

THE GAGETOWN VILLAGE COUNCIL

Has Set The

Following Hours

FOR

TRICK or TREAT For Halloween

Saturday

Oct. 30

6:00 to 8:30 p. m.

Madeline Sontag
Village Clerk

In Cass City area

Five died in 1918 flu epidemic

By Jim Ketchum

Cass City Public Schools were closed seven weeks. Churches cancelled services and the theatre was closed. Public meetings were discouraged as whole families fell ill.

The year was 1918 and the disease was influenza.

What health officials today call "swine flu" was called "Spanish influenza", according to news reports published in the Chronicle from October through December, 1918.

Five Cass City residents reportedly died in the epidemic. More died in the Gagetown, Deford and Shabbona areas. At one point, Sandusky officials housed 140 flu victims in a church since existing hospitals were filled beyond capacity.

Cass City braced for the epidemic Oct. 12, 1918, when village council advised churches, schools, lodges and other public meeting places to close effective Sunday noon, Oct. 14.

At that time, the nearest case of flu was reported two miles south of Gagetown.

Within two weeks, two cases appeared in Cass City

itself and the disease spread throughout surrounding townships. Cases of pneumonia multiplied with the flu.

The Nov. 8 issue of the Chronicle reported the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Gillies of rural Gagetown, both pneumonia victims. She died Oct. 31 and his death followed four days later. Gillies was 24 and his wife was 22. A son, less than one year old, apparently survived.

Mrs. William Patch of Cass City recalled a woman and her three children who lived in the Shabbona area all caught the flu and died during the height of the epidemic.

Another couple who lived near what was known as the "Leek School" died, she said.

Mrs. Patch recalled that the draft, which was still taking men for service in World War I, had to be suspended because of the flu. "I think there were only about two doctors in Cass City and they couldn't get much help," she recalled. "Nurses were out of the question."

She said a friend she'd known since their days in school came down with the flu while she was expecting a child and eventually died.

Since there were no vaccines against flu in 1918, sufferers relied on home remedies. "We used goose grease, skunk oil and things like that," Mrs. Patch recalled. "My mother used to buy something called pinex and dilute it into a syrup. Then there was lemon juice and honey. And it seemed like when anybody got sick, the first thing they grabbed for was castor oil."

In 1918 national health officials recommended seven ways to keep from catching the flu. These included staying away from crowds, covering coughs and sneezes, breathing through the nose, keeping clean, staying cool when walking and warm when riding and sleeping, opening windows always at home at night and choosing and chewing food well.

The local news columns appearing in the Chronicle in November, 1918, contained long lists of persons ill with the flu.

"Our school began again Monday after being closed the past three weeks on account of the 'flu' being in the district," the Rescue correspondent reported.

From Novesta Corners: "Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCaughna and son J.D. are all sick with influenza. Mrs. McLeish and Mrs. John McCaughna of Pontiac are caring for them."

"Harry McCaughna has been suffering with influenza the past week. It has developed with pneumonia and at this writing he lies in a critical condition."

In local news, it was reported . . . The remains of Mrs. William Walker of Argyle were interred in Elkland cemetery. Both she and her husband were victims of the Spanish "flu". Mrs. Walker's case later developing into pneumonia. Mr. Walker was removed to the home of his mother near Argyle, and was reported better the first of the week. They have two small children."

Quarantine cards were placed on homes in the Cass City area where the flu had struck. Demand was so great for the signs that the supply ran out.

"The absence of influenza cards upon some of the homes where the disease has been reported to exist is due to the fact that there were no cards on hand," a Chronicle announcement said. "The new cards have been printed and by Friday or Saturday every house that should bear the sign will be designated."

Some precautions against the disease were unusual. In the Nov. 22 edition, the following report appeared:

"The Village Council met Monday evening and voted to keep the doors of the post office locked each day during the hours of mail distribution. This takes half an hour or three quarters usually and during this time from 25 to 30 people congregate there waiting for mail. It is simply a precaution against the spread of the 'flu'."

The first flu fatality in Cass City was reported as Edward Kissane, 32. He became ill on a trip from Port Huron and spent several days alone before he was discovered.

Before it was over, four more would die.

By Dec. 1, public officials lifted their "flu" ban in Cass City and schools, churches and theaters were allowed to reopen.

When classes resumed, the school day was lengthened one hour to help make up for lost time.

Scattered cases continued throughout the winter and subsided by spring. According to Mrs. Patch, another, less severe outbreak of flu hit the area in the fall of 1919.

Neither she nor her husband suffered with the illness themselves.

"We must have been pretty strong to survive the remedies," Patch, 80, said with a smile.

The couple say they don't plan to take swine flu shots this year in spite of their age. Both are in excellent health and say they've never taken flu shots before.

