



AGRICULTURAL PAST — The old elevators on Vulcan Street owned by Wickes Agriculture were torn down this week by Whalen Contracting Co. of Caro. The work was expected to be completed Friday. What is left of the elevator seen here was built in 1888. The one closest to Garfield Street was constructed in 1884, with both coming under joint ownership in 1890. Wickes didn't have a use for the site after it completed its new office and other facilities on Main Street in September.

(Other photos on page 10.)

Uby settles with teachers

School bells ring next week, except for Cass City students

Students and teachers who don't look forward to the start of school don't have many days of freedom left. School in the Owendale-Gagetown, Kingston and Uby districts begins next week.

In a departure from past years, students in the Cass City district won't return until Wednesday, Sept. 3, the later starting date being to coincide with the start of classes at the new county skill center near Caro, which will be attended by students from all nine county districts.

The board and teachers have yet to reach agreement on a new contract and when asked Monday whether they were making any progress, Supt. Donald Crouse responded, "no." The last negotiating session was last Wednesday. The next one is Friday morning.

More details about the start of school in Cass City will be carried in next week's Chronicle.

OWEN-GAGE

Teachers report Tuesday of next week, with classes starting Wednesday with a full-day session. The school day is from 8:30 a.m.-2:50 p.m.

Teachers and the school board have yet to agree on a new contract. The next negotiating session was to have been this Wednesday.

"I'm always hopeful, but I'm not optimistic that would happen," said Tom Neuhaud of the possibility of settling by the start of school. Neuhaud, a Michigan Education Association representative in Lapeer county, is chief negotiator for the Owen-Gage teachers.

He thought it likely that teachers will show up for the start of school without a contract, but as of Monday, hadn't yet discussed it with them.

Registration is taking place this week for high school students, with juniors and seniors having done so Wednesday. Sophomores register Thursday from 9-11 a.m. and freshmen, 1-3 p.m.

New students and those who missed the previous dates can register Friday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Parents of kindergarten students are reminded that their children should have their immunization shots before entering school for the first time.

Bus schedules will be about the same as last year. Students and parents are requested to be on watch for the bus the first week, until running times are established.

Lunch prices will be higher than last year, with those in grades 1-6 paying 50 cents per day; 7-12, 75 cents, and adults, \$1. The prices are subject to future change.

Youngsters will qualify for

free lunches if they come from families with income ranging from \$5,230 (or less) to a maximum of \$16,950, the latter for a family of eight or more. Eligibility for reduced price lunches will be on a family income scale of \$8,150-\$26,440. Necessary forms may be picked up in the principal's office and returned there for verification.

The only new teacher this year, not yet hired as of Monday, will be for elementary special education.

KINGSTON

Teachers report Monday and students Tuesday morning for a half-day. Students will attend the full day, 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m., the rest of the week, have Labor Day plus the following day off, then return Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Kindergarteners start Thursday, Aug. 28.

Lunch prices will be decided by the school administration some time this week. Bus routes will be about the same as last year.

New teachers are Cheryl Dost, third grade, and Elaine Houghton, fourth.

Mrs. Dost's husband, Mark, moves up to fourth grade. Mrs. Dost previously taught in Marlette.

Teachers signed a new three-year contract with the school board last year.

The board has yet to begin

negotiation on a new contract with bus drivers, who belong to a union, but Supt. Robert Cameron doesn't expect the lack of a contract to affect the start of school.

It also has yet to decide on a new contract with teacher aides, who are not unionized.

UBLY

Teachers ratified a new contract with the school board last Thursday by a vote of 37-6.

The board will vote on the new pact at a special meeting Monday, Aug. 25, at which they will also determine the cost of lunches and milk.

Students report Wednesday, Aug. 27, for a full day.

The school day will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Uby and dismiss at 3:05 p.m. The school day in the Minden City Elementary School will commence at 8 a.m. and end at 2:35 p.m. A half hour lunch hour will be observed in both schools.

