

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1997

FIFTY CENTS

12 PAGES PLUS ONE SUPPLEMENT



THE FIRST DAY OF school proved somewhat hectic for Cass City Police Chief Gene Wilson, who helped everyone — students, parents, bus drivers and other motorists — make it to their destinations despite the congestion caused by unfinished street work around the Campbell Elementary and Cass City Middle schools.

(Related picture page 12)

O-G approves transfer of students on yearly basis

A potential battle over student transfers between the Owen-Gage and Cass City school districts has been avoided.

The Owen-Gage Board of Education last week approved an Owendale couple's request that their 2 children be allowed to attend Cass City Schools. Cass City officials, in turn, have agreed to okay transfer requests for 2 students who want to attend classes at Owen-Gage.

The Owen-Gage board, meeting in special session Aug. 19, didn't act on additional requests to allow 3 other students, now residing in the Owen-Gage district, to attend school in Cass City.

However, Owen-Gage students who have been attending Cass City Schools will be allowed to continue to do so, at least for the coming school year.

The news was good for Jim and Sue Albrecht, Owendale, who have been waiting for more than 5 weeks for a decision from the board regarding the couple's request to have their children, in grades

9 and 11, transferred to Cass City Schools.

The Albrechts' request was initially denied by the board, which voiced concern regarding the loss of state aid, which totals about \$5,000 per student.

It was noted that one student living in the Cass City District wanted to attend Owen-Gage Schools, but Owen-Gage trustees insisted any transfers between the districts be equal — 2 students for 2 students, for example.

Under Michigan's new schools of choice law, students may transfer freely from one district to another provided the schools are located in the same intermediate school district. In this case, however, Owen-Gage is part of the Huron ISD, while Cass City is located in the Tuscola ISD.

During the Owen-Gage board's regular monthly meeting earlier this month, school officials indicated no additional transfers would be approved at this time because

the number of Owen-Gage students currently attending Cass City Schools outnumbered the number of Cass City students currently attending Owen-Gage.

In addition, school Supt. Thies announced he had sent letters to the parents of transferring students already attend-

ing Cass City Schools, stating the parents would have to receive permission annually for their students to continue going to Cass City.

However, at last week's special meeting, Thies told the board that there are 2 students living in the Cass City Please turn to back page.

John Bruno, 20, in fatal auto crash

A Tuscola County man died Friday morning when the vehicle he was driving struck an embankment and flipped over into the Cass River in Sanilac County's Evergreen Township.

Troopers at the Michigan State Police post in Sandusky identified the victim as John S. Bruno, 20, of Unionville. Troopers reported the accident occurred on Shabbona Road between Leslie and Decker roads.

Bruno was driving west on Shabbona Road when his car left the roadway and struck

a ditch, sending it airborne and hitting an embankment at the river, according to reports, which state the car flipped over, coming to rest upside down in the river.

The accident was discovered at 7 a.m. Bruno's body was recovered about 640 feet north of the bridge.

Troopers were assisted by Sanilac County Sheriff's personnel and the Moore Township Fire Department.

The accident remains under investigation.

Board to review goals

Cass City frees students at O-G until they graduate

Seven students who live in the Cass City School District and attend school at Owen-Gage can rest assured that they will be allowed to finish school where they are now without a threat of being called back to Cass City for financial reasons.

The board voted 6-1 at its regular session Monday at the school to allow the students to attend Owen-Gage until they graduate. Trustee Jim Turner voted against the proposal because he wanted transfers made year-to-year until an agreement for transfer to graduation was reached for non-district students in both schools. There are 9 students from Owen-Gage now attending school in Cass City and their transfer to Cass City was approved for only the current school year. There are 7 students from Cass City now attending Owen-Gage schools. Included in the transfer were 2 new students from Cass City that will attend Owen-Gage Schools and 2 new students from Owen-Gage that will attend Cass City.

The board also approved the transfer of 3 students to the Deckerville district from Cass City for a year.

STAFF CHANGES

The surprise resignations of Kim Wegener, hired last month for 6th grade, and Toby Wegener, 8th grade math, created a last minute shuffling in the teaching staff.

The board approved Ron Woloshen of Caro for the sixth grade position. Toby Wegener's position will be taken over by Jon Zdrojewski, who was the industrial tech teacher last year.

The industrial tech position will be filled by Jim Makowski, who comes to the school from Orbital Company in Saginaw.

Because he has been out of teaching for 5 years, he will need to earn 10 credits to become fully certified. While earning these credits, he could be a long-term substitute. Details are being worked out. The board also approved Ruth Fluegge for a half-time school guidance secretary position.

