

## Rob 4 on O-G class trip

One of the worst things that can ruin a vacation is a robbery on the road and the worst happened to four Owen-Gage High School students during their recent senior trip to Florida.

Three men entered the room occupied by Alan Haag, John Retford and Brad Erickson at the Caravan Inn, near Orlando, early the morning of Friday, June 6, and took a number of items plus \$180 in cash.

All three students were in the room at the time along with Mary Kay Burrows, another student, who was preparing to leave when the robbery occurred. Burrows said she was forced back into the room by men who were waiting outside the door. One of them held a pair of scissors to her back, scratching her when they forced her into the room. She was the only one hurt.

She then ran into the bathroom but came out after the men threatened her. "They said 'You better come out or we'll kill you,'" she said.

One of the men claimed to have a gun, but none of the students saw it during the incident.

According to Haag, the men were only in the room for about a minute. Just enough time to grab what they saw as valuable and take off.

Immediately after the robbery, the kids called the rest of the 12 students on the trip warning them to lock their doors.

They then called the police and chaperones, Burrows added.

The police came and inspected the scene but the students are doubtful they will ever see their belongings again.

Whether or not the items were covered by insurance is still being investigated.

Haag said he had \$50 stolen with his wallet and watch plus a gym bag containing an electric razor, hair dryer, shoes and clothes.

Retford said he had his watch, camera and \$10 taken. Erickson had \$128 and a camera stolen in the incident.

The students were near the end of their stay near Orlando, Fla., where they had been visiting for the week of June 1-7.

Even though they ran into bad luck while in Florida the kids said they tried to have as much fun as possible following the robbery. They agreed they did not want one bad incident to ruin an otherwise good time.



**BREAKING GROUND** -- On hand for the groundbreaking of the new waste water treatment plant are, from left, council members Elwyn Helwig, Lynda McIntosh, Dorothy Stahlbaum, village superintendent Lou LaPonsie, plant supervisor Nelson Willy, Dick Hampshire, village president Lambert Althaver and Delbert Rawson. Before the ceremony Tuesday morning the council met to approve the plant's operating budget and loan resolution.

## Public cooperation needed

# Year-old animal shelter working well, says officer

By James Iseler

It has been almost one year since the new Tuscola county animal shelter opened west of Caro on M-81 and animal control officer Jeff Quinn feels the new facility has some definite advantages over its predecessor.

The main improvement is size. The old shelter, located inside the Caro village limits, was only about half as big as the new one.

Where the old shelter had four pens to hold dogs, the new one has 12.

Although the new pens are smaller they still add up to more space for dogs that are being held there. And since there are more that means there are fewer dogs in each pen.

Quinn said the number of dogs that pass through the shelter has remained about the same but he added it is easier to care for them than it was before.

Each cage has two parts. One inside and one outside. The dogs are allowed outside during the day and the inside cages are cleaned. At night they are brought back in and the outside is cleaned. During the day the animals are

allowed to wander back and forth.

In the old shelter, the cages were all indoors and had to be washed down at least twice a day, Quinn said.

Other additions which are improvements over the old building include a three-cage holding area for dogs suspected of carrying diseases and a food preparation room.

It also has an area for cats which, although not picked up, are accepted and held with the dogs.

The pound keeps only dogs, cats and puppies, referring all other animal reports to the Department of Natural Resources.

Although neither Quinn, nor deputy animal control officer Don Willis, can administer medicine to the animals brought in, they do feed and water them.

The question arises -- Only so many dogs and cats can fit into the shelter so what happens when it gets full?

From this thought, the image of the big bad dog catcher arises. A professional man who rounds up pets for the purpose of destroying them.

This is one image that Quinn wants badly to dispel.

He said he sees his job as a public protector, collecting loose dogs that could pose a danger to people in a county he claims is overcrowded with animals.

Most of the dogs brought to the county pound end up there because their owners no longer properly care for them.

A classic example, Quinn points out, is a litter of pups that can neither be kept or placed in suitable homes.

But the question remains -- what happens to them?

Once a week, usually Wednesday or Thursday, Fred Hodgins of Howell, comes to pick up those animals which are not claimed or given to people in search of pets.

For this he gets an average of \$140 a week from the county.

Quinn said he would like to find homes for the animals brought to the shelter but, adds the fact that so many are brought in shows there are not that many good homes to be found.

When an animal is brought in it must be kept for four working days before it is shipped out or sold. This gives an owner time to come to the pound to retrieve their pet.

If a pet is brought in and a

paper signed by the owners, it can be shipped out earlier.

