

Rabbit tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The Chronicle has been doing its best to bring to Cass City District residents the cost of the pact tentatively approved by the district and the teachers.

The real cost, that is. The amount of increase is 10 percent, but that doesn't include increments for length of service or a slight increase in the insurance package.

Supt. Don Crouse says that he doesn't have the cost breakdown yet and won't until the teachers start being paid on the new scale. That won't be until the payday after the next one.

We negotiate on the basis of staying in the middle of what districts around us pay, Crouse says, not on the ability to pay.

When I know, you know, says the superintendent. When I know, you'll know, says the publisher.

Gourmets like to boast of vintage wines, but how about vintage tomato juice?

Tomato juice? Yup. The Leonard Damms came across some recently and wanted the jars the juice was canned in. So they opened it, found it perfect and drank it.

It was at least 40 years old.

Those premier Cass City women golfers are at it again. Last week they played in the state finals of a cancer benefit tourney and finished second.

Playing at Boyne Highlands were Toby Weaver, Nelle Maharg, Esther Reagh and Mary Rabideau.

While it's certain that the Lakers will play Cass City Friday in football, it wasn't sure before Tuesday's board meeting at Laker High if the regular coaches or substitutes would be at the helm when the whistle blows.

While varsity football is alive and well, junior varsity football has been scuttled by the teacher strike at Lakers.

If the Lakers hadn't been able to field a team, Cass City would have played anyway. Ready to go was Goodrich, that has an open date due to millage problems that cancelled sports at one of the schools on its original schedule.

The Laker situation is just the opposite of the problem encountered at Harbor Beach. The Pirates were to play Uby this week and the coaches were willing but the school board wouldn't allow it. So, no game.

That just doesn't seem to be the right approach. It isn't, because it's making the kids pawns in a squabble between adults and isn't likely to have any effect on the final outcome.

Harbor Beach evidently had a fine team, too, judging by the lacing it handed Bad Axe before the program went kaput.

We're strong on sports related items this week, so here's another. The Bay City American Legion Post 18 captured the women's Class D fastpitch championship at Ludington over the week end.

Two of the big stickers for the champs were Sharon Deering of Deford and Elaine Stoutenburg of Cass City.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	80	54	.50
Thursday	86	52	0
Friday	not recorded	not recorded	0
Saturday	80	59	0
Sunday	68	50	0
Monday	86	66	0
Tuesday	82	36	0

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)

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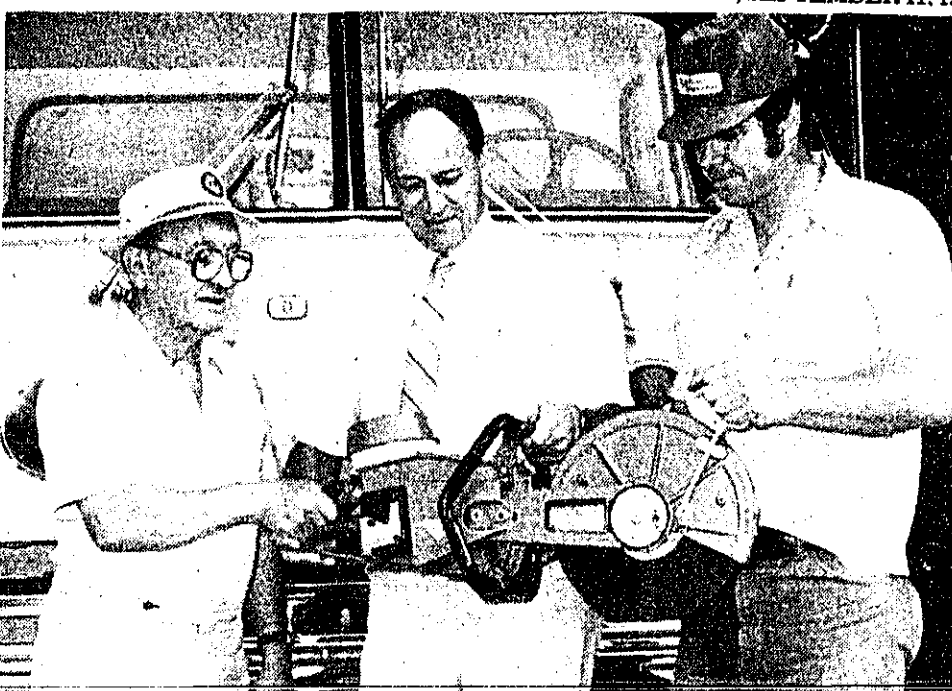
Corner of Houghton and West

