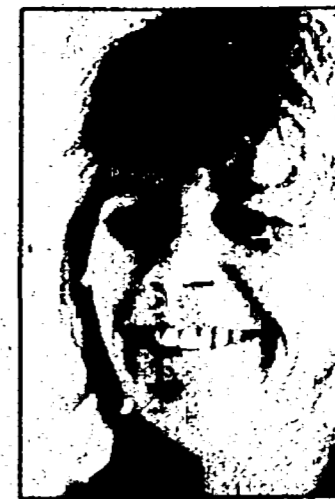
'No. I never take the time. It's not my favorite thing. (Voting) is my right but I don't have to do it if I don't want to.'
— Karen Rose



'Yes. I vote in just about every election.'
— Gloria Briski



'Yes. It's important to make my voice heard.'
— Marguerite Witt



'No. I've never voted before. I realize it is important but I just never get around to it.'
— Lisa Mooney



'Yeah. I'm voting for (Gov. James) Blanchard. I'm a strong Democrat.'
— Alan Engle

Probe continues into mid-air crash

Continued from Page 3

about eight seconds after the first plane crashed. "I thought it hit the freeway," he said.

What looked like white smoke surrounding the twin-engine plane turned out to be more than 300,000 federal reserve checks; a "big white stream of them," said Vorva, adding that he can't imagine how the pilots couldn't have seen each other.

Police said some checks were scattered as far as Ann Arbor Road east of Sheldon.

Vorva ran to the crash site to see if he could be of help. "But I knew no one would be alive; it was all over except for the screaming and hollering."

THE COCKPIT of the single engine plane was empty. Officers found the mangled bodies of Gunn and Nix about 40 yards apart, about 200 yards from their plane.

Vorva then went to the site of the second plane, which was "virtually disintegrated, except for the heaviest parts. I could see the wheel assembly, and I knew that was where the pilot would be. There was just a pile of flesh.

"I've seen some nasty car and train accidents, but this was one of the worst things I've ever seen."

On the day after the crash, Doub — his blue coveralls stained with mud after spending hours searching the alfalfa fields for debris — said, "A mid-air collision is a rare occurrence anytime."

"In a mid-air collision, you always have to explain why the pilot of the striking airplane struck the other airplane," he said — adding

this wouldn't be known until the investigation is finished — possibly as early as Friday.

The skies over rural Plymouth Township were "as clear as a bell" when the two small planes collided, said Heimbaugh.

"They were exactly where they were supposed to be," he said of Gunn and Nix, flying in the single engine Piper Cherokee. Nix was training to earn an advanced license for foul-weather and instrument flying.

"Both of them were professional pilots, very experienced pilots," Heimbaugh said.

LARRY MCCARTNEY, a Federal Aviation Administration operations supervisor in Detroit, declined to speculate on why the crash could have occurred at a time when conditions were clear.

"I don't know of a good reason to give for that happening," he said.

By the FAA's preliminary investigation into the crash, McCartney said, "We think the Aerostar left Detroit City (Airport) at approximately 9:30 (a.m.) The Cherokee left at about the same time," he said, from Mettetal Airport in Canton.

He described the twin engine Piper Aerostar, piloted by Starr, as "twice as fast" as the Piper Cherokee.

DOUB SAID the remains of the two aircraft were to be moved to a hangar at Mettetal Airport by late Tuesday, to examine evidence.

To help determine how the planes collided, "We're looking at the men, the machines and the environment," he said.

College aid focus of program

● GOP PREVIEW

Friday, July 27 — The Garden City Republican Club will discuss the Aug. 7 primary election at 7:30 p.m. in Maplewood Community Center, on Maplewood west of Merriman. The meeting is open to guests.

● FOOTBALL

Garden City Youth Athletic Association is accepting football registrations for boys between 8 and 14. Experience isn't required. People may register by calling 427-5979 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday after 5 p.m.

● SOCCER SIGN-UPS

Saturday, July 28 — The Garden City Soccer Club will hold final registrations 6-9 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Maplewood Community Center, on Maplewood west of Merriman. Teams are open for boys and girls 5 and older. New players are required to bring birth certificates. Interested people may contact Jim Godbout at 427-2322.

