

Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

It was supposed to be a brief meeting to make official the previously agreed request for a vote for an additional mill for school operation Aug. 18.

It took longer than expected because several residents were present to voice opinions about the school situation. The "5-minute" meeting stretched over an hour.

The board listened to residents complaining about teachers and the raises received by the administration. After it was over, the original business of the meeting was quickly finished.

In these days when damage suits are filed for any trivial mishap you can imagine, it appears that the Tuscola and Saginaw Bay Railroad Co. may have been taking a chance recently.

At the Colling crossing on Dickerson Road the roadbed was torn up for several days. It would have been easy to wreck a car or injure passengers there.

The crossing was not marked as under construction and there were no flares posted.

Within a couple of weeks Jim Iseler will be presenting a story about James Brooker, Cass City's only athlete to compete in the olympics.

In researching the story Jim reported that Brooker jumped almost 13 feet. That's astounding when you consider that the pole was rigid and the landing was in sand, not the cushion of air available today.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	92	60	0
Thursday	102	56	0
Friday	72	54	0
Saturday	84	52	0
Sunday	94	60	.32
Monday	81	56	.02
Tuesday	86	52	0

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)



WHO'S WHO? -- Carrie Blades of 6745 Hurley Road (left) and Kit Okerstrom, 6684 Huron Street, were chosen "most identical twins" by the Michigan Twins association at its annual meeting last week end in Pontiac. The twins, who were born on the Fourth of July, have also served as co-presidents and co-secretaries in the organization.

New vote needed for judicial split

The legislature acted last week in Lansing to remove a loophole in the law which would have prevented organization of Tuscola county into a separate judicial circuit.

The legislature in May passed a bill that allowed splitting of the three-judge Tuscola-Lapeer circuit into separate circuits, with Lapeer having two judges and Tuscola, one.

The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners gave its required approval to the proposal June 10; the Lapeer county board, June 18.

It was only after that that it was discovered the law specified the Tuscola board had to give its approval by May 27. The deadline for the Lapeer board was June 27.

Sen. Aivin DeGrow then introduced an amendment to extend the approval deadline, which was adopted by the Senate June 24 by a vote of 31-0.

The amendment then went to the House of Representatives, where it was approved the following day, 92-0, then sent to Gov. William G. Milliken. As of Monday, he had yet to sign it but was expected to do so.

DeGrow is advising both county boards to again vote on the proposal, after the governor has signed the amendment. They will have until Aug. 1 to do so.

The split making Judge

Patrick R. Joslyn the lone circuit judge for Tuscola county will take effect Jan. 1, assuming both county boards again give their okay.

State Rep. Loren Armbruster, R-Caro, said he had expected Rep. Larry Burkhalter to oppose DeGrow's amendment, but the Lapeer Democrat didn't and even voted for it, which helped the measure sail through the House.

TV and rifle reported stolen

Earl J. Scott of Dutcher Road, Ellington township, reported to sheriff's deputies Saturday afternoon that a color television set and rifle had been stolen from his home.

The TV was worth \$400; the 30-30 lever action rifle, \$125. The items belonged to Morrine Cole.

Cass City police Saturday evening stopped the car of Sal M. Stremmel, 22, of Holland, Ohio, on Main

Street, near Scotty McCullough Drive, because of a loud exhaust.

It was learned his Ohio driver's license was suspended and he was then arrested on a charge of driving with license suspended. He was taken to the county jail and lodged.

He was later released after posting bond. Information on when he will appear in the district court wasn't available as of Tuesday.

May given jail term in shooting

David R. May was sentenced to 90 days in the Huron County Jail when he appeared Friday before Circuit Judge M. Richard Knoblock in Bad Axe on a charge of injury of another person by careless, reckless or negligent discharge of a firearm.

May, 45, of 6631 Koepfen Road, Cass City, pleaded guilty to the charge May 30.

He was credited with one day served. He was also placed on two years' probation, assessed fines and costs totaling \$500 and ordered to pay restitution to George's Bar in Owendale for damage done to the door there.

