

Charity bikers raise \$100-\$200

Despite a turnout of only nine riders, Saturday's bike-a-thon at Gagetown raised at least \$100 and possibly close to \$200 for St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, according to event chairman Bill Fischer.

The riders, all of whom rode eight miles, were Wil-

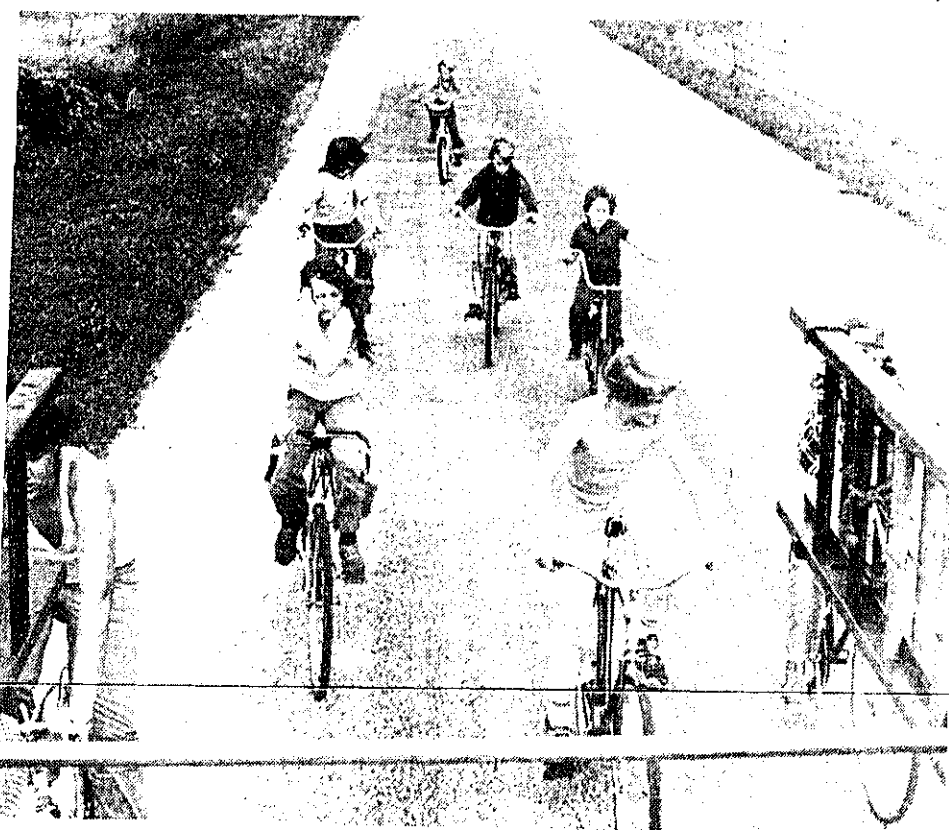
liam A., Joseph and Margaret Fischer (the chairman's children), Heather Goff, Chris and Bryan Abbe, Stephen Root, John Shope and Steven Volz.

The exact total won't be known until all the pledges are collected, Fischer said.

Assisting him in putting on the event were Gagetown police officer Michael Pine and Elmwood-Gagetown firemen Rusty Martindale, Mike Root and Bob Dunn. (Fischer is also a fireman.) The local market donated refreshments.

The fire truck traveled in front of the riders and the police car brought up the rear as the entourage traveled up and down Dodge Road.

Another bike-a-thon for St. Jude's will take place in Owendale Saturday, starting at 1 p.m. in the village park.



KIDS FOR KIDS -- Nine children rode in the St. Jude Children's Hospital bike-a-thon Saturday, of whom all but one are seen here from the rear of the Elmwood-Gagetown fire truck. They raised between \$100 and \$200.

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Probate court wages up; hassle with judge continues

The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Sept. 9 approved a pay raise for probate court employees, retroactive to Jan. 21.

The 8.18 percent pay raise for the seven employees will be the same as other courthouse employees received at the beginning of this year and which the probate employees received from Jan. 1-20.

Commissioners suspended

the probate pay increase after that, in their dispute with Probate Judge W. Wallace Kent Jr. over the higher pay increase he negotiated separately with his employees.

The decision to pay them the higher rate stemmed from the meeting Judge Kent and representatives of the county board had Sept. 9 with State Court Administrator Einar Bohlin con-

cerning the continuing dispute.

The probate court employees' acceptance of the pay increase won't preclude them from accepting a higher increase, should Bohlin order it paid. If that happens, the county board very likely will appeal his decision to the courts.

The board claims the probate court employees were included in the contract it negotiated with the other courthouse employees.

As part of its motion approved at the meeting, the probate employees will also be enrolled in the Blue Cross-Blue Shield program provided for in the contract, effective with the next convenient pay period.

The board set 1980 millage rates of 4.1572 mills for county operations and .9898 for bridges. Without the Headlee Amendment roll-back, they would have been 4.2 and 1 mill respectively.

