



"If It Fitz..." Losing one's way

By Jim Fitzgerald

Things change. When I was a little boy, I was more of a diplomat than I am today. Also, it used to be that the best prize in a box of Cracker Jack was a dinky compass that wouldn't help a kid find his own front door.

Cracker Jack is such good stuff it is welded together and used in the lower case as a favorable adjective, such as: "He's a crackerjack diplomat." Of course, I know there are dictionary readers who will assure me the origin of that adjective is not really caramel-coated popcorn. I don't want to hear about it. I like Cracker Jack so much, it pleases me to use it as praise.

I also don't want to hear that Baby Ruth candy bars were named after a baby girl named Ruth instead of Babe Ruth. Inside every man there is a little boy who doesn't want to know the dumb truth about every dumb thing. You understand.

I got thinking about diplomacy, crackerjack and nutty, when our state department admitted it committed a diplomatic blunder involving Israel. By mistake, we voted in favor of a

Study club scholarship

The Gagetown Study Club is again giving a scholarship and is looking for applicants. The scholarship is open to any 1980 graduating senior attending either Owen-Gage or Cass City High School and living in the Gagetown area. Students may pick up an application at their school's counselor's office and must return it there by May 1 to be eligible.

United Nations resolution when we really didn't mean to vote at all. This terrible blunder made front pages all over the world, and Walter Cronkite required three remote assistants to help him tell about it.

As a dumb adult, I wondered what all the fuss was about. Why didn't our UN ambassador simply say: "Hey, fellows, I'm sorry but I goofed. I voted aye when I should have abstained. So I take back the aye. Now, let's go to lunch."

But then I read that the U.S. vote for the resolution cannot be taken back. Hodding Carter III said so. You know Hodding. He is the State Department spokesman who is on television so much he recently hired the William Morris talent agency to represent him when he leaves government service and becomes TV spokesman for the American Pallbearers Association.

Other important spokesmen agreed with Hodding. In Cairo, for instance, a spokesman for the Egyptian government said the American vote was "morally and politically" binding even though it was cast by mistake. And an Israel spokesman said that because the vote can't be taken back, it will be a recorded fact 20 years from now, long after everyone has forgotten that Hodding Carter said it was a mistake in 1980.

Eventually, I began to realize my error was in thinking as an adult. To understand why diplomats can't take votes back, it is necessary to think as a child. It is necessary to realize that when U.S. Ambassador Donald McHenry voted for that resolution, he did more than

simply say "aye." He also crossed his heart and spit to die.

In my boyhood neighborhood, nothing was ever taken back. Even if the biggest bully in town or, worse yet, my sister Terrible Jean, ordered you to "take that back," you never did. It was a matter of pride.

Conversely, if you really wanted to take something back, Terrible Jean would growl "you can't take that back," and you couldn't. That's how childish diplomacy works. I should have remembered, and I should have guessed that UN diplomats are childish.

You may wonder what all this deep UN stuff has to do with Cracker Jack. Well, the people who make it recently announced there are now coupon prizes in every 34 millionth box. The coupons can be redeemed for a new station wagon full of toys. That's a big change from the lousy compass I got when I was childish enough to understand UN-type diplomacy and couldn't find my own front door.

The point of the connection is that children grow up, and someone should tell the UN about it. It is ridiculous that there is an international incident, and Walter Cronkite has become red in the face, simply because there's a rule against correcting a mistaken vote. This is a dumb rule and I suggest the UN secretary-general should threaten to hold his breath until it is changed, or at least until he gets his cookies and milk.

You may say the UN is too august and important a body to deal in crackerjack logic. You should take that back. Thanks. Now, let's go to lunch.



MUSIC -- Serenading Dr. Harold T. Donahue at his 75th birthday surprise party was this intentionally less than professional looking group of musical Hills and Dales employees.

Hospital employees honor Dr. Donahue

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pital had opened a few months earlier, at which time Pleasant Home was closed.

Irene Freeman bought Pleasant Home from McCoy in 1934. She ran it until it was closed, worked for Hills and Dales for about a year and since then has been an office nurse for Donahue.

With him almost as long was Helen Kelly, who worked for Mrs. Freeman for about a year, starting in

1934, then became Donahue's office nurse. She retired two years ago.

Both women were at last Wednesday's birthday party.

It was during the Depression when Dr. Donahue started practice here and most women couldn't afford to go to the hospital to have their babies delivered.

With the doctor sometimes delivering 180 babies a year, Mrs. Freeman recalled, it became extremely time consuming to go to the patients' homes to deliver babies.



