

Friend saves drowning victim

Possible disaster was averted Tuesday evening when a Kingston man was saved from drowning in a pond on his property.

Walter Sedlak, of S. Kingston Road, Kingston, was listed in good condition Wednesday morning at Marlette Community Hospital.

Sedlak was swimming in the pond and began to struggle in the water at about 9:25 p.m. His daughter, who is unable to swim, attempted to reach him by innertube, according to her mother-in-law, Mrs. John Nickens.

While trying to save her father, Lottie Nickens, 25, told her son to tell the Nickenses, who live close by, what was happening. Brother-in-law Jan Nickens, 22, quickly arrived and helped rescue Sedlak, who had stopped breathing.

Nickens pushed on Sedlak's chest several minutes before the man, in his fifties, began breathing regularly. By the time sheriff's deputies arrived, Sedlak was breathing again. He was then transported to Marlette.

Please turn to page 5.



AT LAST! -- The four miles of Germania Road between Bay City-Forestville and Cass City Roads was paved during the past week, ending several years of poor condition of the road. Evergreen township is paying \$10,000 per mile for the paving, with the Sanilac County Road Commission paying about \$20,000 per mile.

Candidates, millage levies face area voters Tuesday

Voters in the upper Thumb have a large number of choices to make when they go to the polls for the primary election Tuesday.

The usual polling places are township halls. Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Although the retirement of some office holders has resulted in a large number of candidates seeking to replace them, this is also a year when many incumbents seeking re-election are facing challenges within their own party.

There are also numerous millage proposals on the ballot.

In Tuscola county, Clerk Elsie Hicks, Register of

Deeds John Marshall and Prosecutor Artis Noel are unopposed for re-election, but four Republicans and one Democrat are seeking to replace retiring Sheriff Hugh Marr and three Republicans are seeking to replace Drain Commissioner J. Edward Goodchild, who also is retiring.

Although Mrs. Hicks doesn't have to worry about getting elected, it may be a long wait for those who do. She predicts vote totals for Tuscola county won't be known until 2:30 a.m. Wednesday at the earliest.

There are two primary races for county commissioner, including District 2,

where incumbent Republican Royce Russell is being challenged by Shirley Olszak. Both live in the Gagetown area.

IN SANILAC COUNTY, the only "safe" county official is Treasurer Ken Rhead. There are three persons running against incumbent Clerk Lawrence R. Smith, two against Drain Commissioner Stuart Armstead, one against Sheriff Ross Dundas, one against Register of Deeds Maurice Turnbull and one against Prosecutor J. Anthony Sykora. No Democrats are running.

In District 1 of the county Board of Commissioners,

three Republicans and one Democrat are seeking to replace retiring Lloyd Severance of Decker.

IN HURON COUNTY, only Treasurer Arnold Schweitzer doesn't have to worry about opposition.

Frances Holdwick, register of deeds since January, has four opponents. Sheriff Richard V. Stokan has two opponents.

There are two candidates seeking to replace retiring Clerk Edward Swackhamer and two running for prosecuting attorney. Incumbent Prosecutor Peter Burns Capling isn't seeking a new term.

Everyone running is Republican.

In District 1 of the County Board of Commissioners -- Sebawaing, Brookfield and part of Fair Haven townships -- Bruce Kuhl is unopposed for re-election; likewise in District 2, which includes Grant, Sheridan and Bingham townships, for William Nugent.

In the 77th state House district, which consists primarily of Huron and Sanilac counties, Quincy Hoffman of Applegate is retiring and four Republicans and one Democrat are after his job.

Loren Armbruster of Caro isn't retiring from the 84th House District, mainly Tuscola county, but Terry Houthoofd is running against him in the Republican primary and James McCann in November.

In addition to legislative and county races, there are also candidates running for township offices and in a few places, as delegates to the Democratic county convention.

VOTERS HAVE A choice besides Republicans and Democrats. In order to get their candidates on the ballot Nov. 4 in Michigan, minor parties must receive .3 percent of the total primary vote, which should be about 4,000-5,000 votes statewide.