● IN THE PARK

Saturdays, through Sept. 22 — Six miles of the Middle Rouge Parkway (Hines Drive) will be closed to traffic every Saturday for your family to run, walk or bicycle safely. The drive will be closed from Warrendale Picnic Area (west of Outer Drive) to the Nankin Mills Station (Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive). Parking available at Warrendale, Merriman Hollow and Nankin Mills picnic areas. Hines Drive will be closed 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

● BAND CONCERT

Sunday, July 29 — The Westland Cultural Society will sponsor a concert at 7 p.m. at Corrado Park, on Gladys and Flamingo, north of Ann Arbor Trail and east of Merriman. The performance by the Westland Concert Band will follow an afternoon reunion of former Monroe Elementary School students and employees.

community calendar

Non-profit groups should mail items for the calendar to the Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The date, time and place of the event should be included, along with the name and phone number of someone who can be reached during business hours to clarify information.

● COLLEGE

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 8 — A special program, "Thinking About College?" will be held at Schoolcraft College. The program will feature information on academic programs, financial aid, and special support services. The Aug. 1 session will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Building, Room LA-200, on the main campus, Haggerty between Six and Seven Mile. There is a \$5 fee. On Aug. 8, the program will run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Radcliff Center, Garden City, between Radcliff and Wildwood, just south of Ford. There is a \$1 fee. Call 462-4443 to make reservations.

● YAA SESSION

Thursday, Aug. 2 — Westland Youth Athletic Association will hold a membership meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Bailey Recreation Center, 36601 Ford, behind Westland City Hall. For information, call 421-0840.

● GED TESTS

Monday-Tuesday, Aug. 6-7 — Livonia Public Schools will offer GED tests 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Bentley Center, 15100 Hubbard. For more information, call 523-9294.

● CRAFT SHOW

Saturday, Oct. 6 — Garden City High School Air Force Junior ROTC Booster Club's craft show will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tables/space rental is still available to crafters for \$20 per table or two tables for \$25. For information and application, contact Ron Koss at 522-5604 or Lynn Draper at 728-3903.

● BOUTIQUE

Saturday, Oct. 13 — St. Theodore Church's Confraternity of Christian Mothers will hold its boutique from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish, 8200 N. Wayne Road, just south of Joy. Items created by 70 crafters will be on sale. There will be hourly door prizes, raffles, refreshments and baked goods. Tables are still available. For information, call 721-8082 or 728-2137.

● EXERCISE

Monday through Friday — An exercise and walking program for retirees 50 and over will be 9:30-10:30 a.m. with an instructor at Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. This is a light exercise and walking program. If more exercise is needed, the exercise room is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 722-7632.

● TRAVEL GROUP

Fridays — The Travel Group meets every Friday at 12:45 p.m. in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, unless a trip or special program is planned. Program includes speakers, films, celebration of birthdays and weekly door prizes. There is a \$3 membership fee for residents; \$12.50 for non-residents. For more information, call 722-7632.

● SCHOOL GROUP

Fridays — The Wayne-Westland Citizens for Education Committee

meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month in the Westland Historical, Cultural and Meeting House (formerly The Rowe House), 37025 Marquette. The group informs citizens of important issues regarding the community schools. For information, call Dave Moranty at 729-1748.

● CLASSES OPEN

St. David's Nursery School, 27500 Marquette, Garden City is accepting applications for the 1990-91 school year. Classes are available for 3- and 4-year-olds. For information or an appointment to visit, call Greta Kenen at 422-3187 or Jenny Schlarer at 295-7790.

● MEDICAL SERVICE

Fridays — Free medical service is available every Friday from 9 a.m. (appointments only), provided by Dr. Stanley Szczecienski at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Service will include consultation, blood pressure readings, heart and lung check, and ear, nose and throat examination. If a potentially serious problem is found, Szczecienski will refer you or recommend you go to your own doctor. For information, call 722-7632.

● HAIRCUTS

Wednesdays — Haircuts are available 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Prices are \$5 for men and \$6 for women. Perms are also available. For information, call 722-7632.

● HYPERTENSION

Hypertension screening will be provided by United Care and Westland Medical Center 10 a.m. to noon Mondays, except for the fifth Monday of the month. A nurse from Home Health Care will provide blood pressure screenings 9-10 a.m. every Thursday. Screenings also will be by appointment with Dr. Szczecienski at 9 a.m. Fridays.

