

## Cable top Cass City taxpayer

Cass City's top 10 taxpayers of last year are also the top 10 taxpayers this year. Again heading the list is General Cable (GK Technologies), which this year paid \$17,490 in real and personal taxes to the village. The summer tax levy this year is 14 mills for general village operations, one more than a year ago, and 2½ mills for the sewage treatment plant project, the same as last year.

Real property taxes are for land and buildings; personal is for equipment.

No. 2 on the list is Walbro Corp., total of \$12,300; followed by Provincial House, \$7,149; Wickes Agriculture, \$4,966; Detroit Edison, \$4,440 (almost entirely personal property), and Donald Smith (as manager of Hill-

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## Woman dies from house fire injuries

Norma B. Emblen, 1059 N. Germania Road, Snover, died last Thursday at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw of burns suffered when her Lamotte township home burned July 3.

She was born July 7, 1930, in Silverwood and had been a lifelong resident of the area. She was the daughter of Grant and Ada (Bell) Wood.

She and her husband, Levi Hilton Emblen, were married July 28, 1971.

Survivors are her husband; four daughters, Mrs. Doris Metz, Tulsa, Okla., Mrs. Rose Stillwell, Metamora, Irene King, Pontiac, and Barbara Beebe, Columbiaville; her mother, Ada Wood, Marlette; two brothers, Burl Wood, Mayville, and Lee D. Wood, Pontiac; stepsons, William Emblen, Reno, Nev., Gary Lee Emblen, Pontiac, James Emblen, Pontiac, and Stephen Merrill, Holly; two stepdaughters, Suzy Adams, Maine, and Mrs. Debbie Quasia, Holly, and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at Harmon Funeral Home, Kingston, Rev. Gilson Miller of the Kingston United Methodist church officiating.

Burial was in Kingston cemetery.



**ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY** -- Lightning strikes east of Cass City Sunday night during the storm that brought torrents of rain and brief power outages to the area.

## Many without power

# Most damage from rain storm elsewhere in Thumb

The rain and wind storm which hit Cass City about midnight Sunday wreaked most of its damage elsewhere in the upper Thumb. Police agencies didn't have any reports of any severe damage in this area; however, some persons did lose electricity.

A Detroit Edison spokesman said Tuesday afternoon about 150 customers in the Cass City area were still without power.

The Tuscola County Sheriff's Department reported some damaged houses in the Reese area.

It received a report Monday morning of a blown over mobile home at Waterman and Sheridan Roads, northeast of Vassar.

Bad Axe state police said

two barns were blown down northeast of Bad Axe, all within a mile of each other. Reportedly, a mobile home near Tyre was overturned. The greatest damage occurred at Ruth, where an 80-foot tall storage bin belonging to the Farmers Elevator buckled after what is thought to have been a tornado blew the top off. Damage was estimated at more than \$100,000.

The only damage report the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department had received as of Monday morning was a downed tree near Lexington.

The storm caused numerous power outages, but except for possibly a few downed power lines running from main lines to homes, none was in Cass City.

In Tuscola county, according to Detroit Edison General Supervisor George Anderson, there were at least 2,100 customers without electricity and possibly as many as 3,000 at the peak.

Hardest hit areas were Fairgrove, Reese, Vassar and in and south of Caro. The outage forced the sheriff's department to operate on standby generator power for a while and knocked radio station WKYO off the air.

There were about 700-800 Edison customers out in Huron county, according to Dennis J. O'Brien, division director of customer and marketing services, mostly in the Bad Axe, Sebawaing and Port Hope areas.

The approximately 600 outages in Sanilac county, he said, were all in the Minden City - Palms area and most had power back by Monday afternoon.

## 2 fires in one day at same place

Elkland Fire Chief Jack Hartwick probably feels two fires at one location is enough for one day.

Firemen were called to extinguish a grass fire on Milligan Road, just east of Schwegler Road, at about 11 a.m. Friday. However, they were called back to the same place at approximately 3:15 p.m. when a nearby shed went up in flames.

