

## At Walbro, Evans

# Laid-off employees wait for TRA aid

Application has been made for trade readjustment act (TRA) benefits for laid-off Walbro and Evans Products workers because of the impact of foreign competition.

Although the application for Walbro was made in July and for Evans about 1 1/2 months ago, it isn't known yet when—and if—they will be approved.

If they are, the workers who are or have been laid off will receive the difference between their unemployment compensation and 70 percent of their average weekly wage for the period they were out of work.

The application for the Walbro employees at the Cass City and Caro plants was made by the union which represents hourly employees, United Auto Workers Amalgamated Local 213.

Local President Dennis Beadle said 200 laid off workers are covered in the application, although about 50 of those are now back to work.

The local has applied for TRA benefits for laid-off employees in 14 plants it represents in the upper Thumb, a total of 1,100 workers.

Others included in the 14 are Anrod Screen Cylinder in Cass City, 10 workers (only two are still out of work) and Walbro-owned

Arjay Manufacturing in Bad Axe, 35 workers.

Evans Products applied for benefits in behalf of its own employees, according to Gagetown plant manager Carl Vandiver.

If the plant is found TRA eligible, he said, about 100 workers will receive benefits.

SEPARATE APPLICATIONS had to be made for each plant, Beadle said, with the first application, for Huron Tool in Lexington, being made at the end of June.

Applications for the other 13 were made in July.

The union was only recently notified by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), with whom the application is made, that it had contacted Huron Tool concerning the application. It has yet to hear anything concerning the other 13 applications.

Originally, the union was told, the application process took about two months but is now up to 5-6 months.

The application requires such information as number of people involved, type of manufacturing operation, description of product made and how long the company has been influenced by foreign competition.

After it is submitted, the DOL works with the com-

pany to determine eligibility, that is, whether it has been affected by foreign competition and on what date it began to be affected. The date is usually when layoffs began.

At Walbro, that was in the spring of this year.

Each employee's records must be examined, if the TRA eligibility is granted, to determine the amount to which he or she is entitled.

Payments are handled by the Michigan Employment Security Commission.

MESC CARO BRANCH Manager Charles Cramer said he was recently informed there are 500 pending TRA applications in Michigan, which could delay the certification process.

The amount of time needed for approval is inconsistent. He has seen applications approved as quick as three weeks and as long as six months.

Although the union applied on behalf of its members, Cramer said, it is the company or plant that is certified as being eligible. Thus if Walbro is found eligible, and he thought it would be, salaried (non-union) personnel who were laid off would also be eligible.

Of the 14 plants, according to Beadle, only eight are direct suppliers to the auto industry. The union applied

for all 14 of them, even though some might not be eligible, rather than not apply for those that were questionable, only to find later that the workers could have received benefits had the application been made.

The union president expressed hope that the labor department will make a decision on the applications by November.

