

\$3,101 for hypnotist

Forced resignations spur teacher protest

Three non-tenure teachers, at least two of whom resigned by request, sparked a mild protest by Dale McIntosh, president of the Cass City Teachers Association, Monday night.

McIntosh voiced the protest at the regular meeting of the board after teachers had submitted letters of resignation.

McIntosh said that he felt that new teachers should be given more help to try and make it after spending four years in college. They should be treated as professionals, he maintains.

Supt. Don Crouse said that he felt his and the board's responsibility was to provide the best teachers possible for the students.

My instruction to the principals, he says, is that if there is any doubt, discharge.

McIntosh said that the evaluation procedures this year were better than last year but suggested that final evaluations be made before February.

The meeting Monday was a lengthy one. One reason was that two film strips were presented.

The first was Janet Bixler, school nurse, who showed a film explaining Scoliosis (curvature of the spine) and how to detect it.

In a recent screening at Evergreen and DeFord schools, 11 percent showed symptoms of the disease.

On an average about 2 percent of these are apt to need special treatment by specialists.

Early detection can often avoid surgery, according to authorities. Campbell school is next on the list for the screening tests, Ms. Bixler said.

Wayne Dillon, vocational guidance instructor, briefed the board and visitors on the programs available at the new Tuscola Area Skill Center that is slated to open this fall.

It is likely that the new program will take about 50 students a day from the classrooms at Cass City for the half-day sessions at the center.

Dillon also presented the results of a survey of 1979 graduates with 152 of 166 grads responding. It indicated, Dillon said:

- 50 percent furthering education, not necessarily college.
- 28 percent with full time jobs.
- 4 percent in military service.
- 15 percent looking for jobs.

In addition, the school asked for comments and of

these he said that 64 were positive toward the education received and 31 were negative.

CONFIRMED

A report of Cass City's ranking with other area schools in the Michigan Educational Assessment tests, confirmed the trend indicated when the test scores were revealed.

In the fourth grade Cass City students ranked first among nine area schools. In grade seven the same students ranked eighth (next to last). By grade 10 they bounced back to rank sixth. In grade seven the students were below the state average. In grades four and 10 they were above the state average.

COMMUNITY ED.

Several community education problems were aired. The most controversial was the payment of \$3,101.20 to the presenter of a hypnosis program and whether the same offer should be repeated for another program.

The teacher was paid on a contract okayed by Mrs. Kathleen O'Donnell on a commission basis, 80 percent to him, 20 percent to the school. While the teacher made money, so did the school. The community education department netted \$775.

The board split on whether to hire the teacher back at the same rate or a lower rate if it could be worked out. Mrs. O'Donnell has permission to sign a new contract at the 80-20 rate but was asked to make a better deal if at all possible.

Voting for this arrangement were President Geraldine Prieskorn, Dr. Ed Scollon, J.D. Tuckey, Thresa Burnette and Art Severance. Against it were Dr. E. Paul Lockwood and Dean Hoag.

It was easier to settle the commencement program for the high school completion students. The board decided that the program would be held Thursday, June 5, the last day of school and the ceremony would be similar to the one held last year.

The board also authorized mileage for three teachers for adult education programs.

OTHER BUSINESS

The board approved a tentative plan for a 105-unit trailer park in Novesta township, saying that such a development would not over-tax school facilities.

An in-service day is scheduled March 31. There will be no school that Monday. Teachers will meet with Dee Shaw, consultant for Professional Development with the Michigan Department of Public Instruction. Theme for the day is "Ideas for Instructional Improvement."

The resignations of Susan Shaw, intermediate counselor; David Fomesbeck, intermediate physical education and typing, and Paul Kemppainen, high school social studies and math, were accepted.



CUTTING IN -- After three hours at the operating table, cutting his birthday cake was a cinch for Dr. Harold T. Donahue. The cake was part of the surprise birthday party given for him last Wednesday by Hills and Dales General Hospital employees on his 75th birthday.

Value added 5th birthday

Dr. Harold T. Donahue was the surprised guest of honor last Wednesday afternoon as Hills and Dales General Hospital employees held a party to honor him on his 75th birthday.

The party followed three hours of surgery the doctor performed in the hospital operating room.

Hospital Administrator Ken Jensen was present at the end of surgery to make sure Donahue didn't leave. He told the doctor someone wanted to see him.

According to Donahue, he started to get suspicious coming down the hallway leading to the basement meeting room, but didn't really realize what was in store for him until he opened the door.

Inside were as many employees as could leave their stations for a few minutes, a cake decorated especially for the occasion and punch.

A purposely ragtag band provided the music for a round of "Happy Birthday."

Next year will mark another milestone for Donahue, 50 years in the medical profession.

He grew up in the Colling area and graduated from Caro High School in 1923.

He earned his bachelor of art's degree from the University of Michigan in 1928 and his M.D. degree there in 1931.

