

## Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Here's a tale of two tickets. One legal, one illegal. The first was issued to Clarke Haire for driving with expired license plates. That ticket probably will be voided. It was issued when there was no law on the books requiring the licenses. He escapes through a technicality. The second was issued to Mrs. Martha Emmons, a widow. Five mornings a week she drives to work to the bakery. Her route takes her past the spotlight on Main Street. Each morning the light is on blinker and she travels on Seeger Street where the blinker is red. She says she stopped, as usual, and then proceeded. Only the timer on the light evidently changed, or she arrived at a slightly different time, and the red blinker was a red light and she went through. She was ticketed and fined \$30. The first ticket she ever received. The question is, was justice served?

Ray Clendenan, the originator of Teen Ranch, reported this week that the Ranch recently accepted a boy to the program who was number 1,000. The Ranch is prospering and plans are on the drawing board to expand it further.

The question that may be aired by folks asked to hold garage sales May 14-15-16 is why pay \$5 to hold a sale with competition (hopefully) on every street corner? The answer is that dozens of sales held at the same time are more effective than any one or two held individually. Like stores at a mall, there is pulling power in numbers. The \$5 helps pay the cost of producing hand bills, distributed free at stores, and advertising to potential bargain hunters. The event is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

There will be campaigning among the various candidates for the two open school board posts. At least two (there may be others) will print and distribute literature and advertising showing their platform. Showing what they stand for, why they are running. This year you have a choice and a chance to elect the type of school trustee that sees education the way you do. The only catch is that you'll have to take the time to find out who it is and, more important, vote for him.

## Store freezes prices

Following a trend started by food stores in major cities, the Cass City IGA Foodliner this week announced that, effective Monday, there is a 30-day price freeze. Owner Harry Lenda said that the freeze includes Super Foods private label products including Farm Table King, Table Treat and Gard products. The private label lines include several hundred different canned and frozen fruits, vegetables and other grocery items including health and beauty aids. Those people who are thoroughly convinced they are failures are very seldom mistaken.

### WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHS

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**COSTUMED DRAMA** - Members of Shirley Tuckey's third grade reading group at Campbell Elementary School performed two plays for parents and fellow students last Wednesday. Top photo shows action from "Trouble in Treeland." Below is the cast of "The Snowman Who Overstayed." Costumes were made by Mrs. Tuckey, her aide, Shirley Johnston, and a friend, Mary Lou Cooper. Students prepared for the play over a two-month period.

## County commissioners ok new building authority


The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Tuesday approved establishment of a county building authority. Unless challenged by a petition drive and subsequently overturned in a public referendum, the authority will create a means for the county to finance an addition to the courthouse annex to house the Cooperative Extension Service, estimated at \$600,000. In addition, the authority might finance construction of a home run by the county mental health department for youngsters with emotional problems. Estimated cost of that is \$100,000. Opponents, if any, have 45 days from the date of publication of the notice of organization of the authority to gather petition signatures from at least 10 percent of the county's registered voters. If they get the needed signatures, then the county board must schedule an election for voters to decide the fate of the authority. The authority, once in operation, issues bonds to pay construction costs. The buildings when completed are leased to the county, with lease payments from the county general fund used to pay off the bonds. The county's financial grants advisor, Harry Schubel, told the board the authority may be able to sell its bonds to the Farmers Home Administration and only pay 5 percent interest. In other action, the board approved a building mechanical code in compliance with state law. It is the last component of the state construction code, which has been in effect several years. The code pertains to the installation of mechanical systems, mainly heating and air conditioning. Paul Lefler, county building codes administrator, told the board the only discretion it had was in setting inspection fees. He said his department won't need any extra help for now to enforce the code. Adoption of the code was approved by a vote of 5-1-1, with Commissioner Ken Kennedy of Millington voting "no" and Royce Russell of Elmwood township abstaining. Russell told the Chronicle later he couldn't make up his mind because, "It seems like every time we have another regulation, I'm just getting tired of it." Inspection fees adopted by the board were less than recommended by the state -- \$25 (the amount approved) for new single-family residences and \$15 for other than new one or two family dwellings. There are different fees for other structures. Paying the fee, Lefler explained, will be the responsibility of the mechanical equipment installer, for instance, the contractor installing a new furnace in a house.