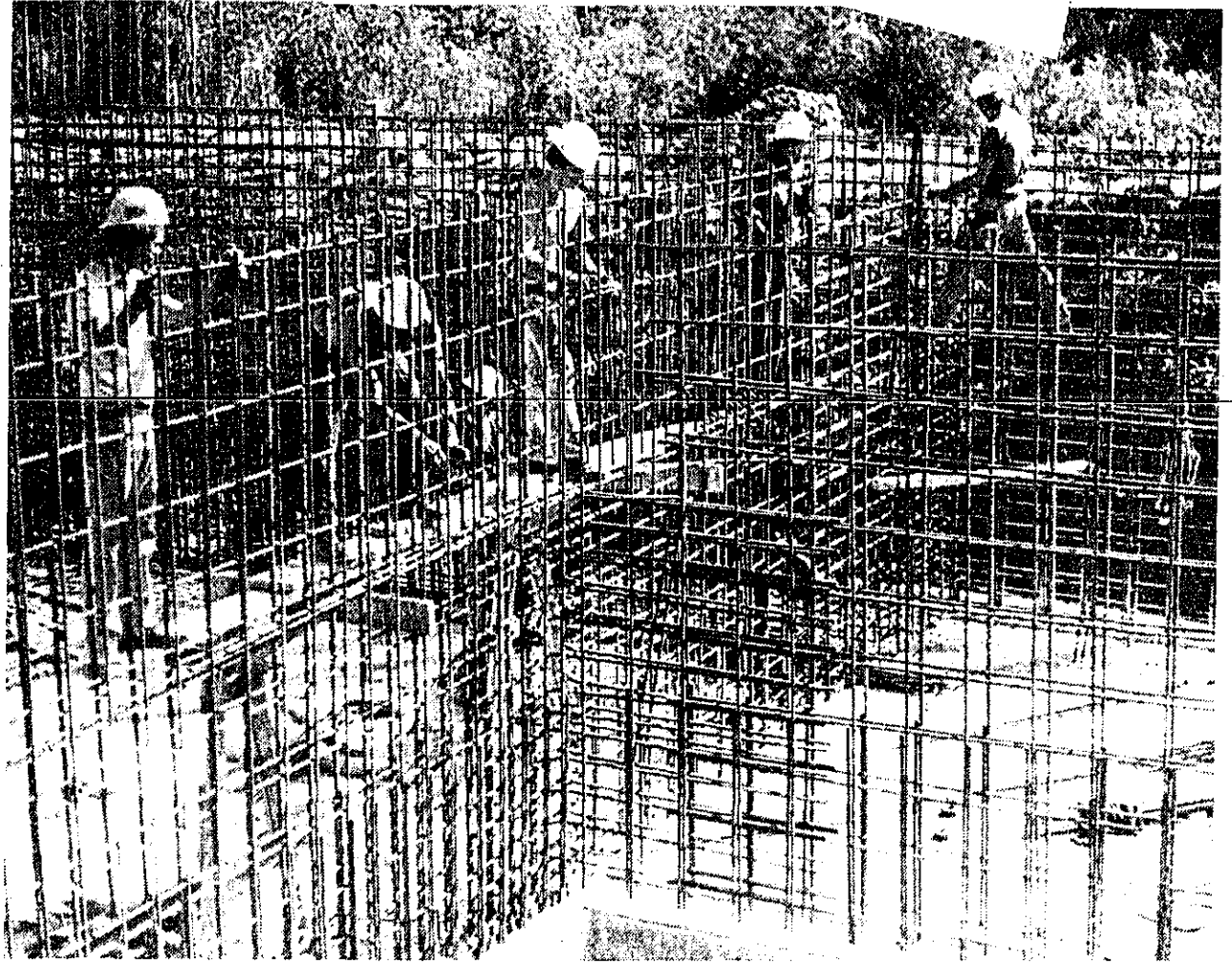
AT EVANS PRODUCTS, Vandiver said, the requested eligibility period goes back to early 1979, when some layoffs were first made. Employment at the plant reached a peak in June of that year when it totaled 130 hourly personnel.

As of last week, there were 29 workers punching time clocks and by the end of this month, he expected the number to decline to 10-12. It should stay at that level through at least November, he predicted, and based on how the situation looks now, could go even lower after that.

Evans is looking for new products to manufacture, to lessen its dependence on the auto industry, but so are lots of other companies, he pointed out.

The plant manufactures supply racks (materials handling equipment) for the

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**SEWAGE PLANT** -- These workers aren't building a new jail. They are tying together the steel mesh over which concrete will be poured to form the tertiary filter (third treatment stage) at the Cass City Wastewater Treatment Plant. The \$6 million project is on schedule and will be in complete operation by early 1982. (Another photo page 18.)

# Bach music festival returning to Cass City

Cass City will play host to the second annual Village Bach Festival Thanksgiving week end.

Needed now, according to festival co-chairman Holly Althaver, are more volunteers and money.

Last year's festival, which drew a full house for only one of the three concerts in the First Presbyterian church, was considered an artistic success, drawing high praise for the musicians who participated and those who heard them. Seating capacity of the church is about 275.