Quinn and Willis go out twice a day on calls to answer stray dog reports. Each of them cover half the county.

Even so they cannot get all the dogs that are reported. There are a couple things people can do to help Quinn with his job.

If the dog is hanging around, try to catch it and keep it penned up until the animal control officer can get there. If the dog cannot be caught at least keep track of the direction in which it took off.

Quinn said he tries to be helpful to the owner when picking up a stray. If it is licensed he will attempt to return it. But, most dogs are unlicensed and that is where the problem occurs.

An unlicensed dog that is picked up then claimed as Quinn begins to drive off will probably be returned, as long as the owner stays cool.

But if they get belligerent, claiming Quinn is just picking up dogs for the fun of it, he said he is liable to take the dog to the pound anyway, forcing the owner to come and bail it out -- with a \$10 fee.

(Related story, picture page 15).

# 3 area schools start teacher contract talks

Thumb area school districts appear to be following a statewide trend in negotiations among the various districts and the school unions.

It is the exception rather than the rule to find a district that has its labor contracts settled with the end of the fiscal year, June 30, less than two weeks away.

There are districts working with multi-year contracts that have no bargaining problems and a few that have hammered out a contract with relative ease.

One of these is in the Thumb where Marlette and the Marlette Teachers' Association reached a settlement in just nine meetings, coming into agreement well before the previous contract was due to expire.

But other districts are not finding it that easy.

Although unable to predict a length for negotiations, Cass City Superintendent Donald G. Crouse said after looking at the teachers' proposals it could take "many, many meetings" before they settle.

One of the causes for variety in length of negotiations could be the introduction of outside bargainers, according to Marlette Superintendent Bob Frederikson.

He claimed the presence of such bargaining units as the Tri-County Bargaining Association tends to prolong settlements.

Marlette teachers do not belong to the TCBA. Cass City teachers do.

Negotiations that stay within the district can be handled quickly, professionally and more effectively than those with outside bargainers, he said.

The TCBA represents 14 school districts in the three-county area and seeks to gain a fair settlement for all by comparing one to another.

At any rate, negotiations between teachers and Thumb school districts shape up to be a varied lot, depending on the stage each district is in.

## CASS CITY

In Cass City, the TCBA and the Board of Education have begun the initial stages of working out a new contract.

The TCBA met Tuesday, June 10, with the Board's bargaining team, led by professional negotiator Al Luce of Saginaw, to present the teachers' proposals for a tentative two-year contract.

The present three-year contract expires Aug. 15.

Neither side could predict how long it will take to settle since the entire Board has not even seen the teacher proposals or presented their own.

"If I were to say how long

it would take it would be pure speculation on my part," Crouse said.

Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26. Although the proposals do not specify a two-year contract, Phyllis McCoy, negotiator for the TCBA, confirmed they were working on a two-year pact.

With the fluctuation in the cost of living, McCoy said a contract shorter than the present one would be best.

"We don't want to get tied into a three-year contract," Ms. McCoy said.

Both the Board and the TCBA must ratify the agreement before it becomes effective.

The present contract came about after a year of haggling and a strike by Cass City teachers.

Only two Board members were at the initial meeting so its reaction to the proposals was uncertain.

Crouse said the entire Board should see the document at its regular July meeting.

## OWEN-GAGE

The Owen-Gage school district will begin contract talks Monday when the Board of Education sits down to hear the initial proposals of the TCBA.

Superintendent Ron Erickson said he has no idea at this point how the talks will go.

Owen-Gage is working to replace a three-year contract which expires Aug. 31.

## UBLY

In Uby, negotiators are in the process of working out salaries for the last year of their three-year contract, according to business manager Mark Tenbusch.

The two sides have met four times so far but no real progress has been made, he stated.

The teams will meet again Wednesday, June 18.

That meeting should be more productive, Tenbusch said, with both sides presenting more realistic demands.

Until now, proposals from both sides have not been acceptable to the other side, he added.

New proposals are expected for Wednesday's meeting.

## KINGSTON

Teachers in the Kingston school district will sit down to decide the school year calendar but that is all, according to Sharon Brandibur, secretary to the superintendent.

Teachers there settled last year on a contract that will operate through 1982.

## CARO

The Caro school district has two years left of a three-year contract, according to Superintendent Lyle Lauer.

The only business to be completed is the teacher ratification of the school calendar. They are in the process of voting on the calendar by mail and Lauer said he expects it to pass.

# Fire guts Auten pickup Tuesday

The Elkland township fire department was called to extinguish two blazes near Cass City this past week.