Sunday Brunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

- Assorted muffins & pastries
- Scrambled Eggs
- French Toast
- Corned Beef Hash
- Country Style Hash Browns
- Baked Ham
- Sausage
- Bacon
- Lasagna
- Rice Pilaf
- Sliced Roast Beef
- Honey Dijon Chicken
- Baked Cod
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CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION will be held in the City of Garden City in the County of Wayne, State of Michigan on

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1990

from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., for the purpose of placing in nomination candidates for the following offices:

- Governor
- United States Senator
- Representative in Congress
- State Senate
- State Representative
- County Executive
- County Commissioner
- Delegates to County Convention
- Judge of Probate Court - New Judgeship (Term Ending 1/1/99)
- Judge of District Court - District 21 (Regular Term (Term Ending 1/1/97))

and the following County Proposal:

County of Wayne Tax Renewal Proposal

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that Absentee Ballots for this Election are available at the City Hall through 2:00 P.M., Saturday, August 4, 1990.

RONALD D. SHORWALTER
City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: July 24, 30, & Aug. 2, 1990

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The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids on

70 - CLASSROOM ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITERS

Bids will be received until 2:00 P.M. on the 26th day of July, 1990, at the office of the Board of Education, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan. At this time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the office of the Board of Education in the Purchasing Department.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part in the interests of uniformity, design, equipment, delivery time or preference, to waive any informalities and to award to other than low bidder. Any bid submitted will be binding for ninety (90) days subsequent to the date of bid opening.

Public: July 23 and 30, 1990

Home health care fits needs of seniors, families

BY Nanci Rosenberg
STAFF WRITER

In these belt-tightening times, when job cuts are being made in many professions, home health care experienced a 19.2-percent leap in new job growth, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics report, released in January 1991.

"Home care heals you faster than anything else," said Southfield resident Urho Kuusisto, 85. Kuusisto suffered a stroke five years ago. Although his rheumatoid arthritis was exacerbated, he was able to function normally.

His wife Aira, 80, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease three years ago. Their son, George Kuusisto, 50, moved to Michigan from California in May of last year to help care for his mother.

In November, Kuusisto was hospitalized for a blood clot in his leg. He grew worse, his speech became impaired and he lost all mobility on his left side, which required him to use a wheelchair much of the time.

Care plan

Suzanne Martoia, a registered nurse and home care coordinator with Home Health Plus, began working with Kuusisto in December. Martoia visits the Kuusistos two times a week.

She assesses Kuusisto's condition and instructs in his daily living activities. Martoia also coordinates care with different therapists and physicians.

"The benefit of home care is patient motivation to go on living. We all desire to live in the comfort of our own home. In health care, family participation is important if outside help is not here on a constant basis," Martoia said.

An aide visits the Kuusisto family three times a week, and physical therapist Emmanuel Javier helps Kuusisto with exercises, which strengthen the extremities and aid in mobility.

"He has improved considerably. When we first started he had to be picked up out of bed. Now he is able to transfer from the bed to the chair



Family dinner: Margaret Nottingham of Troy prepares dinner at home with her 74-year-old mother, Julia Galligan.

with moderate assistance," said Javier.

Caring for parents

Both Kuusisto and his wife receive Social Security benefits, while Medicare covers Urho's home care completely. Widowed three years ago, George Kuusisto's full-time job is taking care of his parents. The Kuusistos live frugally.

"Who else is going to do it?" asks George Kuusisto. "They took

care of me, and now here I am. It's something I feel I have to do — they are now my responsibility."

Born in Finland, Urho Kuusisto came to the U.S. in 1938, taught himself English and started a printing business. Aira, also Finnish, maintained a writing relationship with Urho until she came to the U.S. herself and married him.

Urho was instrumental in creating the Finnish Center in Farmington 25 years ago. And in the early 70s he had a Finnish music and narration radio program on WXYZ.

Leaving home

Troy resident Julia Galligan, 75, grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of four, lived in her Berkley home from 1955 to 1990. Galligan had taken care of her failing husband until he died in 1989.

In 1990, Galligan's family helped her move into an apartment at a senior citizens complex.

The transition from a familiar neighborhood to a busy city frightened Galligan. She'd call daughter Margaret Nottingham five times a

day, which was unusual. She began forgetting things, wasn't sleeping at night or eating properly.

"She was wasting away," said Nottingham. Normally a meticulous housekeeper, Galligan had a table covered with reminder notes. "I was a wreck all the time," said Nottingham. "I realized Mom had a problem."

What Galligan had was the early stages of Alzheimer's. Nottingham and Galligan met with a professional at the Alzheimer's Association in Southfield, who said Galligan need-

ed constant care and recommended family care.

