

**CROWDS LINED MAIN STREET** for the Fourth of July parade Friday. There was some speculation crowds weren't quite as big as last year because it was the start of a three-day weekend, unlike last year, but it was hard to tell from looking at the throng of parade watchers.

## Two others also hurt

# Lamotte township house fire burns woman critically

Norma Emblem, 49, remained in critical condition in St. Mary's Hospital burn unit in Saginaw Wednesday morning, where she has been since being injured when her Germania Road home burned late Thursday and early Friday.

Her husband, Levi, 68, was

released from Marlette Community Hospital Tuesday. A visitor in the home at the time of the fire, Burrell Wood, 41, of Legg Road, Kingston, also injured, was released from the Marlette hospital Saturday. He is reportedly a relative.

Lamotte Township fire-

men received the call at 11:50 p.m. Thursday. According to Fire Chief Larry Potter, the three were apparently asleep.

The fire was discovered by a passing motorist, who stopped at the house next door and had the occupants call the fire department.

The three victims were out of the house by the time firemen arrived. Potter was under the impression a passerby had gotten Mrs. Emblem out of the house, although an unconfirmed report said Emblem went into the burning house three times before he could rescue

his wife.

Cause of the fire, Potter said, was a gas leak in a liquid propane gas furnace next to the refrigerator. The burning pilot light in the furnace ignited the leaking gas, causing an explosion.

He was told by a hospital attendant that Levi Emblem had said the furnace had blown up in his face, but he wasn't able to talk to the victim. He was awaiting a chance to do so in order to conclude his investigation.

The one-story concrete block and wood frame home was completely destroyed. An unoccupied trailer next door suffered smoke and water damage. A monetary loss estimate wasn't available.

The home was north of M-46.

Firemen returned to the station at 2:30 a.m. Friday. They went back to the scene for about an hour Saturday to extinguish still burning rubble on the concrete slab floor of the home.

## Stolen Cadillac torched

A car abandoned near Caro Friday night was found the following day in a Novesta township gravel pit, seriously damaged by fire.

Donald W. Mills of N. Almer Street, Caro, told deputies he was driving his 1975 Cadillac north on Orr Road, northeast of that community, when it stopped running. That was about 9 p.m.

He left, leaving the car unlocked, but took the keys with him. A spare key, however, was in a key box under the driver's seat and when Mills returned two hours later, the car was gone.

The sheriff's department was notified at 9 a.m. Saturday that it had been found in the gravel pit by a person who lives close by. The pit is on Kelly Road between Lamton and Crawford Roads.

The car was still warm and smoking when deputies arrived. The entire interior was gutted and the front tires had melted.

The neighbor said the gravel pit is the site of loud parties every Friday night.

The car was valued at \$4,500, but the sheriff's report didn't list an estimate of damage.

Marlyeen Samuelson of 3701 E. Dutcher Road, Cass

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# Festivals joys big crowds, perfect weather

Everybody loves a good party and Cass City is no exception.

Townpeople and visitors lined the streets and jammed the park Friday for a full day of holiday activities.

For the most part the weatherman cooperated. Although a few sprinkles were felt in the afternoon, the threat of rain did not last long and temperatures were comfortably warm.

Festival Chairman Tom Herron said the second annual Fourth of July Festival went off without a hitch. He guessed crowds to be near the same size as last year.

He added the Chamber of Commerce will begin soon with the first steps toward a third festival but most of those involved with this year's bash are taking a breather at the moment.

A planning meeting will take place within the month but specifics are not yet known.

AN ADDED PLUS TO this year's festival is the probability that the Chamber will at least break even financially. Some of the events, such as the tractor pull, flea market and parking facilities, charged a fee to avoid a repeat of last year's \$4,000 deficit.

Advertising chairwoman Gloria Ouvry said the Chamber will not know how it did financially until the bills for various activities come in about a month.

Some fees are necessary if the Chamber is to build funding for future celebrations, according to several planners.

Even with people paying more than last year, a good time was available at relatively little expense.

The day of activities began with a Rotary Club breakfast in the park but the real kickoff was at 10 a.m.

The more than 100-unit parade began moving down

Main Street after a slight delay, the result of a traffic jam at the starting point, according to Chief of Police Gene Wilson.

WILSON SAID HE planned on a tie-up at the start of the procession and took precautions to ease the problem but traffic still got snarled.

Other than a few nearby residents kept awake Thursday night by singers in the beer tent, traffic was the only problem reported from the festival, Wilson said.

In his effort to keep things under control, Wilson hired extra part-time officers as well as members of the mounted sheriff's posse to aid in crowd control.

DALE DEERING, co-chairman of the parade committee, reported it ran smoothly except for the traffic problem. Many entries came at the last minute but were all placed with a minimum of trouble.

