

Rabbit tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Generally the bean crop in the immediate area has been only fair to poor, judging by reports coming in from area farmers. We appear better off than farmers in the Saginaw valley heartland where rain really drowned out the crop.

Twenty-five miles or so down the road in Arenac county authorities are saying that beans average about 35-40 bushels to the acre and all the rest of the crops are better than they have been in years.

The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor. We insist that they be signed. If there's a good reason, we'll withhold names when requested.

We turned down a chance to publish a letter to the editor this week. It was super critical of Supt. Donald Crouse. The author wanted the name withheld.

We refused to publish the letter without the name. Not because it was critical, but because the author had been at odds with the superintendent previously. Obviously that had a bearing on the letter and for that reason the Chronicle felt the reader should know the author when considering the material presented.

There's been considerable debate about how long the new signs will last at the Cass City exercise trail. Vandalism is feared. The fears were realized last week when vandals smashed about six of the 20 signs.

The signs were not completely destroyed and the village crew quickly repaired them. There was little real damage. With that behind us perhaps the trail will now remain untouched for the general benefit of everyone.

Those townwide sales that shoppers enjoy are the result of plenty of work by merchants through the Cass City Retail Committee.

Thursday, new officers for the group were named. The president is Mike Shaft, who replaces retiring Tom Proctor. It didn't take the new crew long to get started. A moonlight madness sale is planned for Thursday, Oct. 2.

Retiring Sheriff Hugh Marr will be honored at a retirement party at Sherwood on the Hill in Gagetown Nov. 7. It's being arranged by the staff at the department.

Marr has served the county for 18 years. It seems almost like yesterday that he won a surprise victory in a spirited campaign to take office for the first time.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	76	42	.34
Thursday	80	54	0
Friday	68	58	0
Saturday	76	60	.69
Sunday	68	55	.13
Monday	64	58	0
Tuesday	70	46	0

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)



WATERMELONS -- Brothers Mel (left) and "Doc" Johnson returned to Cass City last week with this load of watermelons after visiting their sister, Eva Runyon of Cainsville, and a nearby melon farm. The two big melons on top weigh about 80 pounds each. It was dry in Missouri this summer. In a normal year, they were told, the big melons would have weighed 125 pounds.

Accident sends two to Caro hospital

A Friday accident near the Caro Regional Center sent the two drivers involved to Caro Community Hospital.

Injured were Isabelle Fournier, 59, of 4711 State Street, Gagetown, and Alice J. Shoemaker, 74, of Bad Axe. The hospital reported both were treated and released.

Caro state police reported witnesses said the car of Ms. Fournier, headed northeast, crossed the centerline and collided with the car of Mrs. Shoemaker, who was headed in the opposite direction.

Ms. Fournier was ticketed on a charge of driving left of center. The accident took place at 3:45 p.m.

Cass City police reported two accidents Saturday.

In the first, at 12:45 p.m., Steven W. Pasanski, 18, of 5102 Schwegler Road, was turning left from westbound

Main Street onto Comment Drive when the car behind him struck his vehicle in the rear.

The other driver was Ross L. Downing, 17, of Caro.

At 1:30 p.m., Michael J. McKenna, 20, of 286 Crawford Road, Deford, northbound on Seeger Street, was attempting to turn left onto Main Street and collided with the southbound car of Ralph T. Castronova, 61, of Detroit.

At 8 a.m. Monday, according to village police, JoAnn Smithson, 35, of 4375 Koepfgen Road, northbound on Oak Street, saw an eastbound car on Rose Street stop. She pulled into the intersection after stopping, as the other car started to move and they collided.

Officers said the eastbound driver, Padgett Randall, 17, of 4196 Schwegler Road, couldn't see the other

car because of the bright sun.

Earl L. Allen, 52, of Vassar, was southbound on Cemetery Road, north of Elmwood Road, at 4:40 p.m. Sunday, according to deputies, when he heard a clunking noise. The car then went out of control and veered into the west side ditch.

It was discovered that the steering rod had broken on his 1966 model car.

At 8:45 p.m. last Wednesday, according to the sheriff's department, Gerald W. Heronemus, 39, of 6950 Pringle Road, Cass City, was eastbound on Severance Road, east of Crawford Road, when his car collided with a deer.

At 10:20 p.m. Friday, deputies said, Randall L. Perry, 20, of 4510 Leach Street, Apt. 2, Cass City, was westbound on M-81, west of Schwegler Road, when his auto struck a deer.

It's estimated there are more than 163,000 supermarkets, small grocery stores and convenience food stores in the U.S.

Over 250 million pounds of bread are produced each week in the U.S.

The Haire Net



Time obscures and I can't recall the details now of the famous "Fort Ziegenhardt" case where a farm family defied a tax law and finally lost their farm for a small fraction of its value, as they fought for a principle.

The law was clearly served and obeyed in the final reckoning. I've always had reservations about whether justice was served as well.

That all occurred over a quarter century ago, so why dwell on it now? It's because cases with the same end results just keep popping up and the legal solutions just don't seem to be the just solutions.

I thought of Ziegenhardt again Friday when a metro daily broke the story about Louis Speer, a musician who had been ripped off.

