



Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

If they form a Polar Bear club in the Thumb Cliff Kibbey should be the first to join. Last week with the temperature in the very low teens Kibbey was walking around without a jacket.

When bugged about it, Kibbey said he doesn't even own a jacket. That's surprising. Even more strange is that Kibbey claims he's never cold even when the temperature goes below zero.

Movie review: The best show I've seen since "The Sting" is Kramer vs. Kramer. If you cry in shows, this one will blur your eyes, but you'll leave feeling good about the whole thing.

As a "Star Trek" TV fan I had to see the movie. It was just so-so. I suspect that if you thought the TV version was only fair you'll be bored by the two-hour version.

The Pinney State Bank knows how to make an employee feel good. Lot's of firms give a guy a day off on his birthday. The Pinney Bank topped that. They closed the joint on Phil Keating's birthday. He was born Feb. 12. By coincidence that's Lincoln's Birthday, too.

Did you catch the pictures of those Scottish Highland Cattle in last week's issue? They are a tough breed, I'm told, but the meat brings less than conventional cattle.

The sale was hyped a little by area persons who bought an animal when they were auctioned at Michigan Livestock Exchange. These purchases were made because the buyers wanted the massive horns as wall decorations.

Recently the Chronicle was switched by its accountant to a computer. Now every month a small booklet of figures is dumped on my desk.

After close examination I figure my financial status the way I always have. If there's money left over after the bills are paid all is well in the publishing world.

Owendale primary election Monday

A primary election will be held in Owendale Monday for voters to determine the Republican nominee for village clerk in the March 10 general election.

Polls in the municipal building will be open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Running against incumbent Bill Putnam is Marie Susalla, a teller at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, who is making her first try at a village office.

Putnam, assistant plant manager at the Michigan Producers Dairy plant in Sebawaing, has been clerk for about 23 years.

Whoever wins the primary will also win in the general election, as no Democrat is running.

Except for one candidate running as an independent March 10, everyone else is a Republican.

Advertise it in the Chronicle.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	28	-2	0
Thursday	35	-6	0
Friday	36	-6	0
Saturday	32	0	0
Sunday	33	4	trace
Monday	32	0	0
Tuesday	38	0	.03

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)
(Snow recorded as melted water - 10 in. snow - 1 in. water)

How to cope with the high cost of heating:

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DEBATE TEAM -- Cass City High School debaters who competed in the state tournament were, from left, in rear, John Scollon, Crystal Gallaway and Steve Corcoran. Also on the team this season, competing as far as the district level, were Deb Paladi (seated at left) and Brenda Holdburg.

Cass City debate team 5th in state

Cass City High School debate team finished fifth at the state final debate tournament at Central Michigan University, Jan. 31 through Feb. 6.

The team of John Scollon, Steve Corcoran, and Crystal Gallaway was in third place after the six preliminary rounds.

In the quarter final round against Ithaca High School, the affirmative team of Corcoran and Gallaway lost on a split decision. The Ithaca team went on to win the state championship, after defeating Bad Axe in the semi-final round.

The topic for the 1979-1980 debate season was Resolved: That the foreign trade policies of the U.S. should be significantly changed.

The topic for the 1980-81 season will be related to the subject of consumer protection.

The Cass City team is losing only one senior and is anticipating another successful season, according to coach Denise Gorsline.

Feb. 22-23, senior Steve Corcoran will be competing in the John S. Knight scholarship contest sponsored by the Detroit Free Press. The contest involves the top senior debater from each

district in the state. The winning speaker receives \$1500.

Miss Gorsline won this scholarship when she was a senior at Kennedy High School in Taylor in 1972.

The contest will be held at the Detroit Plaza Hotel.

Owen-Gage trio essay winners

Three students from Owendale-Gagetown High School have been named local winners in the 11th annual America & Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

The three are Scott Thies, first; Carolyn Zimmer, second; and Glenda Sue McPhail, third.

All three received award certificates for their achievement. As the school's first place winner, Scott's name will be engraved on a plaque for permanent display in the school.

His first place essay won

The Thumb area was well represented at the state tournament, with the teams from Caro, Bad Axe, and Cass City all placing in their divisions.

The same teams were successful last year, with Caro being the Class B state champions.

advances to the state level competition from which the top 10 essays in Michigan will be selected. The top 10 who will be announced in March, will receive plaques and U.S. savings bonds ranging in value from \$100 to \$500.

A team of finalist judges, headed by former President Gerald Ford, will determine the top statewide winners. Other members of the finalist judging team are Gov. William Milliken, Congressman Robert Carr, and the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Mary S. Coleman.

The Haire Net



The bottom line on drafting women for service duty is that it will make them equal with men. Both will work for less than they did as civilians.

I can't give you any scientific poll to prove it. All I can go on is personal experience. That goes back to my service days. It was at the battle of Perrin Field, Sherman, Texas, where I heroically defended democracy by working in a finance office for three years.

