

## 3 teens die in accident

Three Fairgrove teenagers lost their lives in an early morning accident Monday west of Caro.

Killed were Glen S. Kosik, 18, Kimberly Kay Connelly, 17, and Paula Jo Monte, 16. All were pronounced dead on arrival at Caro Community Hospital following the 12:15 a.m. crash.

The three were passengers in a car driven by Terry L. Campbell, 18, of Fairgrove, who was later transferred from Caro Community to Bay Medical Center, Bay City. He was reported in satisfactory condition there Tuesday afternoon.

Scott Stermer, Tuscola county chief assistant prosecutor, said his office is awaiting completion of the sheriff's department investigation before a decision can be made on whether any legal action might be taken against the driver.

Deputies reported that the Campbell vehicle was eastbound on Gilford Road, east of Unionville Road, when it went off the south side of an S curve, hit a road sign, then a driveway culvert, went airborne and spun around before coming to rest on the south side of the road.

The Caro Fire Department's Jaws of Life hydraulic tool was used to free the victims from the wreckage. Caro and Akron police assisted deputies at the scene.

The death of the three teenagers brings the 1980 Tuscola county highway death toll to 10.

### OTHER ACCIDENTS

Barb Maxwell, 17, of State Street, Gagetown, was reportedly injured in a 1:45 a.m. accident Monday. The Caro state police report said she was taken to Schaefer Hospital in Piquette, however, the hospital had no record of her being treated there.

According to troopers, she was one of three passengers in a car driven by John J. Stochla Jr. of 4205 Hoppe Road, Gagetown, which was southbound on McElldowney Road, north of Bay City-Forestville Road. The car dropped off the right shoulder and went into a ditch.

Stochla was later cited on a charge of failure to report a property damage accident.

Robin L. Pugh, 26, of Vassar, was ticketed by Cass City police on a charge of failure to stop within an assured clear distance ahead following a 3:35 p.m. accident last Thursday.

Officers said the Pugh vehicle was westbound on Main Street and ran into the rear of a car which had stopped, prior to turning left into Comment Drive.

The driver of the other car, Howard J. Sherman, 18, Please turn to page 12.



**HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE** was honored Saturday when Meredith Auten (right) received a 50-year award from District Governor John Broadfoot. Auten was one of the original 15 founders of the Cass City Rotary and one of only two still surviving. The other 50-year-member, Fred Pinney was unable to attend. (Story, other photos, page 13.)

### At Walbro, Cable

## Factory layoffs come to Cass City

Cass City's two largest employers, which at the beginning of the year had avoided making any layoffs, have become part of the rule rather than the exception in the nation's gloomy economic picture.

Layoffs at General Cable began a few months ago and at Walbro Corp., at both its Cass City and Caro plants, about one month ago.

As of the beginning of this week, according to General Cable Industrial Relations Manager A.E. Ellinger, there were 72 workers on indefinite layoff out of a normal hourly work force of 342.

A "few more" workers were to be laid off at the end of the day Friday, but as of the beginning of this week, he didn't yet know the exact number.

At Walbro, Director of Human Resources Don Tonti said more than 100 employees at the Cass City (carburetors) and Caro (fuel pumps) plants are now on indefinite layoff, but declined to be more specific. Normal work force at the plants in those communities plus the Bad Axe plastics plant totals about 450.

In addition to hourly personnel, some line supervisors and technical layoffs are also sitting home.

"We just don't know for how long," he replied when asked when the workers might be called back. He didn't expect there will be

more layoffs at this point.

There have also been some voluntary layoff retirements, he indicated.

Walbro's two biggest carburetor customers are chainsaw and outboard motor manufacturers, but both those industries are experiencing slowdowns in sales.

AT EVANS PRODUCTS in Gagetown, the situation has improved but still isn't very good.

In January, the manufacturer of parts supply racks for auto plants had only 18 workers punching time clocks each day.

The hourly work force now totals 43, according to plant Manager Carl Vandiver, but at this time of year, when the auto companies are starting to get ready to produce the new model year cars, the normal work force would be about 120.

IN MICHIGAN, THE May unemployment rate was 14 percent, compared to 12.4 percent in April and a national unemployment rate for May of 7.8 percent.

The 14 percent unemployment rate means there were 607,000 workers without jobs.

The jobless situation in Tuscola county, more dependent on the auto industry than the state as a whole, is even worse.

The April unemployment rate was 16.3 percent. The May figure won't be available until early July, but Charles Cramer, Michigan

Employment Security Commission branch manager in Caro, expects it will be more than 20 percent.

The April unemployment rate in Huron county was 16.8 percent; in Sanilac county, 21 percent.

THE LAST COUNT available showed 7,010 unemployment claims were being paid at the Caro MESC office each week, but many of those are to persons from more populous surrounding counties who don't wish to stand in long lines to pick up their compensation checks at the MESC offices in their own counties.

This Thursday will mark the start of the second week that the office hasn't been paying any federal benefits, such as Trade Readjustment Act benefits to workers unemployed because of imports, because of failure by Congress to appropriate the additional funds needed.