Speer caught a couple of crooks ripping off the tools of his trade from his van one night. They took off with \$6,000 worth of amplifiers, public address units, guitars and drums. When they came back to rip out the carpet Speer awoke, called the cops and they picked up one of the two thieves.

The other got away and police said they couldn't get a warrant to search the suspect's apartment because they didn't have "probable cause."

That's not where we part company with the law. I feel the protection provided by "probable cause" for a search warrant is basic to the freedoms we are so

proud of and a major deterrent to a police state.

What bugs me came later. That afternoon the man accused of robbing Speer called him up and offered to exchange the loot for no prosecution.

That appealed to Speer, who needed the equipment for a job and he met the accused at the courthouse.

The judge was gone and Speer picked up the file and took the complaint he had signed from it.

He could have dropped charges much easier by just not showing at the arraignment, but he didn't know. Most ordinary citizens who never brushed with the law don't. Speer is definitely ordinary when it comes to lawyers, judges and courts.

Anyway, Judge John C. Seiler of Wayne has ordered obstruction of justice charges against Speer. That's a felony and carries a maximum of 5 years.

A felony conviction also makes it impossible for him to perform in Canada or to hold a liquor license.

It's probable that there will be a plea bargain before the examination is set for Oct. 8. Certainly there will be lawyers and lawyers' fees involved and it could be a very expensive proposition at the very least before the cloud that hangs over Speer dissipates. If it ever does.

It's another "Fort Ziegenhardt" all over again.

There must be a better way.

"If It Fitz. . ."

I'm not myself

By Jim Fitzgerald



"You can be anybody you want to be," the husband said. "Diane von Furstenberg says so."

"Who can you be?" the wife asked.

"I don't know who I can be, but I know who I can't be. I can't be myself," he said. "Among men, only Mark Fidrych can be himself. Women have it a lot easier. A psychologist says so."

Diane von Furstenberg designs women's clothes and wears them in TV commercials. And she is wafer-thin. No one ever describes Diane von Furstenberg without saying she is wafer-thin.

In a recent newspaper interview, Diane said: "It doesn't matter what her age is. Today's woman can decide who she wants to be."

A Detroit psychologist named Dr. Kal Kaplan was asked by a sports columnist to explain why baseball fans go nuts over Tiger pitcher Mark (The Bird) Fidrych.

"He is himself; few of us are. Certainly it's a rarer quality in men than women," Dr. Kaplan said.

Naturally, it bugs the husband that his wife can be anybody she wants, and he can't even be himself.

"Diane von Furstenberg

says you should wear your clothes and never let your clothes wear you," the wife said.

"I know what she means," the husband said. "Just the other day I saw a red gabardine pantsuit wearing a woman. It looked silly, especially when the woman had to open her mouth so a scarf could put her on."

"My clothes don't have a thing to wear," the wife said. "My only problem is that with the whole world to choose from, I can't make up my mind who I want to be."

"Why don't you be Diane von Furstenberg? Then you will be wafer-thin and able to slip through slots in pay telephones. I will nickname you Necco, and we will be all the rage next season at St. Moritz when our friends want to phone home."

"Why can't you be yourself?" the wife said.

"Dr. Kaplan says it's because I don't do things my way," the husband explained. "Mark the Bird does his own thing his own way, but I don't, and that's why he can be himself, but I can't be myself."

"If you don't do things your way, whose way do you do them?"

"I don't know. All I know is if I'm never able to do things my way, I'll never be able to close my nightclub act, and I'll never know who I am. It isn't fair that women can be anybody they want, but I can't even be myself."

"The Bird jumps around a lot and talks to baseballs because that's his way. He doesn't worry about appearing immature," the wife said. "Maybe you would be yourself if you did something immature."

"I already talk to our TV set, and how many times have you seen me punish our car by pounding it on the steering wheel? It seems to me that I'm immature enough to be myself."

"That's true," the wife admitted. "It must be your clothes. I can be anybody I want to be because I don't let my clothes wear me. Are you letting your clothes wear you?"

"To my knowledge, my pants have never put me on. In fact, I was being sarcastic when I said I saw a red gabardine pantsuit wearing a woman," the husband said. "I really don't know what Diane von Furstenberg means when she says people shouldn't let their clothes wear them. How can clothes wear people?"

"Don't be dumb. She simply means that your clothes shouldn't dominate your appearance. They should be your backdrop. It should be you that people see, not your clothes."

"But if people see me, who will they see? Not me, because I'm just not myself today. I am . . . who?"

"That's it," she said. "You are first baseman for Abbott and Costello."

Onward and Upward.

Bike-a-thons set

"Wheels-for-life" bike-a-thons to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital will be held this Saturday in Gagetown and Saturday, Sept. 27 in Owendale.

Rain date for each will be the following Saturday.

In Gagetown, sponsor forms are available at the elementary school and stores. In Owendale, they can be obtained at the high school and Lucky 13.

The Gagetown chairman, Bill Fischer, and Owendale chairman, Joan Andrakowicz, both stress their events are open to adults as well as children.