A community education teacher struck a mini gold mine at Cass City School recently when he pocketed \$3,101.20 for teaching for a day. It's almost as if he hypnotized the Community Education Department.

For that amount of money, most of us could get psyched up without attending his self-psyche program.

For that much bread, a guy could psyche up in Florida, in Arizona or Las Vegas and go first class all the way.

That's free enterprise with an accent on the "prize." As they say, it beats working for a living.

The reason that the visiting prof mined his gold here was that the day-long class was very well attended and he worked on a percentage.

I'm sure that the Cass City bonanza has been repeated elsewhere and that, judging by interest shown in other communities, the presenter knew that he had a good thing going.

You can't blame him for accepting as big a slice of the pie as he could get. It does indicate that contracts probably should be subject to review.

Although the payment is newsworthy, it's not really the subject of today's discourse.

Let's chat a bit about why the program of hypnosis was so well attended. Really, it's a sign of the times.

You have to believe that

many were attending to find an easy way out of a personal dilemma.

To stop smoking. To gain weight. To lose weight. To cure insomnia. To stop oversleeping. Whatever.

Reaching out for aid. If it helps, why not? It would be great if I could find an easy way to beat the battle of the bulge, a war I fight off and on each and every year.

There's a billion dollar industry for persons like me. Built on hope. Hope for the easy way to win the war.

Is it cynical to feel that none of them do anything but thin down the wallet?

There are plenty of you out there, I know, that will tell me that a miracle pill really helped when all else failed. I know personally a woman who quit smoking after hypnosis.

How can I say it didn't help? It's the theory here that when she quit she was ready to make the sacrifice necessary to do so. Hypnosis merely came along when she would have quit smoking anyway.

One aid to will power, proved over the years, is group therapy. Telling your troubles strengthens the resolve.

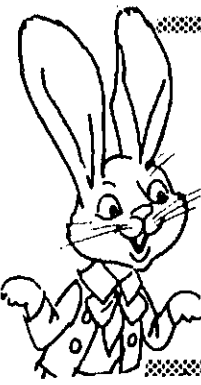
That's not to say that hypnosis never helped anyone at all. I'd never say that.

Look what it did for that teacher in one day in Cass City.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	35	-3	.02
Thursday	37	-3	.03
Friday	38	15	.09
Saturday	34	0	0
Sunday	43	6	0
Monday	53	9	trace
Tuesday	32	-2	0

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



Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Thresa Burnette's proposal that board members have a month after administration salary proposals are submitted was tabled in a compromise decision.

Salaries suggested by a committee will be presented two weeks prior to adoption to board members for consideration.

That's better than the previous policy when members of the board received the information just before the meeting. Its flaw, of course, is that the taxpayer can't consider the proposal and pass along input for consideration by their representatives before a decision is reached.

It sounds harsh when the school superintendent says, "any doubt about a teacher, dismiss," and it is.

But under the law there's no other viable option open to a school administrator. Rightfully, parents demand competent teachers and the days when the teacher could be given the benefit of the doubt are past.

It is virtually impossible to fire a teacher after tenure is reached. That comes after two or three years and it protects the teacher.

But it's a two-edged sword. It forces the board to protect itself and maybe cut a marginal teacher that might have made the grade if the school weren't forced with the prospect of living with a mistake for 20 years or so.

There's a job paying \$4 an hour that will be open soon, although possibly not in Cass City. The U.S. Census District Office at 418 Hancock in Saginaw is giving "simple tests" for census takers.

Pay will average \$4.00 an hour, and the job lasts from four to 10 weeks.

The robin is the harbinger of spring? Don't you believe it, says Mrs. Ethel Buehry. She spotted one in the lilac bush in her yard Monday and a half hour later the snowstorm hit.

Regional tournament notes: Several Cass Cityans told me that they spotted the entire Capac team eating at the Bavarian Inn about an hour before the game. They said it was a chicken dinner. I'd have to see that to believe. Maybe the coach was eating chicken and the players something light to settle their stomachs?

If Capac had as many in the gym as Cass City it would have been a full house. The Hawk fans outnumbered the Capac followers by at least five to one and maybe more.

If the Hawks win the regional tourney it will be the first for them since 1974 and that was the only one won in the 30 years before that.

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Fires

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Fire Department Lieutenant Dave McNaughton estimated damage at \$150, because the fire blew the top of the chimney apart, above the roof.

Firemen aimed a carbon dioxide extinguisher up the chimney from the basement and then let the fire burn itself out. They were there about one hour.

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