SCHOOL GOALS

In a special meeting preceding the regular meeting, the board held its annual review

of school goals.

One new goal established was to decrease the number of students expelled from the school. To do that, the board said that at risk students should be identified early in their school careers. Supt. Ken Micklash said that the remedial reading program now underway at the school is an important first step in achieving this goal.

A continued emphasis on character education will be continued. Micklash said that the staff has been reminded of the objective to make Cass City an inviting school, with 100 percent accreditation. A previous goal of promoting good character featuring honesty, respect and courtesy was stressed by the board.

OTHER BUSINESS

•A resolution was adopted that qualifies the school for a state grant of \$71,300 for the 1997-8 early childhood program. It will enable 23 students "income eligible" to participate.

•Beverly Auten and Marilyn Peters were appointed to attend a 3-day meeting of the Michigan Association of School Boards in October.

•Connie Lapeer protested to the board the way a crossing guard position was filled following the resignation of Myrtle Rabideau.

Lapeer said she was offered the job subject to approval of Micklash, which she thought was a formality. However, the position was given to Kim Dorland.

Micklash said that Dorland has been filling in on a part-time basis for a total of 5 years although during that period she had her name taken from the substitute list and later asked that it be placed back on. Despite her withdrawal from the list, Micklash said he felt her 5 years of service to the district should be considered.

The superintendent acknowledged that the hiring had been poorly handled and said that a procedure would be established to see that it didn't happen again.

•Micklash said that the best estimate (given good weather) for the completion of the North Seeger Street resurfacing would be a week and a half. Special police will be on hand to handle the school traffic morning and night, he added.



OVER 450 EXAMINED the under construction middle school building Thursday. A pre-public tour for teachers was conducted and teachers then served as guides in various rooms of the building. Guests were treated to hot dogs and pop by Thumb National Bank. Explaining a sketch of the building to Lisa McComas and directing traffic at the door was Brenda Parrish, middle school secretary, at right.



THE VIETNAM VETERANS Memorial Moving Wall, which lists the names of the 58,202 military personnel who died in the Vietnam War, will remain on the front lawn of the Sanilac County Courthouse in Sandusky through Sept 1.

(Story and related pictures, page 12)

In second degree

Swinton pleads guilty of murder

A Vassar man who was shot during a stand-off with Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies last December pleaded guilty Friday to second degree murder.

Jonathan Swinton, 43, entered the plea in Tuscola County Circuit Court. Charges of open murder, assault with intent to commit murder and 2 counts of possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony were dismissed.

Swinton was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department and a pre-sentence investigation was ordered. Sentencing was scheduled for Oct. 3.

Swinton faces a maximum sentence of life or any term of years in prison. The homicide took place

Dec. 15 in Juniata Township. According to investigators, deputies were dispatched to a reported shooting at 4097 Wilder Rd. at about 7:40 p.m.

Upon their arrival, the officers were confronted by an armed suspect holding a wounded woman at gunpoint. Reports state deputies engaged in negotiations in an effort to bring the incident to an end and obtain medical help for the victim, but during the process, Swinton aimed a shotgun at the officer, and he was shot.

Both Swinton and the wounded victim, Mia Jo Crittenden, 29, Mayville, were transported to Saginaw hospitals for treatment. Deputies discovered the

other victim, Trisha Marie Curtis, 23, of Vassar, dead inside the residence.

The sheriff's department turned the investigation over

to the Michigan State Police post in Caro. Investigators along with the Tuscola County Prosecutor's Office ruled the deputies were justified in shooting Swinton.

Cass City school tax rollback is rescinded

Now you see it, now you don't. The slight rollback in school taxes announced last month was rescinded Monday by the Cass City School Board.

The board had acted on information received that it would be necessary to roll back taxes from the voted 18 mills to 17.9982 mills to comply with the Headlee amendment. Walt Schlichting, Tuscola

County equalization director, then told the school that the rollback was not necessary after all.

The board then voted to assess the full 18 mills, which was the same as the rate in the previous year.

This is the second straight year that the rollback was cancelled, Micklash said, and in future years he said he will wait until August to have the board set the millage rate.

Down Memory Lane

From the files of the Chronicle

5 YEARS AGO

Firemen were called to a blaze at the Dennis Ross residence on Mushroom Rd. Tuesday evening. Ross and his wife were not home when the fire started, but the couple's 5 children, ranging in age from 7 to 13, were...

