



"If It Fitz. . ." I like to forget on weekends

By Jim Fitzgerald

That old woman ruined my good time. Nothing bugs me more than to be feeling fine and then have someone remind me there are pits in my bowl of cherries. Especially on week ends.

On week ends I like to forget all the crap and nonsense that marred the five previous days. I don't mean the crisis in Iran or the dismal prospect of Carter vs. Reagan. That's big stuff and I don't spend much time fretting about big stuff because there's not much one man can do, even on week-ends, about exchanging Reagan and Carter for the hostages.

What I like to forget on week ends is little stuff like a dented fender or a luncheon date with a woman who had a fungus named after her.

I like to forget that my state is run by stupid legislators who won't allow stores to advertise the price of beer, thus preventing meaningful price wars. It is dumb that a guy on TV can tell me a certain beer is perfect for celebrating my graduation from gusto school but he's not allowed to tell me how much six bottles of the stuff cost at the grocery store.

There is an endless list of things I like to forget on week ends. Take volunteer policeman, for instance. They work for nothing, helping regular cops, because

there is more crime than the paid policemen can handle. But when a budget crunch makes it necessary to lay off regular cops, and the volunteer cops are needed more than ever, what happens? Many of the volunteer cops say they won't work until the laid-off cops are rehired. That makes as much sense as refusing to light a candle until the power is turned back on. I don't want to think about it on Sunday.

On the Lou Grant TV show, the wealthy publisher refused, as a matter of principle, to pay for a news story. But reporter Rossi wanted the story so badly he paid \$4,000 of his own money for it. This left Rossi so broke he couldn't afford to eat, which made him scowl.

The producers of the Lou Grant show obviously expect me to believe Rossi is a real, live, human newspaper reporter. It is terribly depressing to realize anyone thinks anyone else is that dumb. On week ends, I want to forget that Rossi borrowed the \$4,000 at 20 percent interest.

Last week end, things began in fine shape. My wife and I attended a musical — "Eubie" — at the Music Hall and then listened to Alex Karras' daughter sing. Mary Gutzi isn't really Karras' daughter, but she played the role on TV in "Jimmy B. and Andre" and

currently she is singing beautifully at Stephen's Blind Pig in downtown Detroit while John Williams plays splendid piano, as always. Thanks to all this marvelous diversion, my hedonistic heart was happy and I wasn't worrying about any of the things that mess up my mind on week days.

But then came Saturday afternoon and the old woman who fell in the doorway of the drugstore across the street from our home. She seemed to have fainted. I helped pick her up and seat her on a chair. The pharmacist was kind, urging the woman to rest as long as she wished. I offered her a ride home. She said it would be more trouble getting in and out of the car than it would be walking the short distance to her house. She assured me she would be all right. I left her sitting there.

And then I worried about her the rest of the week end. Did she get home OK? Does she live alone? How is she feeling today? Does anyone care what happens to her? Why the hell didn't I walk home with her?

I see old women like her everywhere, on the streets and in stores. Old men, too. They appear feeble and unsure and in need of help. I'm sure many of them need no help at all, and would scoff at the suggestion. I'm sure many of them have someone who cares what happens to them. But I'm also sure many of them don't. Those are the ones who, simply by showing up, can ruin my week end.

They can also make me realize what a jerk I am to be worrying about such unimportant things as a dumb TV show and the price of beer.

I know I should have walked home with that old woman.

TOE THE MARK
The fellow who always puts his best foot forward seldom steps on anyone else's toes.



TOPS IN SALES -- Selling the most boxes of Girl Scout cookies during the now completed sale were, from left, Wendy Romain, 311 boxes, Michele Smith, 290, and Lisa Rutkoski, 269. The 34 Girl Scouts from three troops in Cass City sold a total of 4,644 boxes, compared to 3,690 last year.

Those left out can still be counted

Feel left out, that you might not count, because you didn't get a census form in the mail?

Don't despair. You can still get one.

About 99 percent of the population received their U.S. census forms Friday. They were to be mailed back Tuesday.

There were two basic categories of persons who didn't get their census forms on time.

According to Cass City Postmaster Grant Glaspie, Census Bureau enumerators conducted surveys last summer to collect addresses, to find out who lived where.

