

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 15

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1980

Twenty-five Cents

SECTION 2 Pages 1 thru 4

Other half for Tuscola expenses

1-mill levy to partially fund bridges

Tuscola county residents Tuesday will be voting on a 1-mill levy that is and isn't a renewal.

The 1-mill bridge levy of the Tuscola County Road Commission is expiring at the end of next year, however, only a half-mill from the new proposal will go to that source. The other half-mill will be used to help finance general county operations.

Voters will not be given a choice. Both half-mills are linked together in one proposal, Proposition 1. The proposal is for five years, with the levy, if approved, first showing up on tax bills in December, 1981. It is being voted on this year since there is no countywide election in 1981.

County residents approved the first bridge levy in 1970; the second in 1976. The last year of the levy will go on tax bills this December.

A continued millage, though only half as much, is needed, according to the Road Commission, because there are still 62 township

bridges that have load limits posted or are closed to all traffic.

The first five-year levy was spent entirely on township bridges, but after that came a new state law requiring sharing of such millages with villages and cities.

Starting with the 1976 levy, the villages and one city in the county have benefited, even if they don't have bridges, with allocations based on their state equalized valuation. From the December, 1979, tax collections, Cass City receives \$15,387; Gagetown, \$1,876, and Kingston, \$2,128.

Approximately 80 percent of the bridge levy goes for township bridge repair and replacement. Since 1970, improvements have been made on 99 such bridges.

For those improvements,

\$3,067,978 has come from the bridge millage, \$817,464 from the state and federal governments, \$435,357 from regular Road Commission funds and \$266,409 from the townships.

Passage of Proposition 1 will mean approximately \$200,000 each year for township bridge work and \$50,000 for village and city street improvements.

The reduction is possible, according to Road Commission Chairman F. William Tuckey, "because additional state and federal funds are becoming available to the county. To obtain this money, the county must have matching funds available and have new bridges designed and ready to be constructed. A continued millage is also necessary to take care of emergencies as they arise."

The Road Commission has already received a promise of \$744,000 in state and federal money for bridges for 1980 and 1981.

COUNTY OPERATIONS

Although the Road Commission is confident of receiving continued state and federal money, the same doesn't hold true for general county operations, hence the claim of the county Board of Commissioners of the need for their half-mill, which would bring the county about \$250,000 per year.

During the present fiscal year, the county will spend about \$4 million, of which about \$320,000 will be in federal revenue sharing funds and \$557,000 will come from the state.

All money from Washington hasn't gone to county

operations. Since 1973, when revenue sharing went into effect, the county board has given \$766,000 in revenue sharing and federal anti-recession funds to the Road Commission for local road maintenance and improvements, including snow plowing.

Federal money has also been going to senior citizen activities, county libraries, health department and sheriff's department.

But, Ken Kennedy, chairman of the county board's finance committee points out, money from Washington and Lansing is declining.

The anti-recession program which Congress abolished starting this year used to pour about \$80,000 a year into county coffers. Eighteen employees who had been paid with federal Com-

prehensive Employment and Training Act funds went on county payrolls when their eligibility ended.

The board projects that federal revenue sharing funds will be cut from \$320,000 this year to \$300,000 next year.

State revenues to the county are declining because tax revenues are declining due to the recession. One cutback came at the health department, where the state was supposed to pay 30 percent of the budget this year.

Lansing didn't have the money, so is continuing to pay the 20 percent share it had been paying. That meant the county had to keep paying the 80 percent, instead of the 70 percent it had been anticipating.

(Other than the county contributions, budgets of the health department, mental health department and road commission aren't included as part of the county's \$4 million budget for general operations.)

Although money from Washington and Lansing form a big share of the county budget, the greatest portion -- approximately 48 percent -- comes from property taxes.

The 4.2 mills the county levies for its operations, Kennedy said, is the lowest of any of Michigan's 83 counties. If the half-mill is approved, the resulting 4.7 mills may still be the lowest.

If it is okayed, as mentioned, the county won't be benefiting from the higher

revenues until 1982.

The trend shown in county spending has been upward each year, with the 1980 general fund budget being about \$500,000 more than in 1979.

Pay increases to county employees was one reason and the absorption of the 18 CETA workers onto the county payroll was another. The amount spent on drains will increase about \$100,000 this year over last and three countywide elections this year will cost the county about \$40,000.

Perhaps contingent on passage of the millage is the

board's plan to build a two-story plus basement addition onto the rear of the courthouse annex in order to provide more office space. Primary tenant would be the Cooperative Extension Service, now housed in the jail basement.