Steve and Anne Ballard of Homestead, Fla., formerly of Cass City, were caught in the middle of hurricane Andrew that decimated south Florida Monday. The couple lost their bait business, boat, car and house.

Bob and Barb Stickle returned last week from a 3-week western trip to Washington, where they visited their son, Tim Stickle.

Harvey and Marilyn Bell of the Deford area raise and show Belgian horses. "Jay,"

Chemical ups cash dividend

Alan W. Ott, chairman of Chemical Financial Corporation, announced an increase of the quarterly cash dividend, to \$0.23 per share of common stock for the third quarter of 1997.

Ott indicated that the new quarterly dividend rate of \$0.23 per share represents a \$0.02 per share, or 9.5 percent increase over the \$0.21 per share cash dividend that was paid in the previous quarter.

a 3-year-old stallion, won Grand Champion honors this year at the Huron County Fair. The Bells, who bought their first yearling in 1978, now have 8 Belgians at their Shabbona Road farm.

10 YEARS AGO

Officials at 3 area Catholic churches have finalized transportation plans to the Pontiac Silverdome for a handful of parishioners who plan to see Pope John Paul II in person when he visits Sept. 19.

Gary Mardlin, 45, of Lake Orion, a veteran drag racer well-known to fans in the area, lost control of his car in a race at Ubyly Drag Strip Sunday afternoon and was fatally injured when his car hit a utility pole.

The area's worst drought in years has contributed to a banner season for Thumb-area well-drilling companies, many of which are reporting more work than they can handle.

Duane and Kathy O'Dell of Deford and Duane's brother and wife, Doug and Kris O'Dell of Cass City, returned home recently from a 5-day Great Lakes cruise.

Voters approved the swimming pool bonding issue

Tuesday by a vote of 214 yes to 53 no.

An archaeological excavation for a mammoth skeleton is underway in a field north of New Greenleaf. A molar plate, fragments of ivory tusk and parts of a rib have been uncovered already.

Scott Guernsey of Cass City, labor and industrial major sophomore and member of the 33 Michigan State University student group known as the Asher Troupe, is in Romania for a 3-week international friendship concert tour.

A picture of President Nixon and his daughter Julie painted by Raymond Finley of Kingston has been accepted for display in the White House.

The Trinity Methodist Church bested the Catholics Monday, 1-0, to take the regular season title in the Cass City Church League.

35 YEARS AGO

Ed Baker, Cass City businessman, announced his retirement this week from the Elkland Township Fire Department after 20 years of service.

Ezra Mosher, 72, of Gagetown, is a gun collector. He has between 75 and 100 handguns, rifles, shotguns and miscellaneous firearms, collected over the past 50 years.

Funeral services were held Aug. 24 in Auburn Heights for Craig O'Dell, 11, son of Dr. and Mrs. Carson O'Dell, Milford, Ohio.

Paul Alfano was named a member of the board of the Cass City Chamber of Commerce last week.



THE FERGUSON SCHOOL reunion held Saturday at the VFW Hall was attended by several former students. They included: (seated, from left) Irene Hallitt Englehart, Joan Atkin Little, Virginia Churchill Anthes, Marion Churchill Hunter, Agatha Seurnyck LaFave, Maxine Horner Graham. Middle row (from left) Ben Kitchen, Winnifred Sugden Ball, Stella Lis Zieba, Paul Lobb, Mildred Bradshaw Youngs, Eileen Sherman, Ralph Perry, Terry Schwaderer, Harvy Lobb, Arthur Pratt. Back row (from left) Dick Sugden, Frank Lis, Roy Darling, Lawrence Englehart, Bob Atkin, Ralph Ball, Richard Perry, Ronald Ferguson, Fran Cook McKee, Jimmie Perry.

Reunion held Saturday

Graduates have fond memories of one-room Ferguson School

There hasn't been a Ferguson School since 1953 and the former country school at the corner of Severance and Crawford roads is now an attractive private home.

But there are loads of graduates of that eight-grade school who hold fond memories of their school days there.

One of them is Lawrence Englehart of Deford, who graduated in 1939 and devoted many hours in a campaign to contact students of the school for the reunion held Saturday at the VFW hall in Cass City.

We issued 56 invitations, and folks from widely scattered areas of the country - Arizona, California - were

among the students who said they planned to attend, Englehart said.

I think, Englehart said, that we were district number 6 and we all lived close to the school. I was 2 1/4 miles away. There were country schools all around then, including Crawford and Leach schools to the south.

There were perhaps 25 students in the eight grades, Englehart said, and our graduating class had 5 students.

