

Uncle Sam wants me?

Mixed feelings on signing up

By James Iseler

They've got me. The U.S. government now has - am I naive enough to believe they didn't have it before - my name, two addresses and Social Security number.

Yes readers, I am one of those lucky millions born in 1960 or '61 that have the rare privilege, or at least rare for the past five years, of registering for service in Uncle Sam's Army.

I don't believe in this draft thing, but that's not the issue. For the moment let me just relate some of the feelings and emotions that came over me as I stood, pen in hand, at the desk of the U.S. Post Office in Cass City.

I was nervous. I was actually, honest to goodness, hand-quivering, nervous. The feeling in the pit of my stomach was not unlike the sensation I remember as a junior in high school as I haltingly asked the girl of my dreams if she would like to go to the junior prom.

But it was a much more serious matter that I was quaking over Monday. The possibility of serving in Iran, or anywhere else, is no junior prom.

Sure, everyone connected with this wave of recruitment has said: "It's just a precaution." "We have to show the Russians we mean business." "We would never ACTUALLY DRAFT anyone." But I bring forth the

argument everyone has heard before. "If they don't intend to draft anyone, why register us?"

AS I FILLED OUT THE card, and it was as easy as the press releases said it would be, I made the obligatory, sarcastic comments.

"Go ahead, I'm in no hurry," I offered to another of my generation who also was in the post office that morning for more than buying stamps.

"Maybe I should put a 'Hell no, we won't go' sticker over this," I joked, as my editor prepared to get a photograph of me in front of a Selective Service placard.

But inside I realized it is no joking matter. Even though all I did was give the government information they probably already have, by signing the registration card I was, in effect, saying, "Go ahead, if the need for a draft comes, take me. I'll serve."

I am not yet sure whether I may have lied to my government because I'm not sure if I'd go when asked.

When the Vietnam war ended, I was all of 13. But, like everyone else of that era I had seen, through the wonder of television, enough of that insanity in Southeast Asia to know I never wanted to be part of anything like it. And to me that is what the draft represents.

I CAN STILL RECALL the wave of relief, stretched over several months, when they decided to abandon the draft altogether in 1975. I also remember the anxiety when, earlier this year, they finalized plans to start it up again.

Sunday, as I sat around the family homestead in Harbor Beach, quaffing lemonade and eating charcoal-grilled hamburgers, I was asked by my father if I was going to register.

My dad served in the Korean War as a corporal in the Army. He too was drafted. From talking with him about some of his experiences, it appears that he served his country with pride. He also said the night

before he left to go overseas he was certain he would not be coming back.

When he asked me, I didn't know what to tell him. I could have said "Nah, I've got a job lined up with the Toronto Star," or given him a sullen stare like so many young men from the sixties and asked "What for?"

But instead, I answered, "Oh, probably." The voice behind that answer was not filled with conviction. But I'm sure it is the same answer, or one similar, that millions of guys like me are giving people all over the country.

AND IT WAS WITH that same lack of conviction that this 19-year-old, still wet-behind-the-ears, kid signed his registration card Monday.

I suppose I did it for no better reason than expediency. After all who wants a \$10,000 fine, five years in prison, or both.

I do not consider myself a traitor, a coward or a pinko for having second thoughts about signing up. I love this

country as much as Ronald Reagan and John Wayne. But I like to think that I have enough of a moral conscience to question the forced recruiting of young men to fight a war in what will probably be a foreign land that actually does not want us there to begin with.

It could run longer if I went into my reasons for opposing the draft but I won't. This space was reserved for sentiments only.

I've been thinking it would be nice to receive a telegram someday. I just hope my first dispatch from Western Union doesn't open with: "Greetings!"



SIGNING IN - Filling out his draft registration card at the Cass City Post Office Monday, the second to do so, is Chronicle summer reporter Jim Iseler.

79 registered by Tuesday

As of Tuesday afternoon, 79 area males born in 1960 had filled out the cards for the first peacetime draft registration since 1975. The process began Monday morning.

Those born in 1961 will get the opportunity to register next week, according to registration procedures.

Registration, which is taking place at area post offices, has been going smoothly, if slow in some places.

None of the post offices contacted reported any form of draft protests akin to those brewing in more populated areas.

"Everything has been going really calm and I hope it stays that way," stated one postal employee in Kingston.

A breakdown of registrants from area villages is as follows: Deford-2, Cass City-35, Gagetown-2, Argyle-3, Kingston-10, Decker-3, Snover-5, Owendale-9, Ubyl-10.

Although specific days have been set for registering, depending on the month one was born, most post offices are registering young men anytime since there are relatively few eligible registrants in the area.

Missionary day Friday

Bay Shore Camp in Sebewaing will be sponsoring a Missionary Day Friday, Aug. 1.

Dr. Maurice Stevens, president of the Missionary World Service and Evangelism, will be speaking with visitors all day long.

Registration is at 10 a.m. and the morning session begins at 10:30. Dinner will

be at 12:15. A rundown of Bay Shore's accomplishments for the past year and hopes for the coming year will be presented at 1:30 p.m.

The afternoon session will begin at 2 p.m. with a tea at 3 p.m.

Children's meetings will also be conducted.



COME SEE US!

One of our **nine savings plans** will fit your specific need. Let **Thumb National** help select the **best one for you!**



Thumb National Bank & Trust

Pigeon 453-3113

Cass City 872-4311

MEMBER FDIC

Earnings decline at Walbro

Lambert E. Althaver, president and chief operating officer of Walbro Corp., has announced that net sales from consolidated operations for the three months which ended June 30, were \$11,029,390 compared to \$10,220,764 for the same period of 1979.

