

FOND FAREWELL - Rev. James VanDellen of the Good Shepherd Lutheran church and his wife, Judy, examine the quilt given to them by church members Sunday, when he gave his last sermon after almost 10 years there. Most of the families that belong to the church each prepared a square, with the quilt then being sewed together, primarily by Sharon Rockwell, Audrey Leslie and Eilene Krug. The VanDellens are moving to Lake Orion, where he will be installed Sunday as the pastor of the Lutheran church there.

Six for Tuscola sheriff

Candidates galore file for August 5 primary

When voters go to the polls Aug. 5 they will have a wide variety of candidates to choose from.

Tuesday was the filing deadline for candidates running in county and state legislative races.

One of the close contests will be the Tuscola county sheriff's bid where six persons are attempting to fill the position when Hugh Marr steps down.

In Huron county, five persons are vying for the position of register of deeds, including the incumbent Frances Holdwick of Harbor Beach.

The state representative race in the 77th district has five candidates trying to take over from the retiring Rep. Quincy Hoffman, R-Applegate.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

In the 77th District, five persons are campaigning for the job of representing the

district which includes Huron and Sanilac counties. They are Keith Muxlow, Brown City; Kenneth Babich, Marlette; Stuart Parsell, Lexington; William Mayes, Port Austin, and Harold Richards, Harbor Beach. All except Richards are Republicans.

In the 84th District, primarily Tuscola county, two people are challenging the incumbency of Rep. Loren Armbruster, R-Caro. James McCann of Akron is a Democrat while Terry Houthoof of Fairgrove is a Republican.

Judge Norman Baguley is running unopposed in his bid for the 40th judicial circuit.

TUSCOLA COUNTY

In the contest for Tuscola county sheriff, five Republicans, along with Millington police chief Herbert Clancy, a Democrat, have declared their candidacy. They are Earl J. Scott Jr., Caro;

sheriff's deputy Paul Berry, Caro, Undersheriff Bruce Tait, Caro; Bernard W. Lenda, Caro, investigator for the county prosecutor's office, and Robert F. Eigner, Fairgrove.

Three Republicans are in the race for county drain commissioner. They are Robert Strye of Caro, Lionel Roy Emery of Mayville and Stanley C. Henry of Caro. Incumbent J. Edward Goodchild is retiring.

All of the county commissioners are running for reelection but party contests exist in only two districts.

In District 2, which consists of Elkland, Elmwood, Ellington and Novesta townships and the north half of Kingston township, incumbent Royce Russell is being challenged by Shirley Olszak. Both are Republicans from the Gageton area.

Donna Rayl, of Akron, the Republican incumbent in District 1, is being challenged in the primary by Larry F. Humpert of Reese.

Margaret A. Wenta of Fostoria is running unopposed in District 2 which includes the village of Kingstown and southern half of Kingstown township.

Running unopposed for county offices, all Republican incumbents, are: Elsie Hicks of Deford for county clerk; John Marshall of Cass City for register of deeds and Artis M. Noel of Caro for prosecuting attorney. Noel is running for the first time having been appointed in January, 1979.

HURON COUNTY

Four people are challenging incumbent Frances Holdwick for register of deeds. They are Ronald Good of Sebewiang, Larry Schmitt of Bad Axe, Joseph McArdle of Pigeon and Robert W. Hobkirk of Bad Axe. Mrs. Holdwick was appointed to the position earlier this year.

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Schedule takes shape for annual July 4th festival

Cass City's second annual July 4th festival is just a month away and plans are falling in place for a repeat of last year's success.

The almost-definite lineup of events took shape last Thursday at a planning committee meeting attended by

about 20 persons at the Charmont.

The traditional kickoff for the festival, which will be on a Friday will be the parade, of which Mike Weaver is in charge.

It will begin at 10 a.m. It wasn't decided at the meet-

ing whether the lineup will be on Comment Drive or Doerr Road.

Weaver reported 35-40 antique cars and farm machinery have been lined up so far for the parade, but only a few floats have been entered. More are needed

from businesses, organizations, etc. He has also had trouble getting bands to march, with the only definite one as of last week being the Cass City High School band.

