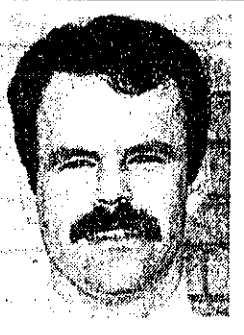


PEDALING AROUND

Bigger and better

By Mike Eliasohn



The Tuscola County Fair will be celebrating its 100th birthday next year.

Hopefully, it will be a fair worth remembering.

The Tuscola fair is the third county fair I have covered in my approximately eight years in the newspaper business.

I have also covered the St. Joseph and Monroe county fairs. Unfortunately, the fair in Caro comes off a poor third.

Compared to those two, facilities here are run down, there are not as many activities and there is not as much participation when all activities (4-H, open class, etc.) are totaled together.

I'm sure the fair board members here, superintendents, 4-H leaders and others who volunteer their time care as much and work as hard as those involved with the other fairs I have seen.

Part of the reason why the Tuscola fair comes off a poor third, I suspect, is that the fairgrounds are owned by the village of Caro, which is, I understand, primarily responsible for its maintenance.

With the fairgrounds as a whole used only one week a year, maintenance elsewhere in the village probably receives a higher priority.

The fairgrounds, at least as presently arranged, is quite small.

A big factor, of course, is money. More spectators means more money and perhaps the populace of Tuscola county as a whole isn't much interested in fairs compared to some other counties.

Bad weather has kept down attendance the past two years, which hurt financially.

The burning of the grandstands last year was also a blow to the pocketbook. There were few, if any empty seats at the tractor pull this year, so I'm sure the fair directors would like to be able to install more seats, if they have the

money. Money is tight, but perhaps the fair directors could undertake a one-shot fund raising drive next year, as well as to recruit more volunteers to work on the centennial fair.

I wonder if a change in the evening schedule might be worthwhile. The four fairs I have covered here have all had the same evening schedule, harness racing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night, tractor pulling Thursday night, demolition derby Friday and motorcycle races Saturday.

The three big crowd pullers are the tractor pull, demolition derby and motorcycles, so why offer harness racing three nights if it isn't as big a draw?

How about a well known entertainer one night? If the Osceola County Fair can attract Rex Allen Jr. and the Ubyly Heights Country Club can bring in Loreita Lynn, why can't the Tuscola County Fair bring in someone worth seeing? Osceola county only has a population of about 15,000, so its fair can't be that big.

Of course, one problem in bringing in a big name entertainer is they cost probably a minimum of \$12,000 (for one night, two shows). It's hard to make money at that price when the bleachers only seat about 2,000 spectators.

The night with a show biz performer might fit in well with the crowning of the Tuscola County Bean Queen. I got the feeling this year that some of the tractor pulling fans weren't too happy when the event was interrupted, as it is every year, for about a half-hour for the crowning of the queen.

As reported last week, there is thought being given to conducting a parade next year, which is a fine idea. The kick-off for the Monroe County Fair every year is a parade, which is the biggest of the year in that community and a big success.



PINATAS MADE by Genevieve Crawley, left, and her mother, Olivia Torres, have become a tradition at the annual Hills and Dales General Hospital employees' picnic, the third edition of which was held last Wednesday at the village park. Both are hospital employees. There were pinatas for children such as Jason Torres (left) and Barry Hornbacher to break to retrieve the goodies inside, and also ones for adults.

Hear 4 cases Monday in Tuscola Circuit Court

Robert C. Kechn Jr. pleaded guilty in Tuscola County Circuit Court Monday to charges of felonious assault and malicious destruction of property under \$100 in connection with a Feb. 9 incident in Cass City.

Kechn, 31, of 3115 Cemetery Road, Kingston, pleaded guilty to threatening Michael R. Wedge with a knife and slashing the four tires of the car of Thomas J. Wadsworth of Sandusky.

Wedge was a passenger in the Wadsworth auto, stopped on N. Seeger Street, when the incident occurred.

Judge Norman A. Baguley accepted the defendant's plea and scheduled sentencing Oct. 14. Personal recognizance bond of \$10,000 was continued.

Kechn had faced two additional charges of felonious assault, of having threatened two other passengers in the Wadsworth auto, but those charges will probably be dismissed.

Also Monday, Tony W. Welch, 18, of 240 E. Grand Street, Caro, stood mute to a charge of breaking and entering. A plea of innocent was entered and pretrial

hearing scheduled Sept. 22. Bond was continued.

Welch is charged with breaking into the Laethem Equipment Co. on Montague Street, Caro, June 13.

Sentencing of Wayne Phillips, 19, of 211 N. Unionville Road, Caro, was delayed six months, during which time he is to pay court costs of \$430 and fees to his court appointed attorney.

Phillips was convicted in March, 1979, of breaking and entering a motor vehicle, a semi-truck trailer on E. Sanilac Road, Caro, in August, 1978. He was subsequently sentenced to one year in the county jail but appealed.

In July, the state Court of Appeals ruled Baguley had erred during Phillips' trial in declining to instruct the jury on the possibility of finding the defendant guilty of attempted breaking and entering.

The higher court then remanded the case to Baguley for him to resentence Phillips for attempted breaking and entering.

Robert E. McComb, 20, formerly of Davison, was

resentenced to 1 1/2-10 years in prison for armed robbery, for his role in the February, 1979, robbery near Fostoria of Leo Waterman.

