

## Ex-Cass City pair murdered in Florida

Memorial services will be held Thursday for former Cass City residents Norman R. and Genevieve W. Huff of Leesburg, Fla., who were found murdered Monday.

Their son, James R. Huff, 34, also of Leesburg, has been charged in Sumner county, Fla., with two counts of first degree murder in connection with their deaths.

The Huffs lived in Cass City from 1946-57, having been part owners of the bowling alley during a portion of that time.

According to Lt. Jim Howton of the Sumner County (Fla.) Sheriff's Department, the bodies of the Huffs were discovered at a landfill about two miles from Wildwood. That community is 10-12 miles from Leesburg.

The murder was reported by their son James, who, according to the officer, went to a house near the landfill and said someone had killed his mother and father. Police were called and he told them where the bodies were.

Both had been shot in the head with a hand gun. It appeared they had been dead 2-3 hours when found, Howton said.

It also appeared they had been shot inside their car, which was left at the landfill, though their bodies had been removed.

The police officer told the Chronicle James Huff initially said he had committed the crime, but has since recanted.

He was taken into custody because of evidence found on his person.

Huff was arraigned in Sumner County Circuit Court on the two first degree murder charges and remanded to the county jail without bond. No hearing date has been set.

Autopsies on the deceased were performed Tuesday, according to Howton. The case remains under investigation.

**NORMAN HUFF, 67, WAS** born in Lebanon, Ind.; his wife, 61, in Thornton, Ind.

Around the end of World War II, they moved from Indiana to Mount Clemens. In 1946, they and Vern (Hoppy) Gallaway bought the bowling alley over what is now the Kritzman's Clothing Store.

It was probably the following year, according to Gallaway, who lives on Sherman Street, that the trio built the Cass City Lanes at Weaver and Church Streets, now used for antique sales.

About 1949 or 1950, he said, they sold the business.

Prior to then, Huff had started working for Charles Auten at the Ford dealership as a salesman and his wife as bookkeeper.

Their home was on M-81, with part of the property now occupied by Gene's M-81 Motel.

**THEY MOVED TO LEESBURG** in 1957, one reason being Huff didn't care for Michigan weather, according to Auten.

He said they had many friends here and that they visited Cass City every year.

"He always said if he could move all the people in Cass City down to Florida, with the weather down there, he would have the perfect life," Auten recalled.

In Florida, Huff first worked for a Ford dealer there for a couple of years, then bought a Leesburg hardware store. He also sold some real estate.

He later owned the Twin Palms Resort, but was apparently retired at the time of his death.

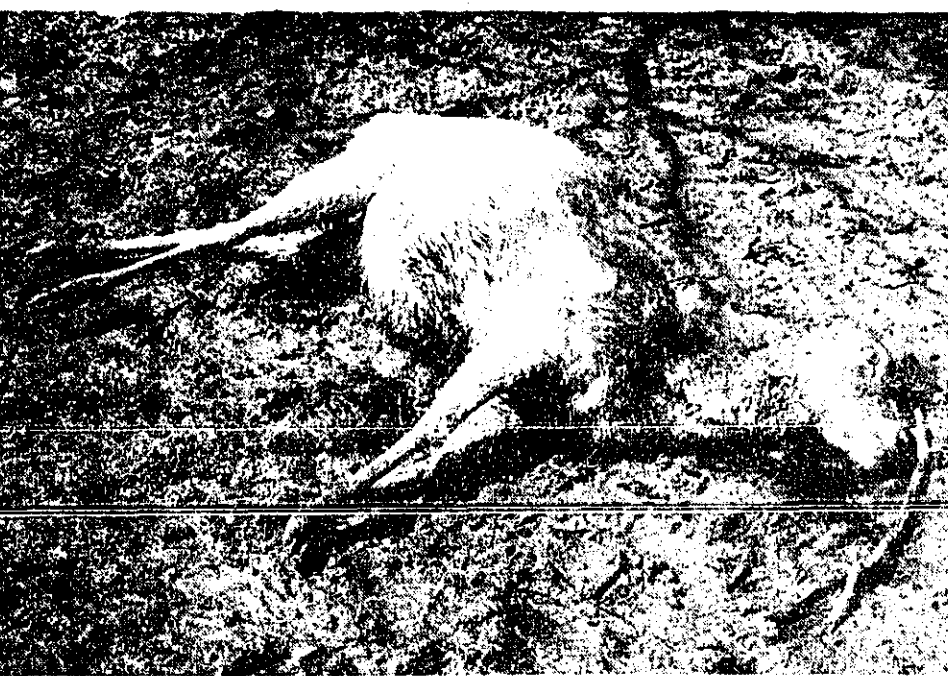
Mrs. Huff was employed by a Leesburg real estate firm as a sales person at the time of her death.