Using day care

To prevent illness or physical exhaustion in the caregiver — Nottingham — adult day care was suggested.

Nottingham, the oldest of two daughters, cooks meals and takes care of the house. "Mom needs routine," said Nottingham. Since she moved in with her daughter and son-in-law, Galligan is more relaxed and has gained 25 lbs.

Each day, Troy Dial-A-Ride picks Galligan up at her home and takes her to the Troy Community Center, where a seniors program is in place. Crafts, movies and other activities are available, as well as lunch.

Galligan assists her daughter in dinner preparations. "She makes great cole slaw," said Nottingham.

Nottingham just returned from a short vacation in Standish, where she and her husband have a trailer; her adult daughter stayed with Galligan.

Health plan drafted

Alice Hak, Michigan director for the American Association of Retired Persons, said the group's board of directors has composed a proposal for a health care plan. The plan would provide lifelong access to acute and preventive care.

The proposed Health Care Amendment is the only plan that would offer long-term care for everyone "from the cradle to the grave" said Hak.

AARP representatives are conducting health forums throughout the state. A form is given to AARP members to offer feedback and suggestions. The forms will be analyzed and the information sent to the group's board.

The AARP plans to then present a finished proposal and push for the adoption of its ideas.

The AARP will conduct a forum Tuesday at the Troy Community Center. For more information, call the center at 524-3484.

Airplane crash investigation could be up in air for months

BY M.B. DILLON
STAFF WRITER

National Transportation Safety Board representatives investigating the airplane crash in northern Michigan that killed Livonia pilot Robert Lee Shirley, Tamara Behiry, 36, of Plymouth Township, and her 2-year-old son Brenton Perry say it will take six to nine months to determine the cause of the crash.

An autopsy on Shirley, 67, was incomplete, and NTSB air safety investigator Bob Vallaster could not say whether the pilot may have suffered a heart attack.

It also wasn't known whether a mechanical malfunction may have occurred. But Vallaster said evidence at the site revealed "no mechanical discrepancies, other than considerable plane damage."

Pilots who flew with Shirley out of Canton's Mettetal Airport said the Cessna 172 he was flying was in good working order.

The four-seater was one of several planes owned by the Mettetal-based Safety Flying Club to which Shirley belonged, said Livonia pilot Tom Ranta.

"The club's plane had nothing mechanically wrong. They were in A-1 shape, as far as I know," said Ranta.

Pilot in good health

Shirley had no known health problems, Ranta added.

"He was in good health. I understand he was a jogger. He was slim; there was no fat on that man. He had medical clearance to fly."

Problems with the weather and/or fuel may have played a role in the accident. Vallaster, who pegged the flight's departure time from Mettetal at about 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, and the crash two hours later at 11 p.m., said residents reported heavy rainfall at the time the aircraft was heard overhead. Wind speeds were minimal at 10 knots.

"Two witnesses who heard the plane both recounted that the engine sounded loud and that the aircraft sounded low as it overflew their houses. Both had the apprehension it might strike their houses," said Vallaster.

The witnesses have cabins on the Manistee River, about half a mile from the crash site in a heavily wooded area used by nearby Camp

Grayling for military training.

No fuel smell

Major Jerry Foehl, public affairs officer at Camp Grayling, said rescuers who reached the site five days after the crash did not notice any strong odor of fuel surrounding the wreckage, distributed over 400 feet of jackpines.

"Not noticing fuel is probably normal. It would have evaporated, or maybe there wasn't much. If I were to speculate, I think it (low fuel) may have played a part in the whole thing," said Foehl.

Vallaster said plane damage was so severe it was impossible to determine how much fuel remained in the tanks. No radio communication or distress calls were received from the Cessna.

"Both tanks were substantially opened up. Fuel lines all over the aircraft were wrenched apart as the aircraft broke up," said Vallaster. Shirley and Behiry, who were flying to Manistique in the Upper Peninsula to surprise Behiry's father, planned to refuel in Pellston, but perhaps changed their minds and decided to refuel sooner in Grayling, Foehl said. That may have been the case, as the plane was headed south when it crashed under power.

Vallaster also heard accounts that Manistique was the ultimate destination. "I also heard Pellston was the intended refueling stop. But they never got as far as what might have been an intermediate stop."

2 died on impact

Foehl said it appears both adults — found still strapped into the front seats in a what little remained of the cabin — died upon impact.

