

NATURE'S DECORATION -- The freezing rain Friday added this interesting decoration to the outside stairway along the Leach Street side of the Kritzman's Clothing Store.

Building authority may clear way for extension building

A new and larger office for the Tuscola County Cooperative Extension Service may become reality.

The county Board of Commissioners Tuesday discussed the possibility of organizing a county building authority, which would have authority to issue bonds to finance construction.

Proposed is building of a three-story structure (one story being the basement) as an addition to the rear of the courthouse annex. Each floor would have 3,600 square feet.

Cost of the building has been estimated at \$600,000, that being a very rough estimate from architects. The building has not yet been designed.

The board met with Detroit bonding attorney John

Axe, county Prosecutor Artis Noel and Building Codes Administrator Paul Lefler to discuss the building authority proposal.

Axe told commissioners the Headlee amendment would not apply to the building authority's power to issue bonds, that is, no public vote of approval would be required.

The authority would issue bonds to pay the construction cost, with the building, when completed, being leased to the county. The lease payments would be used to pay off the bonds.

If that approach is used, the county board will have to budget the annual payments in advance for the length of the bond issue, perhaps 10-15 years.

The interest rate, the board was told, will be higher than if county voters approved a millage to pay off the bonds.

At the end of the discussion, Axe was directed to prepare a payment schedule for issuance of \$700,000 in bonds. Of that, \$600,000 would be for the extension office and \$100,000 for materials, etc. for construction of the proposed PATCH House, run by the county mental health department for youngsters with emotional problems.

That proposal calls for the county to buy the materials, with the home to be constructed by building trades students.

In other action, the board approved entering into an agreement with Manatron

Corp. of Kalamazoo for providing property tax computer services for spreading of taxes and preparing tax bills.

The county will pay half the basic cost, with the townships having already agreed through the county Townships Association to pay the other 50 percent.

Any special services desired by participating units will have to be paid entirely by the unit.

After the first year start-up cost, the annual cost should be about \$7-8,000 a year, according to Commissioner Royce Russell, chairman of the board's equalization committee.

The move to the computer service was necessary, he explained, because changes

in the state law for 1981 will make the taxing procedure too complicated to handle with the county's present equipment.

The computer service will save time for township supervisors and treasurers and might reduce the need for extra help in the county treasurer's office in the fall.

Circuit Judge Norman A. Baguley told commissioners he didn't feel the supplement paid by the county to court reporters was adequate. It presently is \$1,000 each, in addition to their state-mandated salaries of \$12,000 annually.

Iris Tuckey of Cass City was appointed to the county Community Mental Health Services Board, replacing the late Treva Kirk.

Maharg: winter olympics spectacular sports event

The opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics were "probably the most spectacular sporting event I've ever seen," according to John Maharg.

The Cass Cityan has a different perspective of the Olympics than did most Americans. He was there.

He and brother Jeff, a senior at the University of Michigan, were at Lake Placid from Tuesday, Feb. 12, the day before the official start, through Friday of that week.

Maharg, owner of Rolling Hills Golf Course, decided after watching the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal that he wanted to go to the Lake Placid Winter Games. He ordered his tickets in April of last year.

Jeff, however, went along at the last minute and didn't have any tickets. At first

they weren't worried. "I've been to a lot of sporting events that were supposedly sold out, but you could get tickets," John explained.

But as the event got closer, they started to get worried. It wasn't necessary.

They arrived in Saranac Lake, the closest they could get to Lake Placid, about 4 p.m. Tuesday and soon discovered the Saranac Lake Chamber of Commerce had lots of tickets to sell -- at \$10 more than the printed price, despite it being printed on the ticket they were not to be sold for more than the face value.

Jeff bought a ticket for only one event Wednesday, because he and his brother had heard lots of tickets were available in Lake Placid. They were.

It was necessary to have a ticket to an event to get on the bus to Lake Placid, hence Jeff's purchase. Driving of private vehicles into the community was prohibited.

Saranac Lake was about 10-11 miles from Lake Placid, a half-hour trip because of the hills and winding roads.

THE FIRST EVENT THE Mahargs saw was the opening ceremonies.

The colorful outfits worn by the participating athletes, the skaters and sky divers that were part of the program, something going every minute -- it all added up to, as mentioned, probably the "most spectacular" sporting event Maharg has ever seen. "It was really beautiful."

Despite the preponderance of American spectators, the biggest ovation for any group of entering athletes was for the Canadians, Maharg said, because of that nation's help in getting six American diplomats out of Iran. "Thank you, Canada," signs were numerous.

There was no booing for the Russians. "I think most people were there for the competition. They didn't care about the politics," he explained.

Tickets for the Olympic events were expensive, for instance, \$28 for speed-skating and \$56 for figure skating.

THE OPENING CEREMONIES were the most spectacular, but the "best event we saw" was the 7-3 victory Thursday night by the U.S. hockey team over Czechoslovakia, the team's first big win in the path to the gold medal.

"The whole crowd was going 'USA, USA' the whole

night," Maharg said.

Neither he nor his brother had tickets in advance for the game, which officially sold for \$28. They found scalpers trying to unload them for \$35 each and \$75, but they got theirs for \$20. They came across eight fraternity brothers who had two extra tickets, purchased by two frat members unable to attend.