The couple is survived by two sons, James, and Jeff S. Huff of Weirsdale, Fla., and one daughter, Mrs. Judith H. Maddox of Aiken, S.C., and

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**ALIVE NO MORE --** Walt Goodall looks at one of the two English fallow deer killed by dogs early last Wednesday. The other deer, which had its ears chewed off, is shown below.



## Goodall's deer fall victim to unrestrained dogs

The friendly family dog can be a killer if allowed to run on the loose.

Walt Goodall can testify to that. Two of his prized English fallow deer were killed early last Wednesday by two dogs. Two more deer were wounded.

Goodall lives on Reed Road, northeast of Cass City. He has raised the miniature deer for about a dozen years.

He was awakened at 6:30 a.m. by brothers Don and Dale Buehrly who were driving by on their way to work and had spotted two dogs in the fenced-in area with the deer.

Still in his pajamas and bare feet, Goodall grabbed his shotgun and ran outside.

The two deer, both does, were already dead and the dogs were after the others, having already wounded two of them.

He brought down one of the dogs, which he described as medium-size, with two shots. A larger black dog, possibly a Labrador, escaped under the fence, the same way the two animals had got in. Goodall took a shot at it, but it was too far away by then.

State law allows property owners to shoot dogs in such instances when it is their animals being destroyed.

One of the dead deer had been chewed behind the

neck and was mutilated in other places. The other had its ears and hind quarters chewed off.

One of the wounded deer had a severe cut, the other had been chewed on its front and hind legs and was limping badly.

There was evidence the dogs had chased the deer all over the pen. There were fallen deer hair all over and tufts of fur on the wire fence.

Goodall still has two bucks and four does left.

The killed dog had a vaccination tag on its collar, which listed the name of the veterinarian who administered the shots. Goodall called him and from the number on the tag, was able to learn the name of the dog's owner.

The county animal control officer was contacted through the sheriff's dispatcher.

Donald Willis, deputy animal county officer, arrived and took away the dead dog.

He also asked Goodall what the dead deer were worth. The answer was \$100 each, the amount Goodall sells the animals for.

His loss was actually twice that, as both were due to deliver fawns this spring, but he was willing to settle for \$200.

Willis then informed the dog's owner, who agreed to reimburse Goodall for his

loss. The animal control officer delivered the payment early that afternoon. Had the owner refused to pay, according to Willis, Goodall's only recourse would have been to go to small claims court to try to recover his financial loss.

Had the dog been alive, Willis said, he also could have issued the owner a citation, which carries a \$15 fine, for allowing his dog to run loose.

The dog's owner lives on the south side of Cass City, which meant the animal traveled almost four miles to Goodall's farm. He said game wardens have told him they have shot dogs chasing deer that were 15 miles from home.

The veteran farmer has lost sheep to marauding dogs before, but never any of his deer until last Wednesday. He caught a dog inside the deer's pen once before it did any damage and another time some outside the fence trying to get in.

He expressed hope that what happened to his deer will encourage dog owners to not let their animals run loose.

Under state law and county ordinance, animals, excluding cats and hunting dogs, must be "under reasonable control of the owner," but not necessarily on a leash or penned.

## Part of Germania slated for paving

At last, at last.

After years of waiting, residents along the four miles of Germania Road in Greenleaf township between Bay City-Forestville and Cass City Roads will see it get paved this year.

In addition, one bridge in Evergreen township, one on the dividing line between Evergreen and Argyle townships and one in Lamotte township will be replaced this year.

The final step fell into place last Wednesday when the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners appropriated \$80,000 as its one-third share for replacement of six bridges.

March 26, the board voted to appropriate \$10,000 per mile for paving of 8½ miles of roads, including the four miles of Germania mentioned above. The rest were in Buel and Delaware townships.

That was contingent on the townships putting up \$10,000 per mile and the Road

Commission another \$10,000.

The townships had originally agreed several years ago to pay \$4,000 per mile and for one, (not Greenleaf), \$2,000.