While at U-M, he was on the wrestling team and was Big 10 champion in his weight class in 1926 and '27.

In 1928, he came in third in his class in the tryouts for the U.S. Olympics team. Only the top two wrestlers made the team.

He remembers the date he came to Cass City, July 10, 1933. He had been working at Detroit Children's Hospital and came here because Dr. I.D. McCoy was ill and needed help.

He set up his office in McCoy's Pleasant Home Hospital and stayed until he moved to his new clinic across from Hills and Dales in February, 1961. The hospital was then on page 3.

All incumbents returned to office in area voting

There were no surprises in village area elections Monday as all incumbents running were returned to office. In most instances, they had no opposition.

CASS CITY -- Only 6.6 percent of the registered voters, 65 of 1,045, bothered to vote.

Everyone on the ballot, all Republicans, ran without opposition. Lambert Althaver, village president, received 62 votes; Joyce LaRoche, 65 each for clerk and treasurer; Dan Erla, assessor, 64, and for village council, Richard Hampshire, 64, James Ware, 63, and Lynda McIntosh, 59. Mrs. McIntosh, the former village clerk, will be new on the council.

LIBY -- Despite competition in most races, all the incumbents were returned to office. Village President Earl Longuski, Republican, received 144 votes, to 80 for

Democratic challenger Jerry Holmes.

Re-elected to the council were William Roberts (R), 139 votes; Lana Gordon (D), 128, and William Murdock (R), 121. Unsuccessful challengers were Kenneth Sweeney (D), 87, P. Les Teel (D), 86, and Donald Schneider (R), 51.

Others running had no opposition: Clerk, Christopher Tyll (D), 184; treasurer, Florence Schrader (R), 195; assessor, Henry S. Krug (R), 181, and library board (non-partisan), Lila Misico, 173, and Madeline Zulauf, 197.

There were 227 persons voting out of the 297 registered, 57.1 percent.

KINGSTON -- There were three spots open on the village council and two persons on the ballot, incumbents Patricia Soper (D), 32 votes, and Don Barden (R), 37. Elected to the vacant seat with 16 write-in votes

was Rev. Gilson Miller.

Republican incumbents re-elected without opposition were: village president, Arlo Ruggles, 36; clerk, Rev. Kenneth Boileau, 37, and treasurer and assessor, Mildred Parrott, 37 and 31 votes respectively.

Forty-two votes were cast out of about 125 registered.

OWENDALE -- Elected were: President, Donald Dorsch, 47 votes; clerk, Marie Susalla, 51; treasurer, Lois Blondell, 52; assessor, Forest Agar, 56, and village council, Robert Rickert, 50, Martin Blondell, 52, and Walt Howard, 49.

Jerry Strrett received six write-in votes for council.

There were 74 votes cast,

with 11 spoiled ballots, out of about 120 registered.

All of those elected were Republican and all were incumbents, except for Mrs. Susalla and Agar.

GAGETOWN -- The only positions on the ballot were for the village council and only the three incumbents were running. David Abbe (D) received 45 votes; Richard Carroll (D), 44, and Leroy Stapleton (R), 36.

Donna Salcido received seven sticker votes for council and Dick Downing, one write-in.

It was incorrectly reported last week Abbe and Carroll were Republican.

Seventy-four persons voted, out of about 120 registered.

New math classes at Owen-Gage?

High school mathematics requirements at Owendale-Gagetown will come under review as a result of math skill scores obtained by students taking the state educational assessment test.

In math skills, only 49.3 percent of the 10th graders obtained the desired goal in algebra, compared to a statewide ranking of 75.7 percent.

The best they did in any of the math skill areas was in non-geometric measurement, 80.3 percent, versus the state average of 83.3. In decimals, students obtained a 46.8 percent ranking, but the state average also wasn't very good for the 10th grade, 59.2 percent.

High school counselor Bonnie Kleinau told school board members Monday the comparatively low math ratings are probably because the only high school math requirement is basic math, which may be taken any year. That means that some 10th graders taking the test haven't had any math since the eighth grade.

Owen-Gage does offer higher math courses on an elective basis.

Supt. Ronald Erickson asked whether the district needs a two-year math requirement in high school and she suggested the idea should be explored.

The tests are administered statewide to 4th, 7th and 10th graders in the fall to test skills in reading and math.

The results showed Owen-Gage 4th graders 2.7 percent points behind the state average; even to three points ahead in reading, 19 points

behind to six points ahead in math for seventh graders, and 1-25 points behind in reading and math among 10th graders.

Overall, the seventh graders did best compared to the state average.

However, the class didn't do as well as they did three years earlier when they were in fourth grade.

There are several reasons why that may have happened, Mrs. Kleinau explained. Students move in and out of the district, so the seventh grade doesn't have all the same students who were in school as fourth graders.

Because of expanding non-academic interests, plus more subjects to study, students tend not to do as well in 10th grade as they did in seventh.

