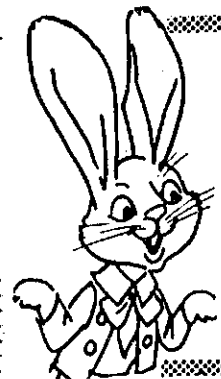


Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)



Norb Seeley brought in a couple of Chronicle statements issued to J. A. Caldwell in 1912. One was a bill for 150 calendars for \$19.63. The other was for advertising that included a 52-inch ad for \$4.68.

Advertising probably costs 20 times that today while circulation is four times or more greater.

Just for fun I checked the ad in question. It was to sell stoves, no price listed. The same issue had ads for men's suits for \$10 and new shoes for men and women at prices listed from \$1.00 to \$3.75. Children's new shoes started at 20 cents a pair and sold at up to \$2.50 a pair.

Thanks to Mrs. Devere Rakestrae of Lupton, Mi., the owner of a Cass City High School "key" has a chance to get it back. The ornament was found in the laundry building at Rose City.

Mrs. Rakestrae sent the key to Principal Russ Richards of Cass City and it can be claimed by identifying it.

Cass City Schools will be saying good-bye for good to Dale McIntosh when school closes this spring. After 10 years, McIntosh is quitting to accept a position with a local bank.

The school loses a fine teacher and coach and the Cass City Teachers' Association loses its president.

Elsewhere the Chronicle has devoted the better part of 2 pages to statements from the school board candidates.

It's sure that there will be plenty of other items in the paper better read. That doesn't mean that we begrudge the space. If it helps a few thinking voters make an informed decision next Monday it will be worth it.

The lion's share of local tax dollars go to run our schools and it's worth a little time and effort to try and pick the best available.

For the first time in years the school is asking for a millage increase of 1.52. We all know that doesn't mean that taxes haven't raised. Increases in valuation have upped the cost to all of us.

But the bottom line is still how we compare with other districts and there we look good. Our taxes are among the lowest in the area and with the bleak State Aid picture this year the money is necessary to maintain the system.

The board returns to the taxpayer each year for money to run the school. That's all to the good. If every user of our tax dollars were forced to justify the way they spend our money the same way I'll guarantee that we'd be getting more for our money, much more for our money, than we do today.

Too soon to tell effect of governor's cutback

It's too soon yet to know the effect of Gov. Milliken's \$97 million slash in state spending. Cass City village Supt. Lou LaPonsie said Tuesday.

The governor's cutback, out of present fiscal year spending, was announced last Wednesday and includes a \$23 million reduction in aid to local governmental units.

It appears, LaPonsie said, the village will lose all of the \$2,500 in intangibles tax revenue it had anticipated, plus there will be reductions of as yet unknown amounts in income tax and state shared revenues Cass City would otherwise receive.

The 1980 budget had anticipated receiving \$16,500 in income tax and \$45,000 in state shared revenue this year.

In preparing the budget, he pointed out, these amounts had already been reduced from what the village might have received in prosperous years, in anticipation that this year would be a bad one financially for the state.



TURNAROUND -- Recent rains have been a boon to crops already planted, but a hindrance to planting the rest of them, such as this farmer was doing along E. Morrison Road near Ubyly last week. According to Tuscola County Extension Director Bill Bortel, it's getting very late to plant corn and colored beans, excluding black turtles, but farmers still have a couple of weeks left to plant navy beans.

Sewage survey in Gagetown Saturday

Members of the Gagetown Village Council and representatives of Edmands Engineering are scheduled to conduct a survey in the village Saturday, needed in order to apply for federal and state funds for construction of a sanitary sewer and treatment system.

They will be asking such questions of homeowners as whether they have a septic tank, are their drains connected to the storm sewer, etc.

Representatives of the Bay City engineering firm told the council Monday that if all goes well, funds might be obtained to allow ground-breaking for the lagoon sewage treatment system and sewers by spring of next year.

In other action, the council designated June 23-27 for pick up of brush, tree limbs and leaves in the village. The items should be left by the curb during those days.

Only those items will be accepted, as they are the

only things that can still be dumped at the old village landfill.

Installation of new sidewalk on South Street in front of the homes of William Ehrlich and Doug Comment was approved.

The certified public accounting firm of Anderson, Lynch, Nietzke and Co. of Bad Axe was hired to do the audit of the village books when the current fiscal year ends.

Emory Balmer funeral held in Clarkston

Emory W. Balmer, 72, of 5558 Robinson Road, Cass City, died Friday of natural causes.

He was a retired employee of Pontiac Motor Division. He is survived by his wife, Eva; brothers Paul S. Balmer, Waterford, and Orville L. Balmer, Pontiac, and

sister Mrs. Beulah Graham, Waterford.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Lewis E. Wint Funeral Home, Clarkston, Rev. Todd Vanaman of the Dixie Baptist church officiating.

Burial was in Lakeview cemetery, Clarkston.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday.....	82	50	0
Thursday.....	88	48	.01
Friday.....	86	50	.31
Saturday.....	76	48	.15
Sunday.....	62	45	0
Monday.....	75	53	.49
Tuesday.....	74	43	.12

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)

The Haire Net



Jim Wagner is a national spelling bee director and has been for 21 years.

You'd think that when he talks about spellers and spelling you are getting the straight dope right from the horse's mouth.

I suspect that he's a pretty good speller himself. He must be because he hasn't the foggiest about what makes a good speller.

