

# Census reveals tri-county area experienced moderate growth

Population has risen in all three upper Thumb counties, according to preliminary census figures released last week, by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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Tuscola county had a population increase of 12.7 percent between 1970 and 1980. Population in the county rose from 48,603 recorded in 1970 to the preliminary figure 55,664.

County Clerk Elsie Hicks said that figure is in line with birth and death records she received from the Michigan Department of Health and sees no reason to contest the census bureau figures.

The Board of Commissioners has 10 working days from the date it received the figures to reply to the census bureau. If they send no reply it will be understood the Board accepts the results.

It was reported in last week's Chronicle, Cass City was not pleased with the results and was looking into clarifying the count.

Huron county's population increased 3.1 percent from 1970, and Sanilac, up 11.9 percent.

The number of residential units increased in the county by 29.1 percent during the past 10 years, from 15,523 to the present 20,039. Of those residences, 2,031 were vacant at the time of the

census count.

One figure to decrease in the last 10 years is the number of people per household, although it is down only slightly. The average number of persons per household in 1970 was 3.41 compared to the present 3.07.

In the village of Kingston, the population is up to 403 from the 1970 figure of 368. Housing units increased by just two from the 153 in 1970. Of the 155 in Kingston, 11 units were vacant.

Figures for the average household are broken up since Kingston is split into two townships, Mrs. Hicks said.

The 1980 figures for the portion of the village in Kingston township show the average family size was 2.81 persons. Figures for the portion in Koylton township show 2.88. That number is down from 1970 when the Kingston portion reported 3.26 and the Koylton part reported 3.43.

In Gageton, population rose from 408 to 431. Residential units increased from 143 to 152 with 13 vacancies recorded.

The number of persons per household was down slightly from 3.21 to 3.1.

Five area townships recorded preliminary population increases over 1970 figures. Those townships and their '70-'80 figures respectively were Elkland 3,171-3,331; Ellington, 853-1,168; Elmwood, 1,246-1,327; Kingston 1,307-1,492; and Novesta 1,098-1,338.

## HURON COUNTY

Preliminary findings for Huron county show population increasing from 34,083 in 1970 to 35,142, according to the county clerk's office.

While county-wide populations rose, numbers for the villages of Uby and Owendale declined. Uby is down 6.6 percent and Owendale dropped by 2.6 percent.

In other county figures, Huron reported 17,756 residential units with 5,298 of those vacant. That represents a 21.2 percent increase from 14,647 residences in 1970.

The average number of persons per household declined from 3.27 to 2.83.

In Owendale, where the population dropped to 304 from the 1970 total of 312, housing units numbered an even 100. Four percent of those units were vacant. The number of residences is down from 109 in 1970.

The size of the average household declined from 3.47 to 3.07.

Uby showed a population drop from 899 to 840. The number of housing units increased, however, from 306 to 341. Twenty-two of those units were vacant.

The average household decreased from 3.15 to 2.65.

A breakdown shows a variance in growth of area townships. The figures, with 1970 totals listed first, show Bingham, 1,617-1,622; Brookfield 1,063-979; Grant, 703-813; and Sheridan, 658-796.

## SANILAC COUNTY

Sanilac county showed a population increase to 39,354 from 1970 figures of 35,181, according to County Administrator John Dean.

The number of residential units took an upward swing from 14,841 to 18,682. Of the

recent number, 4,950 residences were vacant. The figure represents a 25.9 percent increase in housing units.

The average household declined from 3.29 members to 2.91.

Populations for six nearby Sanilac townships rose in the past 10 years. Those townships and their respective '70-'80 populations are: Argyle, 750-886; Austin, 730-790; Evergreen, 775-1,013; Greenleaf, 667-723; Lamotte, 923-1,041; and Moore, 1,120-1,292.

The value of American farm assets has tripled since 1960 and doubled in the last six years alone.



**SHOW WINNER** -- Richard Enos of Enos Farm Supply, Cass City, presented the intermediate showmanship trophy at the 1980 District 1 Black and White Show last Thursday at Caro to Jennifer Harmon of Romeo. She is the 12-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harmon and a member of the Alarro Community 4-H Club. (Dick Green photo).

## Cutting tax loopholes popular with representatives facing re-election

What is a Legislature to do during a year when revenues are plunging but all the members of the 110 member House of Representatives are facing re-election?

Instead of taking direct steps to increase state revenues through a tax increase -- something which spells political suicide in an election year -- members are eyeing closing long-standing tax credit, exemptions and so-called loopholes.

These credits and exemptions were passed out freely and with much fanfare during good revenue years, but at present those days are long gone, and it appears it is time to close those state revenue gaps.