A cinder had probably been left smoldering from the morning's blaze which rekindled the second fire, Hartwick said.

The grass fire, on property owned by Larry Peters of 2625 N. Cemetery Road, had burned to within a couple feet of the shack. Hartwick estimated the first fire had been started by burning debris that had blown over from a nearby trash fire.

Fanned by winds, the fire burned a patch of grass before dying as it reached greener grass.

However, it apparently did not die completely.

The shack stood just over a property line and was owned by Sophie Peters of 5032 Schwegler Road.

Hartwick said the shack, covered with tar paper that added to the intense heat, apparently had no value and nothing was stored inside.

# Cass City woman hospitalized from crash near Reese

Shirley Geiger of Cass City remained in serious condition at Saginaw General Hospital Wednesday morning, the result of injuries suffered in an accident Wednesday, July 16, in which a Vassar woman was killed.

Mrs. Geiger, 49, of 6645 Garfield Street, was taken to St. Luke's Hospital in Saginaw after the 5:30 p.m. crash, then transferred to Saginaw General Saturday, where she is undergoing dialysis treatment because of her injured kidneys. She is in the intensive care unit.

Killed was Dorothy L. Rittenberg, 34, a mother of two.

The accident took place west of Reese, according to the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department, when a truck westbound on M-81 apparently failed to stop at the M-15 intersection and collided with the southbound car of Mrs. Rittenberg.

Her car was pushed into the Geiger auto, eastbound on M-81, which was waiting at the stop sign.

Driver of the car was Mrs. Geiger's son Scott, 15, not injured, who was driving with a learner's permit. A sheriff's department spokesman stressed he "was at no fault whatsoever," that he and his mother were innocent victims of circumstance.

The driver of the truck, Hal E. Wright, 21, of Adrian, also not injured, was arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter. He appeared before a Saginaw County District Court magistrate, who set bond at \$1,000, pending a formal court hearing. Wright posted

bond and was released from the county jail last Thursday. No hearing date has been set.

### INJURY ACCIDENTS

Steven S. Meeker, 19, of 6559 Kelly Road, was treated and released from Hills and Dales General Hospital after a 5:30 p.m. accident July 15.

Cass City police reported he was eastbound on Garfield Street, west of Leach Street, when a westbound car crossed the center of the road.

Meeker tried to swerve to the right but his vehicle was still struck by the oncoming car.

The driver of the other car, Marie F. High, 50, of 6622 Huron Street, was ticketed by officers on a charge of driving left of center.

The impact shoved the Meeker auto into a car parked by the south side of the road. Its owner was Daniel Papp of 6442 Garfield.

Gregory P. Darr, 16, of 6253 Bay City-Forestville Road, Cass City, was treated and released from Hills and Dales after a 12:15 p.m. accident July 16.

Sheriff's deputies reported he was southbound on Buehly Road, north of Bay City-Forestville, when he momentarily stopped. He told officers his gas pedal stuck when he started again, the car went off the road, struck a tree stump and spun around.

### OTHER ACCIDENTS

At 9:50 a.m. July 15, Cass City police reported, the driver of a delivery truck,

headed north into the IGA Foodliner lot, stopped, then tried to back up but backed into the pickup truck behind him.

The latter driver was Lon Ricker, 16, of Bad Axe. The delivery driver was Roy E. Nuffer, 41, of Freeland.

Two more "backwards" accidents were reported by village police later in the week.

At 8:23 p.m. Friday, Rita Whittaker, 17, of 4968 N. Van Dyke Road, was backing eastward on Pine Street, east of Woodland Street, and backed into a car parked by the north curb. Owner of the parked car was Craig Helwig of 6765 Pine Street.

Grant Glaspie, 51, of 4195 Maple Street, was backing from his driveway at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, police said, and backed into the southbound car of Arlene J. Peddie, 17, of 4821 E. Cass City Road.

Village police reported that at 4:45 p.m. Friday, Denise S. Kritzman, 19, of 6798 Houghton Street, southbound on Leach, stopped at Main Street, but then pulled into the path of an oncoming westbound car because her view was blocked by another car.