Many of the performers will be back again this year. Aided by a \$3,600 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts, a contribution of an unspecified amount from Walbro Corp., and ticket sales, including more costly patron tickets, the first festival broke even financially. Mrs. Althaver said. Total expenses last year were about \$10,000.

Making the financial picture questionable this year is how much, if any, money it will get from the arts council because of the state's precarious financial situation and the fact that the legislature has yet to approve the budget for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

The festival committee has applied for \$5,000, but doesn't expect to get that much. "I would think if we

got what we received last year, we will be very fortunate and very grateful," she commented.

The festival is assured of one local grant this year and will have to solicit patron support, as it did last year.

### VOLUNTEERS

Like any show business performance, the show couldn't go on without a large number of persons behind the scenes.

Co-chairman with Mrs. Althaver will be Rev. Harry Capps of the First Presbyterian church.

Jeanne Auten will be chairman for housing and hospitality and Nancy deBeaubien will head the church hospitality committee. Mrs. Auten will also be in charge of the Saturday night reception for the artists following the performance and Mrs. deBeaubien is chairman for the two lunches for the performers.

Gloria Ouvry is handling ticket sales. Alice Lovejoy is chairman of the art exhibit at the library in conjunction with the slide-tape presentation. Her husband Bill is treasurer of the festival.

More help is needed and anyone interested can contact one of the above named persons. Would-be donors can contact Lovejoy.

Help is especially needed in liaison with service clubs

and public relations. Mrs. Althaver said.

Because of the experience gained in putting on the first festival, she expects it will be easier this time "because people know what to expect."

Based on reaction to last year's performances and word of mouth from those who attended to those who didn't, she expects selling tickets will be easier this year.

### MUSICIANS

Festival conductor again this year will be Don Theodore Yaeger, conductor of the Midland Symphony, Northwestern Michigan Symphony, Northwood Symphony and frequent guest conductor of other orchestras.

Featured at the Friday night concert will be the internationally known Pro Arte Quartet from the University of Wisconsin, founded in 1912, which has played in numerous foreign countries under sponsorship of the state department.

One of its members is Norman Paulu, who performed at the festival last year along with his wife Catherine and daughter Laura. All will be back.

Also returning will be William Preucil Sr., who plays viola, his wife, Doris,

violin, from Iowa City, Iowa, and son William Jr., a violin student a year ago but now concertmaster of the Louisville (Ky.) Symphony.

Another returnee is violinist Gwen Starker, first violinist in that symphony. Expected to be here again are Tom Brown, organist at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in New York City and Doris Orstein, harpsichordist from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

For the Sunday afternoon program, Jaeger is organizing a festival chorale to sing a Thanksgiving cantata.

The full lineup of performers won't be known for a few weeks yet.

Except for Jaeger, the music director, the musicians come here for expense money only. At last year's event, they had high praise for the playing conditions at the church and the hospitality they received from the community.

In addition to the concerts, there will be a slide-tape presentation on Baroque art shown at the Rawson Memorial Library throughout the festival. It has been prepared by a University of Michigan graduate student.

Elementary and intermediate school students will view the program the week before and after the festival.

# Inundated cable causes lengthy telephone outage

A wet telephone cable was responsible for the loss of long distance telephone service throughout much of the upper Thumb last week, including Cass City.

Service went out at 3 a.m. Wednesday, according to

Clyde Weir, General Telephone switching office supervisor. Service was restored by 8:30 Thursday morning, although long distance lines did not go back into service all at once.

The cable in question,

owned by Bell Telephone, provides long distance service in much and possibly all of the upper Thumb for all telephone companies.

A call from Cass City to Uby, for instance, is routed through Saginaw.

The problem occurred in the underground cable about two miles east of Saginaw. A cut or crack in the sheathing allowed water to seep in during heavy rainfall.

Once the spot where the problem was found, Weir said, a chemical powder was applied to dry the cable out, a process which took overnight. Starting about 8:30 Thursday morning, more and more lines came into service as the individual lines within the cable dried out.

General Telephone exchanges without long distance service were Cass City, Kingston, Elkton, Clifford and Caseville. Presumably all other upper Thumb

exchanges were also out, but Weir couldn't say for sure as they belong to other companies.