Before it closed, Ferguson School served generations of area residents for a half century. The land for the school was purchased in 1891.

It was a building typical of the country school with a coal stove and an outdoor privy. By the time that Englehart graduated, the school went modern with inside facilities. The students took turns bringing in a couple of buckets of water to service it.

Seurnyck. I have a lot of respect for what she did as the teacher, Englehart recalled. Although students were asked to fire up the coal stove in the morning, many times she got there before the student assigned to the job.

We got the basic reading, writing and arithmetic that included spelling, with pen-

manship nearly every morning, Englehart said.

In the intimate country school setting, close relationships with other students are inevitable and one of the highlights of Saturday's reunion was recalling those days together in an educational system gone, but not forgotten.



WINNIFRED (SUGDEN) and Ralph Ball traveled the longest distance to attend the Ferguson School reunion Saturday at the VFW Hall. The vacationing couple are now Florida residents.

Milk production up

Dairy herds in Michigan produced 465 million pounds of milk during July, an increase of 2 percent from a year ago, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service.

The daily production rate per cow was 48.4 pounds, an increase of 3.1 pounds from 1996 and 0.8 pound from 2 years ago. The dairy herd was estimated at 310,000 head for July, a decrease of 4 percent from 1996.

Milk production in the 20 major states during July was 11.5 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 1996. Daily production per cow was 47.7 pounds, 2.5 pounds higher than July 1996.

Dairy manufacturing plants in Michigan produced 1.9 million pounds of butter in June, 11 percent more than a year ago. Hard ice cream output totaled 2.1 million gallons compared with 3.2 million gallons in June 1996.

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LOCAL RESIDENT Natalie Ponder poses with Arthur, a 5-year-old Friesian stallion at the Black Horse Valley Ranch. Ponder cared for about 30 horses at the ranch during a recent internship in California.



FRIESIAN HORSES graze at the base of a mountain range in Southern California, where Cass City resident Natalie Ponder recently completed an internship in horse ranch management.

Internship completed Horses in Ponder's future

It could be said that Natalie Ponder has been horsing around since her graduation from Cass City High School in 1996.

But the 20-year-old has a firm grip on what she wants to do for a living, and a 16-week internship over the summer has put her that much closer to realizing her career goals.

Ponder, the daughter of Tom and Louise Ponder, Cass City, recently returned home from Southern California, where she served as a manager trainee at the Black Horse Valley Ranch.

"What I did, basically, was my boss taught me how to manage the ranch. That involved helping the mares have their foals, breeding the horses, managing finances and managing other employees. I had a lot of responsibility," explained Ponder, who will graduate from Michigan State University's 2-year horse management program in December.

After that, she'll spend another 2 years studying at MSU to become a veterinary technician.

Eventually, she would like to manage a horse farm full-time.

"I kind of decided that's what I wanted to do in my junior year (of high school)," she said. "But I've always loved horses. I've been riding since I was 8."

Ponder's internship, which began May 7 and concluded Aug. 19, is a mandatory part of her training.

GOOD EXPERIENCE

The experience was a good one, according to the local resident, who received room and board and was paid \$100 per week. Among the perks was spectacular scenery at the ranch, which is located in Mountain Center, Calif., near Palm Springs.

Ponder said the ranch breeds and trains Friesian horses, a light draft breed that originates from Holland.

Ponder worked under the watchful eye of the ranch manager. At the same time, she oversaw the work of 3 assistants.

"I started out at the bottom," she said. "I started cleaning out stalls and feeding horses. They told me I had to learn from the ground up."

"It's an easy way to get to know the horses. You realize they all have different personalities."

Ponder also learned a great deal about Friesian horses, which at one time were nearly extinct.

Today's Friesian numbers were brought back from a pool of only 3 stallions and 11 mares, so the horses are very closely in-bred, she said.

Which is why breeding standards established in Holland are so strict. Each year a team of judges from Holland travels to the United States to judge Friesian stallions and mares based on the animals' qualifications as acceptable breeding stock.

ALL BLACK

Ponder said Friesians are virtually all black. The breed, featured in movies such as Lady Hawk and Tall Tales, is smaller than a draft horse, but larger than a quarterhorse.

"They're used for carriage horses and for riding horses," she explained. "The breed is rather rare in this country, but it's getting popular fast."

The horse was initially bred to meet the requirements of jousting knights, who needed a strong, but lightweight horse in battle.

"They're very sweet, very gentle horses. I was amazed at their personality," Ponder recalled. "They're also very intelligent, very easy to work with."