Thanks to the sponsorship of various clubs, those charging a fee to participate, for example, the Flint Scottish Band, were taken care of and the parade was able to pay for itself, Deering said.

Afterwards, most people moved to the park for a variety of post-parade festivities.

Results of the judging of the floats was announced.

Trinity Methodist church won first prize in the church division for an entry titled "100 Years of Caring".

Following them were the First Presbyterian church and the Novesta Church of Christ, second and third respectively.

The Rotary Club took top honors in the service and fraternal organization category with the Lions Club second and Business and Professional Women, third.

Provincial House repeated its winning performance from last year and again won the miscellaneous

category. The Deford Cub Scouts took second place and the Bay City St. Patrick's float won third.

GEORGE AND ROYEN Heins were crowned king and queen of the festival. The Heinses were the only couple to campaign for the honor after three other pairs dropped out. They won a weekend in Traverse City for their efforts.

The balance of the afternoon was spent in a variety of activities including swimming races, tug-of-war, kids games and tractor pull.

The Jaycee softball tournament continued Friday after beginning Thursday night. It went on all weekend long with the championship game played Sunday.

Festival-goers had plenty of food on hand to keep them going throughout the day. Everything from ice cream to a chicken dinner was available at reasonable prices.

However, if food consumption is any indication, fewer people took advantage of the food stands than last year.

Don Erla, who worked with the Lions Club chicken sale said the crowds at their stand were not as good as last year.

Even though they sold more chicken than before, those sales were spread out with small crowds throughout the afternoon. They even ended up with some chicken left over having expected large crowds similar to last year where people were lined up waiting to eat. Last year they were sold out by 3 p.m., Erla said. This year they were still selling at 6 p.m.

Larry Dickinson, who worked at the Rotary Club stand, said his group's sales were down by about \$600 from last year. He added the

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# Judge's proposed order new round in pay dispute

Tuscola County Probate Judge W. Wallace Kent Jr. will issue a proposed administrative order this week to force the county Board of Commissioners to pay his employees about \$10,000 more than they would be paid under the contract for other courthouse employees.

The proposal will be submitted to state Court Administrator Einar Bohlin in Lansing, who ultimately must either give Kent permission to formally issue it or reject his request.

If the judge is given the okay, the county board can appeal to circuit court if it so chooses. The board has indicated it will do so if the dispute gets that far.

The dispute stems from the judge's decision, as he is allowed to do under state law, to negotiate his own labor contract with the seven employees in his office.

The contract negotiated earlier this year calls for substantially higher wages than were contained in the contract negotiated for 1980 by the county with the union representing courthouse employees.

Pay increases in 1981 will be the same as were negotiated with other courthouse employees for the second year of their contract, 7.65 percent.

The county board so far refused to appropriate the additional funds needed to

implement the probate court contract.

IN AN EFFORT TO resolve the stalemate, both sides in February agreed to have the court administrator's office conduct a study of probate court salaries compared to those paid to other courthouse employees and employees in similar size counties.

The result was the following, according to figures supplied by Kent:

—Until the dispute is settled, his employees are being paid at their 1979 level. Assuming all of them were being paid at the maximum seniority level, their wages this year would total \$75,816.

(Two of the seven have less than one year of seniority, so

true figures will be slightly less.)

—If the seven were paid at the level negotiated for other courthouse employees, their 1980 wages would total \$81,066, an increase of \$750 per person.

—Under the contract negotiated by the judge, their 1980 wages would total \$95,829, a difference of \$14,763 from what the county board wants to pay.

—The court administrator is recommending they be paid a total of \$91,542, a difference of \$10,476.

—In my opinion," Kent said of the court administrator's recommendation, "they upheld my general reasoning and salary compensation, but recommended somewhat reduced salaries than what I believed were in order."

Neither he nor the court administrator, he pointed out, is recommending the seven employees be given across-the-board pay increases, but are proposing they be given varying increases to bring them into line with what it is felt other courthouse employees are paid for comparable jobs.

However, the county board contends probate court salary adjustments to bring them into line were taken care of in the contract that supposedly covered all courthouse employees.

KENT AND HIS SEVEN employees have agreed to accept the lower recommendation of the court administrator. A contract calling for those amounts was rejected by the county board June 24, hence Kent's court order request to Bohlin this week.

Once the request is received, the judge explained, if past practice is followed, the administrator will appoint a three-member committee to make a recommendation to him.

The committee will consist of one representative of the Michigan Probate Judges Association, one from a

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# Cass City's gain is Census Bureau loss

How many people reside in Cass City?

The number is anywhere from 2,190 to 2,456 depending on whose figures you look at.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census has sent the village its preliminary counting of 2,190, but Village Superintendent Lou LaPonsie is not satisfied with that figure.