Her car collided with the oncoming car, driven by Scott M. Murphy, 17, of 4294 Leach Street.

Caro state police reported that at 9:35 p.m. Monday, James E. Dohn, 43, of 6911 Deckerville Road, Deford, was eastbound on Deckerville, west of Dodge Road, when his vehicle collided with a deer.

# Starting over: lone judge for Tuscola illegal?

The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners' efforts to get a lone circuit judge for the county instead of sharing three judges with Lapeer county has taken a new twist.

State Court Administrator Einar Bohlin has recommended to the chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Mary Coleman, that she request Attorney General Frank Kelley to file suit to have the law authorizing the judicial split be declared unconstitutional.

The bill allowing the split -- two judges for Lapeer county and one for Tuscola -- was approved by the legislature in May, having been sponsored by Sen. Alvin DeGrow, R-Pigeon. The split had been sought by the Tuscola board.

The bill required both county boards to okay the dividing of the present 40th judicial circuit, which both

did. Afterwards, it was discovered the bill said the Tuscola board had to give its okay by May 27. It had voted to do so June 10.

DeGrow introduced an amended bill, which the legislature approved, extending the deadline to Aug. 1. Early this month, the two county boards again voted in favor of the split.

The Tuscola commissioners learned of the latest development at their meeting Tuesday, in the form of a copy of a letter forwarded to them by DeGrow's administrative assistant. The senator will be out of the state most of the summer and the aide thought they should be aware of what was happening as she was "unsure what steps should be taken," according to her attached memo.

The copy of the letter, dated July 15, was from Bohlin to the judges who are

the chairmen of the legislative committee of the Michigan Judges Association and Michigan District Judges Association respectively.

In it, Bohlin says he finds two "serious problems" with the legislation. One concerned a provision not affecting Tuscola county that allowed a "lower court" to overrule a circuit court. The other concerned the creation of the 54th judicial circuit in Tuscola.

Bohlin said that had his office known beforehand about the legislation, it "would have opposed both of the above provisions vigorously."

He goes on to say that he has written to Justice Coleman recommending she ask the attorney general to file suit. "The creation of an additional circuit not recommended by the Supreme Court," he concludes, "is, I believe, clearly in violation

of Article 6, Section 11, of the Michigan Constitution." He adds that equally persuasive arguments can be made against the other provision of the legislation he found objectionable.

The section of the constitution he refers to says, "The number of judges may be changed and circuits may be created, altered and discontinued by law and the number of judges shall be changed and circuits shall be created, altered and discontinued on recommendation of the supreme court..."

A spokesman in Bohlin's office said Tuesday that as far as he knew, Justice Coleman had yet to respond to his letter.

As for the reaction of Tuscola county commissioners, who have voted unanimously twice for the split, Chairman Paul Nagy said they felt the matter is now out of their hands.

# Lucky vacation for Isabelle Seeley

It pays to be persistent. Just ask Isabelle Seeley, of 4627 Schwegler Road, who won \$5,000 in the Michigan State Lottery Friday.

Although she has never won the big money before, Mrs. Seeley said she has been buying lottery tickets since it was instituted.

She discovered she had the winning ticket while on vacation in Sault Ste. Marie. When she saw she had won, she said she could not believe it.

"I rubbed and I rubbed on that ticket to make sure it was real," Mrs. Seeley said.

She said her husband, Clark, is usually luckier at the lottery game than she is, adding she gets discouraged when he wins and she does not.

However, her recent good fortune has eliminated any discouragement she may have for a while, she admitted.