A preliminary cost "guesstimate" was \$600,000, with a possible means of financing being sale of bonds.

The one thing for certain, Kennedy said, is that if the millage is defeated, though the county board doesn't like to make threats, some cuts in county services will eventually have to be made

GOP contests in most Sanilac county offices

Sanilac County Treasurer Ken Rhead is the only county official who doesn't face opposition in the Tuesday, Aug. 5, primary.

As for the rest, whoever wins the Republican primary races for county clerk, sheriff, drain commissioner and prosecuting attorney will have won the job as none will face Democratic opposition in the Nov. 4 general election.

Rhead, a Republican, is also unopposed in November.

CLERK -- Lawrence R. Smith of Sandusky, clerk since 1976 and Sandusky city clerk for 13 years before that, has three opponents.

Delene Schultheiss of Sandusky is a deputy county clerk and presently assigned to the county Board of Commissioners. Joseph L. McCoy is Minden township supervisor and former district court clerk. Karl E. Buhl of Deckerville teaches elementary school in that community and served one term on the village council.

SHERIFF -- Ross E. Dundas has been sheriff since 1965. He was undersheriff

from 1947-48 and 1954-65, serving in the interim as Crosswell police chief.

His opponent, William Lakatos of Deckerville, first ran against Dundas in 1976. He was a Detroit police officer from 1964-70. Sanilac county deputy from 1970-76 and now is a criminal justice instructor at St. Clair County Community College.

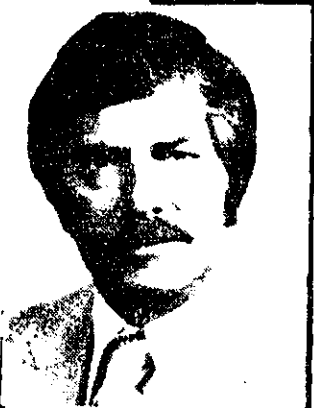
DRAIN COMMISSIONER -- Stuart Armstead of Snover has served in the position for 25 years.

His opponents are Wayne G. Laurson of Marlette, a farmer and Elmer township clerk, and Eugene Mancini,

a Crosswell insurance agent.

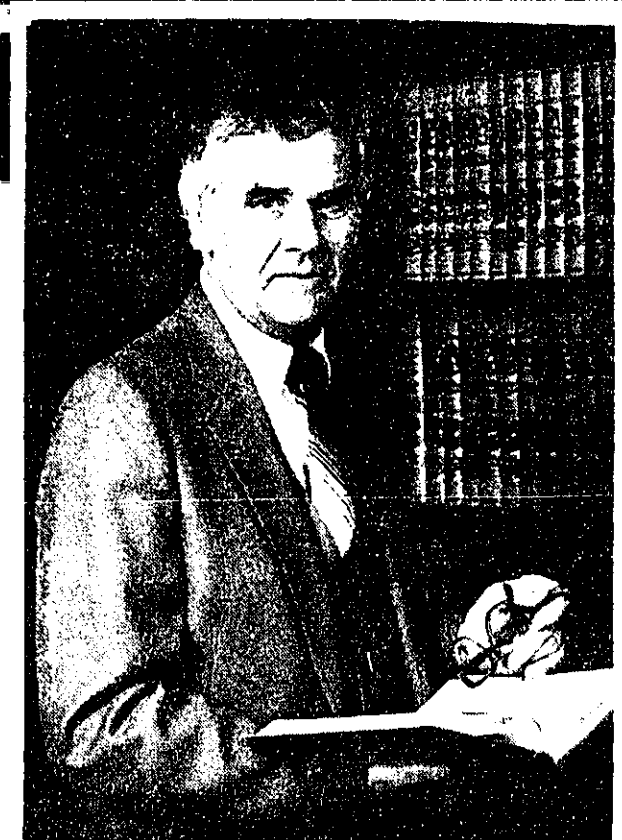
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY -- J. Anthony Sykora of Sandusky, prosecutor for four years and assistant prosecutor before that, starting in 1971, is being opposed by one of his former assistants, Robert Barnes, now an attorney in Crosswell.

REGISTER OF DEEDS -- Maurice Turnbull of Deckerville, register of deeds since 1961, is opposed by Joseph J. O'Connor of Minden City, county commissioner from 1972-78 including almost two years as chairman. A retired farmer, he sells insurance and real estate.



