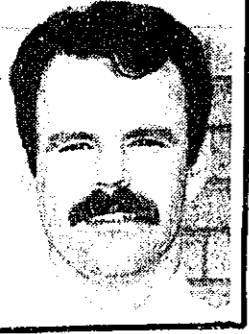


PEDALING AROUND

Looking back

By Mike Eliasohn



Digging into the history of the soon-to-be-no-more train depot in Cass City brings to mind a couple of history articles I did in my reporting past. Both were in Three Rivers.

There was the liquor and magazine store that went out of business. Someone mentioned that cigars had once been made here, which set me on the rail.

Sure enough, early in the century, it had been a cigar store, in the days when such places bought their own tobacco and employed persons on the premises to cut and roll it into cigars.

That was one story. I then found out there had been one or two more such stores in Three Rivers. That led to a second story.

I then got a telephone call from a man in his 80s, who as a teenager had worked in one of the stores making cigars. As I recall, from when I interviewed him, he still liked to smoke a cigar, even if it was made by a machine.

Then there was "The Three Rivers Song."

I think I got involved with the story when someone came across "The Three Rivers Song" in their old high school annual or while going through some sheet music.

It was written by a fellow named Glenn Waggoner (I may be off on the spelling), who back in the 1920s belonged to an informal musical group in Three Rivers, which mainly met in the members' houses and performed for their own enjoyment.

That was back before there was television and radio, so people had to provide their own entertainment. I point that out for the benefit of younger readers.

The tale got more complicated, when after my first article, someone came up with another song by Waggoner, which the person claimed was the true "Three Rivers Song." That led to a second article, and after that a rebuttal. It turned out the first song I had written about was the "official" version.

None of the old timers I had talked to who had known Waggoner knew what happened to him. It was known that not too long after he had written the songs, he had moved to Indiana. Some thought he had died shortly thereafter, though he was still a young man.

A reader in nearby Constantine, who had recently moved there from a small town in Indiana, read my articles. She started wondering whether the Glenn Waggoner mentioned might have been the same Glenn Waggoner who had been minister of her church in Indiana, who by then was retired.

She wrote him and asked. He was the same person.

What had happened was that after moving to Indiana, he had become very religious and became a minister. He didn't forget his musical background, however, as he wrote a few hundred religious songs, which had been published.

The final chapter, so to speak, came when the retired superintendent of schools in Three Rivers, who was in his 70s and as I recall, had known Waggoner back in the 1920s, drove down to Indiana to visit him.

The value of U.S. farm assets as of Jan. 1, 1980, is expected to total \$950 billion, up 16 percent from a year ago.



RARE BREED -- The Michigan Livestock Exchange stockyards east of Cass City were a sea of horns until a herd of 66 rare Scottish Highland cattle were sold Tuesday. The cattle, ranging from calves to old bulls and cows, were raised on a farm near Romeo. The animals can graze in the wild and even paw through snow to feed on grass underneath. Had this winter been colder, said salesman Norb Seely, their coats would have been even longer.

Meals-on-wheels needs assistance

The Cass City Meals-on-Wheels Program is soliciting funds to continue its operating until at least Sept. 30, after which it may possibly receive some federal funds.

More volunteers are also needed.

There is no crisis. The program presently has enough funds to keep operating for three more months, according to volunteer co-ordinator Marge Langmaid.

There presently are 12 persons being served. They have either been recently released from the hospital and can't get around yet on their own or need a special diet or otherwise have difficulty in preparing their own meals.

Two persons receive a hot meal at lunchtime five days each weekday, the others two or three times a week.

The meals are prepared by Hills and Dales General Hospital, which is paid \$2.15

per meal by Meals-on-Wheels. That totals about \$300 a month, according to Mrs. Langmaid.

Three of the persons receiving the meals pay the full cost and the rest pay a partial amount, which totals about \$150 a month. That means the program must raise about the same amount in donations to keep in operation.

After funding from the Human Development Commission ended last March 15, the Elkland-Novesta Community Chest, Cass City Lions Club, Tyler Lodge No. 317, F & AM, First Presbyterian Church Women's Association and some individuals contributed money to keep the program going.

