

\$4 million skill center ready in September

Tuscola county taxpayers' multi-million dollar investment in vocational education will become reality for 948 youngsters come September.

That's when the approximately \$4 million Tuscola Area Skill Center will open for students from the county's nine local school districts. Construction of the facility on the outskirts of Caro began last June.

This month, 10th and 11th graders are being asked to indicate interest in signing up for one of the 24 skill areas to be taught at the center come fall.

They won't have to make a final decision until their respective high schools conduct sign-up for fall classes this spring.

Making the rounds of the high schools from the Tuscola Intermediate School District (TISD), which will run the center, have been Charles Gentner, student placement services director, and William Pratt, vocational-career education director.

Gentner was at Cass City High School Friday. He and Pratt (the two have been splitting up the task) presented an 11-minute slide-tape program describing the various program offerings and answered questions.

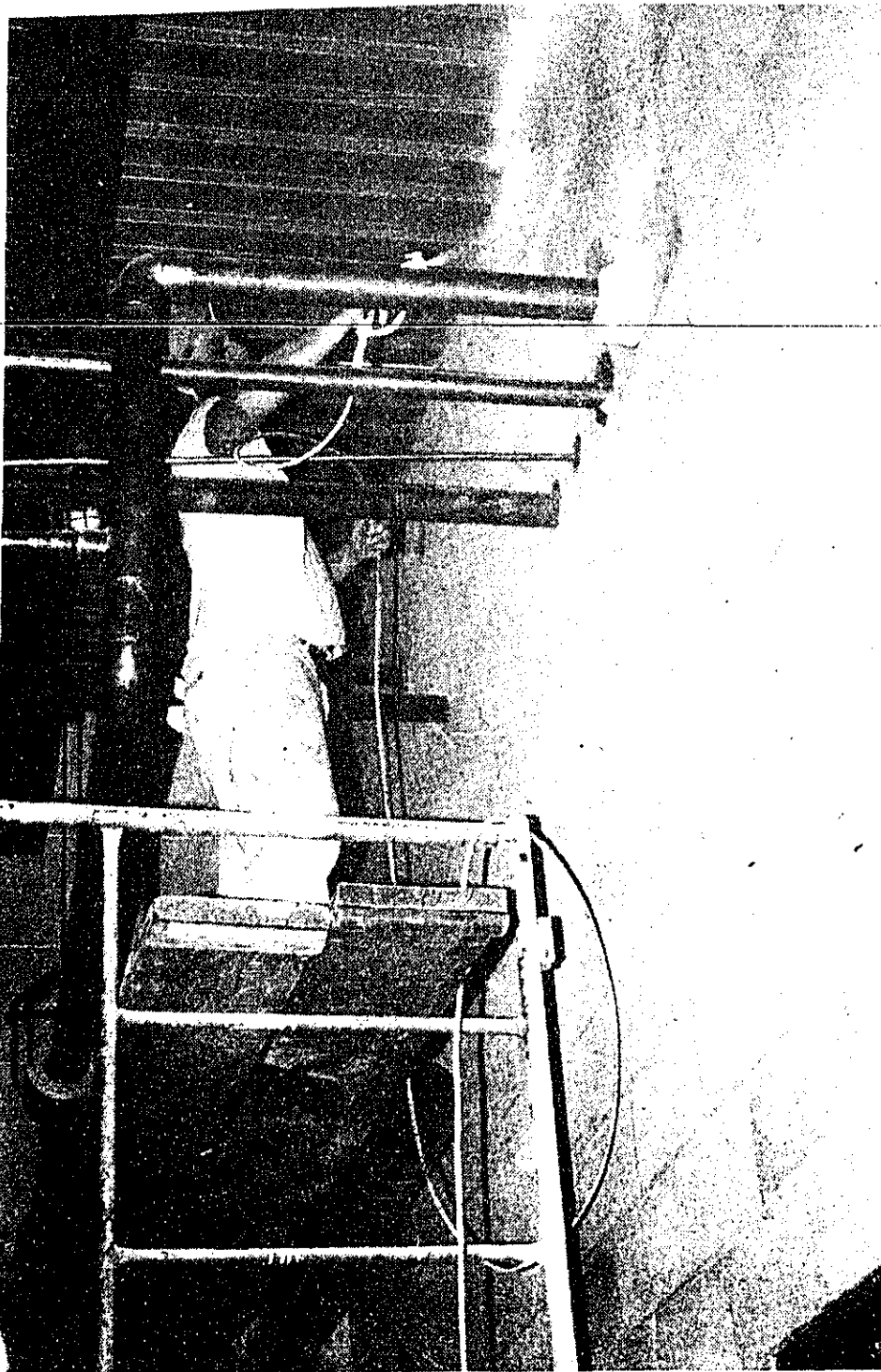
After that, students were asked to fill out a form and if interested, indicate their first and second course choices.

Their choices are agricultural production, agricultural mechanics, graphic arts, auto mechanics, machine shop, commercial arts, welding, building construction (in-school and on-site), cosmetology (at a private beauty school, not the skill center), horticulture, auto body repair, electrical occupations, electronics occupations, health occupations, child care, food management, heating and air conditioning, general merchandising, nursing aide, business data processing, drafting, stenographic and building maintenance.