Weekly Thought "The preacher does better when you are there, tis hard to preach to an empty chair"

Services Wed. - Prayer Meeting 7:30
Sunday - 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
6:30 p.m. Family Hour

Messages A.M. "Challenge To Change"
P.M. "Working On Whipping Worry"

Rev. T. W. Teall, Pastor 872-3155
Mary L. Hanby, Church Worker 872-2888



FAST CUTTER - The Elkland Township Fire Department is the owner of this new rotary saw, which can cut through steel, cement and various construction materials. The Lions Club paid the \$679 cost. Holding it are, from left, Ron Keegan, club secretary; Don Erla, president, and Fire Chief Jack Hartwick. One use of the saw will be in rescuing victims trapped in wrecked cars.

Novesta puts three proposals on ballot

The Novesta Township Board voted Monday evening to put one millage proposal and two advisory proposals on the Nov. 4 ballot.

The millage proposal will be 1 1/2 mills for five years to offset costs for fire protection, ambulance service and use by township residents of the Cass City-owned landfill, which is located in Novesta township.

If approved, the levy won't go on tax bills until December, 1981.

A 1 1/2-mill levy for two years for roads was defeated by township voters Aug. 5, 1979.

Residents will be asked for an opinion concerning the landfill "and the problems which can occur in the future to our township by continuing such an operation," according to Supervisor Bill O'Dell. Several area townships pay a fee to Cass City for the right for its residents to use the landfill to dispose of their trash.

The second advisory proposal will be whether the township should purchase the old Novesta Church of Christ building on Cemetery Road for use as a township hall, in place of the present one in Deford.

The asking price now is \$13,000.

At the annual meeting March 29, electors voted 24-14 against buying the church building. The price back then was \$20,000.

The audit for the fiscal year which ended March 31 was presented, prepared by the Bad Axe certified public accounting firm of Anderson, Lynch, Nietzsche and Co.

The township records were given a clean bill of health and the township finished the year in the black. A few changes were recommended by the auditors, O'Dell said, in procedure and record keeping.

Rowe Engineering of Caro presented the surveyed plan for the River Drive Subdivision.

The board gave tentative approval to the plan as presented. It will be updated and presented for later permanent approval.

Granting of Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act status was approved for the farms of Carl and Helen German and Jack and Iris Kappen.

The resignation of David Moody as sexton of the township cemetery, effective Oct. 1, was accepted with reluctance.



"If It Fitz. . ." Feminist of the year

By Jim Fitzgerald

A co-worker stopped at my desk and said, "I hear it has been decided that you can be feminine for a year. When are you going to have the operation?"

He was confused. Actually, the local chapter of the National Organization for Women had decided I was a "Feminist of the Year" because of something I wrote.

My wife was also confused. I'd told her we'd been invited to a party at the mayor's home, and she was impressed. She'd always wanted to see the inside of Manogian Mansion, and she'd always been sorry she hadn't married anyone important enough to be summoned into the mayor's presence. I hadn't told her it would cost me \$20 to get through the front door and Mayor Young wouldn't be home.

The money went to NOW, a worthy cause, so the donation wasn't begrudged, but it had to be explained. My wife also wondered why the mayor didn't greet us and why the party was in the backyard instead of inside the mansion. I told her the party was outside because it was too hot inside, the mayor was in Washington seeking federal funds to buy an air conditioner and the \$20 would help save her granddaughters from a fate worse than what happened to her when she worked for Detroit Edison.