"The stallions of all breeds tend to be more aggressive," she added. "But even these stallions were very friendly."

Ponder said her favorite activity was working with and handling the horses. "That was always the best part, especially the babies. It was fun to watch them grow."

"I would say the most difficult was reorganizing the books," she added, noting she helped the ranch make the transition from paper records to computer record keeping.

MORE TRAINING

Ponder plans to complete a couple more internships, as well as her training at MSU, before seeking a full-time job. The recent summer experience was real confidence building, but she confessed she doesn't feel ready to manage a horse farm just yet.

And, she hasn't decided yet what breeds she would like to work with in the future. Among her favorites are quarterhorses, thoroughbreds, Lippizans and Andalusians.

Ponder has also learned to appreciate Friesians, although she pointed out the breed probably isn't the best choice for someone looking to spend little money on a horse.

"A baby will sell for between \$4,500 and... I saw one sold for \$16,000," she said. "The average adult sells for between \$18,000 and \$35,000."

Although Ponder knows what she wants to do, she isn't sure where she will practice her trade once she graduates.

Most popular

Steak remains the single most popular beef dish in American homes, accounting for more than 17 percent of all in-home fresh-beef meals, according to research on eating trends. Next most popular are hamburgers at 13 percent of all servings; ground beef dishes, 9.7 percent; roast beef, 6.8 percent; spaghetti, 6.6 percent; meatloaf, 5 percent.

"Somewhere warm," she said. "Beyond that, I don't know. It depends on what breed I want to work with."

The field of horses is expanding in Michigan, but it's not as large as it is in California or Kentucky yet."

Calendar of Events

Deadline for submitting items in the calendar is the Friday noon before publication.

Friday, August 29

Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 8 p.m.

Monday, September 1

Have a safe Labor Day!

Wednesday, September 3

Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m. at Charmont. Everyone welcome. Last week's winners: tie between John Haire and Bill Dupuis, and Phyllis Ridge and Cathy Hellow.

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Rate as title favorites

Potent Hawks hoop team ready for curtain-raiser at Caro Thursday



TALKING IT OVER with the Cass City Red Hawk senior co-captains is Coach Jim Mastie. From left are Andrea Rea, Lindsay Maharg and Janis Mastie.

It has been awhile since Cass City has entered the season as a favorite to take a league basketball crown, but the Hawk girls are the team to beat this year, judging by the number of returning veterans.

Coach Jim Mastie says that his starting 5 are capable of playing with anyone they meet in the Thumb this year. How the players up from last year's junior varsity perform will be vital to give us the depth we need, he feels.

Last year the Hawks lost the first 5 games of the year when players were forced to sit out for disciplinary reasons. After that the Hawks were a force in the league, finishing second, and at tournament time played eventual champion Harbor Beach into overtime before losing in the district tournament.

From that team the Hawks lost a pair of starters who will be missed. Peyton Daniel, a

4-year letter winner at guard, and Ashlie Chappel, the team's best outside shooter,

are gone. Also gone are Vickie Munoz and Katie Anthony, who added needed

depth to the varsity machine last season.

Despite these losses, Cass City will field a formidable team when the season opens Thursday at Caro. The Hawks will be favored to continue their win string against the Tigers.

The Hawks should be very strong in the front court, anchored by the team's twin towers, Kara Mellendorf and Shelly Ullig. Both are juniors. Ullig is one of the best, if not the best, player in the Thumb and led the Hawks in scoring and rebounding. Mellendorf is an excellent rebounder and has a fine shot from about 12-feet.

Lindsay Maharg is a fine ball handler who can play in either the front or back court. Andrea Rea and Janis Mastie are proven performers.

Last year's league champion Lakers lost key players through graduation and so did Harbor Beach, which only lost one game in the regular season last year.

While Mastie is confident

about his team's chances this season, he says that Bay City All Saints and Lakers will provide plenty of competition.

In the newly formed Thumb C West are Bay City All Saints, Lakers, USA, Cass City, Reese, Mayville and Bad Axe.

Date	Day	Opponent	Time
Aug. 27	W	Caro-Frosh*	H 6:00
28	Th	Caro-J.V. V	T 6:00
Sept. 2	T	Harbor Beach	H 5:00
4	Th	Bad Axe	T 5:30
9	T	Ubyly	H 5:00
11	Th	USA	T TBA
16	T	Marlette	T 5:00
18	Th	Reese	H 5:00
23	T	Deckerville	H 5:00
25	Th	BCAS	T 5:00
30	T	Sandusky	T 5:00
Oct. 2	Th	Mayville	H 5:00
7	T	Yale	T 5:00
14	T	Brown City	H 5:00
16	Th	Lakers	H 5:00
23	Th	Bad Axe	H 5:00
28	T	USA	H 5:00
30	Th	Reese	T 5:00
Nov. 4	T	BCAS	H 5:00
7	Fri	Mayville	T 5:00
13	Th	Lakers	T 5:00

* All other freshman games played with junior varsity and varsity.

