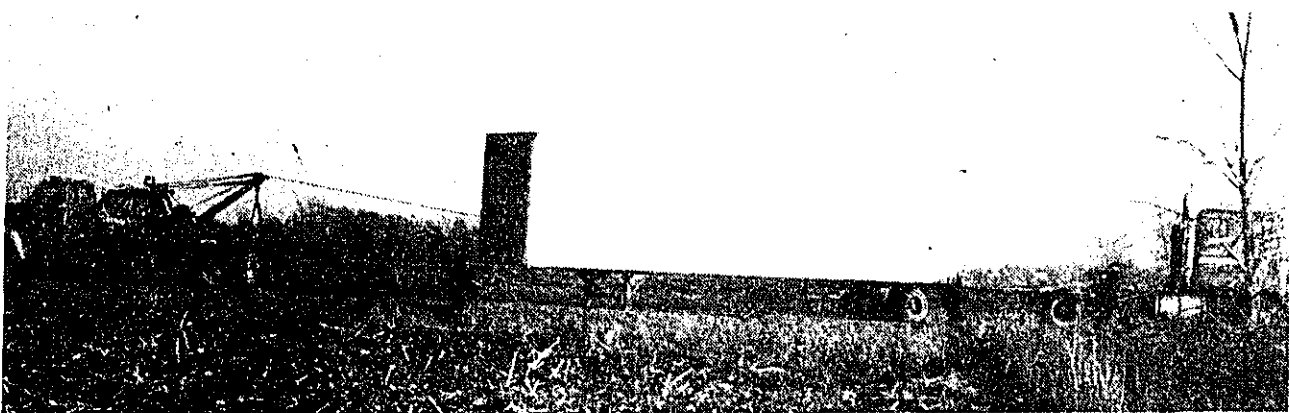




OVERTURNED TRUCK -- Very strong winds blew over James W. Pierce's truck-tractor Friday afternoon while he was southbound on Elkton Road, close to Huron Line Road, where he had been hoping to turn his rig into the wind.



UP-RIGHTED -- The overturned trailer was pulled perpendicular to the highway before being pulled upright. A cable was then run to the truck at right, which served as an anchor to keep the trailer from being blown over again while the two trucks at left pulled it onto the road so that it could be towed away.

An upsetting experience: Wind blows truck over

How windy was it Friday? It was so windy that James Pierce's semi-truck was blown over.

"I've been driving 30 years and that never happened to me before," the still shaken Melvindale trucker said afterwards.

A driver for Continental Can Co., also located in the Detroit suburb, he was on his way home after delivering a load of cardboard shipping containers made by Continental to the Active Industries plant in Elkton.

He left Elkton about 1:30 p.m., the time that the winds started picking up. He was

headed south on Elkton Road (Cemetery Road), nearing the Tuscola-Huron county line, when he decided his empty truck was going to be blown over.

He had only a couple of hundred yards further to go to Huron Line Road, the first place he could turn to head his rig into the wind, when he decided he wouldn't make it.

He pulled his truck-tractor off the right side of the road and was moving toward the right side door to get out when the wind blew the tractor and trailer onto their sides, into the left lane. "It just picked it up and tipped it

over," he explained.

Pierce was unhurt, but was splattered with oil that escaped from the engine. He finally got out of the truck by kicking out the windshield.

The incident was witnessed by Mrs. Ephraim Knight who lives several hundred yards to the north. Her husband drove to the site and picked up the driver.

Huron county sheriff's deputies were called to the scene. A passing motorist, Robert Hurley, who is an Elkland township fireman, placed several flares at the scene, and stayed until a second police car arrived.

The tractor and trailer

were "back on their feet" a couple of hours later, courtesy of a wrecker from Bartnik's service and two trucks and a crew from Marv Winter's Truck Sales, both on M-53.

The tractor, after being disconnected from the trailer, was righted first. The trailer was first pulled perpendicular to the road, righted, then pulled parallel to the road so it could be hooked to the Winter's-owned semi. It and Pierce's tractor, which wasn't drivable, were towed to Winter's truck lot.

The trailer suffered no apparent damage.

Ban Sunday p.

