



"If It Fitz..." The price of milling

By Jim Fitzgerald

A Michigan State University official recently described the home of the school president as "the front door to the university." When I went to MSU, I didn't enter through the front door. I was slightly poor, and had to live in an overcrowded Quonset hut on the scruffiest edge of campus. I give you this background so you will know where I'm coming from before I get where I'm going.

Where I'm going is toward the conclusion that higher education at most universities doesn't make sense. To give you an example, I cite the current flap at MSU concerning the home of University President M. Cecil Mackey. You've read about it.

A lot of taxpayers are upset because, without being asked how they felt about it, they were forced to pay \$85,000 to remodel the president's home. That's pretty rotten, but it doesn't bug me as much as the fact that Mackey is living in the house in the first place.

The two-story brick home belongs to Michigan taxpayers. Mackey lives there for free. He doesn't pay one cent rent. And taxpayers

pay him \$75,000 a year to be university president. Most people making that much money are able to pay for their own housing.

On the other hand, most MSU students have no income. They depend on handouts from their parents to pay thousands of dollars in tuition fees. These students could really use free housing, but they don't get it. They must pay thousands more for a place to sleep.

So the guy making 75 thousand bucks a year gets a free home, while Joe Slob the student, who makes no bucks a year, must pay rent while also paying to be a student. What kind of sense does that make? Everyone agrees this nation would be better off if it contained more well-educated citizens. A lot of citizens who don't go to college would go if they could sleep free in President Mackey's bed.

Also, \$17,500 will soon be spent to remodel the president's private box at the taxpayers' football stadium. MSU Athletic Director William Beardsley explained that a wall must be knocked out of the box, which seats 50 to 75 people, so there will be more "milling around area." It is no fun to watch a football game if you don't have lots of private room in which to mill.

The official explanation, of course, is that the president of a large university needs a large home and a large stadium box in which to entertain his friends and other anointed people who want to visit the campus and extend compassion to a guy who makes only \$75,000 a year and can't afford to pay rent or buy a football ticket.

Once my parents visited me at MSU when I was living in that Quonset hut, sleeping on the top of a three-bed bunk. To express

my appreciation for them subsidizing my education, I took them to a football game. I stood in line for five hours to buy three seats in the end zone where it was so crowded we had to wait until after the game and most of the people had gone home before we had enough room to mill.

Some state legislators are angry because the \$85,000 was spent on remodeling Mackey's free home without formal approval of the MSU Board of Trustees. University policy requires that all remodeling expenditures over \$25,000 must be OK'd by the trustees before the first cent is spent. Mackey's explanation was that various parts of the remodeling were done piecemeal, at less than \$25,000 per piece, and "I did not look at these things as being a combined project."

This is a sly gambit, often used by tax-supported officials who slip through spending ceilings by buying \$24,000 worth of drapes on Monday morning and paying \$10,000 more to have them hung that afternoon. I know a young man who had to interrupt his college education because his bank put a \$2,000 ceiling on his school loan, and he needed \$3,000. The dumb kid should have asked for a piecemeal loan