Chip Shots
WEDNESDAY 2-MAN GOLF LEAGUE
EARLY DIVISION

Wallace/Apley	193
Stickland/Iwankovitch	172
Strickland/Schelke	161
Bliss/Baker	158
Williamson/Rieman	157
Smith/Regnerus	151
Kritzman/J. Burns	149
Henn/Peters	148
Harris/Wiseman	145
Burns/Hutchinson	145
Herron/Miller	129
Maharg/Pasieczny	117
Martin/Yost	81
W. Dillon/Retherford	76

LATE DIVISION

Doerr/Haire	180
Schneeberger/Kelley	170
J. Hillaker/Murphy	167
M. Murphy/K. Martin	156
LeValley/Morgan	152
K. Smith/Biddinger	150
Wright/Priesskorn	150
Becking/K. Bliss	148
Harte/Comment	147
McCallum/Randall	144
C. Hillaker/deBeaubien	135
Jones/Marshall	134
Hool/Toner	134
Chappel/Pasant	96

Raises money for college

42-year-old pastor Emmert runs marathon at park

It all started in March and now it's over for Chuck Emmert, pastor of Novesta Church of Christ.

The 42-year-old Emmert

completed a 26-mile marathon at the Cass City park track last week to benefit Great Lakes Christian College in Lansing.

This wasn't a donation for miles run, Emmert said, just the result of good-hearted people helping a worthy cause.

mark and was off 2 weeks with injuries.

He worked his distance back up, but wasn't sure that he was in condition to complete the run.

I made it, he said, but the last 5 miles were really grueling. I still hurt from the waist down today (Monday).

Would he do it again? I don't know, he speculated. I'd have to give it a lot of thought.

Emmert graduated from the school and currently serves on the board of directors.

Already the marathon has netted the college over \$3,500 and Emmert hopes to pass the \$4,000 mark before it's over.

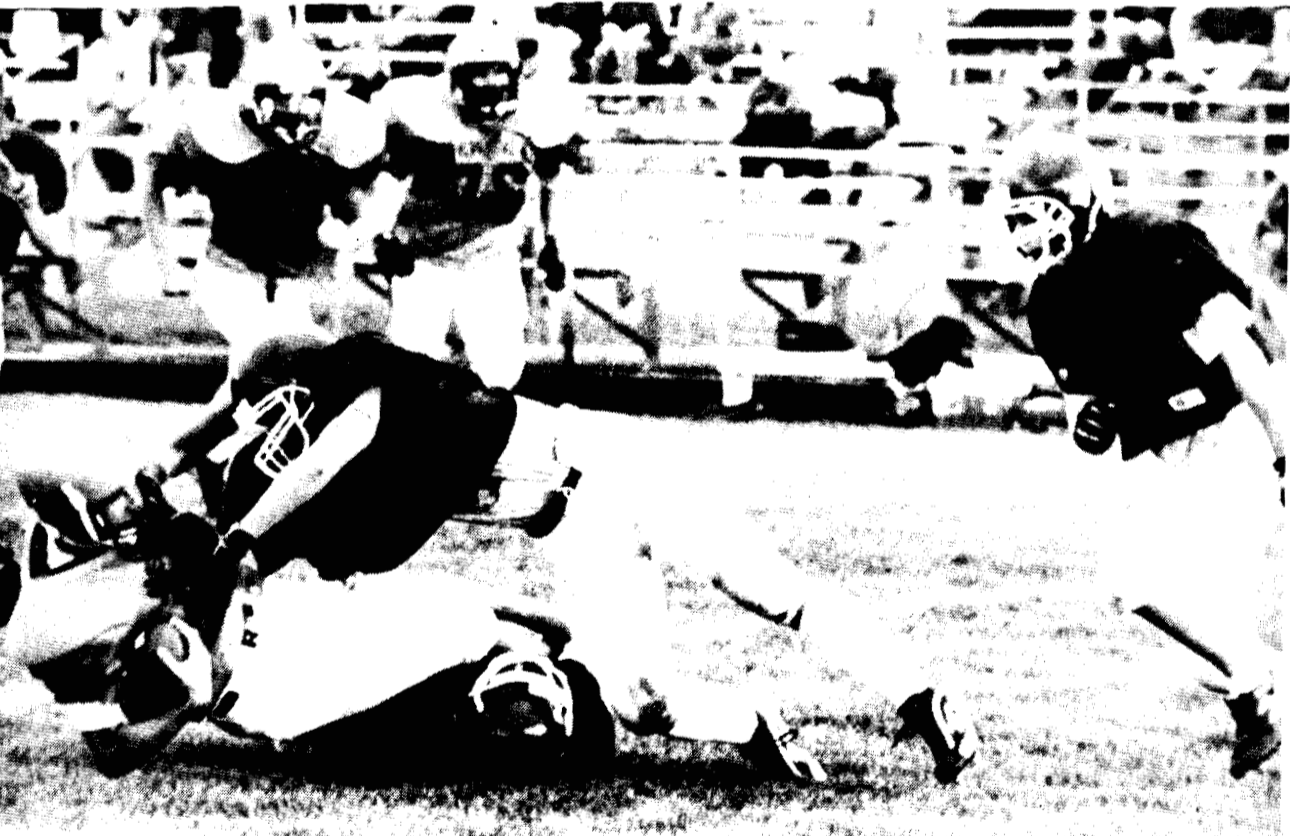
To prepare for the big event, Emmert followed the training schedule published in the Detroit Free Press. He started on a treadmill before switching to outdoors.