The charge to which he pleaded guilty was in connection with an incident March 17 in which he fired a shot from a shotgun through the door of the bar, injuring David J. Abbe of Gagetown, who was inside.

Fire cause may have been arson

Arson is suspected as the cause of a fire Sunday that destroyed a cottage owned by Nancy deBeaubien of Cass City.

The cottage was located on a drive off Kinch Road, six miles east of Port Austin.

Port Austin firemen received the call at 5:55 p.m. According to Fire Chief John Upthegrove, the structure was burning for at least 45 minutes before they arrived.

It was the third fire of a suspicious nature in that area in the last three months, the chief said.

Much of the furniture had previously been removed.

The cottage was old and not very large, Mrs. deBeaubien said, and hadn't been used recently. She did not have an idea of its value.



**"If It Fitz. . ."
Still no ceiling**

By Jim Fitzgerald

As I live in the neighborhood, I feel it's my duty to publish occasional reports concerning conditions at the Blue Cross-Blue Shield headquarters. Because of the high cost of medical care, most of the insurance firm's 5.3 million subscribers can't afford a bus ride into downtown Detroit to see for themselves. They will be delighted to learn that the Blues still have the nicest lawn in town, and there is still no ceiling on the room where costs are contained.

I walk by the lawn almost every day. There are always several gardeners planting and mowing. The green is bright and unblemished, thanks to a sprinkling system that never quits, even during rainstorms.

From the sidewalk, it's not that easy to see inside the room where the Blues' cost-containment policies are implemented. I'll admit I can't actually prove there is no top on the container. But the evidence is whelming, at least.

State Sen. Edward Pierce, an Ann Arbor Democrat who is also a physician, has compiled statistics showing medical care costs are rising faster in southeast Michigan than almost anywhere else. The Blues control 60 percent of the health insurance business in Michigan and set the standard of payment for the rest of the market.

I'm not dumb enough to lay all the blame for high medical costs on the Blues.

Not when hospital care is negotiated by unions and patients forget they're spending money because they never see it. But when the Blues' rules discourage subscribers from cutting costs, it's easy to believe the sky's the ceiling over the cost containment room.

Example: Elwonna Bowling of Detroit is one of the Blues' subscribers in Pierce's statistics. Recently, after having her gallbladder removed at Providence Hospital in Southfield, she developed an infection.

"I was readmitted and had the wound opened," she said. "I chose to return home and care for myself. Rather smugly, I felt I was doing my bit to reduce health care costs by not having a nurse visit daily to dress the wound. I thereby was saving Blue Cross hospital and nursing costs."

"As my bandage supply was running low, I called the hospital. I was told the only way I can have bandage supplies released to me under my Blue Cross Home Care Plan is to have a LPN or RN visit me daily and deliver supplies. Instead of \$39 for bandages, Blue Cross opts to pay nursing costs as well. Am I being penalized for caring for myself and saving insurance outlays? It appears so. My only option is to allow a nurse to deliver bandages."

Such a penalty isn't surprising. Two years ago I wrote about the Ann Arbor couple who chose to have their baby born at home.

They asked the Blues to pay only a \$450 doctor's bill. They figured they saved the Blues around \$1,600 in hospital costs. Their reward was to be charged \$100 they wouldn't have had to pay if they hadn't helped the Blues contain costs.

The Blues explained that the \$450 bill included \$100 for supplies normally billed by a hospital, not a doctor. The Blues wouldn't pay because the doctor wasn't "an approved facility." Besides, the Blues said, not using a hospital didn't really save \$1,600 because "as we reduce the number of services provided on an inpatient basis, the unit costs increase for the fewer services that are provided."

It is an intriguing contradiction, right? out of "Catch-22." The Blues' advertisements says subscribers should contain costs by not using services they don't really need. But the costs of the services they do need will increase if they don't use the services they don't need.

This means if Miss Bowling won't allow the Blues to pay a nurse to deliver bandages to her home this time, the next time she has her gallbladder removed, to get the wound bandaged she'll have to adopt a Blues gardener and put him through medical school.