It's thought that Behiry's son survived the impact. "It's a real speculative, but implications would indicate to me the boy was loose from the aircraft and probably did not die on impact. He had no visible injuries, with the exception of an indentation on one side to his thigh, which might have indicated a broken bone."

The boy, who was dead when the wreckage was found Saturday, could have died of dehydration, exposure or internal injuries.

Foehl said he'd learned of no problems concerning Shirley's

health or flying abilities. "For a person in good condition, 67 is not old."

The wreckage indicated the plane hit hard, under power. "There's no doubt about that," said Foehl. "It didn't cruise to a stop. The engine and battery were propelled about 50 yards. By this time, the aircraft had come apart, hitting the first tree. Then from there, the rest of the aircraft bunched up or rolled up."

The crash location was first observed by a civilian pilot who radioed Camp Grayling after flying over the remote area, said Foehl. "He was still airborne when he called our operations people. We had an aircraft that led the rescuers into the site by helicopter."

North Flight Ambulance workers, DNR officials and Crawford County sheriff's deputies were able to drive to within 300 yards of the site in Frederic Township on two-track roads.

Final word on the cause of the crash will come from the Washington-based NTSB board, said Vallaster. "Technically, they are the only ones empowered to determine probable cause."

Somber mood

The mood at Mettetal is somber this week, said Ranta, who chatted with Shirley at the airport the Tuesday before he died.

"It kind of hurts. You hear something like that, and you just don't feel like flying. You kind of think about it for a few days."

Shirley was well-liked and volunteered his time with scouts interested in flying, said Ranta, adding that he enjoyed many a conversation with Shirley over the airport picnic table.

"He was friendly, helpful and always talked about flying. He could sit down for hours and talk about flying. He was retired and did a lot of recreational flying. He had a lot of friends; he always said hi to everyone and everyone knew him. I talked to him that Tuesday — he said he was probably going to go flying later that day."

A traffic analyst, Shirley was a member of the Safety Flying Club. He was an Indiana native. Funeral services were held in Charles R. Step Funeral Home in Redford with burial at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia.

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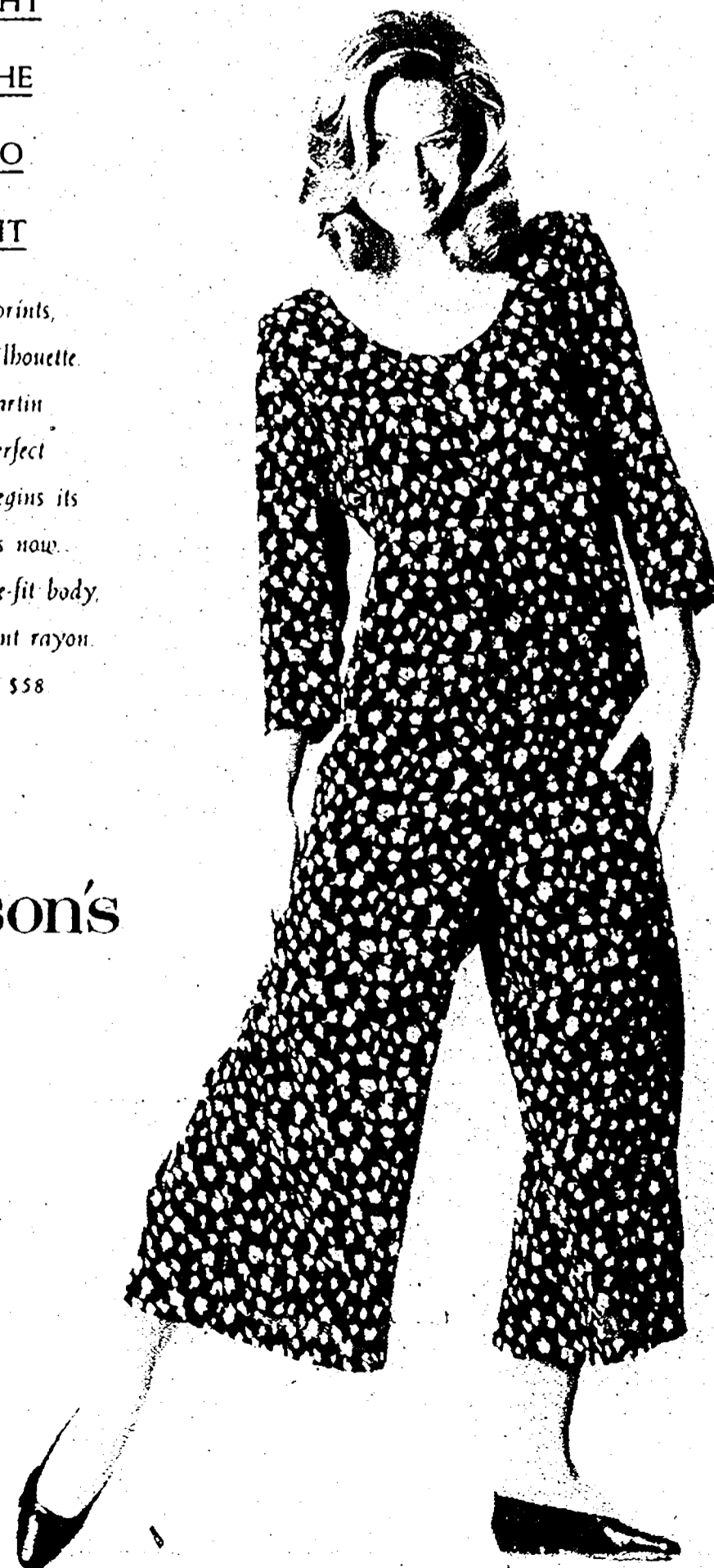
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Canton Observer