He was progressing well until he reached the 18-mile

Tops for athletes

Red meat is one of the 10 best super foods for athletes as they train for summer competition. Sports nutritionists and physicians say that leaner cuts of red meat are great foods for athletes. Julie Burns, a nutritionist who advises the Chicago Bulls and Blackhawks, says exercisers often overlook the iron and zinc content.

ROLLING HILLS GOLF Course's 10th Annual Ladies Invitational 2-person handicapped tourney winners are: (from left) First flight champs, Johanna Ziehm & Marge Murdock, second flight champs, Dee Pickett & Sue Ellen Greenlee, third flight champs, Arlene Regentin & Edna McConnachie.



PRESEASON PREVIEW — Some football coaches and players, including the Cass City Red Hawks, got their first taste of competition during a scrimmage held Friday in Vassar. Cass City scrimmaged Merrill (above) and Vassar in front of a handful of spectators.



CHUCK EMMERT crosses the finish line after marathon run on Cass City Park track.

Sign-up time for flag football is Saturday

Sign-up for flag football for fifth and sixth grade students is slated for Saturday, Sept. 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cass City football field.

Flag football competition will begin Sept. 6 and continue through Oct. 18, according to Doug Hyatt, Cass City Parks and Recreation director.

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SANILAC COUNTY Veterans Affairs Director Harley Rich, who spearheaded the effort to bring the Moving Wall to the Thumb, addresses the crowd during Saturday morning's opening ceremonies.

Vietnam vet memorial

Moving Wall draws crowds to Sanilac County seat

The Wall

*It is a place:
to think; of the way things should have been;
to remember; of the way things were;
to share; private moments with fallen brothers;
to pray; it will never happen again.*

**Benjamin A. Alford
Vietnam 1968
A Trp 1/11ACR, APO 96257**

Harley Rich watched his dream become reality over the weekend as hundreds of people gathered in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall in front of the Sanilac County Courthouse.

Rich, Veterans Affairs director for Sanilac County, put in 15 months of work, traveled thousands of miles and handled mountains of paperwork to bring the wall to the Thumb.

It looked like Saturday

morning's opening ceremonies might be a washout, as Rich and a volunteer crew worked for hours in a chilling rain Friday, setting up the wall.

But as the crowds gathered Saturday morning, Rich smiled broadly and, as he addressed the crowd, confided he'd offered a prayer for fair weather the night before.

"I just looked up in the sky and said, 'Please, give us a beautiful day,'" Rich told the crowd. "He listens."

Attendance figures were not available, but Rich estimated some 2,500 to 3,000 people, including representatives of nearly 60 veterans groups, were on hand Saturday.

The ceremony included posting of the colors by Vietnam Veterans Lapeer Chapter 287 and Blue Water Chapter 284, the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence for prisoners of war and those listed missing in action, a 21-gun salute by the American Legion 369 and VFW Post 2945, and taps.

A moving performance of the "Purple Heart Song" by Griz Prusik preceded Rich's opening remarks.