After basics on the boardwalk in Atlantic City and a stint in an Army school at Wake Forest College I ended my Air Corps career at that field in Texas.

I did get to shoot a rifle once in basic training and did manage to fall asleep on guard duty while defending one of the hotels from infiltration by some of the bathers on the beach. That's as close to real soldiering as I came to.

These ancient details are recalled to show that there are plenty of areas where women can serve as well as men.

In fact, there were more women than men in the office where I worked.

That was good news and bad news. The good news was that it was nice to have girls to talk with and look at in the sea of men at the base.

The bad news was trying to keep them happy in the office. It was a small office, maybe 12 persons. 10 of

which were women.

We might have got by with two or three less if a way could have been figured out to open and close windows automatically or, more important, figure out an answer of why the windows should be shut (open) when it was roasting (freezing) in the office.

But to get back to the subject at hand. Women in the draft.

These girls hadn't enlisted. They were not members of the armed forces. They were civilian employees.

They worked under my direction, more or less, depending on the day and the night before.

As the chief clerk of the office I was paid about \$100 a month, given a spot in the barracks and two meals a day. I never was up for breakfast.

The girls working in the office received about three times that much and got every other Saturday off.

So you can see that women in the draft will help keep the national debt increasing at a slightly slower pace than if they were hired as civilians.

That's good for the taxpayer but any woman that wants this has to be a real fanatic about equal rights.

There is such a thing as being too equal and a lot of smart girls I know are saying so. I'm with them.



"If It Fitz..." March on New Orleans

By Jim Fitzgerald

Sometimes things get to be too much for me. Hostages in Iran, Russians in Afghanistan, and Zbigniew Brzezinski in Pakistan. Faced with all of these things to worry about, last week end I did the only thing I could do. I flew to New Orleans and behaved foolishly.

At our mother's funeral last April, my four sisters and I decided we should get together again soon, without waiting for someone else to die. The first step was to select a central meeting place an equal distance from our homes in Michigan, Ohio and Texas. The map said St. Louis was it. We went to New Orleans because it's more fun than St. Louis.

To make certain we'd be allowed aboard all available arks, each Fitz sibling took along one spouse. This accounted for the presence of Gabby, the husband of my No. 3 sister, Nancy the Itch. The word "rotund" was invented to describe Gabby. He added much class to the occasion by wearing a red T-shirt which, in large letters, identified him as "The Cincinnati Sex Symbol."

The youngest sister, Linda, has been a Texan for about two years now. She arrived from San Antonio wearing a sombrero.

That leaves one sister as yet unidentified. That's how she would prefer to remain, but nuts to her. Her name is Mary Lou, and she usually serves as the conscience of the family. She said I shouldn't write about our walk through New Orleans' French Quarter for fear people will think we are a crazy family. Nonsense.

What people have to understand is that once, for one brief shining moment, I was a drill sergeant in the Army. This happened in Louisiana. In fact, in the summer of 1945, freshly returned from victory in Europe, my unit marched down the main street in New Orleans. It is only natural that, returned to the scene 35 years later, I would feel an uncontrollable urge to yell at

people to get in step and to the rear, march. For my companions, it was a fortunate coincidence that I felt this urge, because they were badly in need of intelligent direction.

So the 10 of us marched in close-order drill from hotel to restaurant to jazz joint with my precise yet protracted commands echoing loudly to the nearby Mississippi River, probably reminding many a brave old soldier of some long-ago draft board. People were obviously impressed, probably even intimidated, by our military posture as we marched by — hup, two, three, four — which probably explains why they didn't throw bottles at us.

Admittedly, by the end of the evening there was some straggly marching among my troops. But I had only one serious discipline problem. That was when Gabby completely broke ranks to tap dance with a street entertainer.

One of the places where we bivouacked in the French Quarter was Pat O'Brien's sing-along club, where all the tourists go. Currently, the favorite song there is "Go to hell, Ayatollah, You're a Big A — ollah."

No. 2 on the request parade is the Canadian national anthem. When two Canad-

ians were discovered behind some beer, they were given a standing ovation.

As the fun progressed at another night spot there was some conversation about how much our mother would have enjoyed being with us. And we talked about our Aunt Madeline. Mother's sister, who had spent so much time with her during those last months in the nursing home, when we couldn't be there.

That's when the happy week end peaked. Gabby spoke to the band leader. Madeline's favorite song is "Alley Cat." The leader announced the dedication to the aunt in Michigan, and 10 people who love her stood up in New Orleans and sang "Alley Cat" for her. She must have heard us.

And then the 10 middle-aged goofs got up and marched back to the hotel. The foolish week end was over quickly. I suppose I should feel guilty about marching through the French Quarters when I should have been fretting about Zbigniew Brzezinski's mission to Pakistan. I don't.

The world needs more foolishness and more people like my wild relatives. I may hold close-order drill once a month. Everyone is invited. We could even do it in St. Louis.

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