IN ADDITION TO THE hockey game, they also saw the men's downhill skiing event, bobsled and luge and speedskating, the latter when Eric Heiden won his first gold medal.

In the downhill, bobsled and luge, they couldn't see much because the participants went by so fast -- a "woosh" and they were past. The curves and banks along the bobsled and luge courses also made viewing difficult.

The downhill required a half-hour bus ride from Lake Placid (after the bus ride from Saranac Lake), and then a trek of at least a mile through five inches of snow up the steep slope to a good viewing point.

White Face Mountain, where the event was held, was "one of the prettiest sites you've ever seen."

AS FOR THE CONTROVERSIAL bus system, the Mahargs had no complaints. John thinks the troubles may have been with the buses to other communities where spectators were staying, not to Saranac Lake.

He also speculates that those who had trouble getting to the events didn't leave early enough and that there may have been more trouble during the first week end, when there were more spectators there and after he and his brother had left.

"When you think of 40,000 people and 250 buses in a town about the size of Cass City, I think they did a pretty good job," he commented.

Although he had tickets for events on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16 and 17, by the end of the day Friday, they were pretty tired, plus Jeff needed to get back to classes, so they departed.

They spent that night with the sister of John's wife, Kalli, who lives in Rochester, N.Y. (with whom they also stayed going to Lake Placid) and returned to Cass City Saturday.

JOHN FIGURES THE trip cost him about \$400, including \$100 for gas, and \$200 for Jeff.

Compared to what some spectators paid, they got by cheap. Their big saving came in lodging, as they slept in John's van, the only charge being a \$5 per day parking permit.

They also tried to save by not eating in Lake Placid, where prices were exorbitant. They were much less in Saranac Lake. Coffee, for instance, was 40 cents a cup there, versus \$1 in Lake

Placid.

Once home, John was able to see the rest of the Olympics on television. Although he feels ABC did a good job he said it was impossible to broadcast the beauty and the excitement, that wasn't as good as being there.

Winners of \$400 in prizes told

Prize winners in the Washington's Birthday sale sponsored by the Cass City Recreation Committee were announced this week.

Top prize of \$100 in travel went to Helen Root of Cass City. Two \$50 trade awards were won by Lorraine W. Nowinski of Uby and Maril Hobart of Cass City.

\$25 awards went to Fern Dubs, Bay Port; Betty Ellington, Gageton; Vicky Meininger, Owendale, and Eleanor Lounsbury, Cass City.

\$10 awards were won by Phil Copeland, Cass City; Mary Lou Thickett, Gageton; Terri Hulbert, Davison; Linda Reed, Cass City; Theresa Micklash, Cass City; Sally Morrish, Cass City; Mrs. Lawrence Buehly, Cass City; Martha D. Blois, Kingston; Norma Navarro, Snover, and Dorothy Taylor, Cass City.

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(In 3-county area)	
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1-year --- \$ 7.00	1-year --- \$ 8.00
2-years --- 13.00	2-years --- 15.00

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

Governor's budget criticized

Governor William G. Milliken's proposed executive budget for fiscal year 1980-81 has been the subject of much legislative criticism with House Speaker Bobby Crim (D-Davison) going as far as calling it unrealistic and unbalanced.

Crim charged the budget, totaling \$4.9 billion in state general fund money and \$10.8 billion overall, short changes needed state programs by nearly \$159 million.

Much of Crim's criticism paralleled earlier charges leveled by the Senate Fiscal Agency, the financial research arm of the Democratically-controlled Senate.

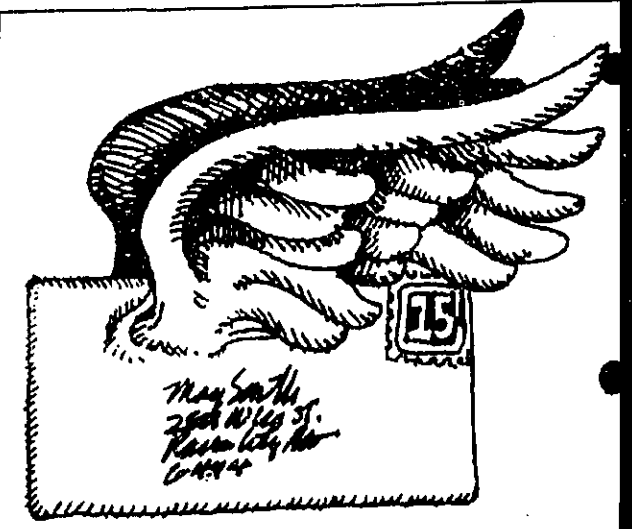
Crim further said the proposed budget does not include potential costs for state programs and activities such as toxic waste cleanup, which will require between \$110-192 million.

MEANWHILE, SENATOR Jerome Hart (D-Saginaw), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said legislative fiscal agencies will be meeting with officials of the Department of Management and Budget and several departments on the funding gap identified by the agencies.

Such a review has never been done before, Hart said, and should help officials get a better idea of exactly what figures can be used for the different departments.

Hart added he hoped the departments and legislators can reach agreement on the budget.

Crim listed 16 areas where the proposed budget was underfunded.



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