Linda Herron reported that only 24 persons had signed up for spaces in the arts and crafts building, of the 34 available in the storage building behind the village hall. Last year, about 50 persons had displays, but the space was free. This year, there is a \$15 fee.

Set-up will be at 9 a.m. with exhibitors technically open for business as soon as they are ready, although the "official" opening apparently won't be until after the parade. The booths will be open until 7 p.m.

The other event with an early start will be the softball tournament, which will continue Saturday and Sunday. Twelve teams will be entered, according to event chairman Jim Turner.

The parade will end at the village park. Antique cars and farm machinery will be parked in a roped-off area in the football infield, where they will be on display for the day.

Please turn to page 3.

Cable employees okay new contract

Members of United Steelworkers of America, Local 6222, ratified a new three-year contract Friday with General Cable Co.

Local President Grace Nemeth declined to give the vote, but said the pact was approved by a "substantial margin." The contract took effect Tuesday, the old one having expired Monday.

(Reportedly, the vote was 190-60.)

According to the company, the pact will mean a gain of slightly over \$2 per hour in wages and fringe

benefits for the 342 employees covered over the three years.

A joint announcement by Mrs. Nemeth and Plant Manager H.W. Ardler stated improvements in the contract, in addition to adjustment of wages and percentage increases, covered such areas as improvements in insurance benefits, pensions, meal allowances, family vision care programs and increase in safety shoe allowance.

The union president said negotiations took place over

the course of about a month, with tentative agreement being reached last Thursday afternoon. The ratification meeting was held Friday afternoon at Cass City High School.

Although the contract covers 342 employees, not all will be able to immediately enjoy its benefits. Seventy-two are presently on layoff, according to the union president.

General Cable is a division of GK Technologies, Inc., which has its headquarters in Connecticut.

Springport Bindery
(Rawson Library)
Springport, MI 49284

Dec. 80

Schools

3 millage proposals on ballot Monday

Cass City School District voters will be asked Monday to approve three millage proposals.

Even if all of them pass, Supt. Donald Crouse warns, some budget cuts may have to be made.

Two of the proposals are simple to understand.

● Proposal I requests renewal of the 3.5 mills that are expiring.

● Proposal II asks for an increase of .6 mill.

Both proposals, as is proposal III, are for one year only, that is, their passage will be reflected on tax bills to be received this December. One mill equals \$1 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation.

● Proposal III repeals provisions of the Headlee tax limitation amendment. Last year, because assessments had risen higher than the rate of inflation, the district had to roll back its normal 20.9 mills for operations to 19.9775, a rollback of .9225. (Debt retirement added another 1.1 mills.)

Approval of all three millage requests will mean an increase for taxpayers of 1.5225 mills over what they paid last year.

Passage of all three will mean a total millage rate for operations of 21.5 mills, which Supt. Donald Crouse points out is still comparatively low compared to other area school districts.

Last year, Cass City had the lowest operational levy

of the nine local districts within the Tuscola Intermediate School District.

In fact, even with the rollbacks applied, only one -- Vassar at 20.93 -- had a millage rate below the 21.5 the Cass City district is asking for this year.

If only Proposal I passes, the district will have less millage than it had last year. The Headlee rollback applies only to the millage of previous years. Last year, it applied to the 12.5 mills then in existence but not to the 8.4 mills that was renewed. This year, it will apply to 17.4 mills -- everything but the 3.5 mills up for renewal.

If only Proposals I and II pass, the district probably won't gain because the rollback will likely offset the additional .6 mill. It isn't known yet what the rollback will be should Proposal III fail.

The district does not gain from an increase in valuation because for every \$1 gained from boosts in property assessments, it loses \$1 in state aid.

TAX BREAKS

The millage increase if approved, Crouse also points out, may not have the financial impact on all taxpayers that it would appear.

Senior citizens are entitled to a state income tax credit

or rebate of their property taxes paid on a sliding scale.

Senior citizens (at least one spouse 65 or older) are entitled to a state income tax credit or rebate on a sliding scale. Those with an annual household income of more than \$6,000, for instance, must pay their property taxes equal to 3.5 percent of their household income, but receive a rebate or credit on their state income tax of 100 percent of their property taxes above that figure, to a maximum of \$1,200.