Members of the House Taxation and Senate Finance Committees are looking at many options that could increase state revenues to as much as \$100 million per year.

Although boosting state revenues, closing such loopholes will boost the cost of items like haircuts, sports and concert tickets, legal and other professional services and remove the income tax exemption on military pay of service personnel domiciled in Michigan.

Sen. Doug Ross (D-Oak Park), vice chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said he expected many protests from people who have benefitted from the loopholes in the past.

"The politics of closing loopholes makes it very difficult. This will be a test to see if the Legislature has the courage to stand up and vote for a fair tax policy," he said.

Hundreds of exemptions currently are on the books and cost the state an estimated \$4.6 billion a year in potential revenues.

HOWEVER, NOW faced with an economic recession which is shrinking tax collections and causing layoffs and service cutbacks, the state no longer can afford to be so generous. "When you have revenue shortfalls, it puts pressure on the tax system to close loopholes. Usually, these exemptions involve one group carrying the tax burden for another group that is escaping through the loophole. When times are tight, it's hard to tell one group why another group isn't carrying its share of the load," Ross said.

The Senate Fiscal Agency, the financial budget and management research arm of the Senate, has recommended that exemptions worth nearly \$540 million be closed off; however, at present, \$100 million is a more realistic target.

The agency suggested imposing a sales tax on services could boost state income substantially.

SOME SERVICES TO BE taxed with annual revenues are as follows: legal services, \$35.2 million; advertising, \$55 million; auto repair labor charges, \$41 million; engineering and architectural services, \$34 million; computer services, \$18.5 million; cleaning and laundry, \$14.7 million; public relations, \$14.4 million; beauty and barber shops, \$10.4 million and professional sports and motion picture

tickets, \$6.6 million.

Previously exempt businesses would be expected to pass the sales tax levy on to their customers. But, state officials contend, such increases should be bearable.

Ted Ferris of the Senate Fiscal Agency said he did not believe a 4 percent tax would have a measurable impact on the buying habit of people.

He added the agency

based its loophole-cutting recommendations on three factors--economics, whether the exemption is really necessary and the political acceptability of it.

## Board names officers

Continued from page one

when the standing committees will be formally adopted.

Besides establishing standing committees the board elected officers for the 1980-81 year.

Re-elected were President Geraldine Prieskorn, Vice-president Edward Scollon and Treasurer Dean Hoag. Thresa Burnette is the secretary.

The re-organization was the highlight of a routine

regular meeting. Depositor agents were named. They include Cass City State Bank, Pinney State Bank, Thumb National Bank, Citizens Commercial and Savings Bank of Flint and Second National Bank of Saginaw. These banks were also authorized for investment of funds.

Supt. Donald Crouse reported that the election inspectors at the last election were paid \$3.00 per hour, under the \$3.10 State minimum. The board voted to pay \$3.50 per hour at the

next election and also to make the raise retroactive for the last election.

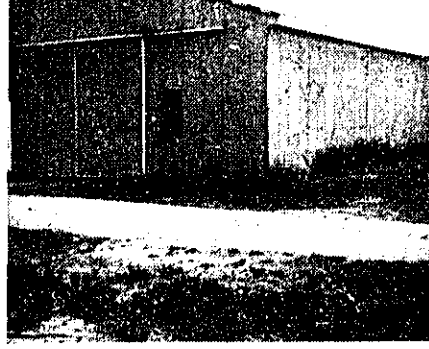
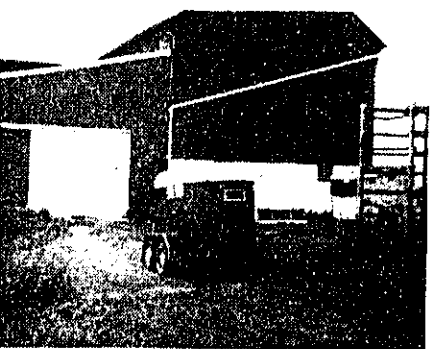
In other business the board accepted the resignations of Denise Gorsline and Christine Psujek. Gorsline had been high school English and speech teacher for two years and is now an assistant professor at Central Michigan University. Psujek has been in Cass City five years and taught high school English. Pam Roth was granted a one-year unpaid leave of absence.

## REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Located 4 miles north of Cass City on Cemetery Road, 3/4 mile west on Bay City-Forrestville Road or 3 1/4 miles east of Gageton.

## SATURDAY, JULY 19

1 O'clock



Real estate includes nice, well-kept, 2 story home on 3 acres, barn, tool shed, and 2 car garage. It is located on a black top road and has a nice setting with Maple and Pine trees. This is a good opportunity for a part time farmer.

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