He says that one of the keys to a good speller is that as a child he was a voracious reader.

What a crock. If there ever was a voracious reader, I'm it. If there ever was a lousy speller, I'm it.

By ultra conservative estimate, I've read 1,000 books plus a mile high list of magazines, starting with the Saturday Evening Post when 12 years old.

The big boss in the family did little reading until she started in self defense after talking to herself while I was reading.

Yet she can spell just about anything you ask her to (and I ask her plenty).

Good spellers are like good athletes. Born, not made. It's a God-given talent like being agile, and 7-foot tall with an uncanny ability for putting the ball through a basketball hoop.

You can get better with practice, but that's all. Today I imagine that if you took 100 persons off the

street I might range about at the midway point. When I graduated from high school I probably would have been in the bottom 10 percent.

Using words everyday has helped me with some of the simple words and some of the unusual words like faux pas, clique, pique. Those I can spell.

But for years, literally years, I struggled with until. Was it until or untill? Another toughie was suppose. Was it suppose, suposse or suppose?

If you're not a speller you instantly know what I'm talking about. If you can spell you don't understand it at all.

There is one aid to the poor speller (besides the dictionary). It's to strive to enunciate words distinctly.

Take the word strictly. More times than not you'll hear it pronounced strictly and that's the way I used to spell it.

If you're asking why a poor speller is in the news business the answer is no matter what the field there are areas where we excel and areas where we do not.

My answer was to surround myself with people with the talent and hope for the best.

(Note to proofreader: Be SURE that only the deliberately misspelled words are left uncorrected.)



"If It Fitz. . ." Finding myself

By Jim Fitzgerald

A reader named Carol Murray figures writing a column takes only a few minutes a day, and she wonders what I do with the rest of my time. What I do is look behind bushes and under beds, searching for myself. Hoping to weather the male midlife crisis, I am trying to find my identity so I can have it altered.

Carol put her question this way:

"If your job is to help me start out my day on the right foot, then you are successful. But I imagine you typing some funny short story, which would take about an hour, and the rest of the day is spent sitting with your feet up on the desk and drinking coffee. Somehow your job seems too easy. There must be more to it than what I can think of. Please describe your job. . ."

Carol's description is accurate, except I don't drink coffee. In my younger years, I worked much harder. I was an assembly line worker for Chrysler, a mailman, an advertising salesman, a sports writer, an editor and several other things. I didn't have all these jobs at the same time, but sometimes it seemed that way. In those days, the only time I put my feet on a desk was to change a light bulb on the ceiling.

But about five years ago, I suddenly realized I was middle-aged and I still didn't know who I was, or where I was. I decided to cut my working hours so I'd have sufficient time to find myself. As a steady reader of interviews with psychologists and movie stars and other experts on functional living, I knew how important it is for a person to find

himself or herself, which ever the case may be.

Once I read that Burt Reynolds didn't find himself until he was 40 years old. At the time, this made me feel smug. I had thought I found myself when I was only 30, while looking in a mirror. But, after serious reflection, I decided my mirror image was of no real substance. I realized it was shallow of me to think I could polish my image simply by rubbing it with Windex. I kept looking.

My concern deepened when I read about Dom DeLuise, the chubby comedian, who said: ". . . It's so easy to lose who you are."

This raised the possibility of more than one search for the same me. Even if I did find myself, I could later lose myself. Repeated searches would leave me no time for work at all, not even as a one-hour-a-day columnist. I vowed that once I did find myself, I would never let myself out of my sight.

Then I read an interview with Michael E. McGill, a PhD from the University of South Carolina. He wrote a book called "The 40 to 60 Year Old Male," in which he said every male has a midlife crisis. By age 50 I had experienced no hot flashes and no impulse to wear a pizza-sized medallion around my neck, so I naively hoped I had slept through my midlife crisis. Dr. McGill convinced me I was mistaken.

"The midlife crisis stops when the man alters his identity in such a way that he is no longer vulnerable to threats to that identity which brought about the crisis in the first place," Dr. McGill said. "If there is no

fundamental alteration in his identity, the man will remain ever vulnerable to those same threats, ever vulnerable to crisis."

This means when I finally do discover my identity, my task won't be completed. I must also take it in for alterations. Naturally, there is no way I can know whether I should be shortened or lengthened until I find me. Maybe all I will need is a tuck under the chin.

Obviously, my time is running out. I don't want to be an old man before I know who I am. Certainly, I don't want my survivors to say I died of midlife crisis, at the age of 80, without ever knowing who I was.

So, in answer to Carol Murray's question, that's what I do when I'm not writing a column. I try to find myself.

And that's all for today. Not only is my hour up, but I just glanced out the window and I think I saw me walking down the street, toward a saloon.

Ferris honors

list includes 4

Cass Cityans

Four Cass Cityans have been named to the academic honors list for the spring quarter at Ferris State College, Big Rapids.

They were Susan Asher, Robert Brown, Kurt Proctor, and Gary Warju.

To be eligible, a student must have compiled a 3.25 grade point average for at least 14 credit hours of graded work.



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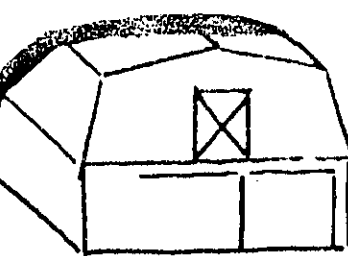
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