The 1980 Greenleaf township budget, presented at the recent annual meeting, includes \$40,000 for the four miles of paving.

After the county board's March 26 vote, Commissioner Donald Decker of Decker-ville indicated to the Chronicle, came some backstage maneuvering. The Road Commission had claimed all along it didn't have the money for its share of the paving.

That led to his motion of last Wednesday, approved 6-1, that appropriates \$80,000 for bridges, which now allows the Road Commission to spend that amount as its share for the road paving.

The county bridge money is to pay one-third of the cost. The townships must pay one-third and the Road Commission will contribute one-third in the form of labor

to construct the bridges.

The bridges to be built, according to Road Commission Engineer-Manager Jack Kineman, are as follows:

--Walker Road over Cass River (Elmer township). This is a federally funded project, but the \$35,000 in design and engineering costs, the local share, will come out of the \$80,000. It is to be built next spring. The other bridges will be constructed this summer.

--Leslie Road over middle branch Cass River, between Severance and Argyle Roads, Evergreen township, total cost \$22,000.

--Arnold Road over middle branch, between Severance and Argyle Roads, joint project between Evergreen and Argyle townships, \$22,000.

--Wood Road and Mayville Roads, both over Duff Creek, Marlette township, \$18,000 and \$10,000 respectively.

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## Good times will return, but can farmers hold on till then?

The financial outlook for farmers looks good 2-3 years from now, according to Tuscola County Extension Director Bill Bortel.

"The question is whether farmers can hold together for the next year or two," he commented. "Right now, it doesn't look good."

The trouble, in simple terms, is "expenses are up

to the point where it is almost impossible to make money."

The cost of petroleum-derived herbicides, insecticides and fertilizer are up sharply, he explained, as well as the cost of fuel itself. Some fertilizers have doubled in price in a year.

Chemicals haven't increased as sharply. Ma-

chinery costs are also up.

The killer is the high interest rates, double those of last year, for the money farmers must borrow in order to buy their seed, fertilizer and chemicals each year, to be repaid when they sell their crops.

A year ago, Bortel said, interest costs worked out to \$5-8 per acre. This year, with

interest rates of 14-22 percent, it works out as much as \$15 per acre.

**WHAT WILL PULL MOST** farmers through in this area, according to the extension director, are the sale of \$62 million in colored beans to Mexico, and prices for sugarbeets "look respectable."

That puts cash crop farmers in this area better off, if that's possible, than elsewhere.

Livestock farmers also are hurting, Bortel said. The only ones in a "respect-

able situation" are dairy farmers.

"There's no way it looks like farmers are going to make money. Their hope is to break even and minimize losses."

What gives the extension director some confidence for the future, are that sugar prices should increase because of increasing use of sugar cane elsewhere, primarily Brazil, for brewing alcohol fuel to replace gasoline, and the hope that the

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## Farming big means Pisareks must make big decisions

Other than go out of business, there isn't much farmers can do in these troubled times except hold on, keep close watch on the money being spent and hope for better times, according to Bernard Pisarek.

Pisarek farms in the Gageton-Owendale area with his brothers Leonard and Michael Jr. Base of operations is at the latter's, on Bay City-Forestville Road, about 1½ miles east of Gageton.

The Pisareks are strictly cash croppers, growing a little under 2,000 acres of corn, navy beans, wheat, barley and oats each year.

More than half the land is rented. Although it might seem advantageous to change the acreage devoted to each

crop from year to year to take advantage of market conditions, it's not as practical an idea as it might seem, Bernard pointed out.

Most of their land is best suited to corn, thus the 1,200 acres devoted to that doesn't change much from year to year.

They like to keep the number of acres devoted to wheat and navy beans about the same, so that they can switch. Land devoted to beans, once harvested, then can be planted in wheat, and vice versa.

Four hundred acres of wheat were planted last fall. They plan to plant 300 of navy beans this spring.

The Pisareks did not take advantage of the opportunity to grow beans for the Mexican market this year.

That would have meant growing another type of bean (colored or pinto), and from their point of view, it didn't pay to switch or add another crop.

The final crops are barley and oats, less than 100 acres total.

**THE MAIN CRITERIA** on which the crop acres are based is what the land is best suited for.

Another reason is simply that it may not pay to switch.

"Because of the price outlook, something might look good in the spring,"

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Bernard explained, "but by fall, prices can change quite a bit."

A poor growing season in the corn belt, for instance, would raise prices by harvest time.