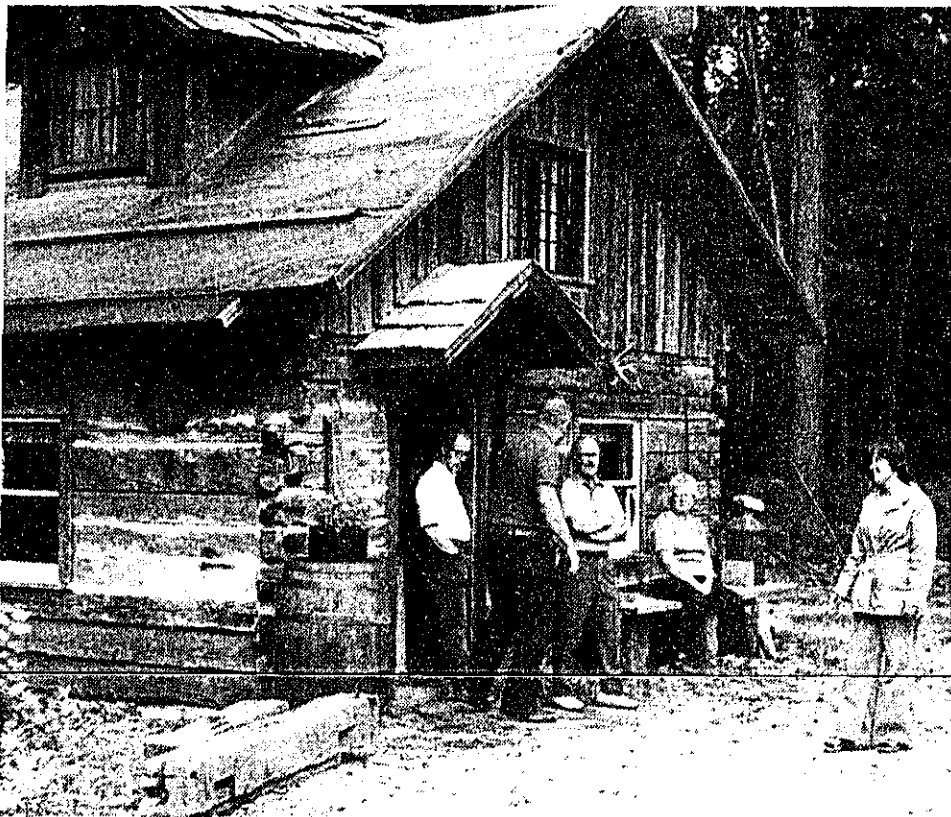
— \$1,500 on Wednesday and \$1,500 on Thursday.

One of the pieces in the MSU remodeling project was \$12,060 for a grand piano. I should make it clear that the piano was for President Mackey's home. I don't know if a piano will fit in his football box. I do know that if there'd been a piano in my Quonset hut, my roommates and I would have been forced to mill in place.

Singles dance on Saturday

The YMCA Thumb Singles Club of Sandusky will sponsor a dance from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Sandusky High School.

Music will be by Deny Ewald and the Music Makers. It will be guest night and everyone is welcome.



HISTORICAL OUTING -- About 30 persons took part in the Cass City Area Historical Society field trip Sunday, which started with a tour of the petroglyphs park in Greenleaf township, led by Dave Ackerman, and a visit to Jim McDonald's log cabin east of Cass City.

At Church Street plant

Walbro seeks discharge permit for cooling water

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is soliciting public comments on Walbro Corporation's permit application to discharge cooling water from its Church Street plant (No. 3) into the Cass River.

The discharge would be via a village storm sewer and Center B County Drain to the river.

That is the way Walbro used to get rid of its cooling water from the plant, according to Director of Purchasing Bill Ewald, until the DNR said it couldn't do so without a permit.

He didn't recall when that was, but since then, the cooling water has been flowing into the sanitary sewer and through the sewage treatment plant into the river.

The cooling water, used in the manufacturing of carburetors, doesn't come into contact with pollutants, so

sending it into the storm sewer will lessen the load on the sewage plant, he said.

The permit application is for discharge of 2,700 gallons of water a day, but the amount varies with the number of carburetors produced.

The DNR will be soliciting comments on the Walbro application through Sept. 12. The public notice requesting comments appeared in last week's Chronicle.

Walbro is having less success in getting the DNR to approve a new method of disposal for chemicals it uses at its main plant on Garfield Street, in a dispute that has been going on more than a year.

Until July of last year, the firm disposed of its liquid wastes containing a chemical called Metaseal into an underground pit.

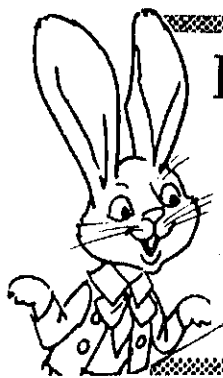
Since then, it has had to pay a Detroit area firm to haul away its liquid waste,

which is very costly and isn't seen as a permanent solution.

Walbro wants to use a different Metaseal compound, used for filling pores in carburetor castings, and then discharge it into the village sanitary sewer. The presently used Metaseal contains styrene, which may cause cancer or mutations in humans.

The issue is how many parts per million will be allowed of the new chemical without it creating any harmful effects and the laboratory Walbro has hired to do its testing is still in disagreement with the DNR over what will be allowed.

