

## Rabbit tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

You had to be a dyed in the wool football fan to stick it out Friday when Cass City played North Branch in the rain and cold.

Despite the weather, the crowd was surprisingly large and many of them stayed to the end.

I was told that was the case. I'll confess that I left in the third quarter.

Time out for a commercial: Last week the Chronicle was required to make its annual statement required for a second class permit at the post office. It showed that 100 more families buy the paper now than did a year ago. Now 3,600 papers are published each week.

It's always gratifying when the paper's readership increases more than the population. It's a sign that the paper is providing the community with what it wants and enjoys ever increasing acceptance without the use of gimmicks or special inducements to get people to buy. End of commercial.

The Elkland-Novesta United Way drive underway now is different than it has been in previous years when the goal was increased because of inflation.

This year, Dale Deering, chairman, says that the quota is the same as it was for 1980.


It's a concession to the economic situation that kept the quota static.

Last year, and most years, the Chest drive has met its quota and by not increasing the amount, the committee hopes to be able to go over the top again.

### The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	80	46	0
Thursday	66	44	.18
Friday	52	34	.19
Saturday	42	33	.47
Sunday	52	30	0
Monday	55	26	0
Tuesday	64	40	.02


(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)



## Elkland/Novesta United Way Helps

### The Arthritis Foundation

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Cass City



**CLASS REPRESENTATIVES** in the court at the Owen-Gage homecoming Friday night will be, from back to front, starting at left: April Adams and Brenda Schwartz, freshmen; Jackie Kain and Lori Jo Weissner, sophomores, and Renee Nicholas and Bonnie Wynn, juniors.

## Russell, Erla don't disagree at meeting

The two candidates for the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners district No. 2 in the Nov. 4 election met at the Novesta Township Board meeting Monday evening, but didn't find anything to disagree about.

The candidates are Royce Russell, the Republican incumbent and Elmwood township farmer, and Democrat Richard Erla of Cass City, president of Erla's Inc.

The district consists of Novesta, Elkland, Elmwood, Ellington townships and part of Kingston township.

The township board had also asked the candidates for sheriff and state representative to come, but none did so.

In response to a question about whether they favor election of the three county road commissioners, Erla said he did. Russell responded that he wasn't sure of the mechanism by which that could be accomplished.

but if the county was split into three districts, with each electing a road commissioner, he couldn't "see anything wrong" with it.

The three road commissioners are presently appointed by the county Board of Commissioners for six-year terms.

"I'm against all three," Erla responded when asked his opinion of the three statewide tax proposals that will be on the Nov. 4 ballot.

"I'm scared of them," was Russell's response.

Russell also discussed the 1-mill levy that county voters will be asked to approve in November.

### TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

The board unanimously appointed Connie Benitez of Severance Road as the new sexton, replacing David Moody, who resigned. She will be assisted by her husband, Manuel. Pay will be \$4 per hour.

Ten persons had applied for the position.

It was reported the township owes \$51,000 to the Road Commission, the result, Supervisor Bill O'Dell said, of having additional road work done this year to beat certain price increases next year.

Novesta is not being charged interest by the road agency, and will pay its debt as the money is available.

O'Dell said the \$51,000 is all of the money budgeted

this year for roads and most of what would have been budgeted next year.

Treasurer Everett Field reported that state revenue sharing, proceeds from the single business tax, declined from the last three-month payment of \$451 to \$43 for the payment received at the beginning of this month, the result of a decline in state revenues.

O'Dell said it was reported at the recent regional Michigan Townships Association meeting at the Colony House that state revenue sharing is being eliminated, however, the federal revenue sharing program has been renewed for three years.

### Less oil

There is still domestic oil and gas to be found. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, waters surrounding Alaska alone could contain up to 18 billion barrels of oil and as much as 60 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

These potential additions amount to 55 percent of currently proven oil reserves and 30 percent of proven gas reserves in the U.S.

Although there may well be huge deposits of domestic oil and gas waiting to be discovered, declines in production from existing fields are expected to more than offset production from new fields.



The Haire Net

As noted here before the opinion is that Michigan will lose the Pigeon River State Forest east of Vanderbilt and Gaylord, as a true wilderness area.

The only question is when. If enjoying 90,000 acres of pristine nature turns you on, chances are you should do it now before it's too late.

The results of a three-year study have been released, saying that a producing well has no adverse effect on the elk.

It was because of the elk that conservationists were able to halt virtually unrestricted drilling in the area in a battle that has raged since oil became in short supply.

The study recently released was partially funded by oil companies and by the state.

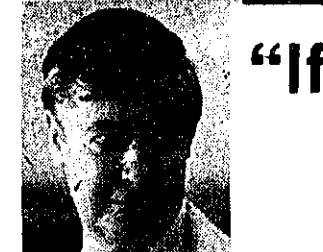
Critics maintain that it was a study of one well and if 10 wells had been drilled, the results would be changed.

