

Community booster

Ken Martins fill variety of civic posts

Editor's note: this is one of a series sponsored by the Cass City Chamber of Commerce about community boosters who are members of the organization.

For a variety of reasons, Ken Martin gave up the security of a well paying job with Saginaw Steering Gear after 11 years to start Martin Electric in Cass City.

It proved to be a wise move for him and a decision that helped the community.

Over the years Martin has been active in civic affairs in addition to filling a vital service in the community. He is a member and past President of the Lions Club. He is vice-president of the Tri-County Electrical Contractor's Association.

He also is a member of the Farm Bureau and the Elmwood Township Zoning Board. He is a member of the Good Shepherd Lutheran church in Cass City.

Martin was born and raised in Cass City and graduated from Cass City High School in 1950. He returned to the community in July, 1970.

He received his electrical contractor's license in January, 1970.

The company now employs a journeyman electrician, a full time apprentice and a part-time apprentice.

His wife, Carolyn, is the bookkeeper for the business. She is also active in community affairs, serving on the Hills and Dales Hospital Board.

The Martins have a daughter, Cheri, attending Saginaw Valley State College, and a son, Ken Jr., a senior at Cass City High School.



Ken Martin

Michigan Mirror

Solons act to save wetlands

The Legislature cleared a 10-year old hurdle with the final adoption of legislation defining the use of and regulating the state's wetlands.

Wetlands -- swamps, bogs and marshes -- have been filled in at an alarming rate, especially in densely populated areas, causing not only urban sprawl but also adversely affecting natural habitats for birds, fish and animals and causing flooding problems.

Legislation to slow down this process has been before the Michigan Legislature for the past 10 years but it never was able to get final approval for various reasons.

Heavy lobbying by developers and industries has spelled doom in years past and key legislators were opposed to the legislation and were able to keep the bill bottled up.

The final compromise version protects the designated wetlands from wholesale destruction while making it possible to develop the lands upon receipt of a permit from the state Department

of Natural Resources.

Prior to final approval, the legislature tightened the compensation section to restate the rights of a citizen landowner to seek redress in the courts if he feels the land has been confiscated by the governmental designation.

Wetlands -- both those contiguous with lakes, streams and rivers and perched wetlands defined as areas independent of other bodies greater than 5 acres -- are covered presently by the federal clean air and water act but will be covered under the state act as of Oct. 1.

Perched wetlands within counties of 100,000 or less will not be included under provisions of the bill until a statewide land resource inventory is completed.

Under separate legislation, a land resource inventory will be conducted by the state and local governments with a final report due within the next three years.

The wetlands act, expected to be signed soon by the governor, also permits municipalities to adopt their own wetlands preservation and regulation acts that are

more stringent than the state act.

Upper Peninsula mining activities were taken care of under an exemption for iron and copper mine tailing basins, areas where wastes are dumped resulting from the mining process.

Farmers and agricultural activities are exempt from most provisions of the act.

The act was praised by conservation groups, legislative leaders and the governor.

Governor William G. Milliken praised the bill as a forward-looking and workable wetlands control bill.

Calling it a major step in protecting the state's resources and native beauty, Milliken said, "It will allow the state to take over from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers a number of wetlands use permit programs -- giving us greater control over our own destiny."

RENTER TAX CREDIT

Under a bill approved during the final hours of the legislative session this year, the Senate approved a bill expanding renter credit for rent paid by senior citizens and low income persons.