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 39

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1992 • CANTON, MICHIGAN • 40 PAGES

FIFTY CENTS



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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Thanksgiving: A festival started last year in Plymouth to celebrate Thanksgiving is becoming an annual affair. The event returns Friday and gives folks a look at how things were during the first Thanksgiving. /3A

STREET SCENE



Coming home: What do you do if your highly anticipated New York showcase draws an audience of seven? If you're the Vudu Hippies, you head home and get back to the basics that clicked in the first place. /4A

TASTE

Panic time: Don't sweat Thanksgiving. Help is only a hot line call away. We've got a list of hot lines you can call, even on Thanksgiving, tips for thawing, and cooking the big bird. /1B

Winner Dinner: Don't cry fowl the day after Thanksgiving. This week's Winner Dinner features an appetizing dish made with turkey and stuffing leftovers. A cranberry gelatin salad completes the meal. /1B

SPORTS

District final: Plymouth Salem attempted to win a district championship in girls basketball Friday. /1C

Grid playoff: Catholic Central played a Class AA semifinal football game Saturday in hopes of reaching the state final again. /1C

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\$1.44 million awarded in lawsuit



A settlement has been reached in a lawsuit filed in the wake of a two-plane collision over Plymouth Township that killed three persons. One of the planes had taken off from Mettetal Airport in Canton.

By KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

A lawsuit sparked by a small plane collision in 1990 over Plymouth Township has resulted in a \$1.44 million jury award for the family of one crash victim.

A Wayne county circuit court jury on Nov. 12 ruled in favor of the family of Robert Gunn.

The suit followed the July 23 collision of the plane occupied by Gunn, 65, and Charles Nix, 55, of Detroit, with a second airplane piloted by Daniel Starr of Cedar Springs. All three men died in the crash.

Roger Wolcott, who represented Gunn's family, said the jury agreed with a National Transportation Safety Board finding that the Federal

Armed Services Inc. airplane piloted by Starr violated federal regulations by overtaking the aircraft occupied by Gunn and Nix.

In the suit, Wolcott claimed negligence on the part of Federal Armed Services.

Scott Torpey, attorney for Federal Armed Services, said he would file an appeal before the state Court of Appeals "within the next month or two."

"The jury deliberated for four days, it was obviously a close decision," he said.

The collision happened at 9:30 a.m. on a cloudless day just south of M-14

and west of Beck.

While the main wreckage of each airplane was separated by several hundred yards, debris was scattered over a two-mile area.

According to the NTSB, the crash happened when Starr, in a twin-engine Piper AeroStar, tried to overtake the single-engine Piper Cherokee flown by Nix.

Starr was flying the aircraft from Detroit City Airport to Benton Harbor, transporting a load of canceled checks.

Nix and Gunn, a flight instructor, were on a training flight that took off from Mettetal Airport in Canton.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Hard work: Starr Stennis, daughter of Bob and Carole Boyer of Boyer's Meat Processing, likes the family business. In the heart of hunting season the family is putting in 15-hour days getting deer processed for hunters.