Students will be attending the skill center a half-day and their regular high school the rest of the day.

Classes at the center in evenings and summers for adults will come later, according to Pratt.

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PAINT JOB -- Andy Szegi, shown here, and his father, Elmer, were busy Tuesday at the Tuscola Area Skill Center painting the walls of what will be the auto body repair shop. The Szegis are from Bay City.

Probe continues of two Monday night break-ins

Investigation by Cass City police of break-ins of two Main Street businesses Monday night is continuing.

There are suspects and Police Chief Gene Wilson considers it likely that both break-ins were committed by the same person or persons. The suspects are juveniles.

There was about \$100 taken in each theft.

The first was discovered at 1:10 a.m. Tuesday by Officer Phil Klaus. As he was driving by the Wash King laundromat, he noticed the door to the office was ajar.

A further check found entry had been gained by breaking into the car wash portion of the building. Once inside the main portion of the building, the office door

was forced open and the cash taken.

As it was thought the intruders might still be in the area, Wilson said, help was summoned from the sheriff's department, which dispatched a patrol car, and from the state police, who brought in a tracking dog.

The dog traced the scent to a house in the neighborhood,

but Wilson didn't care to elaborate.

The second break-in was discovered at 6:10 a.m. Tuesday when Veronica's Restaurant owner Veronica Gasczynski was opening her building and discovered the side door had been forced open.

The money had been taken from the cash register.

14 miles down M-5

Eleven-year-old in another car chase

An 11-year-old Cass City area boy, who led police on a wild chase in Bay City Jan. 5 that resulted in the smashup of eight vehicles, was involved in another chase Monday evening.

This time, the only car damaged was the one he was driving, which he had stolen.

The car taken was that of Roy Hall of 3149 Van Dyke Road, Decker, north of Hemans.

According to Sandusky State Police, he had been working on the car, went inside for a moment and while inside, heard the car being driven away. The keys had been in it.

Hall got into another car and gave chase while his wife called police. The car was taken at 7:05 p.m.

Reportedly, Sanilac county authorities had been notified before then by the boy's parents or grandparents that he had run away. The boy has a Cass City address but lives in Sanilac county.

The boy with Hall in pursuit headed south on Van Dyke (M-53). Marlette Police Chief Myron Hoover, while in his car, had heard the "be on the lookout" broadcast over his radio. He spotted the car near the hospital with Hall behind him, blowing his horn and flashing his lights.

Hoover pulled alongside a few times but the boy didn't stop and the chief declined to force him off the road because of the age of the driver. "It isn't like a bank holdup where you force them off the road," he explained to the Chronicle.

Hall, in working on the car, had removed the fan belt. As a result, the engine overheated and finally seized when the entourage was a half-mile south of Peck Road in Lapeer county. The boy swerved off the road and the car struck a tree, resulting in damage to the front end. The chase ended after more than 14 miles.

Sandusky state police said the boy had a loaded .22 caliber rifle with him in the car.

Hoover said he probably didn't go over 50 miles per hour during the chase, but didn't keep close watch on his speedometer. He said the car the boy was driving was

going about 15 mph when it slammed into the tree.

According to the police chief, Hall apparently had tried to get the boy to stop a couple of times and a few times, northbound drivers had to pull off the road when the youngster swerved into their lane.

When the incident was over, Hoover asked the boy why he didn't stop. "I couldn't find the brakes," was the reply.

The boy had a bloody nose and mouth from the crash and was taken by ambulance to Marlette Community Hospital, where he was questioned further by state police.

After being kept overnight, he was released to his parents.

According to Donald Chamberlain, director of juvenile court services of the Sanilac County Probate Court, any charges resulting from the latest incident will be added to those still pending from the Jan. 5 chase.

"We will be working with him for some time," he commented.

Like with adults, he explained, juveniles are charged in criminal cases (technically they are petitioned into probate court.) Instead of emphasis on quick disposition of the case, however, the emphasis is on studying the youth's needs to determine the best plan for helping him.

That is the current stage in the first case involving the youngster, he indicated.

In the Jan. 5 incident, the boy took his grandfather's pickup and drove it to Bay City.

During the chase, a Hampton township and a Bay City police car collided with each other. There was also damage to two parked cars, a pickup and a van.

The chase ended when the boy's pickup struck a parked car in downtown Bay City. The boy got out and started running but was caught by a Hampton township officer.

Declines at O-G

Flu outbreak hits Deford Elementary

The outbreak of the flu is picking its targets and Monday descended on Deford Elementary School, where more than one-third of the students were absent.

Classes resumed Tuesday in the Owen-Gage schools, after a 3-day previously unscheduled vacation because of the flu. Attendance was closer, but still not quite, to normal.

Hills and Dales General Hospital, as of Saturday, started restricting visitors to one per patient and it must always be the same visitor, in an effort to reduce chances for further spreading of the illness.

As of Saturday, according

to Janet Sticken, RN, infection control nurse, of 33 patients housed in the unit where those with contagious illnesses stay, 23 had influenza type symptoms.

