

Springport, Mich.
Springport, MI 49781

'Legislature oks county prison camp funding

Funding for a state Department of Corrections work camp near Caro has been approved by the legislature and now awaits Governor Milliken's signature.

According to Luella Burke of the corrections department, the legislature has authorized \$2.1 million for the facility, of which it has appropriated \$1.9 million for the current fiscal year.

The remaining \$200,000 will have to be appropriated later, for the 1980-81 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1.

The appropriation was contained in the capital outlay bill, which includes funding for various state projects. It was passed earlier this year, and the governor reportedly only has about a week left to decide whether to sign or veto it.

On the assumption he will approve it, Ms. Burke said, the facilities bureau of the Department of Management and Budget has begun advertising for bids from architects.

The building to be used for the work camp is on the Caro Regional Center grounds. A former residential facility, it hasn't been used in more than 10 years. An architect

is needed to plan needed repair and remodeling of the building to serve its new purpose.

The timetable, according to Ms. Burke -- provided the governor approves the funding -- calls for architect's bids to be in by the end of March and naming of the successful bidder in May.

The architect's work should be done in time to allow work at the site to begin in late summer or early fall.

The camp should be ready for occupancy by the 80-100 inmates by fall, 1981.

Those assigned there will be within four years of their parole dates and be classified as "low risk" or "next to low risk."

About half of them will be working at Department of Natural Resources facilities, mainly state parks, within a 45 mile radius.

Of the remainder, some will work at the camp, some might attend classes full-time (the staff will include teachers) and some might have civilian jobs, depending on the state of the economy in the area.

The camp will be unfenced.



INTERIOR DECORATING - The Cass City Intermediate School gym was decorated last week by eighth grade art students in a class taught by Linda Edwards. Among those who painted the wrestler in the balcony were, from left, Gerald Kocan, Paula Rockwell and Scott Hurford. Painted downstairs were the words "Cass City Intermediate" and a picture of a Red Hawk.

No contest Cass City; village elections Monday

With the exception of Uby, village elections Monday are lacking in excitement.

None of the candidates in Cass City and Gagetown face opposition and in Kingston and Owendale, the only question to be decided is one seat on the village council.

Polls are open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. The voting place in all communities is the village hall, except in Cass City, where it is the Elkland township fire hall.

CASS CITY -- Everyone running is a Republican.

Lambert Althaver, village president since 1965, is seeking re-election.

Joyce LaRoche is running for clerk and treasurer. She has been treasurer two years and was appointed acting clerk by the council when Lynda McIntosh resigned as clerk in December.

Mrs. McIntosh, now operating a health salon, is running for the seat on the village council vacated by Nat Tuttle, who decided not to seek re-election.

Seeking re-election to the Village council are Richard Hampshire and James Ware.

Seeking a new term as assessor is Dan Erla.

Trustee positions are for four years. The other terms

are for two years.

UBLY -- Two party government is alive and well in Uby, where incumbent village President Earl Longuski, a Republican, is being challenged by Democrat Jerry Holmes.

The three incumbents on the village council are all seeking re-election. They are Lana Gordon, a Democrat, and William Roberts and William Murdock, both Republicans. Also running for the three spots open are Democrats P. Les Teel and Kenneth Sweeney and Republican Donald A. Schneider.

Running unopposed are incumbents Christopher Tyll (D) for clerk, Florence Schrader (R) for treasurer and Henry S. Krueger (R) for assessor.

Trustee terms are for four years; the others for two years.

Running for the two six-year terms on the library board, non-partisan positions, are Lila Misco and Madeline Zulauf.

GAGETOWN -- The only positions on the ballot are for three four-year terms on the village council. The three incumbents, Leroy Stapleton, David Abbe and Richard Carroll all are seeking re-election. All are Republicans.

OWENDALE -- The only contest is for village trustee, where Carol Howard, running as an independent, is challenging the three incumbents, Robert Ricker, Martin Blondell and Walt Howard.

Except for Ms. Howard, everyone running is a Republican.

Seeking re-election as village president is Donald Dorsch, and treasurer, Lois Blondell. Running for clerk is Marie Susalla, winner in the Republican primary over incumbent Bill Putnam, and for assessor, Forrest Agar, also new.

All terms are for two years.

KINGSTON -- The only thing to be decided is the write-in candidate who will be elected to the village council.

Only two persons are listed on the ballot for the three seats open, Patricia Soper (Democrat) and Don Barden (Republican). Both are incumbents.

The others running, all Republican incumbents, are: President, Arlo Ragles; treasurer and assessor, Mildred Parrott, and clerk, Rev. Kenneth Boileau.

All terms are for two years.

Police seeking obscene caller

"Hang up" is the advice being offered by Cass City Police Chief Gene Wilson to women who have received telephone calls from a sophisticated obscene caller.

He is requesting that all women who have received a call from the man or receive one in the future notify him.

Wilson was first told of such a call early last week and since then has learned of four more women who received the calls. One was called six months ago.

All have received only one call.