Non-senior citizens are eligible for a credit or rebate of 60 percent of their property taxes in excess of the property taxes they pay equal to 3.5 percent of their household income. The maximum is again \$1,200.

Farmers whose property is enrolled in the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act program have all of their taxes rebated which are in excess of 7 percent of their household income.

GRIM OUTLOOK

Even if all three millage proposals pass, the financial picture for the 1980-81 school year is still unclear.

The big question mark is what state aid will be for the upcoming school year.

For the 1978-79 school year, the latest for which figures are available, state money provided 44 percent of the schools' operating revenue. Property tax reve-

nue furnished 51 percent and federal money, the remaining 5 percent.

Crouse estimates that of the \$2.8 million budget for the almost completed school year, the local share climbed to 55 percent, with state revenues declining to 40 percent, with federal money still at 5 percent.

He expects that expenditures will exceed revenues by possibly \$30,000.

As for the 1980-81 school year, he commented, "I really honestly feel with the millage increases, we are still going to have to tighten our belts more." He expects some cuts will have to be made, even if they all pass, such as by not replacing some teachers who leave.

UNSURE FINANCES

When Crouse prepared his 1980-81 financial forecast in order to make a millage recommendation to the board, which it approved in May, the governor was recommending a state aid formula to the legislature of \$385 plus \$46 per mill assessed, which would have been an increase. That would have given Cass City \$1,374 per pupil in state aid, if all three millage proposals pass.

But with the state's financial picture growing ever

Please turn to page 20.

School board candidates story on pages 12 and 13.

Area school districts seek millage renewals

Owen-Gage, Kingston and Uby School Districts will all have millage proposals on the ballot Monday. All are renewals with no increase being sought.

Owen-Gage is the only district without a contest for seats on the school board as only the two incumbents are running. Four are running for the two positions in Kingston and three for two slots in Uby. All school board terms are for four years.

Polls are open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Polling place for Owen-Gage is the Owendale Municipal Building; in the other districts at the high school.

OWEN-GAGE

The district is seeking renewal of 8 mills for two

years. Approval will give the district a total levy of 21.5 mills for operations.

As of last week, Supt. Ron Erickson didn't know the amount of revenue that will bring in as he had yet to receive the state equalized valuation for the portion of the district in Huron county. The SEV of the Tuscola county portion, not including the Goslin territory, is \$10.08 million; with Goslin, \$14.79 million.

He said tax rollback provisions of the Headlee amendment won't apply for the same reason they didn't apply last year.

He didn't apply a rollback last year because he contended that without the Goslin territory, the district's valuation was low enough

that it wasn't applicable, plus last year's millage rate was two mills less than the year before.

Attorney General Frank Kelley took the Tuscola and Huron County Boards of Commissioners to court, contending they should have rolled Owen-Gage's millage back, but the Michigan Court of Appeals dismissed the suit. Kelley's appeal of the dismissal is now before the state Supreme Court.

Although Erickson didn't have the figures for Huron county, he figures overall valuation in the district should be up about 10 percent, enough to allow the district to get by at the same millage levy as before.