Leonard Russell Farnis was awarded the bid for rental for three years of approximately 96 acres of county-owned farmland north of Caro on Cleaver Road. Its bid of \$82.75 per acre was the highest of three submitted.

County receives grant

Tuscola county has received a federal grant of \$5,600 to do an engineering study of potential energy savings in the courthouse, jail, courthouse annex and medical care facility.

County Building Codes Administrator Paul Lefler informed the board the grant had been received.

The Tuscola County Firemen's Association presented the board with a check for \$1,150 as its share for the radio installed in the car used by the emergency preparedness (civil defense) director.

Prosecutor Artis Noel informed the board it will have to rerun the legal notices of several months ago concerning the creation of a county building authority because some of the print in the original ads was smaller than legal requirements.

The authority was created as a means of financing a county office building, presumably an addition on the rear of the annex, but nothing has been done since due to a lack of funds.

A 2 mill levy for senior citizen activities, approved by voters in August, was officially set as the amount to go on tax bills in December.

It was reported that \$4,308 was saved in July through a new program which puts able-bodied general assistance recipients to work to pay off their benefits.

An early morning accident Saturday sent two persons to Hills and Dales General Hospital.

The driver, Shelia Stewart, 17, of E. Dutcher Road, Caro, was reported in fair condition there Tuesday afternoon. Her passenger, Michael R. Miracle, 18, of 6825 Gilford Road, Deford, was treated and released.

According to deputies, their car was northbound on Cemetery Road, north of Gilford, at 5:40 a.m. when it went off the west side of the road, struck a mailbox and then the side of a cement driveway.

Miracle told officers the driver fell asleep at the wheel.

Robert G. McLellan, 43, of 5830 Main Street, Deford, was treated and released from Caro Community Hospital after a 3:45 p.m. accident Sept. 16.

Deputies reported he was northbound on Lee Hill Road and struck a car broadside that was eastbound on Ross Road. Officers said the intersection is unmarked and neither driver saw the other until it was too late.

The other driver, Richard G. Gawne, 24, of Millington, sought his own treatment.

The impact sent both vehicles off the road, with the Gawne car coming to a halt on its right side.

At 9 p.m. Sunday, according to deputies, David H. Bartnik, 22, of 6524 Van Dyke Road, Cass City, was eastbound on Dickerson Road, west of Remington Road, when his motorcycle was involved in a mishap.

He told officers it started shaking, so he slowed down, but the shake got worse. He then lost control of the motorcycle, which went off the south shoulder of the

road and rolled several times.

Bartnik was reported to have suffered minor injuries but refused treatment.

Donald M. Olsow, 35, of Cass City, and Robert R. Rabideau, 29, of Caro, sought their own treatment for injuries following a 9:40 p.m. accident in Huron county.

Authorities reported they were riding motorcycles on M-142, two miles east of Elktion, when an unidentified vehicle backed out in front of them. Rabideau applied his brakes and the Olsow machine ran into the rear of the Rabideau cycle.

Caro state police reported that Laurel Ann Priests, 21, of Carsonville, was westbound on Bevans Road, east of Kingston Road, at 7:40 p.m. last Wednesday when her car struck a deer.

David Norrington, 18, of Caro, was eastbound on Tomlinson Road, east of Colwood Road, at 12:01 a.m. Saturday when his car collided with a deer, according to deputies.

Bill signed

Ken Kennedy sees President Carter sign rural development act

Tuscola County Commissioner Ken Kennedy was in the White House Wednesday to witness President Jimmy Carter signing the Rural Policy Development Act into law.

Kennedy was one of 10 members of the Rural Affairs Committee of the National Association of Counties (NAC) to be asked to attend the bill signing. The committee has 45 members with each from a different state, so the Millington Democrat was Michigan's only representative there. The NAC made the selection.

The bill that was signed, he explained, contained several items of benefit to rural areas:

—Planning grant funds, such as for water and sewer system planning, will be increased.

—“Circuit riders,” expert personnel assigned to multi-county districts, will be hired to advise rural counties and local governmental units in such matters as federal laws, budgeting and how to get federal grants. The aim will be to help them get their fair share of federal grant funds, the majority of which have been going to cities.

—A U.S. Department of Agriculture undersecretary will be appointed whose task will be to assist rural counties.

—A 40-member Small Com-

munity Advisory Council will be appointed to advise the president on matters of importance to rural areas. At least 51 percent of the membership must be elected local officials.

—The NAC Rural Affairs Committee, of which Kennedy is a member, will advise Congress on budget matters of importance to rural areas.

Kennedy has been a member of the committee for about two years.

The new legislation, he said, builds on the Rural Development Act of 1972.

The signing ceremony took place at 1:30 p.m. in the East Room, followed by a reception.

Kennedy went to Washington Wednesday and was to have returned the same day. His \$210 air fare was paid by the six-county 7th district of the Michigan Association of Counties, which includes Tuscola.

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