Twelve first and second graders from the Minden City area will be housed in the Minden City School. Third and fourth graders in the Uby area will be placed in the leased Annex 1, more commonly known as the St. John School in Uby.

Seventeen bus routes will handle the transporting of over 1000 students in the 159 square mile district. There will be some minor changes

made in the routes. Students that attended classes in the resource room at the Bad Axe Public Schools in grades 7-12 will now attend classes in the Uby Community Schools and will be instructed by Mrs. Jeanne Eilers. Students that attended classes at the Huron Learning Center will continue to attend classes there.

Michigan history will replace civics as a one-semester requirement for all freshmen. A full year course of world history is now a requirement for sophomores.

Parents are reminded that booster shots to complete the immunization requirements must be done by Oct. 1.

Student accident insurance will be provided with G-M Underwriters as the new carrier.

Children from families who are eligible for free meals are also eligible for free milk. Applications for free and reduced price lunches will be distributed the first day of school and must be returned within 10

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City schools okayed by 279-vote margin

A strong volunteer effort to get the millage passed is receiving much of the credit for approval Monday of an additional 1 mill for the Cass City schools, 751-472.

Two votes were spoiled. School Supt. Donald Crouse said he was "very happy" that the millage passed.

School Board President Geraldine Prieskorn said she was "surprised" at the outcome, especially at the wide margin of support. "I was hoping it would go, but I thought it would be a close vote," she commented. "I think it shows Cass City people care about their schools."

Approval gives the district 21.9 mills for operating this year, still low by county standards, compared to 19.97 levied last year, when the Headlee rollback was in effect. (Because the rate of inflation was higher than the increase in property valuations since then, the rollback won't apply this year.)

The 1,225 votes cast, as well as the winning margin, contrast sharply with the results from the June 9 millage vote, when two of the three proposals were defeated, which led to Monday's vote.

The 3.5 mill renewal in June was approved 590-429,

but the .6 mill increase was defeated 555-455, and a repeal of the Headlee amendment rollback provisions was downed, 538-480.

The most votes cast for and against any of those proposals was 1,019, which is 206 less than the number cast Monday, with most of the gain obviously being in persons voting "yes." In addition to the millages, eight candidates were running for two seats on the school board in June.

BOTH CROUSE AND Mrs. Prieskorn gave much credit for the passage this time to persons who volunteered to help on the millage campaign.

Fact sheets about the proposal were distributed, telephone calls made, contact made with service clubs, industry, etc., and an effort made to get young people registered and to vote.

Since the June 9 school vote, Elkland township Clerk Carol Ware estimated about 20 persons in the 18-21 age group had registered to vote in the township, of whom about half had mentioned wanting to vote in Monday's millage election.

Another factor aiding passage, Crouse and Mrs. Prieskorn agreed, was that in contrast to the three millage proposals in June,

the 1-mill issue this time, in the words of the superintendent, was "easier to explain and understand."

PASSAGE OF THE TWO proposals in June that were defeated would have raised about as much as the 1 mill that was approved -- \$94,000. Its defeat this time, the board had warned, would have meant elimination of the elementary art program, elementary and secondary vocal music, one teaching position at the high school, all interscholastic sports except boys' basketball and girls' volleyball, and purchase of library books.

Passage of the millage still leaves one financial cloud hanging over the district, what state aid will be during the about-to-start school year. Governor Milliken is recommending a \$100 million cutback in school aid as he attempts to cope with Michigan's increasingly dismal financial picture. The legislature has yet to act.

The last time anyone counted, several years ago, there were about 6,800 registered voters in the Cass City district. Assuming the number has increased to 7,000, that would mean that only 17.5 percent of those eligible bothered to vote Monday.

Feds okay money for tennis courts

Cass City may get its tennis courts, but not until next year.