Mrs. Langmaid hasn't asked those organizations yet, but is hoping they will contribute again this year.

Individuals and organizations who would like to contribute are asked to contact the Meals-on-Wheels treasurer, Ron Keegan, at 6407 Seventh Street, telephone 872-2585. Checks should be made out to Cass City Meals-on-Wheels. Contributions are tax deductible.

Persons who feel they would benefit from receiving the meals, can call Mrs. Langmaid at 872-3657, or Isabelle Seeley at Hills and Dales (872-2121).

Persons who would like to volunteer to help in the program can call Mrs. Langmaid.

Volunteers deliver the

meals one day a week, which takes from about 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Present drivers are Mrs. Langmaid, Mr. and Mrs. Keegan, Ruth Ann Wiebert, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Thompson, Pac Mills and until recently, Blake Sackett.

The Meals-on-Wheels program may receive some federal funds as of Oct. 1 from the Thumb Area Commission on Aging.

Barley meeting Thursday

The spring growers malting barley meeting will be this Thursday at the Tuscola Farm Bureau Building, 416 Wells Street, Caro, at 1:15 p.m.

A new barley called Morex will be released to growers in 1980. Morex is a six row barley that has consistently yielded with Larker or better. The plumpness of Morex is excellent and the protein has been quite similar to Larker and consistently lower than Coho.

The Malting Barley Committee and Stuart Andreas of Rickets will be present to summarize the barley pricing policy for Thumb growers in 1980. The latest information on barley varieties, especially Morex, will be presented.



Gagetown revises parking

The Gagetown Village Council Monday evening approved an amended parking ordinance.

Under the new ordinance, with at least one minor exception, parking in the street at an angle to the curb will only be allowed on Lincoln Street, south of the light.

On all other streets, only parking parallel to the curb will be allowed.

Two resolutions were approved, needed in order for the village to qualify for federal and state funds to finance construction of a sewer system and sewage treatment system. It isn't known yet if and when the village might get the money.

Council member Fred Sullivan was appointed street administrator for another year.

Lutherans install new officers

Officers for 1980 were installed at the Sunday service of the Good Shepherd Lutheran church in Cass City.

Serving again as president will be Frank Butler. Vice-president is Peter Zell. Lois Moslander will serve as secretary.

Arlan Hartwick has resigned after spending 25 years as church treasurer. He will be replaced by Al Witherspoon.

Other officers installed included: Financial secretaries, Gerald Gunther and Fred Matthews, and elders, Jim Dohn, Dale Iseler, Bob Rockwell, Dan Balzer, Herb Bills and Bernie Wutzke.

Others installed were: trustees, Elmer Hahn, Clare Schuette, Gordon Frederick, Larry Neuman, Ron Rockwell; Sunday School Superintendent Paul Rockwell.

Also installed were youth group and Ladies Aid officers. The first meeting of the church council was held Sunday evening.

STRAND CARO MICHIGAN PHONE OS. 3-3033

Two Will Be Admitted For \$2.50 On Monday and Tuesday. Come and Save!

STARTS WEDNESDAY FEB. 6 - 14

Showtimes: Weekdays . 7:00 and 9:00 Matinee Saturday @ 2:00 Sunday: 3:00 - 5:00 - 7:00 - 9:00

Sunday Bargain Time: 2:30 till 6:00 Adults Only \$1.50

Mountain Family Robinson... Nature accepted them... but the government wouldn't!

Advertise It In The Chronicle.

CASS THEATRE Exclusive Thumb Premiere FEB. 14 - 15 - 16 - 17 THE RUNNER STUMBLES

Vitamins at Coach Light Cost Less... Stress Complex \$2.99, Oyster Shell \$1.19, Vitamin E \$3.19, Vitamin C \$1.79

Mountain Family Robinson... NOW SHOWING Thurs.-Sun. Feb. 7-10, SHOWING Feb. 6-14 One Week Only

SEW and SAVE... Spring SEWING NEEDS Corduroy 99¢, Drapery Fabrics \$1.97, BLUE DENIM \$2.49, POLYESTER BLENDS 98¢

FEDERATED Cass City

SORRY NO PASSES