He claims the total number of residents is closer to the 2,456 that were counted during a federal revenue sharing count in 1977. Since state and federal funding for Cass City is based on the number of people living here, LaPonsie is eager to get an accurate count.

"We're not letting it sit there. We are going to be following through with this," he said.

By "following through," he meant contesting the census count, if a final figure released by the census is as

low as the preliminary findings.

Exactly where the village will go to contest the count is not certain.

The Saginaw office of the census bureau, through which Cass City does most of its dealings, will probably be closed by the time the final findings come out in 1981. If so, the village may have to work directly with officials in Washington D.C.

"Right now I'm just trying to find out where I can contest the count," LaPonsie said.

The federal count, taken every 10 years, shows that the population of Cass City has grown from 1,974 people here in 1970. But the number does not jibe with two separate counts taken in 1977.

Aside from the revenue sharing count, a state authorized census, performed by the village found

the population to be 2,436.

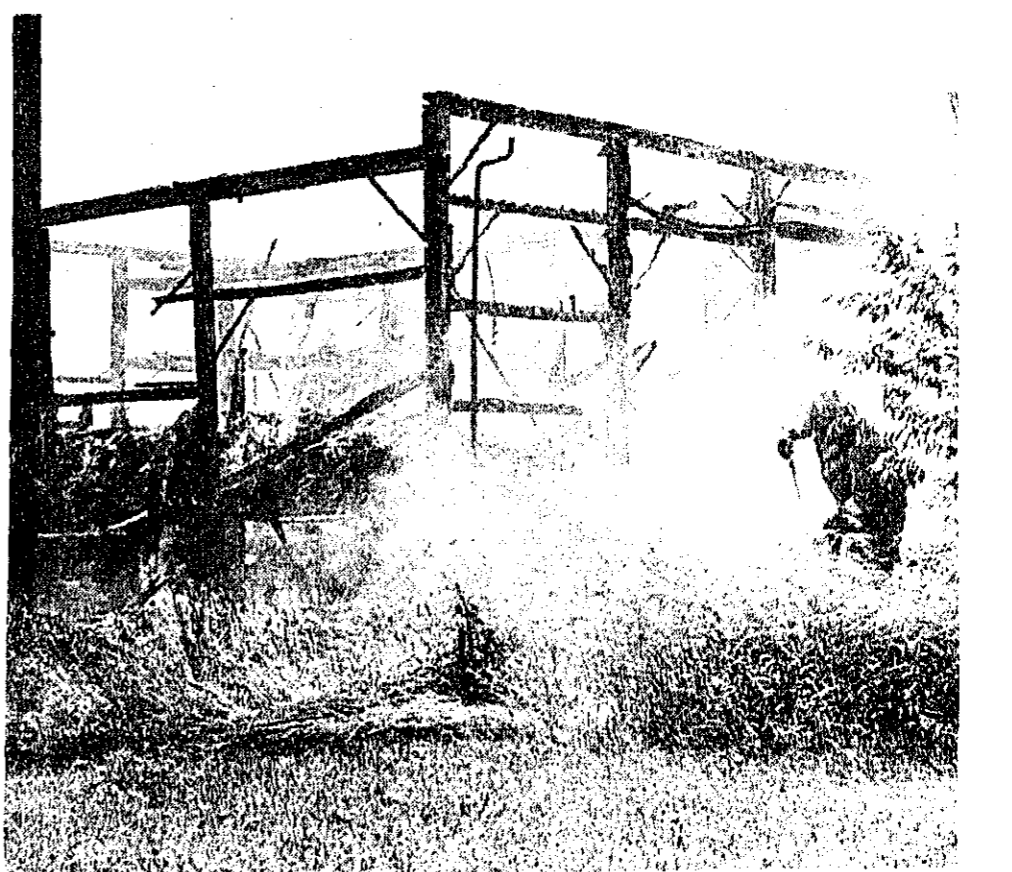
The village is not thrilled at the idea of giving up those 246-266 people since it will mean less money from Washington and Lansing.

"If you don't get the people, you don't get the money," LaPonsie explained.

"The only thing we want them to know right now is that we don't agree with the preliminary count," he continued.

LaPonsie does concur with the number of housing units reported for Cass City. That number is 860. There is still some checking to do as far as how many of those units are vacant.

As of April, the census bureau counted 44 vacant residences, but LaPonsie said that number may not be totally accurate since some of the owners could have been on vacation at the time or not around for some other reason.



**LOST CAUSE** - A fireman works to keep flames from a barn owned by Bill McDace of Corunna, Ont., from spreading. It was all they could do as the barn was nearly destroyed by the time fire trucks arrived.