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"Where nothing ever happens and we like it that way."

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Haven Police Department Makes A Special Addition

by VINCE TEAGUES, Herald Staff Writer



Haven rookie Officer Audrey Parker with acting Police Chief Nathan Wuornos during a recent investigation

A stolen car screeches down an alleyway with a drug cartel henchman behind the wheel. Its glaring headlights reveal the solitary lawman staring down the speeding car with gun drawn, death an almost certainty for one of them. To most, just a scenario for the silver screen; but for former FBI Special Agent Audrey Parker, it was just another day at the office. Until she gave it all up to join the Haven Police Department.

What would draw an accomplished FBI agent to a lower-paying and

lower-profile civil servant position here in Haven? "I choose to live and work in Haven for the same reason most other people do I suppose," Officer Parker explained, grinning. "It's quiet, nothing much happens... and I happen to like it that way."

While Officer Parker's sentiments are indeed echoed by most Havenites, recent reports have tarnished Haven's reputation for quiet coastal living. With a sharp rise in "nuisance calls," the Haven Police Department has been stretched to its limit. So what does Haven's newest

police officer think about the sudden influx in activity? "It doesn't matter if it's pranksters putting red food coloring into the water system, or freakish wind and weather whipping frogs into windshields," said Parker. "Whatever troubles a Havener troubles me too – so even if a call turns out to be nothing... no citizen will ever be treated as anything but important."

Bravo, Officer Parker and welcome to our little town, where nothing ever happens.

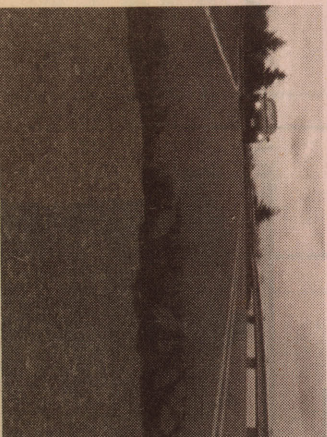
Inferior Asphalt A Headache For Haven

by VINCE TEAGUES, Herald Staff Writer

George Finch is lucky to be alive. Only a block from his Elm Street auto repair shop, Finch's car overturned when the road suddenly split in two.

While Finch feels fortunate to have escaped unharmed, he fumes over the cause of his close call. "These cracks are gonna kill somebody! Seriously, it's getting to be you can't step on the street without it splitting like a melon," Finch said.

Though initial suspicions of possible seismic activity were thought to be behind the damage, further investigation by the Department of Public Works points to another culprit. "This is an asphalt issue," said



Public Works Director Ron Richards addressing a group of concerned citizens at yesterday's Town Hall meeting. "Outside contractors were brought in

Haven are best handled by the people of Haven."

Finch isn't the only one voicing concern over the chasm-like road cracks springing up all over town; many residents and business owners have lodged formal complaints with the city. "It's not just a safety issue," School Bus Driver Jojo Wilson said. "It's an eyesore, and we just don't tolerate that sort of thing here."

It now seems likely that Proposition 11, which ensures that all Public Works projects in Haven are granted exclusively to local businesses, is on its way to passage – a prospect many feel marks the road to recovery.

Ink Think

By LAWRENCE FELLOWS
Special To The Daily

HORROR HEAVYWEIGHT TO HOST HAVEN BOOK SIGNING

There's a winding line leading from Beas Bookstore in Haven and an electric feeling of anticipation. It's the line for hit horror writer Stephen Bachman's signing of his new bestseller: "Trouble In Mind."

"Trouble" is Bachman's sixty-eighth book and thirty-sixth number one bestseller. The reclusive Bachman, a Haven local for many years, granted the Herald a few minutes with the "first name in fear."

HH: "Trouble In Mind" takes place in the fictional town of Dayton Ferry. Some people have written that the coastal town isn't quite so fictional.

SB: You mean people are saying it's Haven.

HH: Well, they are.

[Bachman lights his famed cherry-wood pipe and grins.]

SB: You seem bothered by that idea.

HH: I guess I am. Fiction is one thing, but do you really expect your fans to believe there's a real town chock-full of supernaturally "troubled" people?

SB: I don't expect my fans to do anything. If there WAS such a town, "chock-full" would be an exaggeration. There would be a healthy number; some you fear, some you fear for. But I leave it to the reader to decide what's fiction, what isn't.

HH: Letting that go for a second, you've certainly ratcheted up the horror in this book, haven't you?

SB: Have I?

HH: Killer clowns (from an early novel) are one thing, but a heroine whose anger can make someone's blood boil... that's not so much frightening as it is far-fetched.

SB: That's a matter of opinion. I'm frightened by all sorts of things – for example, what if you woke up one morning and a stickman doodle you drew stabbed someone to death. Suddenly, you don't know how long this thing you have – let's call it a "trouble" – will last, but you DO know that if it leaves your control for even one moment, someone dies. If that doesn't frighten you, you're a better man than me.

HH: It's frightening, but it's fiction. If this sort of place with these sort of people existed, there would be a media firestorm. Court cases. Scientific studies. But there are none, which is why this is all just a product of your brilliant and imaginative mind.

SB: Not if they handled it the way the town handles it in my novel. The fictional coastal community in my book lives and dies on a well-kept secret. The people pass their troubles to their children like a horrible family heirloom. Eventually, it's the secrecy that destroys them... and delivers them.

HH: Well, far-fetched as it is, clearly "Trouble In Mind" is resounding with Stephen Bachman fans everywhere – any thoughts on book sixty-nine?

SB: [Laughter] Not yet. I write my books like I live my life... one chapter at a time.