The caller has used the same method of operation in each. The calls have all been in the morning and the man says he is a student at Delta College, who is taking a

survey for its psychology department. No such survey is being made.

The man starts questioning the women about their sex lives. Answering all of his questions takes about 15 minutes.

According to the chief, the women who received the calls said the man sounds like he is in his mid-20s, has a nice sounding voice, and by the way he talks, is educated. He uses the proper clinical terms, as opposed to obscene ones.

The chief is working with General Telephone in an attempt to track down the caller. They are sure the calls are being made locally.

Women who have had contact with the obscene caller can contact Wilson at the village hall, 872-2911.

Microfilm marvel means 200,000 books for Cass City library users

The Rawson Memorial Library has expanded its offerings from 13,779 books to 200,000, without adding an inch of shelf space.

It's all because of something called Com Cat, which arrived at the library last week.

Com Cat stands for Computer-Output-Microfilm Catalog. In simple terms, what it is is a microfilm reader. On the microfilm contained inside the machine will eventually be listed every book belonging to all 49 libraries and branches in the nine counties that belong to the White Pine Library Cooperative.

That includes the Rawson library, as well as the one in Kingston and others in Tuscola and western Huron county.

As of last week, all libraries in the system now have

the Com Cat microfilm readers.

Once the project is complete, there will be more than 300,000 book titles listed, according to White Pine Director Sue Hill. The project is about two-thirds complete, which means at least 200,000 titles listed.

HOW DOES THE SYSTEM work?

If a library patron wants to borrow a book that his local library doesn't have, he goes to the Com Cat. If he finds the book listed there, he writes the basic information on a form and gives it to his librarian.

White Pine contacts each of its member libraries each day via its toll-free telephone line to find out which books have been requested.

If a Cass City patron wants a copy of Book X, which only the library in

Oscoda has, that library is notified. The Oscoda library then sends the book via United Parcel Service to Rawson library.

How long will it take to get a book?

If a book is ordered early enough in the day, according to Rawson head librarian Barb Hutchinson, it possibly might be delivered the next, though most times that won't happen.

Depending on whether the book desired is on the shelf or on loan at the library which owns it, more likely delivery time will be 3-7 days.

THE COM CAT SYSTEM is also an aid to persons who aren't sure what book they want.

A student writing a term paper on, for instance, Bolivia, can look at the microfilm and easily ascertain which books are available that tell about the South

American country.

It was possible before the new system to order books from other libraries, but there weren't as many titles available and the system was more complex.

Provided the patron knew what book he wanted or it was listed in the standard reference used by all libraries of books in print, it could be ordered from White Pine's own library or through it, from the Saginaw or Bay City libraries, both members of the cooperative.

The last resort was the state library in Lansing.

ACCORDING TO WHITE

Pine Director Hill, planning for the project began in 1976 with actual work beginning the following year.

About \$100,000 has been spent directly so far, with \$24,000 of that coming from the Kellogg Foundation, the rest from the federal government.

The biggest single expenditure out of those funds was \$45,300 for purchase of 60 microfilm readers at \$755 each.

In addition to the \$100,000 mentioned, about another \$100,000 was spent in labor costs, either in pay to regular White Pine staff who devoted time to the project or in federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act funds for added personnel.

The CETA help had the laborious task of recording information from the library cards for all of the books in all 49 libraries so that it could ultimately be entered into a computer and onto the microfilm tapes.

That part of the project is complete. It won't all be done until 1983, however, with Ms. Hill estimating it will cost about \$20,000 a year in computer time and \$15,000

per year in staff time.

When done, more than 300,000 books will be listed. The listing is being updated every six months.

Local libraries pay the postage whenever they send out books in the Com Cat program. They also contribute towards the operation of the White Pine Cooperative. Rawson Memorial will pay \$1,800 this year.

Individual libraries will continue to do their own book purchasing. Ms. Hill has hopes they will be able to someday coordinate their purchases of books of limited interest, so as to be able to expand offerings to all 49 libraries, yet avoid duplication.

The idea is that each library would specialize in certain subjects, for instance, railroads, and then do most of the purchasing of books concerning that topic.

Road worker negotiations proceed slowly

Negotiations between the Tuscola County Road Commission and its hourly employees are proceeding at a snail's pace, at best.

The 44 laborers, equipment operators and mechanics, represented by Local

21-M of the Service Employees International Union, requested the presence of a state mediator in late January to help resolve what it called an "impasse."

Since then, according to Arthur (Jim) Saeger, president of the local unit, there has been only one negotiating session. The next one is scheduled March 10 at the Road Commission office, south of Caro.

The reason for only one session so far, he explained, is the difficulty in getting schedules to coincide, particularly those of the state mediator and the attorney doing the negotiating for the Road Commission.

He indicated the two sides are "inching" toward a settlement but still haven't gotten very far.

Saeger declined to go into detail as to what issues are unresolved. At the time of the union's request for a mediator, it stated the outstanding issues included a comparable wage to surrounding counties, overtime compensation, retirement, cost of living, life and sickness-accident insurance policies and binding arbitration.