The mayor's home belongs to the taxpayers, so it's not unusual that a civic organization be allowed to use it free for a party. All you have to do is get permission from the mayor's office and bring your own bottle. I don't know how choosy the mayor is about who drops hors d'oeuvres on his lawn, but Phyllis Schlafly and Elaine Donnelly may try to find out.

Those two women are national leaders of the Stop ERA Committee which is the antithesis of NOW. Mrs. Donnelly, who lives in the Detroit area, might find it interesting to test the equality of Mayor Young's hospitality, seeing he has forbidden city employees to represent Detroit at functions held in states that haven't ratified the Equal Rights Amendment (with the exception of Nevada which contains Las Vegas where the mayor is sometimes positively unable to avoid the responsibility of attending a prize fight.)

Not coincidentally, I mentioned Mrs. Donnelly and Mrs. Schlafly in my acceptance speech at the mayor's mansion. I said if it weren't for them, I would never have won the feminist award.

This is true.

NOW gave me a plaque for writing columns rapping Mrs. Donnelly, Mrs. Schlafly and other ERA opponents. Admittedly, this is a rather negative achievement, especially when compared to the positive contributions made by the other award winners honored at the NOW party, but what the hell. As John Wayne often said (but never at a NOW meeting), a man must do what he must do, and what I must do is grab any prize I can get and run.

I also gave credit to my wife in my acceptance speech, which is where De-

troit Edison comes in. About 30 years ago, she worked for Edison, but had to quit because she got married. It was a company rule. If she hadn't had that experience, I wouldn't be so aware of why our granddaughters are lucky there is NOW and ERA.

Besides, males can be hurt by discrimination against females. If my wife had been allowed to continue at Edison, and was as good at working as she's been at being a wife and mother, she'd be company president by now and I wouldn't have to work for a living.

That's the type of sweet stuff I told the NOW audience, and my wife seemed impressed until we got home to watch ourselves on TV. Channel 2 had filmed us both as we walked up the mayor's front walk. But on the screen, all you could see was my fat face. Except for one elbow, the world's greatest wife and mother was edited completely out of the picture.

"How does it feel to be married to an elbow?" she asked.

She had a point. For women there's still a long way to go. I guess I won't have the operation.

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As little as five years ago it was unthinkable that high school sports as we know it wouldn't always be with us.

It appeared to be inextricably woven into the fabric of the educational system never to be separated. It's still probable that sports programs will continue on and on.

Probable, but not sure. Not anymore.

Consider the strong forces at work eroding the foundation of interscholastic competition as we know it.

There's the waning of interest among the students. When Cass City High School was considerably smaller than it is today, there were more candidates for the football team than there are today.

That's true even though the football program has

flourished in terms of numbers the last few years. More than it has in many previous years.

At many schools the varsity has less than two full teams out and several smaller schools have given up on football.

More important are the economic pressures. Each year school budgets get tighter and tighter. The cost of education is skyrocketing as union pressure ups salaries and inflation takes its toll.

There is a sizeable minority out there that says give us reading, writing and arithmetic and forget about the rest.

In addition to the apathy of the students, there's a lessening of interest among the teachers. More and more athletic directors are having trouble finding assistant varsity coaches and coaches at the junior varsity and junior high level.

Interscholastic sports as we know them are unique to the United States. None of the other countries have it and we could get by without it, too. With high energy costs, you could make a case for abandoning the program and substituting intramural activities.

It would be undoubtedly cheaper and involve more students.

I'd hate to see it come to that. The 200 or so students that participate would be missing an experience that comes just once.

For the vast majority it is the only chance that they will get to experience the heady wine of stage front, center.

The majority of us feel that way and are willing to pay.

But there's a limit and judging by the turmoil in schools across the state, we're approaching it.

It's sad, but abandoning sports is no longer an unthinkable alternative for money-starved school systems.

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