The day's speakers included State VFW Director Daniel Crocker, Veterans Aide Jerry Newberry, Congressman Dale Kildee and Shirley Feirer, junior vice-president, Department of Michigan VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

U.S. Air Force Col. (retired) Robert A. Abbott was the special guest speaker. Abbott, a Sandusky attorney, was an Air Force pilot who was shot down over Hanoi in 1967 and held as a prisoner of war for 6 years.

The wall will be open to viewing 24 hours a day through Sept. 1, with closing ceremonies slated for 5 p.m.

The Moving Wall, a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., is the brainchild of Vietnam veteran John Devitt. He spent 2 years building the 493-foot

long structure, which bears the names of some 58,200 servicemen who gave their lives for their country.

The Moving Wall began touring the country in 1984, and has since been to more than 500 cities throughout the nation, including 14 in Michigan.

Rich, a Vietnam veteran, spearheaded the effort to bring the moving wall to the Thumb. With the help of co-sponsors Stephen "Bud" Welch and Robert Gornowicz, he started work on the project on Veterans Day 1995.

Although Rich poured himself into the project, he's quick to credit a host of others for the successful campaign, including dozens of veterans organizations in Sanilac, Huron, Tuscola, St. Clair and Macomb counties, as well as local businesses and service groups that helped to raise the \$26,000 needed to bring the wall to Sandusky.

Asked if Saturday morning's opening ceremonies lived up to his expectations, Rich responded with an immediate "yes."

"It was worth it. It was more than worth it," he concluded. "We'd do it again."



THOSE attending Saturday's opening ceremonies had the opportunity to visit a tent filled with everything from uniforms, helmets and weapons to photos depicting the Vietnam War.



IT WAS STANDING room only Saturday morning in Sandusky, where crowds gathered for opening ceremonies welcoming the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall.



THE PARENTS OF Campbell Elementary students were forced to park at the football field, then walk their children to school in order to reduce traffic congestion in front of the school. The arrangement is expected to continue until work on Seeger Street is completed. (Related photo page one)

O-G board okays student transfers

Continued from page one

District who want to transfer to Owen-Gage, and he recommended allowing the Albrecht children to transfer to Cass City.

"Along with that, I'm also

recommending that this be done on a yearly basis, not through graduation," he added.

Thies said students already attending Cass City Schools would be given permission to continue to do so for the

1997-98 school year.

He added he has received requests to allow 3 other children to attend Cass City Schools, but that those requests will be denied at this time.

Thies commented the num-

ber of transfer students exchanged between the Owen-Gage and Cass City districts is not equal, but not because one district has an advantage over the other. No one can expect the numbers to remain equal, he explained, because of circumstances such as students moving back into their home district, and graduation.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business last week, the board:

- Received resignations from teacher and football coach Doug Hassler, and K-12 Counselor Joel Brandel.

In letters written to the board, Hassler stated he had accepted a position with the Marlette Community Schools, while Brandel stated he has accepted a job in the Ubyly Community Schools.

Brandel indicated he would like to continue coaching Owen-Gage girls basketball, but board Trustee Jack Brinkman made a motion to decline the offer, saying he would rather hire a coach who lives within the district. The motion passed unanimously.

- Met in executive session to discuss reopening the teachers' contract. The current pact was approved with the understanding that salaries would be renegotiated if the district's fund equity surpassed \$450,000. Thies recently estimated the fund at \$615,000 to \$650,000.

- Adopted a resolution to use \$15,000 in surplus energy conservation fund bonds to help pay off principal and interest on the district's energy conservation program debt.

The district initially bor-

rowed \$90,000 to replace boilers and complete extensive heating renovation work. The \$15,000 left over after the work was completed will now go towards paying off that debt, Thies explained.

- Adopted a resolution enabling the Huron ISD to collect \$9,300 in state aid to provide at-risk program services to 3 4-year-old children in the Owen-Gage District.

Move indoors

As fall approaches, it's time to think about moving your house plants back indoors. But moving is stressful on plants. To keep them happy and healthy, plant experts recommend not moving plants on a hot day, inspecting plants closely for hitchhiking insects and trying to keep lighting situations as similar as possible.

Dollar Days Weekend

\$1 Hot Dogs, Pizza Slices and Soft Drinks
August 29, 30, 31 vs Phillies

Interleague match-up
Tigers vs Phillies

August 29	7:05pm	Postgame Fireworks Spectacular - Spartan Stores
August 30	7:05pm	Pregame Concert in Tiger Plaza - Miller Genuine Draft
August 31	1:05pm	Free Insulated Lunch Bag* - Kroger

*First 10,000 fans 14 and under

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