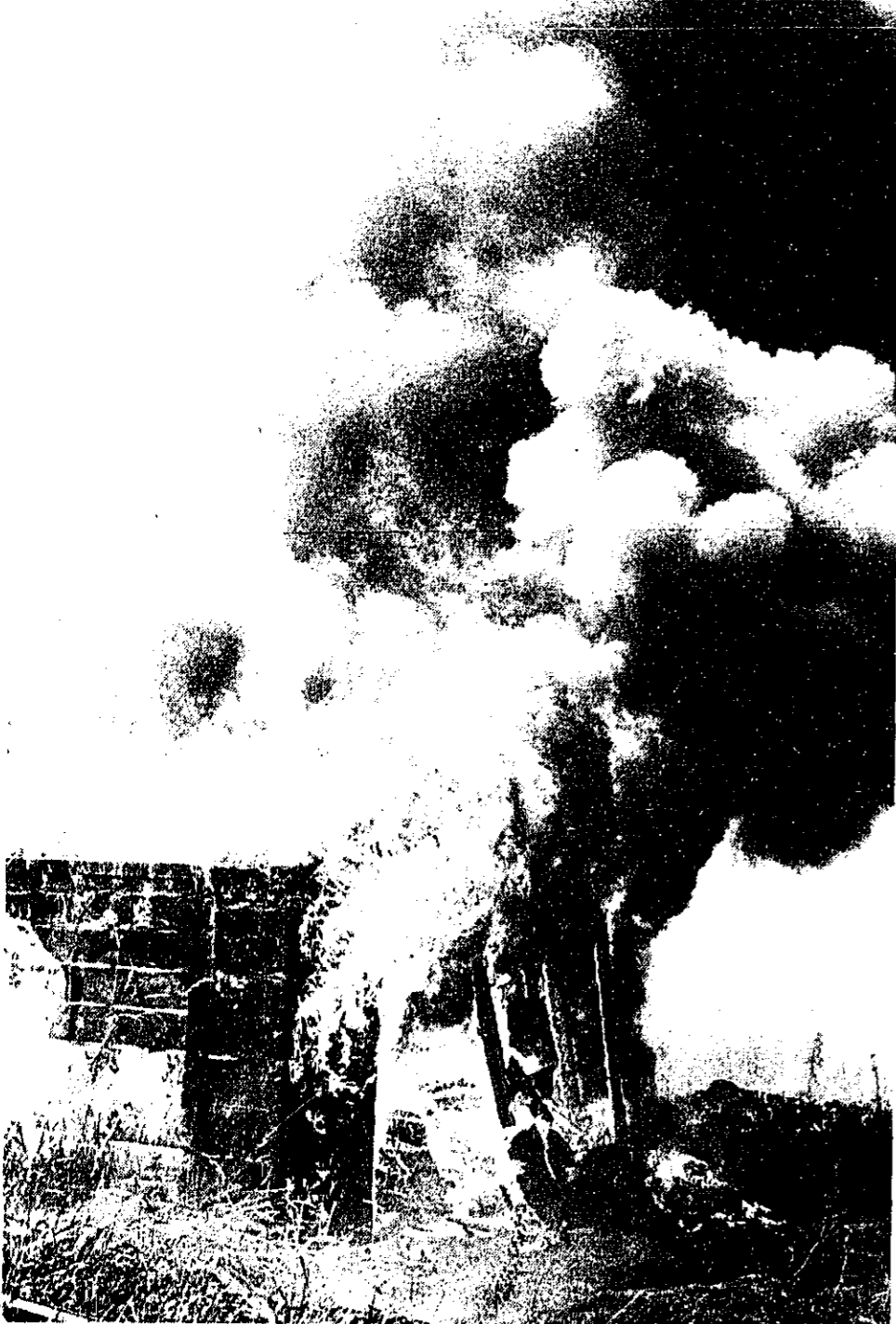
When asked what she would do with the money,

Mrs. Seeley replied she would "salt it away for a rainy day or emergency."

Mrs. Seeley said she has won \$50 previously and her husband has won the \$25 prize a few times.

The ticket was purchased at a magazine store in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mrs. Seeley works as a certified dietetic assistant at Hills and Dales General Hospital. Her husband is self-employed and does grading and bulldozing work.



**BILLOWS OF HEAVY SMOKE** rose from a tar paper-covered shed that ignited Friday after ashes were left smoldering from a grass fire in the area earlier in the day.