The four minority parties listed are Libertarian, Socialist Workers, Citizens, and Anderson Coalition, the latter formed solely to get Presidential candidate John Anderson on the November ballot.

Please turn to page 5.

Special section in this issue tells all about candidates and propositions.

D. Backs

Village could finish fiscal year in black

With the year half over, Cass City's fiscal picture became a bit clearer, as presented at Monday evening's village council meeting.

It appears the village will emerge from 1980 in the black, though the budget will be tight.

Compared with the original 1980 budget, Village President Lambert Althaver explained, projected general revenue is down \$4,500, to a new figure of \$464,500.

The big change comes from a decline in state-shared revenues due to the recession and in federal revenue sharing, due to proposed cutbacks by Congress.

The big decrease was in state shared revenues, down from the original projected \$126,000 to \$115,000. "I think these figures may still go down (further)," Althaver commented.

Some of the losses were offset by increase in the village property tax levy to 14 mills, which should bring in \$216,500.

Some major reshuffling had to be done in order to pay \$7,500 to the engineering firm making the state-mandated hydrogeological study of the village landfill. The work had to be done this year but the intent was to pay the firm next year.

Keck Consulting Services informed the village, however, that if it wasn't paid

this year, it would increase its \$7,500 fee 10 percent, hence the desire to pay this year.

The result was the budget had to be reshuffled in order to come up with the \$7,500 and offset the \$4,500 loss in revenue.

Some cuts were made, usually previously decided but not shown in the budget until Monday, such as the cutback in summer help, and some items weren't as expensive as originally budgeted. A change in carrier for workers' compensation insurance, for instance, saved \$7,000.

"I think it's going to be very tight," Althaver predicted after the meeting. Despite the cuts, "we can do everything we promised to do and still end the year in the black."

DEMOLITION

The village president was notified Monday afternoon by James R. Suchodolski, Wickes Agriculture vice-president for eastern operations, that he has been given the okay by high company officials to award a bid for demolition of the old elevators on Vulcan Street.

The bid should be awarded next week and demolition start soon after.

At the June 30 council meeting, it was reported the Margaret McNeil covered basement house at Houghton

and Brooker Streets would be demolished the next week.

It's still standing. The latest hitch, village Superintendent Lou LaPonsie explained, is the county is trying to get Mrs. McNeil to pay the \$750 cost before the work is done by the county-hired contractor or figure out a way for the county to pay.

OTHER ITEMS

The council decided to invite a representative of the First Michigan Cablevision Corp. to its Aug. 25 meeting to explain, in the opinion of at least some council members, why there hasn't been an improvement in reception since a rate increase was approved by council last August. The increase was contingent on implementation of improved service, and has yet to go into effect as new equipment has yet to be installed.

Parking meters along the first block of Seeger Street, north of Main will probably be reinstalled shortly. They were knocked down by vandals during Halloween last fall.

The streets and parking committee will consider whether meters should be installed on the block of Main between Maple and Sherman Streets.

Because of the poor condition of Maple Street between

Garfield and M Streets because of crossings cut for sewer lines, etc., trustees approved having it sealed this year, at a cost of \$1,650.

The wastewater treatment plant construction is basically on schedule. Doerr Road is now ready for paving. Curbing will be installed on Garfield Street this week.

The Grand Trunk has been rebuilding the Garfield Street crossing, it was also reported, eliminating one siding, installing heavy duty rail and raising the tracks so they will be in line with the new pavement when it is laid.

Wastewater treatment plant employee Ken Miller has passed his tests and is now a certified Class D sewage treatment works operator. It is the first time in recent years the plant has two certified operators.

Plant Superintendent Nelson Willy has a Class B license, which will be the classification of the plant when the expansion project is completed. It is now rated Class C.

Attendance at the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool as of July 21 was up more than 1,000 over the same date in 1979.

Village Treasurer Joyce LaRoche reported 56.9 percent of village taxes had been collected as of July 25, compared to 66.9 percent one year earlier.