THE LENGTHY OUTAGE caused a problem for the Cass City police. Although it has a local telephone number, the phone is normally answered by the sheriff's department in Caro.

Once it was discovered calls to police weren't getting through to Caro Wednesday morning, the officer on duty named the phone until Police Chief Gene Wilson arrived at 7:30.

The chief manned the phone for an hour, until the village clerk and secretary arrived. The latter, Deanna Patnaude, stayed till 8:30 p.m., when Wilson returned.

The chief stayed until 11:30 p.m., then had the officer on duty for the night alternate in half-hour periods between patrolling the

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# Teachers ratify new contract

By a vote of 59-7 Monday, Cass City teachers approved a new three-year contract with the board of education.

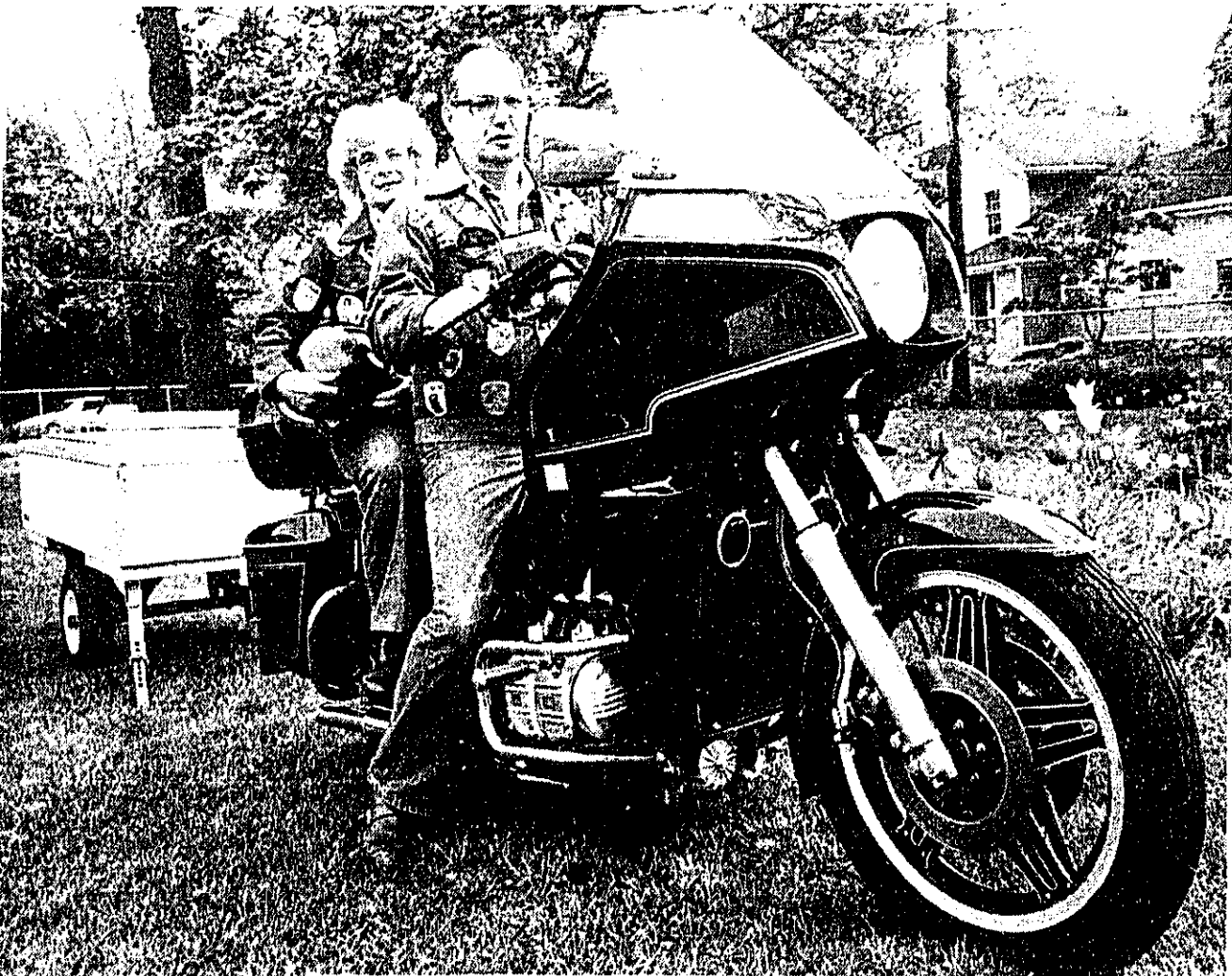
Tentative agreement on the pact was reached Sept. 2, the day before school started.