A pickup truck owned by Fred Auten, 4647 N. Seeger, was gutted Tuesday when a fire of undetermined origin ignited as the truck was traveling on Cemetery Road south of Huron Line Road.

Charles Auten of 6611 E. Milligan Road said he was using the truck to move furniture to Cass City when the fire occurred.

"I was driving along and I smelled smoke then I turned around and saw it was me," Auten said.

Auten and a passenger, Dennis Hurley of 6268 E. Cedar, pulled off the road and no sooner were out of the truck than the fire, which started in the bed, engulfed the cab.

Hurley stated he tried to unhook a trailer which contained more furniture but was forced back by the heat.

"It was either breakout some hot dogs or bail out," Hurley said jokingly.

Neither the victims nor firemen were able to readily determine a cause but Hurley guessed it to be a form of spontaneous combustion.

Destroyed in the fire were mattresses and bed frames belonging to Auten. Most of what was in the trailer remained relatively unscathed.

Auten could not estimate the value of what was destroyed, saying most of it had sentimental value. He added it was to be sold soon at a garage sale.

Firemen were called to Please turn to page 10.

## Won't last a year, said cynics

# Early days recalled as Cass City Rotary celebrates 50th year

The smart money in Cass City in 1929 was betting that Rotary would never start in the village and if it did would not last a year.

After all it took a lot of arm twisting for the dedicated Rotarians from the Caro club with help from Rotarians elsewhere to finally find 15 members willing to join.

It wasn't a time for striking out with a new anything. The depression had started and things were far from rosy.

After about two years of work 15 members signed and came up with the \$20 membership fee.

Two charter members of the club are expected to be present when Rotary celebrates its 50 years Saturday night at Sherwood-on-the-Hill. They are Fred Pinney and M.B. Auten.

The club had been meeting for several months before the charter night which was held Oct. 7, 1930.

The first record of the club's activities appeared in the Chronicle July 25 when an address by Dr. M. Wickware was reported.

When Rotary formed Clara Bow was starring in "Dangerous Curves" at the Pastime Theatre in Cass City.

Cass Cityans were paying 25 cents a pound for coffee at the A&P (when they had the quarter), bread was selling for 8 cents for a 1 1/2-pound loaf and Cass City beat Bad Axe in overtime in the basketball district tournament, 6-4.

Chevrolet was advertising a new super six-cylinder car and there was talk about improving M-53 near Detroit.

Despite the condition of the roads at the time the club was swamped with 225 Rotarians from all over Michigan and Ontario who descended on Cass City.

M.B. Auten, the club's first president, recalled the charter night, when the club celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1955. Part of what he said that night was:

"Back in 1928 and 9, Fred Striffler, classified 'Magnanimous Motor Magnate' used to expound on the marvelous merits of Rotary. I never believed him. He sold Chevrolets. He brought with him various celebrated help-mates such as District-governor M.R. Keyworth of Shabbona fame, and Paul King of Newberry days, but was always told it would interfere with the workings

of that ancient and honorable organization known as the Community Club. Finally he brought pre-senator Herb Orr who wagered a new hat that Rotary would help rather than hinder the Community Club. (I paid). Herb cajoled, entreated, and finally connived by proposing to several members, 'Will you be the fifteenth member to sign up?' He even counted in Harry Young who never attended and said he wouldn't. Personally I signed upon the specific provision that I should have no office. On June 27, 1929, he sold Doc McCoy; you always could sell him anything. On the same date Harry Young, Walt Mann, Paul Allured, Al Knapp and Fred Pinney signed. A couple of days later he got Ernie Schwadner and Sheldon Young. A

year rolled around and on June 1, 1930 Herb came back and signed up Fred Bigelow, Herb Lenzner, John Sandham, Doc Schenck, Ashton Tindale, Larry Randall and M.B. Auten. The foregoing fifteen men were the charter members."

Regarding charter night: "We told the women there would be about one hundred. Later we told them one hundred fifty. The night came and so did Rotarians. We didn't know there were so many Rotarians. They came from Alpena, M.L. Pleasant, Dearborn and all intervening towns and, when the last loads from Ridgely, Windsor and Blenheim, Ontario, rolled in, there were over two hundred twenty-five. Herb had done a good job but we ran out of food."



**"IT JUST LIT UP"** -- Fire engulfed this truck owned by Fred Auten as it was being driven down North Cemetery Road Tuesday. Dennis Hurley, (foreground, with firemen) said the fire started in the truck bed for no apparent cause.