Laid-off workers can receive a maximum of 39 weeks of unemployment benefits.

Since October, Cramer said, about 45 persons a week have been exhausting their benefits -- having been out of work for more than 39 weeks -- which for many means going on welfare.

Onalee Detwiler, director of the Tuscola County Department of Social Services, estimates that half of the persons presently applying for public assistance have exhausted their unemployment benefits.

## 4½ teachers lose jobs

# Board seeks 1 mill to avoid more cuts

The Cass City School Board met in a special session Monday afternoon to wrestle with thorny financial problems caused by cuts in funds at the local and state level.

The board terminated 4½ teacher positions and will ask the voters for one mill, (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of state assessed valuation) in a special election Aug. 18.

The teacher eliminations will increase class size to 28-30 students with one class in the sixth grade boosted to 31 students.

Cut from the staff were two teachers from the intermediate school, a teacher and a half from the elementary schools and one teacher from the high school.

The high school remedial reading teacher has been eliminated. There was a lengthy discussion whether to cut the reading program that has shown marked effectiveness, Principal Russell Richards said, or the social study-math teacher combination.

The board finally cut the remedial reading program because a remedial education program if enough interest is shown.

Those cuts will be made regardless of whether or not the voters approve the one-mill request. Savings under this program will total \$50,500.

The proposal before the voters for one mill will raise an estimated \$94,000 from local taxes and increased state aid.

That money will buy a package that includes vocal music in the high school and elementary department, elementary arts, a high school social study and math teacher, a complete sports program and \$10,000 worth of library books.

Sports will be wiped out across the board with the exception of boys' varsity and JV basketball and girls' varsity and JV volleyball.

The reason basketball escaped the cutting knife was that it is the only sport that pays its way. Last year it showed a profit.

Girls' volleyball was retained because the board was afraid it would be illegal to offer a boys' sports without one for girls. Volleyball lost \$1,600 last year but basketball earned enough to offer the two programs without cost to the district.

If the district loses the math and social science teacher one algebra class will have 38 students.

Supt. Donald Crouse cautioned the board that the figures he presented are tentative and based on the best judgement of the current school scene.

We don't know how much

the state will authorize in aid, but the word is that cuts are in the offing, he explained.

In addition, since state aid is controlled by the number of students, a slight decrease or increase in pupils this fall could change the aid picture.

School costs have been figures with a 9 percent inflation figure built in. That's figuring it close, isn't it? Trustee J.D. Tuckey asked. Crouse said that it was.

There was a discussion of a suggestion by Tuckey to ask the voters for 2½ to 3 mills and run the program like it ran in 1979-80.

President Geraldine Prieskorn pointed out that times are getting tougher now and she felt that the taxpayers expected the board to do some belt tightening.

The majority of the board agreed and voted to eliminate permanently the 4½ teaching positions.

The one-mill request will not affect this belt tightening and the people can tell us Aug. 18 whether they want the outlined programs to be abandoned, too, members said.

## \$94,000 package

Here's what one mill \$94,000, will buy for Cass City Schools.

- High school and elementary vocal music.
- Elementary art program
- High school social study and math teacher.
- Sports program. (Except boys' basketball and girls' volleyball.)
- \$10,000 worth of library books.

## Putting God in the classroom

# New Christian school to teach traditional values

Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.  
Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

Keeping these two scriptures in mind, two Bad Axe men have set out to establish a school that preaches the traditional values of God, patriotism and discipline.

The Thumb Christian Academy located a quarter-mile west of M-53 on Rescue Road, will begin classes this fall for 50 students in grades K-8. As soon as a new school, presently under construction, is completed, the academy will expand to high school as well.

The need for such a school is evidenced by the lack of traditional values in the modern public school system, according to Rev. James Willett, superintendent of the school and pastor of the Faith Gospel Tabernacle, the church with which the new school is associated.

"It is time to pour forth the word of God. If not in our public schools then let it pour forth in our parochial schools," he said.

The decision by the United States Supreme Court to ban prayer from public schools is the first step in a process that could lead to the downfall of American society, added A.F. McWilliams, the school's coordinator and principal.

The idea of separating church and state is wrong, McWilliams said. God has been pushed out of the schools and has been replaced by the "humanistic philosophy of man taking the place of God."

It is the intertwining of church and state that the two men hope to achieve at their school.

"Right now there are no absolutes. No standards of morality, no nationalism and no discipline," Willett intoned.

DISCIPLINE RANKS high on the list of objectives for the school, McWilliams added.

Each teacher will be responsible for maintaining discipline in the individual classroom but if necessary, in extreme cases, corporal punishment will be exercised.

In the event corporal punishment is administered, it will only occur in the pres-

ence of a board of education member, who will do the punishing, one other adult and the parents of the child, should they choose to be there.

The use of corporal punishment, as well as the other rules of the school are fully explained to parents and students when they enroll.

Evidently, at least some area people feel their children could benefit by a more traditional education. So far, 32 of the 50 available openings have been filled.

THE EDUCATION ONE will receive at the academy is centered around a three-dimensional approach, Rev. Willett explained.

