



## "If It Fitz. . ." Sparky's way

By Jim Fitzgerald

While training for my next sitting marathon, I watched the Detroit Tigers lose a baseball game to the Oakland A's on TV. Incredibly, the A's stole home twice in two innings. Later, in a TV commercial, Tiger manager Sparky Anderson told a large group of Chevrolet dealers they could sell more cars by doing things "my way."

This made me sit up, which isn't breaking training, but almost. The normal baseball team doesn't have its home plate stolen twice in five years. Several other unusual things have happened to the Tigers since Sparky Anderson's way. I couldn't help wondering how the Chevrolet dealers are doing since they hired Anderson to manage them.

My favorite Chevrolet salesman is named Irv. I asked him for a report on business under Anderson. "I had two prospective

customers on my lot just yesterday," Irv said. "Unfortunately, I lost them both in the sun."

Irv admitted he had been influenced by Sparky Anderson's right fielder, Champ Summers. In a recent game, Summers blew two consecutive flyballs because the sun got in his eyes. Many people wondered why Champ didn't put his sunglasses on after the first error.

"That's the type of positive thinking Sparky admires," Irv explained. "Summers was positive the weather was going to turn cloudy between flies. I felt the same way between customers. In these two instances, we were both off base, but in the long run, a man will never go wrong believing every game has a cloudy inning."

It is evident that Anderson's disciples react to adversity with similar enthusiasm, whether the calamity occurs on the ball field or on the car lot. When Tiger catcher Lance Parish had those two home plates swiped from under his feet, he broke a water cooler with his hand. When Irv lost those two customers in the sun, he squashed a Dixie cup with his foot.

"We don't have a water cooler," Irv apologized, "but I jumped on the cup so hard my hat flew off. Whenever you run out from under your hat, that means you're a hustler. Sparky likes hustlers, which is why I buy my hats two sizes too small.

He says I could be this area's top Chevy salesman in May, barring injuries."

Business is terrible for American-made cars, mostly because the Big Three built big when they should have built small. Henry Ford II told Barbara Walters the worst mistake of his career was failing to foresee the demand for Japanese-size autos. Ford's charmingly humble admission that he helped make the unemployment line so long was a great comfort to the thousands of laid-off workers who will never see him standing in it.

In view of these lousy playing conditions, it surprised me when Irv said his dealership isn't open on Saturdays when many people have time to shop for cars. I wondered if Sparky agreed with this strategy. "It's the same as having men on base," Irv explained. "Sparky teaches his players to stay on base and wait patiently for the one big hit that will turn the season around, no matter how many seasons it takes. Any customer who cares enough to reach third base on Saturday will still be there when I get to work Monday."

After all, there's no sense in badgering players to score when the other team is a bunch of thieves. If a Tiger came in from third base and found no home plate to slide into, there's no telling how many Dixie cups he might stomp.

Apparently, the Chevrolet dealers are content with Sparky Anderson's leadership. Their only worry is loyalty. Last fall, Anderson scheduled what he called important practice sessions for some Tigers in Florida. But he quickly canceled the important sessions when he was hired to broadcast the play-offs and world series on radio and TV.

Irv is worried that Sparky might quit Chevrolet if the Tigers offer him more money to spend more time looking for home plate. If this happened now, just as things are looking brighter for the Chevy dealers, it would be like losing Sparky in the sun. The dealers are hoping for a cloudy inning.

# Prom starts final swing for seniors

The junior-senior banquet and prom at the Colony House Saturday were the first of several activities marking the beginning of the end for Cass City High School seniors.

There were 159 scheduled to graduate May 22. They will be taking their final exams Friday, Monday and Tuesday.

The baccalaureate service will be in the high school gymnasium starting at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The high school band, directed by Thomas Clair, will play the processional, a selection midway through the programs, and the recessional.

The invocation will be given by Rev. Harry Capps of the Cass City Presbyterian church.

The high school choir, directed by James Hobbs, will then sing "Old Irish Blessing."

Elder Dean Smith of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints in Decker will give the scripture reading.

A prayer for the graduates will be offered by Pastor John Lange of the Novesta Baptist church.

The address will be given by Rev. James VanDellen of the Good Shepherd Lutheran church. Rev. Capps will give the benediction.

Following rowdy behavior during last year's senior swing-out, the school board voted to end the tradition. Lobbying by this year's seniors caused the board to

change its mind and vote in February to allow its continuation.

There will be a change, however. Instead of taking place during the week, swing-out will take place immediately after the baccalaureate service, about 3:30 p.m.

The seniors will assemble at the intermediate school and then be led by the band down Seeger Street to Church Street, from there to West Street, to Main, down Main to Oak, then back to the intermediate school.

Graduation exercises take place Thursday, May 22, at 8 p.m. in the gym.

The band will again play the processional, a selection midway through the program and the recessional.

The invocation and benediction will both be given by Rev. P. Thomas Wachter-haus of the Trinity United Methodist church.

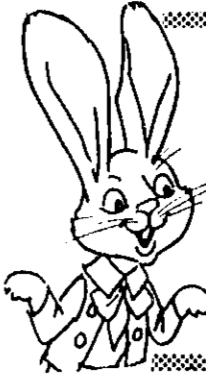
Supt. Donald Crouse will give the welcome, followed by student speakers Jane Hobart and Daniel LaPonsie.

Counselors Jerry Cleland and Wayne Dillon will present the honors and awards.

Principal Russell Richards will present the graduates and Crouse will pass out the diplomas.

The spring sports banquet will be May 29.

For students not graduating, final exams are June 4-5. They will pick up their report cards June 6 from 2:30-3:30 p.m.



## Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Now that the distribution of free Bibles by Gideons has been approved by the Cass City School Board, trustees should be considering what lengths they are willing to go to defend the decision.

If challenged in court the defense could be a lengthy and costly proposition. Hopefully it will never happen but board members should be ready with answers if it does.

It was refreshing for this reporter to hear the presentation of physics teacher Doug Grezeszak Monday before the school board. He bubbled with enthusiasm and his presentation for a new type of text showed he spent some time with his homework.

In short he appeared to be a "dedicated teacher" that school critics moan are a vanishing breed.

It's not surprising that he told the board that student enrollment in his tough elective course will almost double next year after his first year on the job in Cass City.

Regular readers of this trivia will recall that Editor Mike Eliasohn has had several articles printed for a bicycle magazine.

Now he qualifies as a farm writer, too. His article about Earl and Chuck Hendrick's pigs that appeared recently was reprinted in the May issue of the Michigan Pork Producers Association magazine.

After the June meeting of the Cass City School Board a veteran will no longer be seated at the table.

Art Severance, who has helped with school decisions for 12 years, is stepping down. He will be replaced by one of eight candidates running for two board seats.

It can't happen too soon, Art said Monday with a grin; it's just not as much fun as it used to be.

## Bible handout ok'd by board

Continued from page one

report card was presented by Robert Stickle, principal, and authorized by the board.

Bids for the sale of used bus tires were opened. Six of the 22 were sold. Four tires were purchased by Ben Hobart for \$30.03 each. Two tires were purchased by Village Service Center for \$15.00 each. The remainder will be rebid.

Mrs. Ellen Toner wrote a letter to the board thanking the school staff for its work

with her son, Todd, an autistic boy who graduates this spring.

Election inspectors were named for the June 9 election. They are: Chairman Ann Rogers, Alternate Chairman Mary Knight, Helen Lorentzen, Joan Little, Ruth Whittaker, Marie Doyen and Alternates Pat Kilbourn and Norma Wallace.

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Messages A.M. .... "Working, Watching and Waiting"  
P.M. .... "Feeding, not Fleecing the Flock"

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## Correction

The article in last week's Chronicle concerning issuance of criminal warrants against David Duncan incorrectly said that Marvin Winter had notified police concerning a payload he had purchased from Duncan.

According to Winter, he had purchased the machine several months ago from Duncan but never talked to police investigators and had no idea it had been stolen until they came to him looking for it as part of their investigation.

## Cycle theft try results in Caro man's arrest

A Caro man remained in jail Tuesday, unable to post bond after being charged with the attempted theft of a motorcycle in Cass City.

Charged with attempted unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle is George R. Donovan, 22, of 1275 S. Colling Road.

He appeared Monday before District Judge Richard F. Kern, who scheduled a pre-preliminary examination May 19 and preliminary examination May 30. Bond was set at \$3,000, of which Donovan must post 10 percent.

Cass City police reported that Winnie Houghton of 4488 Leach Street returned home about 11 p.m. last Wednesday to discover three individuals trying to take the motorcycle of her brother, Harold Houghton.

The trio first said they had hit the cycle with the car they were riding in and were looking at it, then said they were from Detroit and were looking for the way to Milington, then left.

Miss Houghton wrote down the license number of their car and phoned police.

A "be-on-the-lookout" was broadcast by the sheriff's department and the car was stopped in Caro by village police there at 1 a.m. Thursday.

The female member of the trio told officers what had happened. As she remained in the car while the motorcycle was being dragged to it, according to Police Chief Gene Wilson, she wasn't charged.

The chief didn't know what had happened to the other man involved, whose identity wasn't immediately known, who as of Tuesday was apparently still being sought.

## Investment

Total investment by U.S. farmers now exceeds \$820 billion. Their debt is more than \$137 billion, government figures show.

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**The Haire Net**

The best political cartoon of the year pictured a candidate before a judge who kept repeating, "no, no, George, you can't change your name to none of the above."

That's the way I look at the candidates for president and judging by what I read and hear that's the way that many Americans view the current crop. It's at least a large minority and it could be a majority of the voters.

Certainly, when you look at the record of President Carter there's nothing to bring comfort to any of us.

No need to reiterate that record. Carter's saving grace is that he has used a little discretion with the hostages in Iran.

This week I read where Ronald Reagan says that he would have tried a rescue within two weeks after the hostages were taken.

Reagan must figure that he's still playing the hero lead in a war movie and that everything will come out all right in the end.

I can't bring myself to believe that a man with simplistic answers to grave questions is the right man to pilot us through the maze of international diplomacy.

Ted Kennedy has the experience to deal with the legislature and perhaps could be efficient in the international field.

But what about at home? You can't believe the rhetoric of the campaign trail. You judge by the record.

The record shows that all through his career Kennedy has voted for policies that increase government spending and add to inflation.

Polls indicate that inflation is seen as number one problem of the country, and a vote for Kennedy is a vote for more of the same.

So that leaves "none of the above." Our political system being what it is, realistically those are all of the candidates that can be considered.

It's a no win situation. Truthfully, this time around I would love to vote Republican. With any candidate except Reagan it would be an easy choice.

But I'm afraid of a "hard-liner" without experience deciding vital issues with another war looming in the background.

That brings me back to Carter. What he has going for him is that he's a known quantity.

He'll stumble along about like he has but chances are he won't do anything so rash that he'll plunge us into a shooting war.

In addition he'll have had four years' experience and maybe he'll improve a little. Or is that too much to ask?

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**Notice of Change**

of

**Regular Meeting**

of the

**Cass City Village Council**

Meeting will be held

**Tuesday, May 27**  
7:00 p.m.

instead of

**Monday, May 26**  
**Memorial Day**