The village was notified last week that the U.S. Department of Interior has approved its application for \$30,800 to build four new courts, in place of the two old ones in the village park. Cass City must put up an equal amount and right now it doesn't have the money, the council having decided earlier that it couldn't afford it this year.

That doesn't mean the project is down the drain. According to village Supt. Lou LaPonsie, it hopes to convince the state Department of Natural Resources, which has control over the funds, that by the time the council accepts the grant, engineering work is done and the DNR approves the plans, it will be too late this year to construct the courts.

He figures it will be about October by then, "and we don't want to be paving that late."

The grant notification said the project was supposed to be done by Dec. 31 of this year. If construction can be delayed until spring of 1981, however, the village should be able to afford its share, LaPonsie indicated.

Cass City applied for the funds in 1979. In May of this year, it was notified that President Carter had placed a temporary freeze on awarding of federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.

The freeze worked in Cass City's favor, since it delayed the awarding of the grant long enough that the project can maybe be delayed until next year.

Buttressing its case, LaPonsie said, is that some other communities in line to

get the recreation grants spent the money they had set aside for other items when the freeze was announced, so would also like a delay in when they have to undertake their federally-funded projects.

The village superintendent has to clear up one slight discrepancy. Cass City applied for \$30,800. The announcement from Congressman Bob Traxler's office said the amount being awarded is \$31,025, a difference of \$225.

The total amount, \$61,600, is enough for the courts, fencing, etc., but not enough for lights, which will have to be financed locally.

The village is soliciting donations to help defray the cost to local taxpayers and so far has received \$1,000 from the Pinney State Bank and \$1,500 from Walbro Corp.

Road to Shabbona to be blacktopped in September

Progress is coming to Shabbona in the form of a paved road.

By mid-September, the one mile of Decker Road from Deckerville Road north to Shabbona will be paved. That is in Evergreen township.

In addition, two miles of Germania Road from Snover Road north to Mushroom Road will be paved.

Total cost is \$30,000 per mile.

The Sanilac County Board of Commissioners last Wednesday approved paying one-third of the cost.

The county Road Commission is paying one-third and the two townships involved funds available to pay their one-third share -- \$20,000 for Lamotte and

\$10,000 for Evergreen. Road Commission Engineer-Manager Jack Kineman said his agency's share will probably come at the expense of postponing expenditures for equipment.

The Road Commission made its offer to pick up the one-third share to take advantage of the presence in the county yet of Williams Brothers Asphalt Paving, which is resurfacing 106 miles of roads in the county, plus a possible price reduction due to the decline in the price of liquid asphalt.

The two townships contracted with the Road Commission several years ago to have the roads' three miles paved.

The Road Commission has to do some final grading and

shoulder work, Kineman said, before the paving can be done. The blacktopping should be done by mid-September.

The one mile of Decker Road north from Shabbona to Severance Road may also get paved in the future as Evergreen township residents Aug. 5 approved a 1-mill levy for two years to prepare it for that purpose.

North from there to Argyle Road, a distance of one mile, the road is paved.

In another matter, the Road Commission has applied for federal and state funds for rebuilding of 13 local road bridges.

Included are the Leslie Road and Downington Road bridges over the South Branch of the Cass River,

Evergreen township; Mushroom Road over South Branch, Lamotte township, and Arnold Road and Moore Road over South Branch, Moore township.

Federal funds pay 80 percent of the cost; state, 10 percent, and Road Commission, 10 percent, plus all engineering and design costs.

Kineman doesn't expect to know until November whether he will get funding for any of the 13.

Last year, the Road Commission applied under the same program for 12 bridges and received funding for one. The 11 unfunded bridges are still on the application list, making a total of 24 bridges for which funds are being sought.



STREET PAVING — Asphalt paving is taking place in Cass City this week, the work being done by Frank Strausberg and Son of Saginaw. Seen here is paving of Downing Street. Paving was also done on Brooker, Houghton and Garfield Streets, Doerr Road, two alleys and a parking lot. The work should be completed Friday.