At the end of February, the bureau sent out forms to post offices listing the addresses collected last summer. The post offices, Glas-

pie explained, then had to check the Census Bureau address lists against their own.

A card had to be filled out for each address the post office had that the Census Bureau didn't have, and then returned to the bureau.

According to Glaspie, it took the agency more time than anticipated to prepare the census forms for mailing to the addresses it missed in the summer survey, thus not all forms arrived in post boxes Friday.

Forms were dribbling in Saturday and Monday for delivery, he said.

A spokesman at the Census Bureau office in Saginaw

said Tuesday that all such forms should have been mailed by then.

The other category of persons who didn't get forms are those who were somehow missed in all the preliminary survey work.

Census forms, incidentally, had to be delivered to all places with sleeping quarters, according to Glaspie. That included motels and the hospital.

If, however, anyone still didn't get a form, according to the Census Bureau spokesman, he or she should call that office at the toll-free number -- 1-800-292-0615 -- and ask for one.

It will then take about two weeks before the forms are mailed, she said.



Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Ron Keegan, Cass City, says that the Cass City Lions Club will participate in a state-wide program sponsored by the Lions to assist in the census.

The Lions will help persons with hearing or sight impairments filling out forms. Persons needing help should call this toll-free number: 800-292-5867.

There's an alumni game slated in the new USA-High School gym Saturday evening between USA and Cass City. Coach Ron Nurnberger will be watching the results closely.

He wants to stage Thumb alumni games as part of the July 4 celebration here in hopes of making money for the varsity club.

Nurnberger says that Manistee, where he played in high school, does it every year and it's a big profit maker and that's why he thinks it will work here.

It's been at least five years since the Chronicle's subscription and newsstand price has been adjusted. There's always a bit of worry when prices are raised and it's always after other avenues are exhausted that most publishers raise prices to try to keep abreast of inflation. Readers, of course, are our life blood.

There's no need to tell any average homemaker what has happened to prices in the last five years and we won't try, except to say that we're in the same boat that you are.

When they announced that every fifth resident would receive a 20-page census report form I just knew that I would be one of the chosen few. The other day my worst fears were confirmed.

Confession: I still haven't tackled that monster even though the deadline is past.

But I'm going to, I'm going to. . .

I'm not alone in my misery. There's a vendetta against the Chronicle, that's what there is. Among 8 employees receiving forms, 5 received the 20-pager.

Arrests made

Steven R. Kenward, 19, of 2665 Crawford Road, was in the Tuscola county jail Tuesday, after Cass City police took him into custody on a warrant for failure to pay fine and costs in a court case.

Officer Duane Sprague stopped him at 12:05 a.m., after he saw Kenward walking along Leach Street and threw something in the street.

It turned out to be a cigarette butt, but the officer checked with the sheriff's department dispatcher and learned Kenward was wanted on the warrant.

He was put in the patrol car and as the officer was driving away, Kenward started kicking on the passenger side window, bending the window frame, which had to be repaired later.

As of Tuesday, police were seeking a warrant from the prosecutor's office charging Kenward with malicious destruction of a police vehicle.

He was still in jail as of Wednesday morning.

Jack Gallagher of 5294 Koepfgen Road reported to Cass City police Saturday that six windows at the home of his father, Albert Gallagher, 4317 Leach Street, had been broken with a brick.

Damage was estimated at \$75.

The loss was put at \$100 in the theft and subsequent slaughter of four Cochlin chickens March 26 from Lois Ralph Ernst, 5085 Dorance Road, Kingston.

Ernst told sheriff's deputies a neighbor saw two men get out of a car, go to his barn and take the chickens and then shoot them with a rifle.

He tracked the car they were in with two other men to a cabin at Rossman and English Roads, then called the sheriff's deputies.

Officers found remains of two of the birds at the cabin but no sign of the four men.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	43	26	0.0
Thursday	50	23	0.0
Friday	44	30	0.0
Saturday	46	22	0.0
Sunday	52	30	0.0
Monday	39	28	.09
Tuesday	55	33	.21

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)

* (Snow recorded as melted water - 10" snow = 1" water)

USE SHARP CLEAN CUTTING

TRUE TEMPER

Pruning Shears
And Prevent Serious Plant Damage

Sale Price
\$6.19
Reg. \$7.99

BIGELOW HARDWARE
6549 Main St. Cass City

SEND A BASKETFUL OF JOY.