### The Haire Net

It's no wonder that athletes these days are highly cynical, selfish and money motivated. It would be a wonder if they weren't. With coaches like Tommy Vardeman of Centenary around how could they be anything different? Vardeman is the guy who said that the successful basketball team has to have "huggers." "They're the guys you sign but never play. You keep them on the bench so you can hug them after you win instead of those guys who are all sweaty." Funny, yes? Funny, no. Not if you are one of the guys on the bench who practice their hearts out all week so the players can sharpen up to perform before the crowds. No matter what the level of basketball these days, in college they have been recruited. Those guys on the bench were sold by someone connected with the program. Told they were needed. Courtied and praised. Now these same players are ridiculed because they didn't prove out to be the best half dozen at that school that particular year. And Vardeman isn't any different than hundreds of others of the coaching fraternity. For the players aspiring to be professionals, it may be just what the doctor ordered. Produce or else. Right now, for instance, Mark Fidrych is in the doghouse for "worrying about his pension instead of getting back to the majors."

Detroit Tiger management is aghast that Fidrych would think of such a thing after all the time and money they have spent trying to rehabilitate his wounded wing. Fidrych should be grateful that he was allowed to come back for brief trials that wouldn't be given most any other pitcher, shouldn't he? He got the chance to try out again before 40,000 fans or so, too. Wasn't that a big break for him? Wouldn't it have been interesting if Fidrych went to arbitration for that three-year contract for about \$75,000 a year? All he was when that contract was signed was the lone drawing card that a dismal Detroit team possessed. Major league players today average about \$125,000 a year and fans feel that's too much. They may be right. But better the players than the owners. If the owners are really headed towards financial ruin, it's hard to figure out why the value of franchises keeps increasing, increasing, increasing. It's harder yet to figure out why, if this is so, the owners don't open the books for all to see. That won't happen. If it did perhaps the fans would realize who really is being ripped off. The suspicion here is that the guys that are paying the bill are bigger suckers than the "huggers" that sit on Vardeman's bench.



## "If It Fitz..."

### Teams, T-shirts all wet

By Jim Fitzgerald

Detroit Tiger pitcher Dave Rozema stayed up late to judge a wet T-shirt contest in a Ft. Lauderdale bar. He overslept the next morning, missed a plane and then lost a game. This angered Tiger manager Sparky Anderson, who ordered Rozema to do things "my way or hit the highway." There was extensive media coverage of Rozema's failure as a baseball player, but nowhere was it reported how he did as a judge of wet T-shirts. That's too bad. Sports reporters should get out of their press boxes once in a while and find out what is going on in saloons. I'm not sure what a wet T-shirt judge must do to determine which shirt is best. But if any Detroit athlete is good at it, his skills should be publicized. Detroit fans need something to cheer about. Jockwise, things are bad. Our basketball team, the Pistons, just finished the season with a 16-66 record, its worst ever. And, despite their colossal ineptitude, the Pistons still have a good chance to nose out the Detroit Red Wings for a spot in the National Hockey League playoffs. The local baseball and football teams are just as bad, and, as if all this weren't enough misery for area sports fans, at neighboring University of Michigan, five football players are in danger of bleeding to death because they were crucified by the press. News of the five crosses was first revealed by Michigan coach Bo Schembechler in a speech given a few days after he suspended the five players for breaking training rules. He said the press had "maliciously crucified five kids." The press had quoted the players as saying Schembechler accused them of using drugs. Schembechler refused to confirm this, insisting that any disciplinary action he takes against his players is no business of the public. During next season's home games, whenever Schembechler needs privacy to chastise his kicker for missing an extra point, more than 100,000 members of the public will be ordered to leave the stadium for a few minutes. While waiting outside, the public can discuss how much public money big-jock universities spend training players for the professional football league. Speaking of kickers, one of the five players crucified by the press was Bryan Virgil, whose poor kicking last year cost Michigan several games. Virgil told reporters that he wasn't suspended for allegedly using drugs but had quit on his own so that he'd have more time to study. One sports writer was overheard to remark that if Virgil did have a drug habit, and tried to kick it, he'd miss. This wisecrack indicates that not all sports reporters are stodgily obsessed with driving nails into football players. Some sports reporters, if properly motivated by their editors, might even see the value in covering a wet T-shirt contest judged by athletes. It can't be easy to judge wet T-shirts. A person probably has to know a lot about percale and sogginess and crew-necks versus V-necks. If Dave Rozema has a talent for this sort of thing, Tiger fans have a right to know about it. When Rozema leaves a game in the second inning because his arm is sore, it would be nice if fans could be consoled by the knowledge that he strained a ligament while fingering fabrics expertly. Making a mistake is no reason to worry -- get busy and correct it.

### The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	56	18	0..
Thursday	48	34	0..
Friday	36	24	.58..
Saturday	62	24	0..
Sunday	68	28	0..
Monday	68	42	0..
Tuesday	64	42	.05..

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



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