Seniors want return of 'Swing-Out' event

The Cass City School Board wrestled with questions of policy Monday night at its regular meeting as petitioners descended on the board to challenge previous rulings.

So many interested members of the district were at the meeting that the board moved into the speech auditorium to accommodate the visitors.

After all of the visitors' complaints were aired nothing much was changed although the board did leave the door open for the senior class.

What delegates said the class wants is to hold the Senior Swing-out. It was cancelled by the board after the administration reported that it was impossible to control the students as they gamboled through town.

Incidents of students tossing fire crackers, riding on the shoulders of other students and drinking made teachers fear that someone would be seriously injured.

Senior Clayette Lane presented a petition she said was signed by every senior except one asking that the swing-out be restored.

The students claim that they are being made to pay for the conduct of other classes.

Supt. Donald Crouse said that the idea of one student that threatened to hold it with or without school permission may have been a good one.

The class can hold it independent of the school with parents as chaperones, he said, and the responsibility would no longer be the school's. The petition submitted to the board indicated that several parents would act as chaperones if the traditional swing-out were held.

The students quickly decided that they didn't want an unofficial swing-out. After considerable discussion it was decided to let the seniors come up with a plan for control of the event for consideration by the board.

SUNDAY PRACTICES

Lewis Tibbitts, youth director of the Deford Community Church, requested that all Sunday practices be halted and that the distribution of Gideon Bibles be allowed in the school.

He said that Sundays should belong to the families and that when coaches hold practices it puts pressures on players to attend.

It was explained that practices on Sunday are only allowed by special board permission and that four girls' practices were allowed because of Monday games.

Tibbitts questioned "open gyms" on Sunday with players invited, saying that it was hard for anyone on the team to stay away, especially if they were not team stars.

He agreed that the Sunday practices have not been

abused yet and was assured that if the present policy didn't work in the future that it would be changed.

Tibbitts was told that the distribution of Bibles to fifth graders was halted because it violates the constitutional right of separation of church and state.

Tibbitts said that he was told Bibles were being distributed in all Sanilac Schools and all Tuscola schools except Cass City and Kingston.

He agreed to check further into this situation but it appears doubtful that the majority of board members feel that a change in school policy is necessary.

OKAY CONTRACT

The contract with Al Luce, professional negotiator for Cass City Schools, was approved for \$4,500. That's \$300 more than was paid last year.

The contract was originally submitted at the December board meeting and approved when Crouse said it was the same as the previous year.

A check by Cass City Teacher's Association President Dale McIntosh revealed it was \$300 more. That was found to be correct by the administration and a contract for the new higher amount was approved Monday.

Another contract approved was for Rick Tuckey to coach Junior High basketball.

OTHER BUSINESS

The board authorized the purchase of three bus bodies from McFadden Corporation at a cost of \$9,197. Crouse said that the McFadden bid was the lower of two quotes. The corporation furnished all of the bus bodies in use in the district.

State school test scores decline

The results of the Michigan Education Assessment tests were presented to the Cass City School Board Monday night at its regular meeting and revealed unfavorable trends in math and reading.

Cass City is below the State average in both subjects at both the seventh and 10th grade levels while exceeding state-wide averages at the fourth grade level. Complete five-year averages are revealed in charts accompanying this story.

It would appear from the averages that Cass City's

students were better prepared for the fourth grade tests and failed to keep up with students from other schools as they advanced to the 7th and 10th grades.

That's not necessarily so, Counselor Jerry Cleland, who presented the report, said. What it could mean is that other schools are teaching to the tests while Cass City is not.

When asked why this trend was not apparent at the fourth grade level, Cleland said that it is harder to structure tests with ques-

tions more readily answered by urban school children than it was at higher scholastic levels.

President Geraldine Prieskorn said that while the school doesn't necessarily want to be bound by objectives of the State as indicated by the tests, it would be foolish to ignore them without study.

For that reason Cleland was asked to compile the objectives of the State tests and present them at the next board meeting for study by the board.