I know I shouldn't write sarcastic things like that, but sometimes I can't contain myself any better than the Blues contain costs.

uninsured farm workers?

FINANCIAL FARM DISASTER COULD RESULT

Agricultural employers must provide the same worker's disability compensation coverage for their employees as do non-agricultural employers. It's the law.

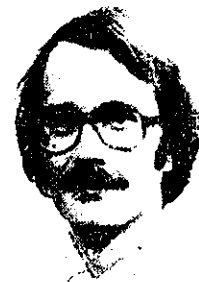
Farm Bureau Mutual can help. Our agricultural worker's disability compensation insurance programs are proven to work right for all types of Michigan farmers.

If you employ any agricultural labor, remember the law. Your Farm Bureau Insurance agent can help.

Farm Bureau Mutual is one of the few insurers offering reduced rates and minimum premiums for agricultural employees.



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— NO LAY-AWAY ON BARGAINS OF THE MONTH —

ALBEE True Value HOME CENTER
Cass City Phone 872-2270

The Haire Net

Instinctively I have always thought that Ronald Reagan would be bad for this country. In addition to his background there is this feeling that he feels if the United States shows enough muscle the rest of the world will come to its knees like whipped curs.

His biggest asset has always been his charisma in front of the television screen or crowds on the banquet circuit. You see how important background training can be.

Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada, national campaign chairman of Reagan's presidential effort, recently co-sponsored a bill that reaffirms my assessment of the man who will be the Republican nominee for president this fall.

The bill for a charter for the Federal Bureau of Investigation gives the FBI the very rights that had the nation aghast after J. Edgar Hoover died and the stranglehold he held on the nation came to light.

The charter would mandate the FBI to investigate any person or group threatening to violate the law or whose actions have the potential for violating the law whether facts indicate a crime is imminent or not.

It allows the FBI to maintain surveillance of any person who advocates violating the law even if it is

nonviolent civil disobedience.

It mandates the FBI to gather intelligence on any public demonstration with a potential for violence.

It allows the FBI to distribute personal records to private employees.

On the surface that doesn't sound all that drastic with the exception of using tax funds to investigate persons for private employees.

If you look a little closer the picture changes.

It makes the FBI the judge. What constitutes "potential" for breaking the law? What does advocating breaking the law mean?

Get it closer to home. If the teachers talk, just talk, about a strike in a Thumb school, should the FBI be allowed to investigate the private lives of each of them and then pass the results around to all the school boards in Michigan?

You can see where all of this leads. Back to the days of Hoover and a step closer to the police state that some say we narrowly averted under Richard Nixon.

The law is bad. What's worse, it is sponsored by a backer of the person who might well be the next president of the United States.

It's in line with my conception of the Reagan philosophy and I see no signs that he is about to change his act.

ONE-MONTH EXTENSION
on
Farmers & Merchants
NEW CAR PROGRAM!

The June New Car Booster program was so well received that we're extending the offer through July!! Buy a New Car during JULY, 1980, and WE'LL MAKE THE FIRST PAYMENT FOR YOU!

Make your best deal you can find - - get the discounts, the rebates and the trade-in - - and then come to us!

Here's what we'll do when you finance your new car or light truck at Farmers & Merchants - -

- * We'll make the 1st-month payment for you - - up to \$150!
- * Extended term financing with 25% down payment!
- * Lower interest rates in effect!
- * Offer valid through July, 1980!

AS AN ADDED INCENTIVE - - -

The State of Michigan has proposed further help to New Car buyers - - possibly forgiveness of part of the Sales Tax. That's another incentive for buying that New Car or Light Truck NOW!!

Come into any of our offices - - at Sebewaing Downtown or Southside, at Owendale or Gagetown - - and talk to our auto loan department!

No payment due for 2 months. These are great boosts for new car buyers. Come in and talk with us!

We will be closed Friday, July 4, for Independence Day. Sebewaing Downtown Drive-in will be open Saturday, July 5, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Southside Office open Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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