Walbro had to sink test wells in order to determine whether the underground disposal resulted in any pollution. The DNR wants some additional testing, Ewald said, and is in discussion with the firm about what it will require.



Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The good news is that after a lunch of carrots and black coffee I popped into Walbro on business and was able to congratulate W. E. Walpole at an impromptu birthday celebration Friday.

The bad news is that butterscotch sundaes with nuts were served and I had one.

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It's only an opinion but there's a feeling that the extra mill passed only incidentally because of the threat of lost programs. More important was the presentation of the complete picture to thoughtful taxpayers.

Compared to other districts Cass City looks good, and realizing this voters okayed the tax even though the local economic picture has been anything but rosy.

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The added Cass City Schools tax is only for one year. There is no way that the school will operate without it after it expires next year if conditions don't change.

Why not ask for several years and save the expense of an election every year?, is a reasonable question.

The answer is that the revenues from the State and Federal government are in constant flux and no one can tell what will be needed next year to run our schools.

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Rotarian Roger Marshall used his loader many, many nights as the Cass City club worked to complete the exercise trail at the park.

The Rotary board voted to give him \$100 for gas and wear and tear on the machine. Marshall tore up the check and gave it back to the club.

Full of appreciation, the members fined him 25 cents for wasting the paper in that perfectly good check.

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Les Auten of Cass City clued me in on the picture of the bees at the park and I goofed by forgetting all about it.

It was just luck that the picture of the bees appeared in this week's Chronicle. I learned of the bees from Les Auten last week and then promptly forgot all about it until the bees left.

I was saved by Paul Guernsey, who took the photo that appears elsewhere.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	80	54	0
Thursday	91	50	0
Friday	81	48	0
Saturday	80	50	0
Sunday	72	60	0
Monday	88	55	0
Tuesday	89	52	0

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)

The Want Ads Are Newsy Too!

ATTENTION FARMERS

Due to significant price increases posted for September by the Canadian Potash Industry, Farm Bureau Services is offering

0-0-60 \$117.00 Ton

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Around the coffee table one day last week the talk switched to the enormous waste of time and money in the primary elections and the political conventions.

There's got to be a better way, everyone agreed. That's where agreement ended. One of the coffee pundits wanted to do away with primaries. Another thought that the convention with its circus-like atmosphere should be stopped cold.

There was a great deal of support for a popular election of the nominees for the two parties, forgetting about State elections.

I submit that a popular election sounds better than it really is. Like lower taxes and reduced governmental spending it has instant appeal. But it's only great in theory. It's zilch in practice.

Honest now, when you go to the polls how many candidates for lesser officers are listed that you never heard of. If you are like me there are always a few. University regents, for example. I'll bet a majority pick out an attractive name and vote

without the foggiest about the person who received the vote.

That's the only explanation that makes sense when you consider two Republican representatives nominated in the Detroit area. On the GOP ballot in November will be Alfred Lawrence Patterson, a patient at the Northville Regional Psychiatric Hospital, and Gerald Carlson, a Ku Klux Klan member.

The point is that the voters in these two districts must have been attracted by the name, and knew nothing about the candidate. Face it, Americans just aren't very well informed when they go to the polls.

When the political process nominates a candidate who is an actor and routinely performed as an extremist to run against a proven failure there's little doubt that the political process failed somewhere along the line.

That's why the voters seated around the coffee table in Cass City started talking about a better way. It's the disturbing results that the system produced.

But before the system is discarded something better should take its place. That's where the rub comes. What's better?

The system has served us for a couple of hundred years with only evolutionary changes. It's been responsible for a number of presidential duds but it also has picked outstanding leaders from unlikely sources.

How many other systems would produce a Lincoln or even a Truman?

With all its faults, all its waste, all its inequities, it has kept the Republic intact while passing the test of time.

We should move very slowly and study carefully any substantial changes lest the remedy kill the not-too-ill-now patient.

SCHOOL BELLS

Will soon be ringing... so here's a timely reminder to parents... don't forget an accident policy for students. Be sure your youngsters are insured against any type of accident. Call our INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENCY today!

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