READING - 4th GRADE		
	Cass City	State
1979	75.2	70.3
1978	78.8	62.4
1977	64.0	60.5
1976	62.7	55.4
1975	54.5	51.4
1974	54.1	48.6

READING - 7th GRADE		
	Cass City	State
1979	64.4	73.3
1978	72.2	67.3
1977	67.7	65.7
1976	57.4	55.6
1975	61.5	56.6
1974	49.7	55.2

READING - 10th GRADE		
	Cass City	State
1979	58.6	62.1
1978	59.5	61.0
1977	62.9	55.4

MATH - 4th GRADE		
	Cass City	State
1979	87.9	86.3
1978	94.7	79.1
1977	85.3	76.8
1976	90.0	79.3
1975	87.2	77.2
1974	77.1	74.1

MATH - 7th GRADE		
	Cass City	State
1979	45.6	56.0
1978	50.9	49.2
1977	47.7	46.6
1976	56.3	53.0
1975	62.0	55.7
1974	46.2	47.5

MATH - 10th GRADE		
	Cass City	State
1979	44.5	52.8
1978	45.8	51.0
1977	54.0	43.9

The percentage indicates the number of students who achieved 75 per cent of the objectives of the tests.

Boxing in Owendale?

Taxes coming in- paychecks may resume Friday in O-G

Owendale - Gagetown School District employees may get paid this Friday, which would be the first since Dec. 7.

Whether they are paid then, Supt. Ronald Erickson told the board Monday, depends on how much property tax revenue comes in by Friday.

So far, about \$340,000 has been received, however, a new state law requires the district to put the first \$350,000 it receives into escrow in order to pay off its tax anticipation notes (money it borrowed) in that amount in anticipation of receipt of property taxes.

If the \$10,000 is received in taxes, plus \$26,000 more needed for the payroll, paychecks will resume. Employees are normally paid every other week.

They will later be reimbursed for the paychecks they missed, plus - if past practice is followed for previous payless paydays - they will receive interest.

TOUGH MAN CONTEST

The Owendale gym may be the site of a Thumb area Tough Man Contest, an anyone-can-enter boxing contest, possibly around May 1. The event would run two days.

Donald Dorsch presented

the proposal to the board in behalf of the Owendale 75th anniversary committee.

The committee and school district would get half the proceeds, he said, with promoter Art Dore getting the other half, out of which he would pay expenses and prize money.

The possibility of holding the event has already been discussed with the Bay City promoter, whose Bay City area competition was conducted last weekend.

The Owendale gym seats 1,500 (including chairs on the floor). The main concern expressed by Erickson, who has also talked to Dore, and board members was protecting the gym floor.

The superintendent and Dorsch will have further discussions with Dore.

LUNCH PRICES

Lunch prices were increased for the elementary grades from 40 to 45 cents; high school, from 50 to 60 cents; and adults, from 75 to 85 cents.

Erickson warned that because federally subsidized food commodities are getting harder to get, prices may have to be raised again before the school year is over.

He speculated, but wasn't sure, that the lunch program is still in the black.

BUDGET

The board approved sending a revised 1979-80 budget to Robert Hornberger, director of department services for the state Department of Education, "in accordance with our attorney's advice."

Owen-Gage hasn't received any categorical state aid since February 1979, because of its failure to submit what Hornberger feels is a balanced budget, in accordance with state law.

Erickson predicted the official will reject the new one because it will show the district's revenue with and without revenue from the Goslin and Elenbaum parcels. Hornberger wants a budget with only one set of revenue figures.

OTHER ITEMS

The Michigan Association of School Boards Legal Trust Fund has so far declined to make a decision on aiding Owen-Gage for its legal expenses.

Eva Scheuffelt had the highest of three bids at \$800 for purchase of the mobile home last used for storage of athletic equipment. The district had paid \$500 for it and put about another \$500 in improvements.

Student of the month for

December was Tammy Kain.

High School Athletic Director James Barr reported the holiday basketball tournament, which Owen-Gage won, netted \$580 after payment of expenses. Another such tournament is

Pickup fire still mystery to police

Investigation by the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department is continuing to determine who might have set a pickup truck on fire early last Thursday.

Owner of the four-wheel drive 1978 model truck was William A. Perlaki of 4195 West Street, Cass City.