Riders collecting at least \$25 in pledges will receive a St. Jude T-shirt and \$75, a back pack.

In addition, at Owendale, there will be prizes for the top three fund raisers.

Both events will start at 1 p.m.

Starting point in Owendale will be the village park. The entire route will be on village streets and will be one mile in length. Riders can go around as many times as they want.

Assembly point in Gagetown will be the township-village fire hall at noon.

From there, riders will proceed east on Bay City-

Forestville Road to Dodge Road, the starting point for the ride at 1. Fischer is hoping to get the Owendale-Gagetown High School band to lead the procession. There definitely will be a police car and fire truck there. Riders can go right to the Dodge Road starting point if they don't want to be in the procession.

The bikeathon route will be south on Dodge Road to M-81 and return, the round trip being eight miles.

In honor of the bikeathon, Village President William Downing has proclaimed Saturday as St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital Day in Gagetown.

Like at Owendale, riders can travel the route as many times as they want, with the events ending whenever everyone is done riding.

Out-of-town residents can show up on the day of the event without obtaining sponsorship forms in advance.

This is the second year for both events.

St. Jude's Hospital, in Memphis, Tenn., founded by entertainer Danny Thomas, is funded primarily with public contributions. It is both a hospital for children and a research center for childhood cancer and other diseases.

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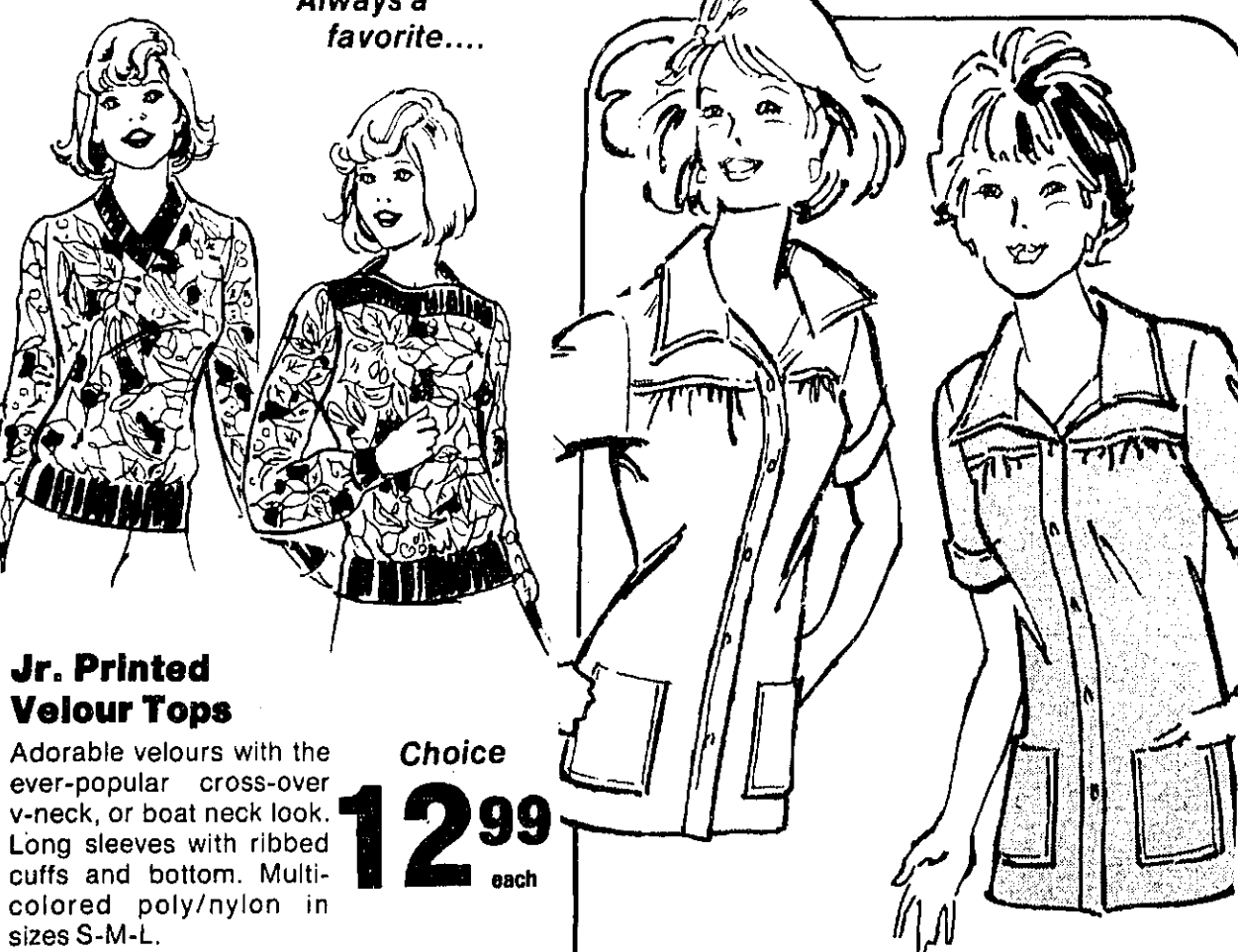


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