The work crews, pipelines, seismic surveys and other work required with many wells would be substantially different from one well.

The only reason that mass drilling hasn't started in the preserve is that the Michigan Supreme Court blocked the drilling because of the elk herd.

For me and many others who would forego the oil to keep the area like it is, the elk herd is the excuse, not the real reason, why drilling is anathema.

What it amounts to is a temporary inconvenience to



## "If It Fitz..." Skip the thatch

By Jim Fitzgerald

Around 30 years ago I clipped a short poem out of a newspaper and put it in my wallet. Amazingly, it is still there. Every so often, while fumbling for a credit card, I discover the yellowed clipping and wonder why I've carried it so long.

Then I read the poem again, and still like it, so I put it back in my wallet. I expect that when my last effects are gathered, after I've died a hero's death in an incredibly brave rescue attempt, a coroner will find this scrap of poem and drop it in his lint barrel. This is a shabby way to treat the possessions of a dead hero. I think I will stop running into burning houses.

I don't know who wrote this poem, but maybe you do:

If I ever become a rich man,  
Or if ever I grow to be old,  
I will build a house with a deep thatch  
To shelter me from the cold,  
I will hold my house in the high woods  
Within a walk of the sea,  
And the men that were boys when I was a boy  
Shall sit and drink with me.

If I live to be a 200-year-old billionaire, I will never live under a thatch roof in the woods within a walk of the sea. I want to always live within a walk of the pool-room. But still, for 30 years I have been reading this poem while nodding my head affirmatively. This is why...

On a recent sunny day I returned to the town where I was a boy and had a ride in a 1920 Dodge. It belongs to a gravestone salesman named Jack, and my first thought was that somewhere there were grieving survivors who foolishly thought their dead Dodge was still buried. But Jack insists he bought the car from the Horace Dodge estate and spent 10 years restoring it.

Jack is married to a woman who converted a hallway in their home into a photo-shrine to John Wayne. This hallway is called Wayne Lane and serves as a thoughtful reminder to all discontented Americans that things could be worse than Ronald Reagan.

The only reason I'm telling you all this is to establish a properly nostalgic mood. Also, I truly hope something I write here might help you to realize that Wayne Lane would be a great name for a movie star.

When I got into Jack's 1920 Dodge, I suddenly remembered that my grandfather owned the same model when I was a small boy and often gave me rides. I was immediately awash in nostalgia, which explained the sudden sloshing sound. Jack got the baseball game on the car radio while making a left turn. Babe Ruth was at bat. We had entered the twilight zone.

Naturally, this unusual experience left me with a great yearning to sit under deep thatch. That night, instead

of driving directly home from Wayne Lane, I stopped on the northern edge of my old hometown and told my wife I had a poem to fulfill. I explained that we were parked in the area where, as a barefoot boy of 10, I swam in a canal nude, except for my shoes.

"There is now a saloon here," she pointed out.

So there was. Inside, behind the piano, we found a rotund man named Bob in a white suit. He played "After Hours" better even than Erroll Garner used to play it. I reminded Bob that he was a boy when I was a boy, and we had a drink. I told him I was surprised to see he had grown up to be Sydney Greenstreet. He said I didn't exactly look like Wayne Lane.

A man with snow-white hair joined our table. His name was also Bob and he too was a boy when I was a boy, before he grew up to become a mayor and other dull things. I asked him if he bought his hair from the Horace Dodge estate, and he spent several minutes counting my chins. We took shelter from the cold until the saloon closed, and then we talked in the parking lot, within a walk from the canal.

The cliché is that old friends are the best friends. Poems are better than clichés. I like my poem because it reminds me that even if a man doesn't have a thatch roof over his head, he can still have the pleasure of sitting and drinking with men who were boys when he was a boy.

## Horse team is best in nation

The five-member Huron County 4-H horse bowl team became the national champions Saturday at competition held at Harrisburg, Penn.

The team consisted of Camie Gaskill, Owendale, and captain Colleen McIntyre, Tina Farver, Kevin Cubitt and Neil McIntyre, all from Bad Axe.

Coaches were Dennis Gaskill, Camie's father, and Mary McIntyre, mother of Colleen and Neil.

The team qualified for the national tourney by winning the state championship in April.

The all-day competition required team members to answer technical horse questions dealing with anatomy, physiology, management, breeding, horse care and information, judging,

showing, breed types and veterinary science.

Eighteen teams competed in the round-robin tournament, patterned after the old "College Bowl" television show. Team members sat as a panel, competing against another team, and had to activate a buzzer to be first to answer a question.

In addition to the team title, Camie Gaskill finished second in highest individual achievement.

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