Send our FTD
Easter Basket Bouquet

No one's ever too old for an Easter basket - especially an FTD Easter Basket® Bouquet. It features fresh flowers for the joy of springtime. A decorative egg for the joy of Easter. All in an FTD Woven Rattan Handled Basket. Call or visit us soon. We can send the FTD Easter Basket® Bouquet just about anywhere... the FTD way. And we have many other joyful Easter ideas to share with you too.

CASH & CARRY

SPECIAL

Fresh Springtime Flowers

Daisies | Daffodils

\$2.98 Bunch of 20
\$2.50 Doz.

See Our Beautiful Selection Of
Fresh
Floral Arrangements Starting At **\$7.50**

Easter Corsages
\$3.00 and up

FTD Planted Easter Basket.

FTD Easter Lily in a woven basket.

FTD
SELECTED MEMBER

Those FTD Florists really get around...for you.

The FTD Easter Basket Bouquet is usually available for around \$15.00. FTD Planted Easter Basket and FTD Easter Lily prices vary according to size. As an independent businessman, each FTD Florist sets his own prices. Service charges and delivery may be additional. Most FTD Florists accept major credit cards.

Member FTD • Tele-Florist • Teleflora

CASS CITY FLORAL

Corner Main and Leach Phone 872-3675

The
Haire
Net

Twenty years ago or so it was the custom to take off two Wednesday afternoons out of three and head north for a day and a half of trout fishing.

There were usually three of us, sometimes more, that trekked the 175 miles or so to one or more of our favorite streams.

We haven't done that together for maybe 10 years now. But this spring the plan is to do it again.

Is it a nostalgic trip, or will we have the fun we had then?

If it was all that great, why quit?, you ask.

It's a fair question and the answer is the change in lifestyles. Growing families demanded our attention.

Suddenly a couple of us were coaches of Little League baseball teams. We had school functions to attend, our businesses and jobs demanded more of our time.

I suspect that when you get right down to it, none of the three are dyed-in-the-wool fishermen. The kind that sneaks down to the Cass River after work or Sunday afternoon and tosses a lure into the stream and is happy doing it regardless of the fishing prospects.

Trout fishing was more (or less) than this. It was shaking the cares of the day. Getting away from it all. The cardinal rule of every trip was not to talk business

or even think about it until we hit the county line coming home.

It was cruising the bars and swapping fish stories with fishing brethren. Telling why the fish weren't biting and hearing the "you should have been here yesterday," stories of the natives.

It was enviously eyeing the trophy catch of another angler and wishing that he would clue us in on how he did it. . . knowing that he never would.

It was returning home bone tired from unaccustomed exercise and sated with the glorious Michigan outdoors in the spring.

The question is, can we capture it all again. The answer is, no way.

No way will it be like it was then. Or like we remember it was. Nostalgia has a way of blurring reality. What we remember is not really the way it was.

The good times survive in memory, all else fades from view.

It won't be like it was, but it may be really fine anyway.

We've all changed, but if the rare chemistry among the three that worked before still remains, we'll have a really worthwhile trip or trips.

For that is really what we had 20 years ago and what each of us is looking for again this spring.

Stylish
WALKING CANES
For Your Easter Parade

Wood Drug has a complete health care department, rental and sales

OLD WOOD DRUG
GUARDIANS OF YOUR HEALTH

BEAT THE BUGS
Whether Dormant or Growing with
ORTHO
VOLCK OIL SPRAY

A highly refined oil spray for use against Mealybugs, Scale insects, Red spiders and White flies on plants, citrus, azalea and camellia.

Stock #01682 **\$3.98**

PROTECT FRESH CUTS WITH
Ortho Pruning Sealer

A fast, effective dressing designed to aid in healing of pruning cuts, grafts, abrasions and wounds on woody plants and trees. Provides a protective coating against the entry of moisture and woodrotting diseases, prevents excessive sap flow and is a barrier to damaging insects. Waterproofs planting pots and wooden tubs. Put up in aerosol cans. Contains Liquid Asphalt Sealer.

No. 504 **\$2.98**

Bigelow Hardware
6549 Main St. Cass City