FARMING BACKGROUND

Paid for by Citizens for Muzzio



ELECT BERNARD LENDA TUSCOLA COUNTY SHERIFF

- Remember:**
- ★ Twenty years as law enforcement official.
 - ★ Experience and formal training in crime investigation and crime prevention.
 - ★ Proven leader in our county.
 - ★ Investigator for Tuscola County Prosecutor's office.

On August 5, Vote to Fight Crime. Vote BERNARD LENDA Sheriff - Republican

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Bernie Lenda, Robert Benkeiman, Treasurer, 305 N. Almer, Caro, MI

\$54,000 a year if 3 mills pass in Elmwood township

Elmwood township voters will be asked Tuesday to approve a 3-mill levy for five years for roads.

Based on the township's present equalized valuation of about \$18 million, that would bring in \$54,000 per year for the purpose. One mill equals \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The township board hasn't decided yet what roads will benefit if the millage passes, according to township Supervisor Roy Messer, but is very aware that some roads are in need of repair. The problem is the township doesn't have the money. "We've had so many other bills that come out of the regular budget we can't use

as much as anticipated for roads."

What has put a crimp in the township's budget is having to pay its share for five drain projects. Last year, this year and next, Messer said, Elmwood will be paying over \$20,000 per year for drains.

In fact, the township isn't spending any money on road improvements this year. What it is doing is paying money owed from work done last year by the county Road Commission. It anticipates spending over \$10,000 for that purpose this year.

If the millage passes, the levy will go on tax bills for the first time this December. If it is defeated, conceivably the proposal could

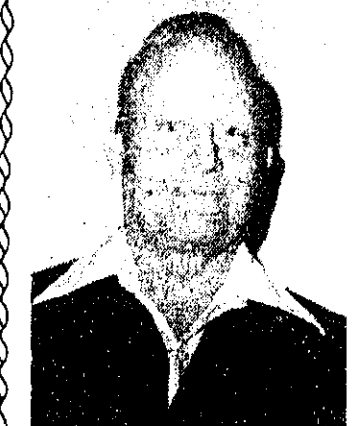
go on the ballot again in November, but if approved then, the levy couldn't be assessed until December, 1981.

If the levy is voted down in August, Messer doesn't foresee it going on the ballot again this year.

Let Experience and Dedication Work for You

Vote for

ALLEN J. LEWIS



Republican for County Commissioner District One, Sanilac County

Your Vote and Support Will be Appreciated

Paid for by candidate.

Elect SHIRLEY OLSZAK



District 2 Commissioner Republican

"The voting rights of the taxpayers should be protected at all times and not be disregarded by governmental agencies."

Gagetown area resident for 5 years, Owen-Gage School Band Booster.

Paid for by candidate.

Elect STANLEY HENRY



Tuscola County Drain Commissioner Republican Primary

August 5

AS A LIFE-TIME COUNTY RESIDENT AND FARMER, I HAVE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN DRAINAGE AND SOIL EROSION PROBLEMS.

HAVING JUST SERVED 30 YEARS AS TOWNSHIP TREASURER AND THE PAST 4 YEARS AS YOUR DRAIN INSPECTOR FOR THE TUSCOLA COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSION, I AM ASKING YOUR SUPPORT TO CONTINUE IN THE DRAIN OFFICE AS YOUR COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER.

Stan

Paid for by Stanley Henry, 3889 W. Caro Rd., Caro

VOTE FOR

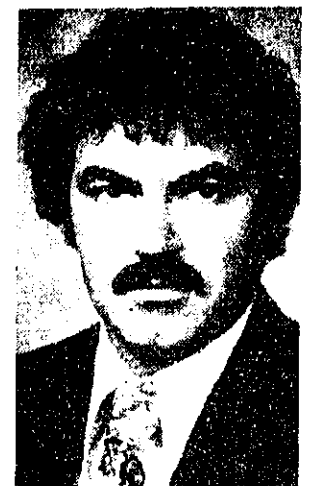
Terry Houthoofd

Republican

State Representative

84th District

AUGUST 5th PRIMARY



- * Lifelong District Resident
- * Graduate of Michigan State University and Thomas M. Cooley Law School
- * Member of the Michigan Bar Association
- * Practicing Law in Unionville

"I have worked both on the FARM and in the FACTORY and combined with my EDUCATION, this broad background enables me to understand your problems and work harder for all segments of the 84th District. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Paid for by the committee to elect Terry Houthoofd; Susan Metcalf, chairman, 2306 N. Sheridan Road, Fairgrove.