The three sides are comprised of the spirit, mind and body.

A 15-minute devotion period will open each day of classes. The spiritual training will be continued throughout classes during the day.

The classes themselves will be, in many respects, a throwback to the days of the one-room schoolhouse. McWilliams sees the concept as further evidence of the traditionalism they hope to foster.

Until the school is completed and its limit of 300

students is reached, classes will be combined, he said. Even at capacity classes may be together unless their size warrants separating them.

At present, the staff is made up of McWilliams, as principal, and three teachers. All the teachers have been certified by the state and are presently working out financial terms with the school.

In addition to teachers, the school is also working to collect equipment. Desks, supplies and other necessities are purchased from schools that have closed.

The books are from the A-Becka Christian Publishers which serve approximately 1,700 other such schools, Willett said.

FINANCES ARE A MAJOR concern.

The new building, expected to be finished by the middle of the upcoming school year, was financed through a series of donations and bond sales.

The church has sold \$300,000 in bonds and is relying on donations and tuition to help pay for the estimated \$1.5 million structure, Willett said.

He added with many of the donations coming in -- some

from people who do not attend the church -- the school should break even its first year of operation.

Another source of income for the school is tuition.

It costs \$35 to register a child at the academy and then \$80 per month. It costs \$50 to register two along with a \$115 a month tuition.

IT WOULD SEEM THAT only the righteous rich would be able to send their children to the Thumb Christian Academy but that is not true, according to Willett.

He said some families have paid the registration for their children and are "trusting in God" that they can come up with money for tuition payments. Hopefully, a scholarship program will be set up in the future for such circumstances, he added.

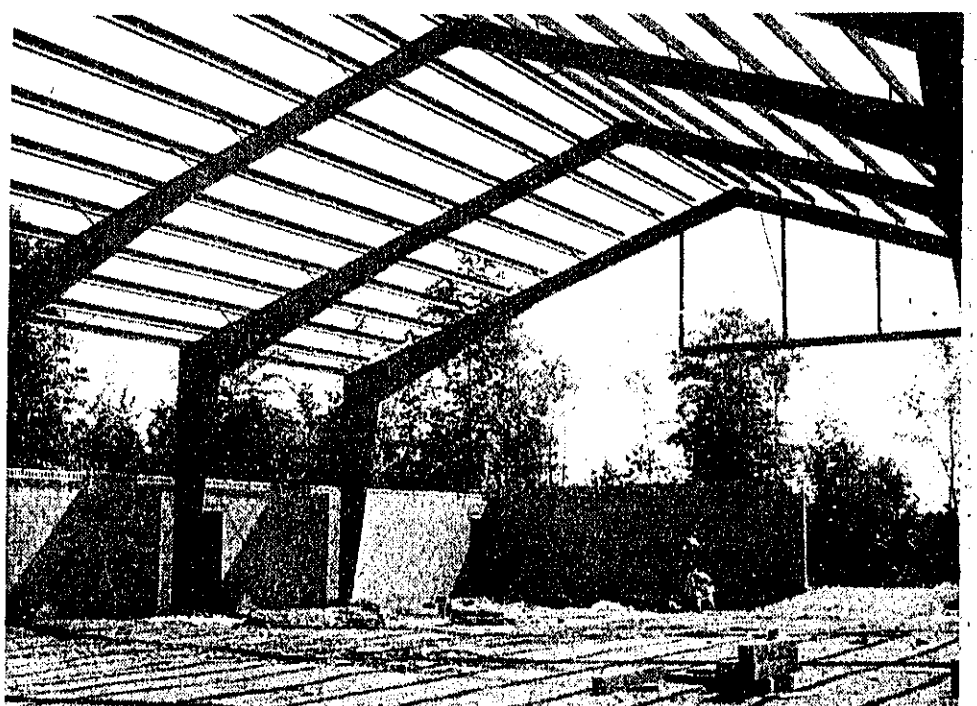
The school is interdenominational and accepts students from all faiths. McWilliams said he has Catholics, Lutherans and Mennonites enrolled.

Until the new facility is completed, classes will take place in the old church across the road from the construction site. That is one

Please turn to page 12.



**FINANCING FOR THE NEW** wastewater treatment plant was begun Tuesday when concerned parties gathered for the signing of the first of a series of loans from the Farmer's Home Administration. From left, standing are Lou LaPonsie, village superintendent; Bob Keating, Pinney State Bank; Otto Roth, engineer; Clarence Myrold, engineer; Nelson Willy, plant supervisor; Joseph Greene, FHA; Bill Danhoff, bonding attorney. Seated are Charles Kelsey, FHA; L.E. Althaver, village president; Joyce LaRoche, village clerk, and Clint House, village attorney. The FHA loan to fund the local share of the \$6 million project will be \$1.2 million.



**JUST A SKELETON** presently exists but this structure, part of the new Thumb Christian Academy, will become a combination sanctuary/gymnasium when finished next year. A collapsible wall will run across the middle allowing the gym to do double duty as an extra area for the church, making more than 1,000 seats available.