Elkland township firemen were called to the scene at 6:06 a.m. The truck was resting on its side in a ditch off the west side of Cedar Run Road, south of M-81.

After the fire was extinguished, firemen and investigating sheriff's deputies found a can of lighter fluid lying on the left rear wheel, which was up in the air. Some matches were also found.

At 6:45, James M. Perlaki, 25, of 4395 Elmwood Road,

being planned for December of this year.

The meeting began with a one-hour executive session involving possible expulsion of a student, who was present with his mother. The board will make a decision at its Feb. 11 meeting.

the brother of the owner, drove up.

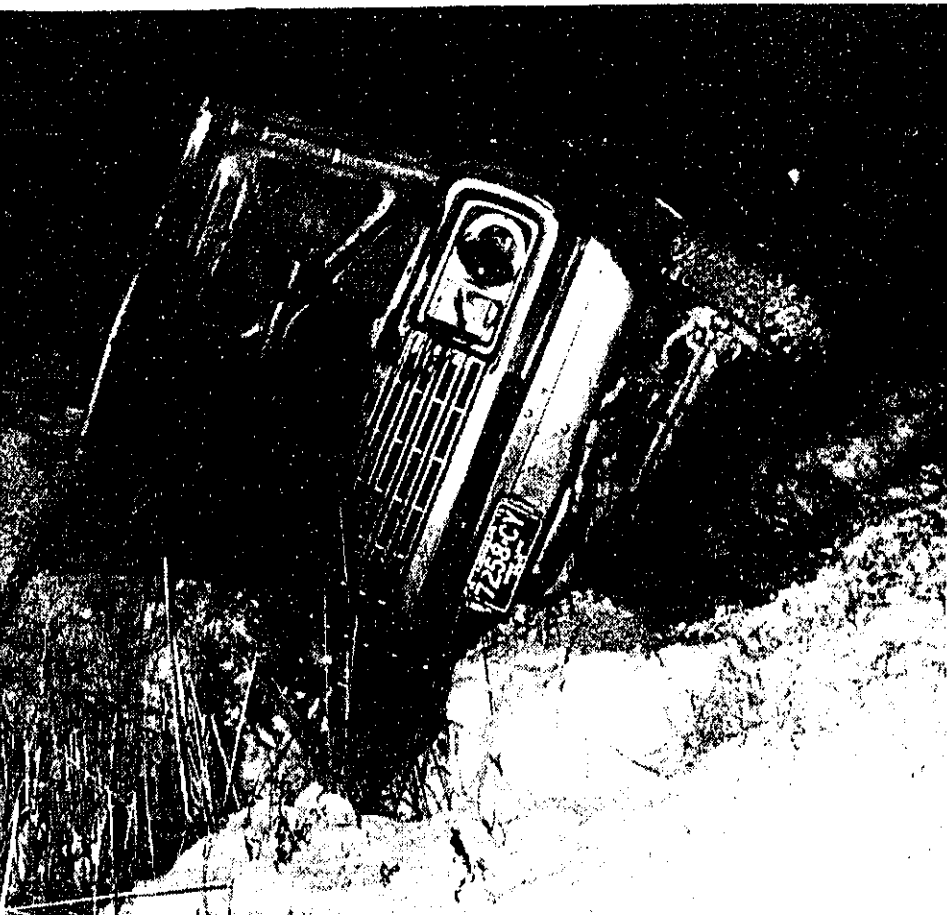
He told officers he had been driving the truck, headed south, about 2:30-3 a.m. when he dropped a lighted cigarette. He momentarily didn't pay attention to his driving and the truck went into the ditch.

As the truck floor was wet, he figured the cigarette wouldn't cause any damage, so he left and walked home. He was planning to return in the morning with a tractor to pull the truck out.

When he left, he said the can of lighter fluid was either in the glove compartment or behind the seat.

William Perlaki was later contacted and told deputies his brother had had permission to use the truck.

Deputies estimated damage at \$4,000.



TRUCK FIRE-- The four-wheel-drive pickup of William A. Perlaki of Cass City was found in this position and on fire by Elkland township firemen early last Thursday. Investigation to determine who started the fire is continuing.