

Thursday, October 10, 1968

## Spaulding Curtin

One of Ferndale's most attractive businesses . . . and contributing community assets . . . is the Spaulding-Curtin Funeral Home. Its dignified exterior—difficult to achieve between a supermarket parking lot and a junior high school tennis court—is graced by raised plant borders, mellow brick walls and the words, "Five Hundred" spelled out over the entrance.

The Spaulding Home goes back to 1926—one year before Ferndale was chartered as a City. It was started by the late Vernor Spaulding at 160 Vester. Mr. Spaulding . . . who died in 1950 . . . had been a mortician in Rochester from 1910 until 1923. Ill health forced his retirement until he opened the establishment on Vester.

After about 18 months of going it alone, Mr. Spaulding took in a partner . . . Albert Steinbaugh . . . who remained with him until 1935. In October, 1937, Spaulding contracted to build a new home on the present site. Work was completed in February, 1938.

\* \* \*

**MERTON** Spaulding was only 14 when he started helping his Dad in the business, and was well acquainted with the work long before he attended the Brown School of Embalming in Greenville, or obtained his license to actually do embalming . . . in 1934.

Spaulding is still very much a part of the concern started by his father more than 40 years ago. But he has a young partner now, his son-in-law, Patrick Curtin.

Curtin attended Wayne State University and obtained his license in mortuary science in 1953. He went to work for Spaulding and met Caroline . . . the boss' daughter. Finally, the home became a family partnership, and now employs another relative, Michael Spaulding, who just earned his license last year through Wayne.

**THE SPAULDING**-Curtin business and family relationship is a close one — but the men don't see eye to eye on everything. Spaulding is a Mason—Lodge 506 F. and A. M. Curtin is a member of St. James parish, and belongs to the Bishop Gallagher branch 2569, Knights of Columbus. Curtin is a Kiwanian. Spaulding is past president of Exchange — son Michael is now an Exchangite, also.

Among Curtin's other interests are the duties as usher at St. James, of which he is a past president; and his work on the Community Center Building Association, of which he is also a past president.

Curtin did not begin his career in mortuary science in Ferndale. He formerly was employed at the profession in Jackson.

**THE ORIGINAL** structure was expanded and remodeled extensively in 1960. The Spauldings reside on its second level. The Curtins live in Detroit; send their children daughter . . . Lynn Marie, nine and Kelly Anne, seven . . . and son Kevin, eight, to St. James.

The business is highly community spirited, often lending folding chairs for parties; giving score pads, tally cards and pencils for fund-raising events.

But its true worth—as countless Ferndale families know—is its concerned, dignified service at the worst time in any family's history—loss of a loved one.

### SPAULDING & STIENBAUGH MORTUARY



160 VESTER  
1926-1937

### SPAULDING & CURTIN FUNERAL HOME



FIVE HUNDRED WEST NINE MILE  
Since 1960

### SPAULDING & SON FUNERAL HOME



500 WEST NINE MILE  
1937-1960

Ferndale Historical Museum

*Three Generations of Continuing  
Service, Take Pride in  
Their Growth With  
The Community*