The symptoms include a high fever and respiratory distress.

Wednesday morning, the number of flu patients was about the same and visitor restrictions for all patients remained in effect.

Some adults are hospitalized for influenza, but most are preschool children or ones in the lower grades, she said.

Some patients have developed pneumonia.

The average stay has been

2-3 days.

Assuming initial symptoms aren't severe, the first stage remedy, she said, are the old standbys of plenty of rest, drinking lots of liquids, and taking aspirin. If the patient doesn't respond, he or she should go to the doctor.

"We've seen it migrate," said Tuscola County Health Department public health nurse Joyce Higgins. "Once it hits an area, it seems to peak within a few days."

The first school district hit hard by the flu was Akron-Fairgrove, which suspended classes for three days two weeks ago.

The flu hit on a Monday, Mrs. Higgins said, and the health department planned to take throat cultures of patients in that area on Thursday. By then, however, the number of cases had dropped significantly.

Classes were suspended as of 1 p.m. Tuesday of last week in the Owen-Gage schools, after 25.6 percent of the total enrollment didn't come to school that morning. There were 73 students absent from the high school and 45 from the elementary school.

Monday was a scheduled day off for mid-winter break. When classes resumed Tuesday, there were 39 high school students absent, a significant reduction, and 33 absent at Gagetown Elementary.

In the Cass City schools, according to school nurse Janet Bixler, absentee rates haven't been much above normal, except at Deford Elementary. For instance, at the high school Monday,

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"It stinks!" "It's needed"

Reactions vary to draft revival

By Mike Eliasohn

Resume the draft, or at least resume registration for the draft?

Cass City High School students questioned by the "Chronicle" had varying reactions to President Carter's recent proposals, ranging from, "I think it stinks," that from a girl, to, "They ought to bring the draft back," from a boy.

What the president has proposed is that 19 and 20-year-old women will begin registering this summer, via forms they will fill out at post offices and mail - Starting Jan. 1 of next year, 18-year-olds will also

have to register.

Those who register will receive a letter from Selective Service asking them to notify the agency of any change in address.

As of now, there are no plans for draft cards, classifications or medical examinations, nor any procedure outlined for calling persons into the service should the draft be resumed.

All Carter has to do to resume registration of men is to sign an executive order, provided Congress appropriates \$20.5 million to enable Selective Service to implement the plan.

It will take passage of a separate act by Congress to

require registering of women and present betting is that it won't approve. Even if it does give its okay, the president said he has no plans to abolish the present prohibition against women serving in combat units.

IT WAS THE FEMALE students who were more opposed to resumption of the draft or registration, but not necessarily for the reason one might think.

"I think it stinks," said Gail Gutierrez, "because the government owns our men. It will ruin a lot of lives. People come back half-crazy from wars."

"Why should we have to fight for their (govern-

ment's) reasons," the 17-year-old senior said, in explaining her reasons for opposing the draft for men and women.

Luellen Lowe, 17, also a senior, has another reason for opposing the draft. She is engaged to be married in October, and is afraid her fiancé might some day be called into the service.

"If women are for the Equal Rights Amendment, let them go," she added.

Also expressing that viewpoint was senior Laurie Enos, 17, "If girls are for equal rights, they are the ones who should go."

She is not opposed to resumption of registration,

however. "If things keep going the way they are, we would probably need it (the draft)."

I think girls are more afraid for their boyfriends than for themselves," was Miss Gutierrez' summation of female attitude.

DON VINING MAY OR may not be typical of the boys, but he isn't too worried.

"I don't think there will be a draft," the 16-year-old sophomore said. "Carter is saying it to scare other countries so they'll back off."

Rob Lawrence, another 16-year-old 10th grader, is willing to accept the draft.

"If it comes to the point where they would need us, I think it's okay." He has been considering joining the military after high school.

Wayne Schram, 15, goes beyond supporting registration. "They ought to bring the draft back," the sophomore said, explaining that with the volunteer system, the military hasn't been able to recruit enough persons to fill their needs. The draft might not be necessary for him, however, as he is thinking of some day joining the Air Force.

Two boys sitting with him at lunch, who didn't want their names used, felt in-

stead of resuming the draft, the military should create more incentives to get enough persons to volunteer.

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T like the idea of a draft, there are options.

"I don't think there should be a draft," said Stan Wilson, 16. "They're just wasting their money on the armed forces. They ought to try to figure out their problems with volunteers."

Will he register for the draft if he has to? He probably will.

But what if the government starts drafting the registrants? "I'd go to Canada."

Traci Brady doesn't like the idea of drafting women, but would accept it. "If it was like for a nurse or something."

She doesn't trust government promises that women won't have to go into combat, however, mentioning a recent newspaper photograph she saw of a female GI carrying a machine gun.

If the government ever decides to send women into combat, the 17-year-old junior pointed out, women who don't want to go won't have to go to Canada. Unlike males, they have another alternative. They can get pregnant.



GAIL GUTIERREZ



LUELLEN LOWE



DON VINING



ROB LAWRENCE



STAN WILSON



TRACI BRADY

WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY
SALE
Honest
Values
All Over
Cass City
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