With a maximum of only 25 fourth graders, 33 seventh graders and 45 10th graders, a few very smart or slow students can have a dramatic effect on the class average.

Lastly, Mrs. Kleinau said, some low scores may be because the district isn't teaching some of the objectives, which isn't necessarily bad.

Erickson told the board that although it would be possible to teach students with the specific aim of improving assessment test scores, "I don't feel it would do justice to our curriculum."

Mrs. Kleinau later told the Chronicle elementary teachers might want to examine what appears to be the reason for the decline in number of fourth graders

finishing in the top reading category, but overall, thought the district was average compared to other districts.

OTHER ITEMS

The board approved paying interest for staff members who had to take out bank loans during the period of payless paydays and reimburse those who didn't borrow money but had to dip into savings for lost interest.

The board officially scheduled June 9 for the school board election. Nominating petitions are now available at the superintendent's office and must be returned by 4 p.m. April 7. The terms of Ronald Good and Don Cummins are expiring; both are seeking re-election. The terms are for four years. Last day to register to vote is May 12.

Present administrator's contracts were continued until after the board negotiates a new contract with teachers. The present contract expires at the end of this school year.

Athletic director James Barr reported the volleyball district tournament held in the Owen-Gage gym lost money, but the district will be reimbursed by the state. The basketball districts will result in a profit to Owen-Gage of about \$550 and \$700 to the state.

Tenure was granted to teachers Linda Ballagh, elementary special education; Nancy Folk, high school English; Laura Witczak, music, and Mrs. Kleinau.

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Parking plan to ease crunch

Visitors to Cass City High School could find parking easier if plans formulated by the Cass City School Board Monday night are carried through.

As suggested by J.D. Tuckey the board is attempting to ban student parking on the side of the front isle nearest the high school building and reserve it for teachers and visitors.

It is against school policy for students to park there now but there has been no penalty for doing so.

What the board wants is to have a person deputized to haul away cars at owners' expense if they park in the forbidden area, Supt. Donald Crouse was instructed to contact law officials and try to get the program started.

Another area of concern was parking in the fire lane and the crackdown will

include these cars also, it was decided.

A detailed discussion over the way salaries for administrators is arrived at was held at the request of Thresa Burnette. Mrs. Burnette wanted a month's wait after the proposals were presented by the salary committee.

A compromise decision was reached whereby board members were promised details of proposed salary adjustments would be in the members hands at least two weeks before adoption.

Another proposal by Mrs. Burnette was adopted. It was for a round table discussion with administrators for the purposes of establishing goals and for evaluation of administrators.

The meeting will be March 31 and is open to the public.



FIRE INSPECTOR -- The dog of Garry and Debbie Nanne inspects the damage after a fire in their Warner Road rented home last Thursday morning. The dog is in the area of the upstairs bedroom that sustained most of the direct damage from the smoke and flames.

Damage was estimated at least \$5,000 in a house fire that started about 8 a.m. last Thursday.

The home on Warner Road between Severance and DeLong Roads was owned by Gordon Holcomb of McArthur Road, Deford. It was rented to Gary and Debbie Nanne, who lived there with their baby.

The fire started in an upstairs bedroom, which wasn't being used.

Elkland Township Fire Chief Jack Hartwick said the apparent cause was too many electrical cords plugged into a single socket.

Mrs. Nanne said she and her husband believe it was faulty wiring.

Firemen were there about one hour. Hartwick said most of the damage was due to ruined paneling in the bedroom and smoke. Direct damage from flames was confined to the bedroom.

Holcomb had insurance on the house, but the Nannes had none on their belongings. Losses included a television, crib, bed and clothing.

The Nannes are temporarily staying with his sister and brother-in-law, Stephen and Lois Papp on Van Dyke Road.

Mrs. Nanne said they are looking for another place to live and in need of a bed, crib and some clothing for her husband. Persons who might have items to donate can contact them evenings at 872-2579.

BARN FIRE

Quick action averted what could have been a disastrous barn fire Saturday afternoon.

The fire was at the residence of Don Boyce, 4334 Krapf Road.

Elkland township firemen reported his son, Steve, went out to the barn to feed the pigs and saw smoke from burning straw by the cattle run inside the structure.

He went to the house to get his father. They then used pitchforks to pitch the straw outside. Firemen when they arrived hosed down the straw and the inside of the old wood barn where the fire had been. The only damage was some singed wood.

The Boyces told firemen they had no idea how the fire started. It was reported about 2:40 p.m.

The barn is owned by Detric Baumgartner of Drayton Plains, who rents it to Boyce.

CHIMNEY FIRE

Firemen were back on Krapf Road Sunday because of a chimney fire at the home of Clarence Churchill, 4009 Krapf. It was reported at 8:30 p.m.

The fire started when creosote inside the cement block chimney ignited. An oil furnace and woodburning stove were connected to the chimney.

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