

Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The Cass City school vote Monday was described as heavy. And it was... using the numbers that usually vote at school elections.

But examine it from another angle and maybe we don't have much to be patting ourselves on the back about as it first appears.

There were 1,030 votes cast and that less than a third of the more than 3,500 registered voters in the district.

The Cass City school board and the administration should be gratified with the results of the balloting for candidates.

A case could be made for voter satisfaction with the running of the school. All of the top vote getters Monday expressed satisfaction with the school now and promised to try to improve an already fine system when they made statements for the voters before the election.

One of the ways that the Chamber of Commerce is financing the second annual July 4 Festival is through the sale of buttons. The buttons cost a buck. Not only do they help pay expenses, but they advertise the event, too.

Bob Wischmeyer has a son who is a Rotary exchange student in Australia. He recently heard from a "ham" radio operator in Livonia who said that he could talk with Kent over the radio via a ham operator in Australia. The trouble is that none has been located in the Thumb.

If you can help out give me or better yet, Bob, a call.

Lloyd Finkbeiners celebrate anniversary

More than a hundred relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Finkbeiner attended an open house June 1 at their home on Green Road, Cass City, when the Finkbeiners' 40th wedding anniversary was celebrated.

Wilma Jackson, whose parents were William and Jennie Jackson, and Lloyd Finkbeiner, son of Fred and

Lavina Finkbeiner, were married June 1, 1940 at the Methodist church parsonage in Gagetown. Attendants were the late Henry Kelly and Janetta Jackson, sister of the bride. Clergyman was Rev. Wesley Dafeo.

The couple have a son, William Finkbeiner of Pontiac, and a daughter, Mrs. Donnel (Patricia) Holland of Sebawaing. They have four grandsons, Matthew and Billy Finkbeiner and Douglas and Mike Holland.

At the June 1 celebration, Mrs. Lota Hartel cut the anniversary cake for her mother, Mrs. Helen Little, who had made the wedding cake 40 years ago.

Mrs. Finkbeiner is a retired teacher, having taught 35 years. Finkbeiner retired after 23 years of employment at the Caro Regional Center.



TOP SPELLERS -- Holding their certificates and ribbons of merit are the proud winners of the Campbell Elementary School third grade spelling bee. Top spellers of 40 participants were, back row, from left, Roger Root, fourth place; Mike Erickson, first; Adam Suzor, third. Front row, Melissa Knowlton, fifth, and Janet Koch, second.

3 injured in separate county crashes

Three persons were injured in separate accidents around the county last week.

Kurt D. Engler, 46, was treated and released from Caro Community Hospital after the vehicle he was driving went off Hurds Corner Road north of Shabbona Road, at 10 p.m. Saturday.

Engler of 3422 Pine Street, Kingston, told sheriff's deputies he lost control due to ruts in the road.

The Engler vehicle rolled over three times covering a distance of 90 feet.

Engler was cited by officers on a charge of reckless driving following the incident.

Steven D. Kuhn, 20, and Crystal Groner, 18, both of 6261 Cedar Drive, Cass City, were treated and released from Hills and Dales General Hospital, following a motorcycle mishap Wednesday, June 4.

Kuhn and his passenger, Miss Groner, were northbound on Cedar Run Road, west of Hoppe Road, when he lost control on a curve, according to Cass City police.

The incident occurred at 7:30 p.m. Gary Diebel, 28, was rushed to Hills and Dales General Hospital Monday

night when a car battery he was working on blew up in his face.

Diebel, of 4176 Maple Street, was treated for minor injuries and released. The incident took place about 9 p.m.

Gregory L. Hudie, 18, of Vassar, told deputies he was being chased by an unknown party, causing him to go off the road late Saturday night.

Hudie was southbound on Hurds Corner Road at M-81 when the accident occurred at 10:50 p.m.

He said he was going about 70 miles-per-hour when he left the road. His vehicle bounced off a tree in the center of the ditch and came to a stop in a corn field almost 200 feet away.