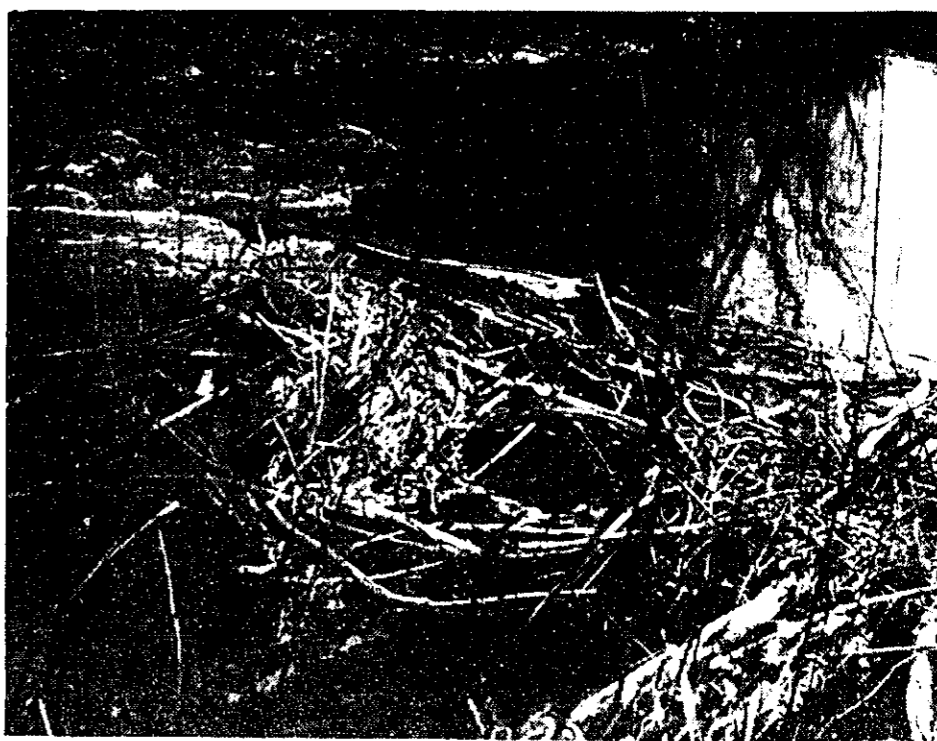
With an annual estimated cost of \$8.5 million, the bill would provide a credit for senior citizens for rent payments over 50 percent of their income. Other low income persons would receive a credit for 75 percent of anything over 40 percent of their income.

An income level of \$12,000 was placed in the bill as a qualifier.

The House must approve the plan before it takes effect.



GNAW POWER -- William Kitchin of Van Dyke Road points to where beavers have almost completely cut through this log. Other examples of their cutting power can be seen at left and at right.



DAM PROJECT -- After the beavers cut the logs, they transport them a few hundred feet to the Cass River, where they have been building this dam for the past several months. Location is north of Severance Road, east of M-53.

Minor crashes reported in Yule season

A Traverse City woman was reported as injured but refusing treatment after an accident last Thursday in Ellington township.

Injured was Evelyn Gilmet, a passenger in a car driven by Richard M. Bowles, 30, of E. Deckerville Road, Caro.

Sheriff's deputies reported Bowles was southbound on Orr Road, north of Boy Scout Road, when his car went off the east side of the road into a ditch and hit a clump of trees.

The driver was ticketed on a charge of failure to report a property damage accident. The accident took place at 3 a.m.

At 2:30 a.m., Dec. 24, according to deputies, David Burrows, 19, of 4670 Center Street, Gagetown, was eastbound on Lazell Road, went through the intersection at Jacob Road, and struck a utility pole guy wire post on

the east side of the road. Burrows was ticketed on a charge of violation of the basic speed law (too fast for conditions).

Saturday, deputies reported, James K. Rohleder, 24, of 4462 Jacob Road, Cass City, was backing his vehicle in the Big Boy restaurant parking lot, on M-81 southwest of Caro, and backed into a car pulling into a parking place. Driver of the car was Mark Williams, 26, of Caro.

Kevin R. Richter, 16, of 6611 E. Sanilac Road, Kingston, was eastbound on M-46, east of Lobdell Road, at 1:20 p.m. Dec. 24 when his car struck a deer.

At 12:55 p.m. last Wednesday, village police said Cindy Lou Brigham, 23, of 2034 N. Englehart Road, was backing from a parking place in the Cass City IGA Foodliner parking lot and struck a parked car. Owner of the parked car was Geneva Richards of Cass City.

Ricky Hartwick, 20, of 7261 Bay City-Forestville Road, was eastbound on Daus Road, east of Buehrly Road, at 8:30 a.m. Friday. Cass City police reported, when his vehicle struck a deer.

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FOLLOW THE HAWKS!

BASKETBALL

See All Home Games JV Game 7:00 p.m.

RED HAWKS vs. MARLETTE
Friday, January 4

Tuesday, Jan. 8 - Away at Mayville
Friday, Jan. 11 - Away at Vassar

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