That would work to the advantage of Michigan farmers if they had a good growing season. That can work the opposite way, of course. Farmers here might have a poor growing season, while conditions are good elsewhere.

Experts are often wrong in their predictions. Bernard, at 35, the youngest of the three brothers, recalled a couple of years ago, wheat was selling for \$1.80 a bushel and the experts predicted the price wouldn't go up for three years. In six months, it had gone up \$1 a bushel.

Three years ago, the trio planted soybeans. They haven't planted any since nor will they this year because of low prices.

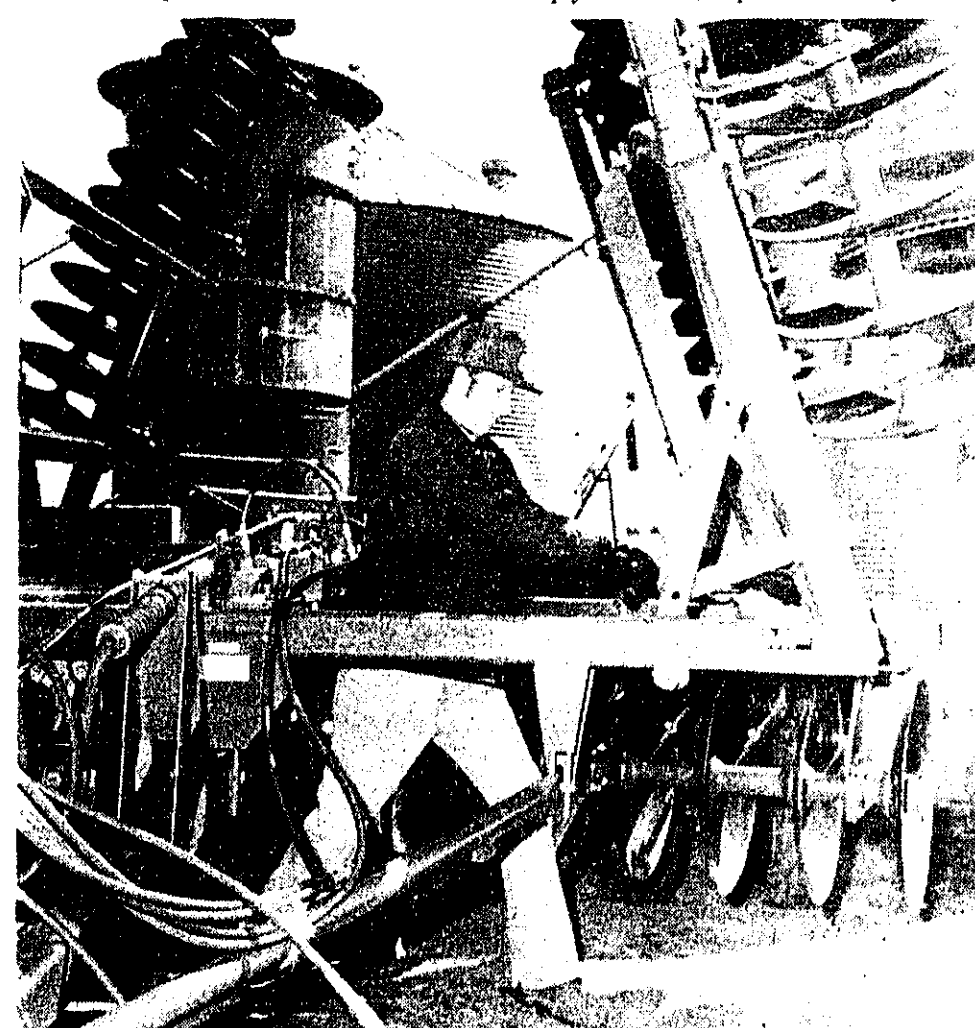
Last year, as per usual practice, the Pisareks sold some corn on forward contract, that is, contracting to sell X number of bushels of yet-to-be grown corn at a future set time at a set price.

President Carter's embargo on grain sales this year got in the way. It drove prices on the futures market so low that it wasn't worthwhile to sign any such contracts this year.

**THE THREE BROTHERS** do participate in federal farm programs.

Two large bins on the farm hold corn being held in the

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**GETTING READY --** Bernard Pisarek makes sure all the bolts are tight on the new double-disk, prior to using it. He and brothers Michael and Leonard were able to begin working in their fields Monday.