The contract under which the employees were working expired Dec. 31. They have continued working since then and Saeger indicated they will continue to do so.

Sanilac road paving needs county funds

Whether 27 miles of roads in Sanilac county get paved is up to the county Board of Commissioners.

That's nothing new -- and it is new.

The townships involved now say they won't pay more than \$4,000 of the estimated \$30,000 per mile cost and the county Road Commission claims it doesn't have any money for the purpose of paving roads.

Among the top priorities, likely to be paved this year if funding becomes available, are paving of five miles of Germania Road in Greenleaf township between Bay City-Forestville and Robinson Roads; one mile of Germania in Evergreen township between Decker-ville and Downingtown Roads, and three miles in Lamotte township between Downingtown and Snover Roads.

Eleven townships have signed contracts with the Road Commission for paving

a total of 27 miles of roads, for which they pledged to pay \$4,000 per mile. The Road Commission was to pay the rest, but back in 1972, when the first contracts were signed, the total cost was about \$12,000 per mile.

The road agency never came up with its share of the money and now the cost is about \$30,000 a mile.

Discussion began a few months ago trying to finally get the roads paved.

The first move was up to the townships, which were asked to consider whether they might contribute more than the \$4,000 per mile they had contracted for.

At a meeting Feb. 20 of townships representatives and the county board, Prosecuting Attorney J. Anthony Sykora said the contracts between the townships and Road Commission were legally binding.

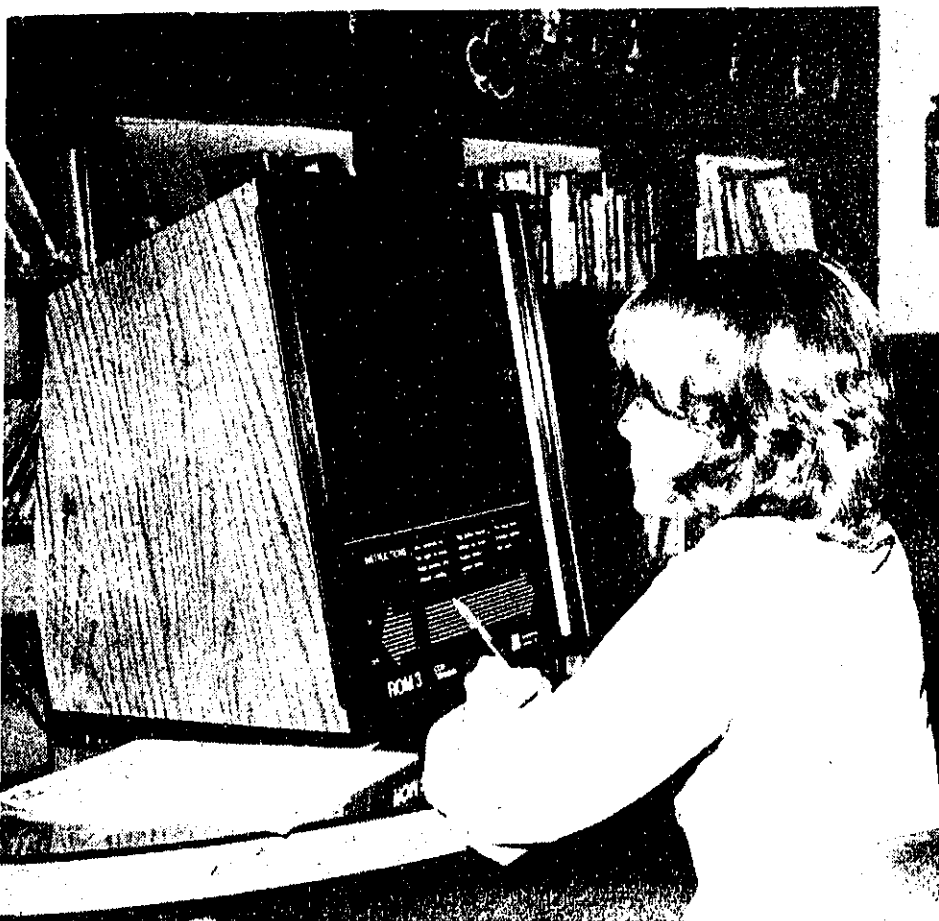
Representatives of eight

of the 11 townships met again last Wednesday. According to Sanilac Township Supervisor Mary Schlichting, chairman of the county Townships Association, the decision was made then that the townships won't contribute more than \$4,000, that the contracts "being signed in good faith, were binding on the Road Commission."

The agency, however, doesn't have any money to pay part of the cost of paving, according to its engineer-manager, Jack Kineman. The funds it does receive have to be spent on maintaining present roads.

That throws the issue back to the county board, which next meets March 12. At that session, Commissioner Donald Decker of Deckerville told the Chronicle, he will introduce a motion for the county to contribute part of

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BOOK LOOK -- Searching for a book on the Com Cat microfilm reader is Dawn Mulrath, 9. Listings projected onto the screen do not show up in the photograph. There are separate listings for adult and children's topics, by author and title and by subject.