Both sides still far apart as teacher talks resume

With the start of school in the Cass City district about a month away, the main thing negotiators for the two sides agree on so far is they are far apart.

Talks resume Friday, the last session having been held July 17.

According to Supt. Donald Crouse, who is negotiating for the school board with professional negotiator Al Luce, the talks are still in the preliminary stages and the two sides have yet to reach agreement on anything.

"We are very far apart," commented Phyllis McCoy, head of the negotiating team for the teachers. "Sept. 2 is a long way away and we have a lot of work to do."

The Cass City Education Association is being represented by the Tri-County Bargaining Association (TCBA). Ms. McCoy is a Michigan Education Association (MEA) representative in Flint.

The teachers more than a month ago presented a proposed agreement to the board, which spells out all the changes they seek from its previous contract, which expired June 30.

Although their proposal spells out their financial demands and the board has made some proposals dealing with money, Crouse and Ms. McCoy both said negotiating has yet to get to that stage.

ACCORDING TO THE superintendent, at the July 17 session the board offered a 7 percent increase in pay above what each teacher received last year.

Teachers would not move up a step in the pay scale plus receive a pay increase, 7 percent is all they would get.

What the teachers are asking is somewhat more complicated.

For starters, they want an increase of 5 percent in each pay step, with the teachers advancing a pay step per year as in the past. Then, added to each step will be a cost of living adjustment based on the percentage rise in the consumer price index.

The cost of living adjustment is the percentage increase in the consumer

price index since June, 1979, which is approximately 16 percent. That is to be multiplied times each pay step after the 5 percent has been added, which would make the total increase about 22 percent.

In addition, teachers who haven't reached the top of the pay scale (13 or more years of experience) would also advance a step in the pay scale.

A starting teacher with a bachelor's degree who re-

ceived \$9,450 in 1977-78 (step 0), for instance, under the expired contract, received \$10,627 in 1978-79 (step 1), an increase of \$1,177.

For 1981-82, the teachers want an increase of 3 percent per step, plus a cost of living adjustment computed on the same basis as the one for 1980-81.

The pay scale for teachers during the 1979-80 school year had starting pay for those with bachelor's degrees at \$10,921 annually;

with master's degree, \$11,499. The maximum, for those at the 13th step (13 or more years of teaching) was \$17,604 with a bachelor's degree; \$18,972 with a master's.

It is, of course, only a proposal. Traditionally in labor negotiations, the union initially asks for more than it expects to get and management offers less than it eventually expects to pay.

Please turn to page 5.

Muntz empties mail bag for final time

There was nothing hard about Chester "Chet" Muntz' job, except making the decision to quit it.

"That was the hardest part. Finally deciding to quit," said Muntz who, after 23 years of delivering mail to

the residents along Cass City's postal route 1, made his last delivery Friday.

One of the best parts of his job was the associations he made with "my people, as I like to call them."

Over the years he got to know everyone on his route and most were on a first name basis with their favorite carrier.

It was this fondness for the people that led Chet Muntz to take a bit longer than usual delivering the mail during his final week. He had to say goodbye to "his people."

"I didn't leave any of them that I didn't have a lump in my throat or a tear in my eye," Muntz said. "They're some of the best people in the world."

If he ran into problems while driving his route, Muntz said he could always count on his customers to lend a hand and vice versa.

Even the dogs, a postman's traditional nemesis, liked Chet Muntz.

"I made a lot of friends of the dogs. A lot of them would come and put their feet right up on the window as I'd pat them on the head."

