

Springport Bindery
(Rawson Library)
Springport, MI 49284

Dec. 80



NO MORE GAS -- The S T & H service station which had stood at the southeast corner of Main and Seeger Streets since about 1928 was demolished Monday. The Pinney State Bank next door has purchased the property, according to Fred Pinney, but plans for its use are still indefinite. Rooney Contracting Co. of Bad Axe did the demolition.

Nine-year-old James E. Fisher east of Cass City when car hits bike

Nine-year-old James E. Fisher was killed Tuesday evening when the bicycle he was riding on Cass City Road was struck by a car.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher Jr. of 5049 E. Cass City Road, Cass City, was pronounced dead on arrival by ambulance at Hills and Dales General Hospital.

The accident occurred at 8:20 p.m.

According to Sandusky state police, the boy was riding his bike with his mother, Norma, and sister

Elizabeth, 12. They were pedaling in the westbound lane of Cass City Road, .5 mile east of M-53, not too far from their home.

James' bicycle was struck from behind by the westbound auto of Kevin Lowry, 17, of Robinson Road, Cass City.

As of Wednesday morning, investigation was continuing and troopers were unable to say until they checked further with witnesses where the boy was in the road when his bicycle was hit. The roadway was flat

where the accident occurred.

Lowry was taken to Hills and Dales, reportedly because of shock. He was reported in fair condition there Wednesday morning.

Cass City police were first at the scene and took charge until state police arrived. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Little's Funeral Home, Cass City.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at the First Baptist church.



JAMES E. FISHER

Lots of suggestions

Campaign planned to secure passage of 1-mill school levy

The initial step in a campaign to secure an additional mill for operating Cass City Schools was launched Monday night at the regular meeting of the

Cass City School Board at the high school.

An estimated 40 persons crowded the board room to volunteer services in the campaign or to question the board and administration about the need for the extra mill.

President Geraldine Prieskorn opened the meeting for suggestions and the ideas came thick and fast.

Bob Walpole suggested that action committees be appointed to work in specific areas.

Others suggested a campaign to get the facts to the voters.

One spectator asked questions that indicated there may be a need for this type of information.

He said that Cass City could not compare itself to schools south of M-46 as the general wages in this area are considerably less.

He didn't realize that the per capita cost of education in the district is among the lowest among all districts in Michigan.

The cost of supervision in the school was raised and Supt. Donald Crouse said that the payment of these salaries is determined by using the salaries paid in other districts touching the Cass City district for comparison. Salaries paid are about at the average paid in

these districts. One of the problems that faces the board is that the district had been running on a budget with little "fat" left to cut.

That's why when the board voted at its June meeting to eliminate 4½ teaching positions some worthwhile programs went with them.

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

Remedial reading has been eliminated in the high school and class size increased.

Depending on the vote Aug. 18 are high school and elementary vocal music, elementary art, high school social study and math teacher, \$10,000 worth of library books and all sports except boys' JV and varsity basketball and JV and varsity volleyball.

Attending to defend boys' football program was Coach Don Schelke. He said that boys' football should be given preference over girls' volleyball.

There are 100 students in this program, he claims. When told that the law requires equal programs for boys and girls, his reply was that it was also against the

law to distribute Bibles in the school and the board approved it. If you can overlook the law there you can do it for football, he said.

Schelke says that five boys are considering moving from the district and if they did, the loss in State aid would be more than the grid program.

There was discussion of why art in the elementary school was scheduled to be eliminated and not the elementary librarian when new books would not be pur-

chased. Crouse acknowledged the worth of the art program but said that cuts in curriculum are a no win situation. Whatever the cut that is made, there will be someone who is hurt, he said.

Mrs. Prieskorn jotted down the ideas presented and the board passed a paper among persons attending to get names of persons willing to work.

She promised to study the suggestions and to come up with a plan for action.

Board to form committees

Newly elected Richard Albee made good on one of his campaign promises Monday at the regular meeting of the Cass City School Board when he introduced a motion to establish several standing committees.

Meeting Monday at Cass City High School the board quickly adopted a motion to establish the committees. Albee's plan is to make each of the board members fully informed on one or more of

the school operations. How these committees were to be formed was not decided. Other committees are appointed by the president.

Albee suggested committees on property, finance, personnel, curriculum and legislative.

The plan is for the members to consider various committees and suggest them at the August meeting. Please turn to page 4.

State aid resumes

Money comes, no payless paydays at Owen-Gage

Fears of payless paydays in the Owendale-Gagetown School District have disappeared.

That fear was expressed

Cass City

SIDEWALK SALE!

July 17-18-19

Town-wide bargains with ethnic food featured.

at the June school board meeting if the Municipal Finance Commission (MFC) didn't immediately grant the district's request to borrow \$395,000 in the form of tax anticipation notes.

The MFC did grant the request, although it trimmed the amount Owen-Gage can borrow to \$343,000.

The school board Monday evening accepted the bid of Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Sebawaing, the lowest of four submitted, to loan the district the money at an interest rate of 6.09 percent. That means the district will pay \$15,667 in interest.