He was originally sentenced in January of this year to 2 1/2-10 years.

The sentence was changed to correct a misunderstanding concerning McComb's plea bargain agreement with the prosecution. He had pleaded guilty to the charge.

He is presently serving his sentence at Pelston Correctional Camp.

Tuesday, Aug. 5, at what was to be the first day of his jury trial, Mark A. Johnson, 20, of Likon Road, Sebawang, pleaded guilty to two charges of breaking and entering.

His pleas were accepted by Judge Baguley, who remanded him to jail without bail to await sentencing Sept. 22.

Johnson pleaded guilty to breaking into an auto repair shop on Congress Street in Caro and the Hiser Mobile Homes sales office on W. Caro Road. Both break-ins occurred April 27.

The judge took under advisement dismissal of a third breaking and entering charge, and one of attempting to destroy a safe, both in connection with a break-in of Farmers Petroleum Co-op on W. Caro Road, also April 27.

DISTRICT COURT
Michael Brandibur, 24, of 6102 Wilcox Road, Detroit, was fined \$100 and assessed \$150 court costs Monday by Judge Richard F. Kern for assault and battery.

Brandibur pleaded no contest to the charge July 14, in connection with a Jan. 27 assault on John E. Hackel in Koylton township.

Crucial school vote Monday

Continued from page one

During the last school year, Cass City received \$171,000 from the state for that purpose.

Another unknown in addition to state aid is what it will cost the district when the board settles on a new contract with teachers. The next negotiating session was to have been Wednesday.

There are also other unavoidable increases in expenditures, for heat and electricity, gasoline for school buses, supplies, etc.

TAXPAYER COST

For a home with a market value of \$40,000 (\$20,000 state equalized valuation), the 1-mill levy will cost the homeowner \$20 for the year it is in effect. A home worth \$60,000 would mean a tax increase of \$30.

Senior citizen property owners may not have to pay anything additional. Those 65 and older receive a refund of up to \$1,200 annually from the state, minus the percentage of their income that is not refundable.

For instance, a senior citizen with a household income of \$7,000 and property taxes of \$600 per year will pay a maximum of 3.5 percent of his household income in property taxes, which is \$280. The state pays

the rest via a rebate, which would be \$320.

If the 1-mill levy is approved Monday and the taxes on the person's home were increased \$25, he or she would still pay \$280. The state would rebate the person the difference, which would now total \$345.

Total farm production expenses reached \$114 billion in 1979, up from \$98 billion in 1978 and \$89 billion in 1977.

For the crop year just ended, U.S. farmers netted about \$30 billion in personal income from farm sources.

Hold final rites for Bill Ruhl

William Sidney Ruhl, 66, of Cass City died suddenly Sunday at Hills and Dales Hospital.

He was born April 15, 1914, in Cass City, the son of William and Ethel (Spendlove) Ruhl.

He married Alice Allen July 18, 1937, in Reese. Following their marriage, they first made their home in Kingston. They came to Cass City in 1955 from Pontiac.

Ruhl was a vice-president of the Pinney State Bank of Cass City, retiring in 1978. He was a member of its board of directors at the time of his death. He had previously been employed by the Kingston State Bank.

Ruhl was a member of the Cass City Board of Education from 1960-67 and its treasurer from 1962-67.

He attended Trinity United Methodist church and was a past member of the Gavel Club.

Ruhl is survived by his wife; two sons, William A. Ruhl of Spring Lake and Douglas E. Ruhl of Frankenthum, and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon from Little's Funeral Home, Cass City, with Rev. P. Thomas Wachterhauser of the Trinity United Methodist church officiating.

Burial was in the Caro cemetery, Caro.

Clancy OKs Tait for undersheriff

Millington Police Chief Herbert Clancy, the Democratic candidate for Tuscola county sheriff, announced in Caro Tuesday that if elected Nov. 4, he will appoint the present undersheriff, Bruce Tait, as his undersheriff.

Tait last week finished second in the Republican primary for sheriff behind Deputy Paul Berry. He said if Clancy is elected, he will accept the appointment.

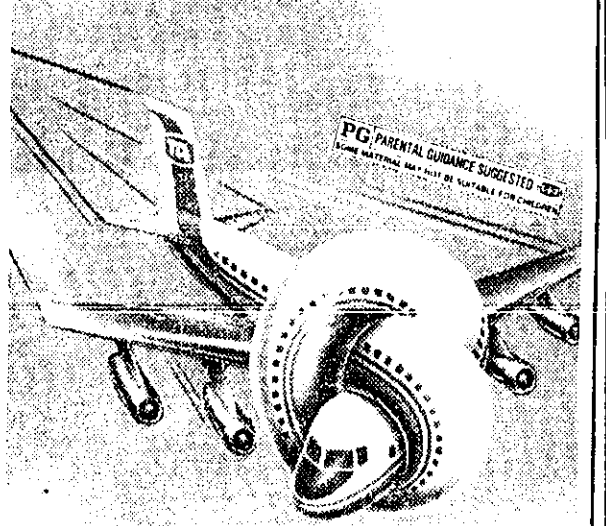
Berry said later he will wait until he is elected before announcing his choice for undersheriff.

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	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	96	62	.04
Thursday	96	66	0
Friday	86	64	0
Saturday	86	58	.64
Sunday	76	62	0
Monday	86	56	0
Tuesday	84	52	.07

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