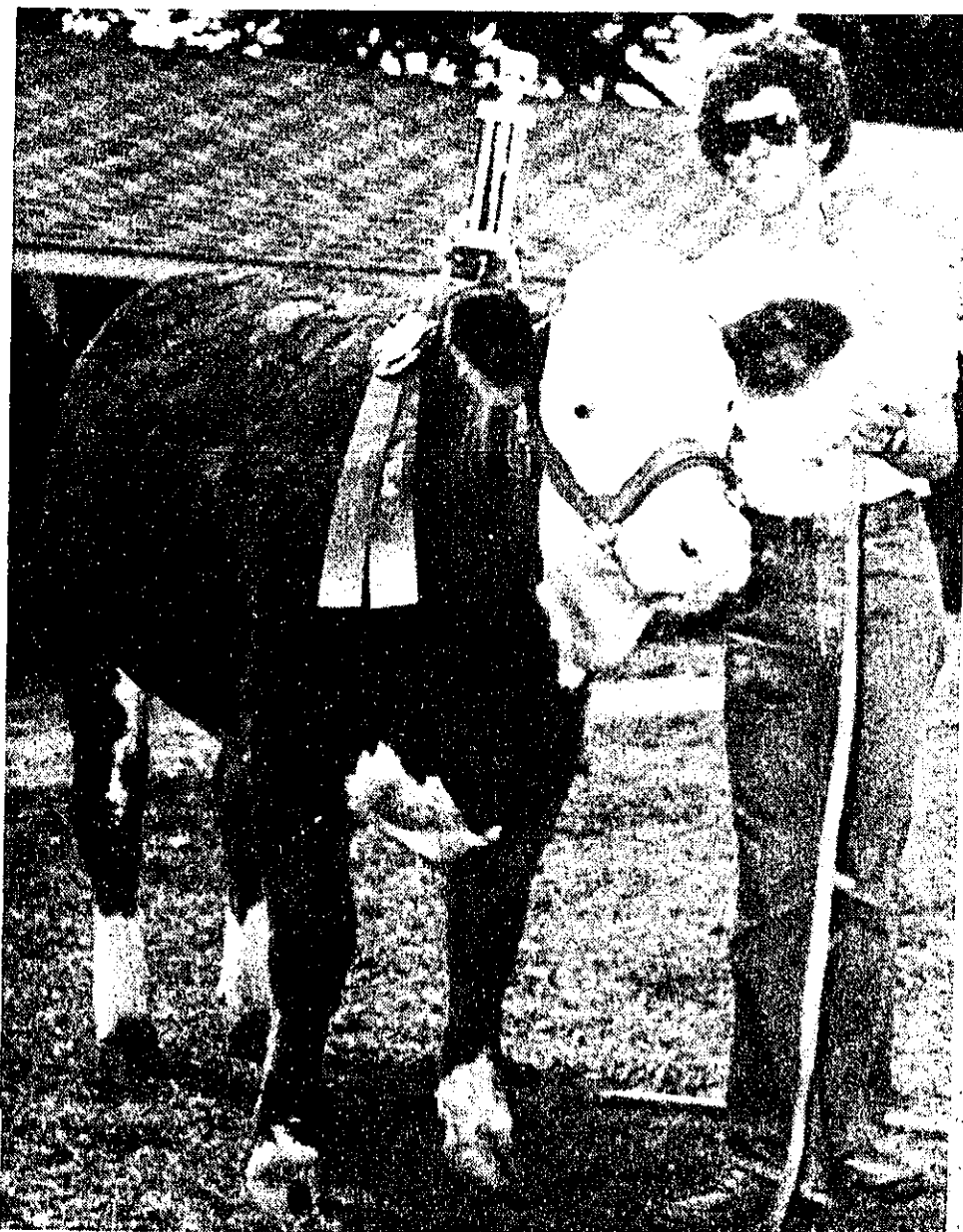
Now that he will no longer be delivering the mail, Muntz' former job will fall temporarily into the hands of a very competent substitute, Peter Rienstra.

Rienstra was the sub for route 1 when Muntz began in 1957 and filled in whenever Muntz was not there. Now Rienstra will work every

Please turn to page 5.



FAMILIAR GROUND -- Chet Muntz takes a last look at the mail sorting area where he spent much of his time, when he wasn't on the route, sorting mail for his customers.



GRAND CHAMPION market steer, judged Tuesday at the Tuscola County Fair, was the 1,260-pound Simmental crossbreed of John Gallagher, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gallagher, 5284 Koepfgen Road, Cass City. It was the fifth year he entered a steer and his first grand champion. He is a Cass City Future Farmers of America member. The steer's name is "Oscar."