Net earnings were \$222,206, or 28 cents per share, down from \$470,860, or 60 cents per share during the same period in 1979. Average shares outstanding were 778,820 and 778,870 for the respective periods.

Althaver reported that sales of Walbro's automotive products and plastic parts were down, while portions of the small engine carburetor line have also experienced slower sales. The lower sales, along with general inflationary pressures, account for the earnings reduction.

Wheat yield up, corn output down

Michigan's 1980 winter wheat crop is forecast to be 36.96 million bushels, according to the Michigan Agricultural Reporting Service.

This is 9 percent higher than last year's crop. Based on conditions as of July 1, growers expect to harvest 840,000 acres with an average yield 44 bushels per acre, a state record.

In the first corn forecast of the year, production is set at about 214 million bushels, a 10 percent drop from last year's record crop. The decline is due to an 11 bushel drop in projected average yield to 84 bushels per acre.

Oat production is expected to be virtually unchanged from last season with 16.53 million bushels harvested, averaging 58 bushels per acre. Rye production is forecast at 575,000 bushels, down 8 percent, while the barley crop is projected to be 846,000 bushels, up 6 percent.

Storm causes outages

Continued from page one

tomers without power. Thousands there still didn't have electricity Monday.

Wednesday morning Andersen said, there were still 84 customers without electricity in Tuscola county, including 10 in the Cass City area.

As of Tuesday afternoon, there were still about 350 customers out in Tuscola, including the 150 south of Cass City, and 300 in Huron, but none in Sanilac.

A "few thousand" Thumb Electric Cooperative customers scattered throughout the upper Thumb lost electricity during the storm, Operations Manager Les Teel said.

He expected all would have service restored by Monday evening.

Top ten taxpayers

Continued from page one

side Apartments, which his construction firm does not own), \$4,178.

The top six on the list are in the same order as in 1979.

The bottom four were also on the list last year, but in a different order: Developer and builder Thomas Herron, \$3,723 (No. 9 last year); Clare Comment (Charmont Lanes and surrounding property), \$3,613 (also No. 7 last year); Marshall Distributing, \$2,951 (No. 8) and Cass City State Bank, \$2,608 (also No. 10 last year).

The taxes paid by the top 10 total \$63,419, out of the \$297,615 Cass City will collect from all taxpayers. The total collected last year was \$249,615, the difference coming from the one mill increase, plus increases in assessments and new construction.

The top 10 listing, compiled by village Treasurer Joyce LaRoche, was based on single-listing property owners. Some persons may pay more taxes than some of the top 10, but some of their property is listed as being owned by them personally and some by their corporation.

Suit against sheriff dismissed

Huron County Circuit Judge M. Richard Knoblock Monday signed an order dismissing the suit of David and Florence Duncan against Sanilac County Sheriff Ross E. Dundas.

The Duncans had filed the suit in late April, charging illegal search and seizure of their property and seeking return of items seized from their property in execution of search warrants in March.

Taken by sheriff's officers and other authorities from their property were tractors, trailers and various truck parts. The Duncans' property is east of M-53, north of M-81, adjacent to the auto speedway which they operated and was owned by Mrs. Duncan, which she sold in February.

The couple filed the suit after the search warrants were executed but before arrest warrants were issued, the latter in early May. The delay was because of the time needed to determine true serial numbers and original owners of the items seized.

Duncan is charged on three warrants with possession of stolen property, altering and defacing serial numbers and embezzlement of mortgaged property, a total of 10 counts.

Mrs. Duncan is charged with one count of welfare fraud.

According to Sanilac County Prosecutor J. Anthony Sykora, an additional warrant charging Duncan

with 10 similar counts in connection with other allegedly stolen property is awaiting the signature of the investigating state police officer from Detroit. A warrant charging Mrs. Duncan with conspiracy to possess stolen property is also awaiting signature.

About the time the original arrest warrants were issued, the Duncans disappeared. As of Tuesday, they were still missing.

As the Duncans' suit was a civil action, Sykora explained, before the arrest warrants were issued, he sought to take depositions (statements) from them. As they declined to cooperate, he went into court in June seeking dismissal of the suit. The case was assigned to Knoblock as visiting judge as Sanilac County Circuit Judge Allen E. Keyes had signed one of the search warrants.

The Duncans were represented at the June hearing by two Detroit attorneys, but Knoblock ruled in favor of Sykora, giving the plaintiffs 30 days to respond.

They didn't, and the 30 days expired last week, so Knoblock signed the order Monday presented by the prosecutor to dismiss the case.

Sykora said that at the June hearing, the two attorneys for the Duncans, Joseph Freed and Kevin McNulty, stated on the record they had lost contact with their clients.

Republican Candidate
LIONEL "ROY" EMERY
For Tuscola County Drain Commissioner

- * Native of Tuscola Co.
- * Caro H. S. Graduate
- * Ferris State College Grad.
- * Registered Land Surveyor
- * 18 yrs. Experience in Surveying & Civil Eng'g Design

PAID FOR BY:
EMERY FOR DRAIN COMMISSIONER
COMMITTEE, 1515 PHELPS LAKE RD.,
MAYVILLE, MI.

OVER INSURANCE

... Costing you more than you can afford? See us for adequate insurance coverage at moderate rates. Whatever the need... we can offer you the most comprehensive policies. Call us at no obligation.

HARRIS-HAMPSHIRE AGENCY, INC.
6815 E. Cass City Road
Phone 872-2688

YOUR Independent AGENT
SERVES YOU FIRST