The board will probably vote on the contract at its next regular board meeting, Oct. 13.

Once the tentative agree-

ment was reached, the final wording had to be prepared and the pact had to receive the approval of the Tri-County Bargaining Association bargaining council.

After that, Cass City Education Association President Gail Nartker said, teachers had to have the contract changes in writing for five days before they could vote on the pact.



**LONG RIDERS** -- Ruth and David Henke on the motorcycle on which they rode 9,287 miles. Photo was taken prior to the start of their journey. When they left, they were carrying additional equipment and two tires on top of the trailer. (Pontiac Waterford Times photo.)

# North to Alaska — 9,287 miles on a motorcycle

When school resumed at Burt Elementary School in Waterford this month, Ruth Henke had a "show and tell" story to top any her first grade students could offer.

The ex-Cass City resident and her husband, Dave, rode a motorcycle to Alaska and back this past summer, a trip of 9,287 miles.

The trip would have been even longer except that Henke broke his foot when their machine tipped over in Alaska so they returned home early.

Mrs. Henke, 56, and her husband of eight years, 47, have been avid motorcyclists for five years and have now ridden in every state except Hawaii.

A native of this area, Mrs. Henke's maiden name was White.

She has five children by her first marriage, when her last name was Childs, four born in Cass City, and four grandchildren.

Departure for the Henkes, who live in Waterford, near

Pontiac, was June 29. They entered Canada at Sault Ste. Marie.

Behind their 1100 cc touring bike they were towing a small trailer that unfolds into a tent and they alternated between camping and staying in motels on their way to Alaska. On the way home, they stayed in motels all the way.

ON THEIR WAY TO Alaska through Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, they took a side trip of about 900 miles north to Hay River on Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories.

On that part of the trip, they encountered numerous forest fires, most of them started by lightning.

They were told there were 60 fires in the area, of which only 30 were being fought by firefighters.

Mrs. Henke wasn't worried "until smoke started blowing in my face and I began to cough."

The motorcyclists got on

the Alaska Highway at Dawson Creek, British Columbia. Ahead of them was 1,200 miles of road, of which only 200 was paved.

They entered Alaska July 15. They traveled to Fairbanks, McKinley National Park, Anchorage and then to Whittier, where Henke was stationed with the military in 1955.

There, they caught eight salmon. The owner of a cafe, whom they had just met, froze the fish, sent them to their home special delivery and paid the postage.

That action was typical. "The people in Alaska are so friendly," Mrs. Henke said. "They go out of their way to help."

FROM WHITTIER, IT was back to Anchorage. About 60 miles east of there, disaster struck.

**RUMMAGE SALE** Saturday, Oct. 4, at Presbyterian church basement. Doors open 9 a.m. 9-18-3

They were riding on a highway under construction and it was muddy. Due to the road conditions, the bike tipped over, they were pinned underneath and Henke broke his right foot. "Thank goodness it wasn't his clutch foot," his wife commented later.

He does all the driving as his wife is too short to reach the pedals on their big touring bike.

She wrapped her husband's broken foot in an elastic bandage and the next day, a nurse temporarily fixed it.

The mishap happened on a Wednesday and it wasn't until they got to Haines on Saturday, a painful 520 miles later, that they found a doctor who set it and put it in a cast.

From Haines, they took the ferry to Prince Rupert, B.C. Stops on their way back through Canada included Banff and Jasper in Jasper. Please turn to page 5.