Oh deer: Slaughterhouse is busy

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

For the faint-hearted, the buzz of the saw can be deafening. Not to mention the sight of a deer's hind quarter whizzed through the sharp blade. But for the Boyer family, it's another day on the job.

"It's a family business," said Starr Stennis, daughter of Bob and Carole Boyer, who operates Boyer's Meat Processing. "I do everything my dad does — except the saw."

In the heart of the hunting season, the Boyer family is consumed with deer — dead deer. The bow season brought the Boyers 232 deer for processing. And by the time hunting is over the family expects to process close to 1,000 deer.

"We're running pretty close to even (with last year)," Bob Boyer

said. As of Thursday morning, the family had worked on its 245th deer.

Except for a sign posted at the end of a driveway, you wouldn't notice the operation as you drove down Barr Road off of Geddes in the far southwest corner of the township. A nice house faces the roadway. A long driveway takes you back to the processing plant surrounded by fenced areas.

What is everyday for the Boyers might not be for the average person who would rather not know what happens to the cows, pigs, goats and lambs that sooner or later become dinner. The Boyers smile a lot when a newcomer walks in apprehensively. But a handshake can put the newcomer at ease.

See SLAUGHTERHOUSE, 2A



Deer days: Larry Boyer has his work cut out for him this hunting season. By the end of the season he expects to skin close to 1,000 deer.

Local crowd hears 'thumbs up' message

By M.B. DILLON
STAFF WRITER

Mike Utley, the Detroit Lion paralyzed in a game at the Silverdome a year ago, won the hearts of hundreds as he addressed a standing-room-only crowd of kids, teachers, parents, and reporters at West Middle School Thursday. Among them was an NBC TV crew filming a segment for a special to be aired nationally before the Lions' Thanksgiving Day game.

Seventh-grader Chad Ellege spoke for many when he said, "Mike Utley

is like a cool guy and everything. He has a good attitude."

Utley, a right guard, broke his neck in a freak play in the Lions-Rams game a year ago Nov. 17. As he was carried from the field on a stretcher, Utley flashed the "thumbs up" sign to teammates and fans, signaling that he'd be back.

The gesture sums up the goal of the Mike Utley Foundation for spinal cord injury research, as well as the National Football League's Thumbs Up merchandise program that bene-

fits the foundation.

The Livonia-based Wauldron Corp., brainchild of Plymouth resident Jim Wauldron, recently received an NFL license to sell Thumbs Up T-shirts, sweatshirts and caps with the logos of all 28 NFL teams. So far, the NFL has donated \$150,000 in royalties from merchandise sales to the foundation.

Local kids

At West, Utley spent an hour kibitzing with his host and friend Jim

Wauldron, answering students' questions, and relating what he's learned about life.

Thumbs up posters and banners welcoming Utley hung on walls throughout the school. One thumbs up poster, covered with students' signatures, was given to Utley along with a West T-shirt.

A Seattle native, Utley told students that when he was their age, he attended a Catholic grade school.

See UTLEY, 8A

'Tis the season

Century 21 J. Scott, 45500 Ford Road, is diving into the holiday season by collecting food and toys for the Canton Goodfellows through Dec. 12. Canton residents have been notified of the collection. But if anyone is unable to drop off a donation at the office, call 453-4300 and someone from Century 21 J. Scott will pick it up at your convenience.

Buy dog licenses

Licenses for dogs of at least six months of age will be available beginning Dec. 1. The \$5 licenses are available through the township clerk's office and can be purchased in person or by mail with proof of rabies vaccination. Dogs are required to be

CANTON CONNECTION

licensed in Canton Township.

Licenses benefit the community because of the security that dogs have been vaccinated for disease. Residents benefit because when their pet is lost — and has a license tag — it can be returned based on the license number and address, said township clerk Loren Bennett.

Sump pump program honored

Canton's three-year-old sump pump program is getting kudos and attention from other communities that are looking for ways to reduce basement flooding. The program has helped more than 1,400

homeowners.

In the past year, several other communities have expressed interest in the program. Wayne County also has asked to see the township's demonstration video. Canton is considering a demonstration program of its own to inform other communities about the program.

The community of Riverview, for example, found it could save money with the program instead of allowing Wayne County to construct basins in the community, said township engineer Tom Casari.

The sump pumps and the advent of the Western Townships Utilities Authority line will nearly eliminate basement flooding in the community. The township has a manual, available through Casari's office, on the use of sump pumps. For more information call 397-5405.