A car driven by Scott R. Willmont, 16, of 4970 E. Sanilac Road, Kingston, collided with the rear of a car driven by Bridget A. Miller, 28, of 3470 Cemetery Road, Cass City, Monday morning.

Both cars were westbound on M-46, west of Kingston

Road, deputies reported, when the Willmont vehicle hit the Miller auto which was waiting for a car in front of her to turn.

The accident occurred at 10:40 a.m.

FATALITY

Vern Thomas, 49, of Unionville, died June 1 at Bay Medical Center, Bay City, of injuries suffered in a May 17 accident.

He had been injured when his motorcycle went off Thomas Road, near his home northwest of Akron, and landed in a ditch. His helmet was found nearby but sheriff's deputies were unable to determine if he was wearing it and it came off during the crash or if he had been carrying it on his cycle. The accident took place about 2:25 p.m.

Thomas was the seventh person to die in a Tuscola county traffic accident this year, compared to nine as of June 10 a year ago.

The Haire Net



If you took the time to read carefully the statements of the school board candidates last week you noticed most were all gung-ho for better communication between parents and schools.

Incumbent Dr. E. Paul Lockwood didn't say anything about communication in the community, but I'm sure that he would say that it is very important.

Perhaps he didn't because he has found that communication is easy to talk about and hard to achieve.

I submit that the fault lies not with the board, but with residents in the district. Moms and pops with kids in school and taxpayers who

moan about the bite that schools put in their pocket-books every year.

In a quarter century of monitoring the activities of the Cass City board, I can count on one hand the number of persons who attended a board meeting without an axe to grind.

The truth is that we don't bother much about the school until something pops up that hits us where we live.

Over the years there have been a half dozen attempts to get a teacher-parent organization functioning. None has cut the mustard. They go for a bit and then the attendance dwindles to a point where they quietly die.

Before the election the candidates' drive for votes put the school on the front burner again for a bit.

The campaigning and the millage issue brought people to the polls. Besides, it rained and the farmers couldn't get in the field anyway. With all that going for it 1030 of more than 3,500 registered voters cast ballots. That's less than a third and is considered a large turnout.

It's a safe bet that at least half of the voters went to the school to vote for a specific candidate and really didn't take the time to study the issues facing the school at all.

Given this apathy, how does a school board member communicate better with the community?

No one has come up with the answer to that one yet, although newly elected board members have tried with zeal and enthusiasm when they first won seats.

After trying and failing, members tend to listen to complaints and air them at the meetings. That's the extent of citizen-school communications.

Board members have found and new board members will find that it's hard to communicate when no one is listening.



"If It Fitz..." What to worry about

By Jim Fitzgerald

It was several years ago, sometime around noon on Day 984,467,893 of These Troubled Times, that I decided I should stop worrying about being different. Up until then, it had worried me deeply that I was apparently the only person in the United States who thought "I Love Lucy" was a stupid TV show.

I used to be afraid there was something wrong with me. I didn't like what everyone else liked. Sometimes I was only bored by things that interested an audience of millions. Other times, I was strongly opposed to people and events that fascinated everyone else. I worried that I was some sort of a snob or, worse yet, that I was making an iconoclastic bid for attention, growing two heads simply so people would notice my two hats.

But then I decided I had more important things to worry about in These Troubled Times. In fact, one of the reasons I never care who wins the Kentucky Derby is so I'll have time to care who wins the American League pennant. I hope that makes sense to you. I'm saying a person has only so much time for worrying and he should allot that time wisely. Certainly he shouldn't waste time worrying about why he doesn't worry about what everyone else worries about.

Stick with me (unless you have more important things to worry about). The 24-hour-a-day limit on worrying time is my secondary reason for not worrying about the Kentucky Derby or any other horse race. My primary reason is that I'm not convinced horses are as crazy about racing as people are about betting on win, place or show.