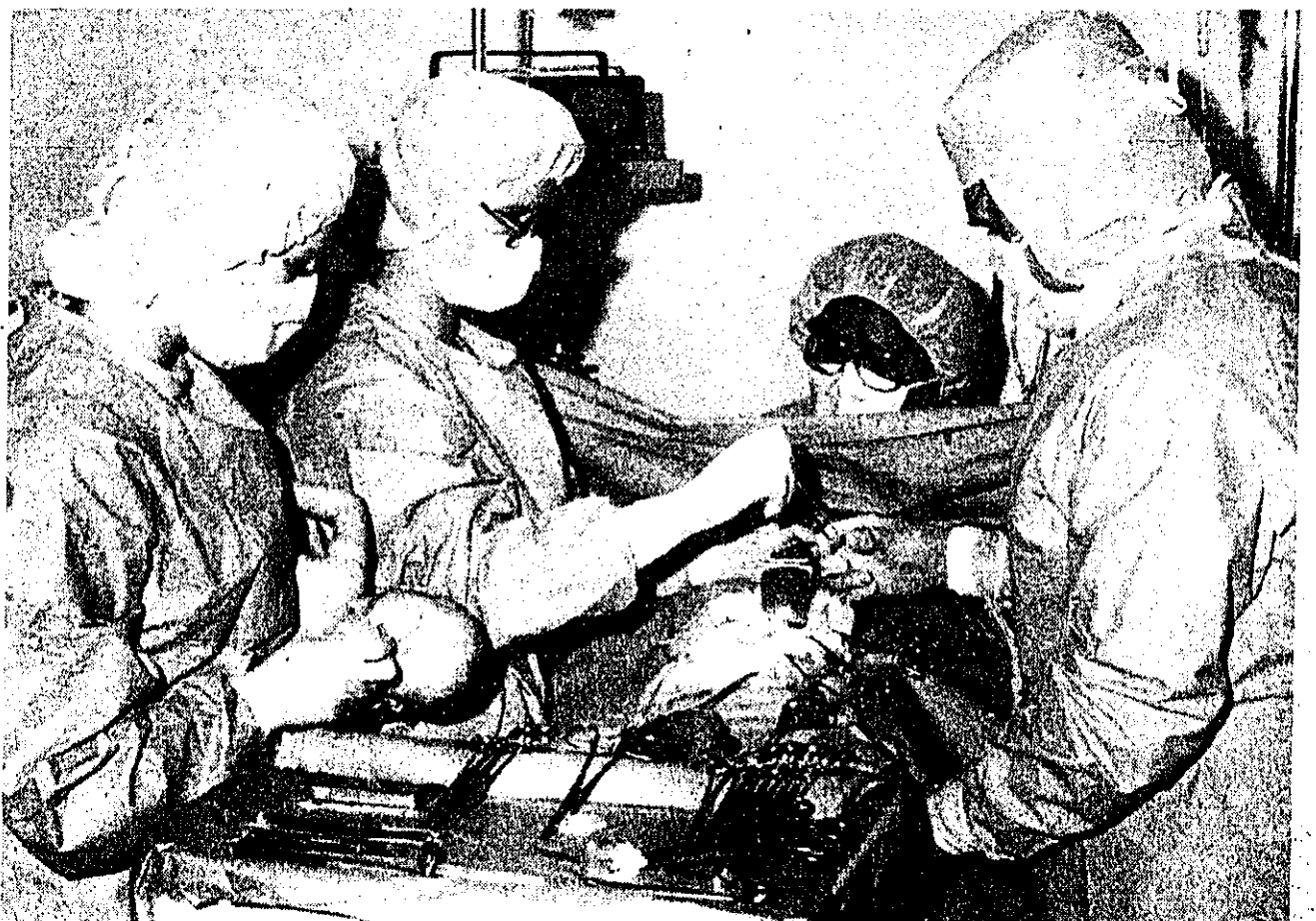
Because of its high valuation per pupil, Owen-Gage doesn't qualify for general

state aid. Less than 6 percent of its revenues, based on the 1979-80 budget, comes from the state in aid for special programs, thus cut-backs by Lansing won't affect it as much as it would those districts that receive regular state aid.

Candidates for the school board are Ronald Good, S. Pobanz Road, Sebewiang, who has served 15 years, and Donald Cummins, 5490 Mac-Alpine Road, Gageton, who is completing his first four year term. They do not have any opposition. Good has been board president seven or eight years.

KINGSTON

The two board members whose terms are expiring, Please turn to page 11.



OPEN HOUSE - Visitors at the Hills and Dales General Hospital open house Sunday afternoon will be able to view one of the outpatient surgery operating rooms in the new ambulatory care unit. Performing a for-the-camera Caesarean section using dummies are, from left, Cindy Bader, LPN; Gayle Nicol, LPN; operating room supervisor Genevieve Crawley, RN, and playing the role of the doctor, ambulatory service director Ken Carlile, RN. A real Caesarean section would be done in the regular operating room. (Story on page 20.)