The district will start repaying the notes to the bank once its property tax revenue starts coming in December. Such borrowing by school districts is routine for such circumstances.

Supt. Ronald Erickson said the \$343,000 should be enough to let Owen-Gage get by until it starts receiving its property tax revenue.

The district's next payday is this Friday, but it was reported there will be enough money in the treasury to make its payroll even if the tax anticipation note money isn't received by then.

Brightening the revenue picture is that Owen-Gage is receiving categorical state aid again, which the state Department of Education had cut off since February, 1979, because it claimed the district hadn't submitted a balanced budget.

Erickson said a check was received three weeks without explanation for about \$10,000 for a three-month period. Assuming the state doesn't make any retroactive payments, he gave an off the cuff estimate Owen-Gage had lost about \$60,000 in state aid.

ORGANIZATION MEETING

Re-elected board president, a position he has held several years, was Ronald Good.

In response to a question from board member Jack Brinkman about whether he could still serve if he is elected Huron county register of deeds, for which he is a candidate, Good said the state attorney general's office has twice said it would

not be a conflict of interest.

Also elected were Joe Warack, vice-president; Leona LaFave, secretary; Duane Ziehm, assistant secretary; Brinkman, treasurer; Pat Goslin, assistant treasurer, and Don Cummins, legislative liaison.

During the regular meeting, the board voted to continue holding its meetings at 8 p.m. the second Monday of each month, alternating between Gagetown and Owendale.

Depositories for school funds will be Farmers and Merchants and Community Bank of Bad Axe.

CONSTRUCTION COORDINATORS

Construction Coordinators Inc., the East Detroit firm which oversaw construction of the high school addition and gymnasium in 1978-79, has sought arbitration in its dispute with the district over the amount it is still owed.

The firm claims Owen-Gage owes it \$84,000; the district claims it only owes it \$2,900.

The arbitrator was to conduct a hearing Thursday, but that has now been postponed. Instead, CCI will be sending its auditors to Owendale that day to go through the district's financial records.

REPAIRS

Elementary Principal William Britt reported that in repairing a broken water line leading to the kitchen, it was discovered the line that goes under the cafeteria floor to the hot water heater and then to the kitchen is in poor condition and needs to be replaced.

The one contractor contacted so far recommended running a new pipe through the ceiling to the hot water heater.

Estimated cost, with some related equipment, will be \$3,000-4,000. Britt will get some additional bids.

Rebuilding the roof over the high school cafeteria, the old gymnasium, was authorized. The present roof leaks. The work will be done by H&H Insulation and Roofing Co. of Elkton, who will apply a new type roof coating called Rapid Roof. Bids had also been sought from firms using conventional

roofing materials. Cost will be \$7,775.

SCHEDULE

Erickson presented to the board two proposed high school schedules for the fall. One retains the six-hour schedule, with school ending at 2:47 p.m. The other, in response to the suggestion of some parents at the June board meeting, has a seven-hour day, with one hour per day for study hall.

The district will now send out a newsletter to residents, asking for comments on the two proposals.

The superintendent explained the seventh hour was added in the proposal so that there would be a teacher in charge of each study hall without having to hire an additional staff member.

He stressed that the addition of a seventh hour would have to be negotiated with teachers, with whom bargaining for a new contract is underway.

He added that the additional hour would also cause problems with busing of elementary students, especially kindergarten, and with athletics and other extracurricular activities.

Negotiations with the Tri-County Bargaining Association over a new teacher contract, he said, are taking place every Monday morning, but so far the two sides hadn't gotten to the "nitty gritty" yet, that is, salaries.

OTHER ITEMS

The board authorized expenditure of approximately \$6,000 for a new science textbook series for all the elementary grades and textbooks for civics, eighth grade math, American history, health and English and some materials for business classes.

Robert McPhail was given authority to solicit funds from organizations and individuals in order to build restroom facilities at the football field. McPhail has volunteered to undertake the project. Total cost will probably be about \$4,000.

It was decided to join the newly organized Huron County School Boards Association. Purpose of the organization is to provide a

Please turn to page 9.

No changes foreseen due to merger

GK Technologies Inc., parent company of the General Cable Co., has announced it has signed an agreement in principal to merge as a subsidiary with the Penn Central Corp.

This will not mean changes for Cass City's largest employer, according to Plant Manager Henry W. Ardler.

"Normally with mergers, nothing really happens to the divisions," he said. "There are no plans for changes in operation and any changes that may come about probably will not be known for a couple years."

General Cable employees returned from the July 4 holiday last Tuesday to find an announcement at the plant of the merger.

Ardler set fears to rest saying the merger would not induce additional layoffs beyond those carried out for economic reasons. General Cable presently employs 267 people with more than 100 on layoff, he said.

Richard Dicker, Penn Central's chairman and chief executive officer, said in a company statement, "It Please turn to page 9."



Beating the heat!

KEEPING COOL -- Fishermen (from left) Mike Miracle, Jack Edwards and Arden Lapp were cool at least up to their knees last Thursday afternoon while fishing in the Cass River near the Cemetery Road bridge. Unfortunately for them, the fish weren't too cooperative.

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