Recently, an immensely popular race ended in a dispute when one jockey was accused of whipping another jockey's horse. It is not fair to whip the other guy's horse. A jockey should whip his own horse only. He can also kick it, and shoot it if it breaks a leg trying to escape the whip. This is a lousy way to treat a horse. So I don't worry about who wins a horse race because I think horse racing is cruelty to dumb animals.

I make a similar argument against prize fighting, except the animals aren't dumb. Horses have no choice, but fighters choose to fight, and that's their business. There are comparatively few prize fight-

ers, so I don't feel out of step with the world for not wanting my face punched. But millions of people enjoy watching two brutes pound on each other, which is almost as dumb as buying a seat for a war. Fight fans furnish the money that gives the brutes a reason to pound. It is these fans who make me feel like an outsider, but I don't worry about it.

Another thing I no longer worry about is my aversion to auto racing. I guess I can understand why a driver enjoys the adventure of risking bone fractures for money. But more than 300,000 people annually pay to watch cars circle for 500 miles in Indianapolis. It is usually a sweaty, crowded, dirty scene. But Indy fans says it's fun and besides, even if they can't see the cars, they can drink beer. I'd rather take my six-pack to a freeway curb.

Also, I'd rather skip "Dallas," currently the most popular TV show in the U.S. and, for Lord's sake, in Britain, too. When the British Broadcasting Corp. showed this season's final episode, in which villain J.R. Ewing (Larry Hagman) was shot, the London Daily Mail devoted its entire third page to the shooting. Everyone except me is worried that J.R. might die. Frankly, I thought he should have been killed many years ago for

keeping Barbara Eden in a bottle.

That bit of nostalgia (Barbara had no navel, remember?) proves I'm no anti-TV intellectual. I watch TV almost every night I'm home. And I know several people a lot more intellectual than I am who would rather miss payday than miss "Dallas."

Succumbing to peer pressure, I've watched "Dallas" several times. It's so dumb I wouldn't be surprised if it turns out J.R. was shot by Lucille Ball. If no one agrees with me, I'm sorry, but in These Troubled Times, I don't have time to worry about it.

I only have time to worry my way, la la tra.

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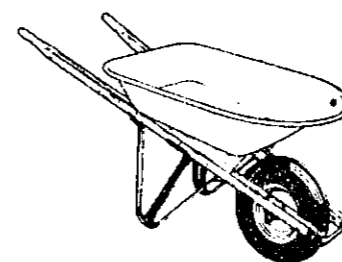
Please be notified that there will be a public hearing at the Ellington Township Hall, located at the intersection of Dutcher Road and M-81, Caro, Michigan at 7:30 p.m. July 2, 1980. The following change of zoning will be considered: the township of Ellington proposes the rezoning of the S.W. 1/4 of the N.W. 1/4 of Section 34 T.13N - R.10E from the present zoning classification of agricultural, to residential.

The proposed change and zoning map may be examined at the Township Zoning Administrator's residence, located at 2940 Hurds Corner Road.

PAUL C. SKINNER

Ellington Township
Zoning Administrator

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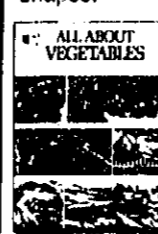
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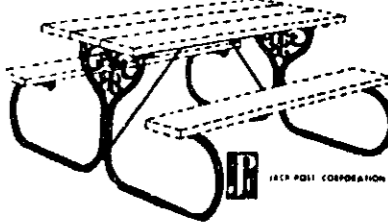
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Bible school starts Sunday at Holbrook

The Holbrook Baptist church will start vacation Bible school Sunday at 7 p.m. at the church.

The Bassett family of Bay City will conduct the school, inviting whole families. There will be Bible study for all ages, also puppets for children. All are invited.

Pastor is Rev. Dale Bird. The school will close Thursday evening, June 19.

Tip to motorists: Never dictate the right-of-way — give it.

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