"I don't think they've proven there's that great a danger yet," she says. "Several of our friends we've talked with are undecided about it, too."

She said the recent reports of persons who died after receiving the shots had no bearing on their decision.

"We'll take our chances," she said.



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM PATCH recalled how it was during the influenza epidemic of 1918 in the Cass City area. In spite of those memories, the couple say they don't plan to take swine flu inoculations. We've never taken flu shots, they say, and we've never had any problems.

Appoint 4-H youth agent

Danny C. Sandmann has been appointed Extension 4-H Youth Agent for Sanilac, Tuscola and Huron counties effective Oct. 15. Sandmann will be the resident agent in Sanilac county.

Sandmann, who received a B.S. degree from Concordia Teacher's College in Social Science, began his career in 1970 as a teacher at Lutheran High School in Chicago, Ill. Four years later he received a second B.S. degree in animal husbandry from Michigan State University. Since 1974, Sandmann has been a farm manager and instructor in the Plymouth School District.

Sandmann's duties include organizing and implementing youth development programs, recruiting, training and assisting volunteer lead-

ers and assisting and advising ing and managing funds to local support groups in secur- support the 4-H program.

ELLINGTON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

RE-ELECT PEARL

A. PUTNAM

TOWNSHIP TREASURER

- TWO YEARS EXPERIENCE
- COMPLETED MICHIGAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOOKING COURSE
- RESIDENT OF ELLINGTON TOWNSHIP FOR 30 YEARS

Your Continued Support Appreciated

Pd. Pol. Adv.

NOTICE

OUVRY CHEVROLET-OLDS

Now In New Location

We Trust None Of You Were Inconvenienced While We Were Moving To Our New Building So We Can Serve You Better.

- New Location On M-81, 1/4 Mile East Of Village Limits
- New Phone Is 872-4301

LOOK FOR OUR GRAND OPENING Friday and Saturday, Nov. 5-6

Our Best Wishes To These Prize Winners During Our New Car Open House

1st Prize—Motor Tune-Up

Dick Walker-Cass City

2nd Prize—Popcorn Popper

Arnold Lapeer-Ubly

3rd Prize—Popcorn Popper

Julia D. Brady-Caro

4th Prize—Front End Alignment

Charles Fackler-Decker

5th Prize—Lube, Oil, Filter

Rosaline Pollum-Deford

6th Prize—Car Wash

Cheryl Taylor-Elkton

OUVRY CHEV.-OLDS INC.

Phone 872-4301

CASS CITY

Auction Sale

Having sold our farm we will sell at public auction at the place located 9 miles east, 1 1/2 north, 1/2 east of Bad Axe, or 8 miles west, 1 1/2 north, 1/2 west of Harbor Beach on Learman Road the following personal property on:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

commencing at 1 p.m. sharp

Ford 5000D tractor, selector speed, 13.5x38 duals

International Super C tractor, wide front

IHC 4 row cultivator and 2 row bean puller to fit Super C

New Holland No. 68 Hayliner baler w/bale thrower

IHC No. 40 4 row beet and bean drill

Ford 3-16" bottom plow, high clearance, 3 point hitch

Ford 10 foot tandem disc

IHC 10 foot field cultivator

John Deere 4 section harrow

John Deere 12 foot cultipacker, good shape

John Deere 14 foot spike tooth harrow

V ditcher

Ford 7 foot mower, 3 point hitch

New Holland 5 bar side rake

Innes 2 row windrower w/cross conveyor

Rubber tired wagon w/8x15" bale thrower rack

Allis Chalmers running gear, 8 ply tires, w/Killbros gravity box

2 wheel trailer w/dump box

New Holland No. 325 PTO 135

bushel manure spreader

Case 40 foot hay conveyor

16 foot, 4 inch auger w/1/2 h.p. enclosed motor

Ford 2 row bean puller

300 gallon fuel tank on stand

Air compressor

Electric drill press

McCullough chain saw, 19 inch cut

16 used electric poles about 25 feet long

2 jewelry wagons

FEED

650 bales of first cutting alfalfa hay, more or less

400 bales second cutting hay, more or less

300 bales straw, more or less

125 bales hay, more or less

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Kenmore electric range w/self cleaning oven

Coronado 15 cu. foot deep freezer

Table w/ 3 chairs

Sears Coldspot refrigerator

IHC electric cream separator

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS AT SALE OR STOLEN ITEMS—ALL SALES FINAL

TERMS: Cash. All items must be settled for before removing from the premises

JULIUS and MARK ULFIG, Owners

CLERK: Osentoski Auction Service

AUCTIONEERS: Ira, David and Martin Osentoski. Phone Bad Axe 269-9303 or Cass City 872-2352