

Cass City protests latest census count

Cass City officials are protesting the latest population count for the village from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The new preliminary figure is 2,250, higher than the 2,190 "working figure" released in July, and 1,974 persons counted in 1970, but still substantially below the 2,456 village residents counted in a state certified census conducted by the village in 1977.

An estimate by the federal government for federal revenue sharing purposes, made about the same time,

based on income tax returns, birth and death certificates, etc., showed 2,436 residents.

As both counts date from the same period, village Superintendent Lou LaPonsie commented, "We feel that was a very good figure."

Although no doubt some persons have moved away since 1977, based on the number of new homes built since then, "If anything, it should be the same or more."

LaPonsie feels what hap-

pened is that the U.S. census takers missed some residents in the village.

Accordingly, last Thursday, he wrote a protest letter to Gordon Rector, an official at the Census Bureau office in Detroit, who had said over the phone "he would see what he could do."

The number of housing units in Cass City, according to the latest count, is 859, one less than shown in July.

After the population count was released back then, LaPonsie filled out the form sent by the Census Bureau to

local government officials and stated he didn't agree with the figure, but despite later prodding by him, never received a response.

The highest possible population count is of importance because distribution of federal and state revenue sharing and some federal grant programs are based primarily on the number of residents within the community.

TUSCOLA COUNTY

The new preliminary figure for Tuscola county, subject to later revision, shows

56,843 residents, compared to 48,603 counted in 1970, a 16.95 percent increase, and 20,014 housing units.

For Cass City area townships, the new population count is as follows: (1970 figure in parentheses), followed by present number of housing units:

Elkland, 3,435 (3,171), 1,278 units; Novesta, 1,491 (1,098), 566 units; Elmwood, 1,345 (1,246), 464 units; Ellington, 1,222 (853), 443 units, and Kingston, 1,543 (1,307), 524 units.

The population of Gagetown, according to the pre-

liminary figure, is 428, up from 408 10 years ago. There are 150 housing units.

The new preliminary figure for Kingston village is "not complete" yet, but the working figure from last July was 403, up from 368 in 1970, and 155 housing units.

HURON COUNTY

The preliminary count shows a population of 36,422 residents, compared to 34,083 in 1970, a 6.86 percent increase, and 17,865 housing units.

There were 308 residents counted in Owendale, four fewer than in 1970, and 102 housing units.

Urbly declined in population to 858, compared to 899 in 1970. It has 341 housing units.

Population of area townships (1970 figures in parentheses), followed by number of housing units, is as follows: Bingham, 1,680 (1,617), 590 units; Brookfield, 997 (1,063), 370 units; Grant, 821 (703), 298 units, and Sheridan, 809 (658), 253 units.

SANILAC COUNTY

The county increased its population from 35,181 in 1970 to 40,729, a boost of 15.77 percent. There are 18,525 household units.

Population of area townships, according to the preliminary count, is as follows (1970 figures in parentheses), followed by number of housing units: Evergreen, 1,036 (775), 362 units; Greenleaf, 739 (667), 288 units; Argyle, 909 (750), 351 units; Austin, 803 (730), 247 units; Lamotte, 1,061 (924), 361, and Moore, 1,322 (1,120), 488 units.

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Springport Bindery
(Rawson Library) Dec. 80
Springport, MI 49284

PAGES PLUS SUPPLEMENT

\$50,000 loss in home fire

Loss has been estimated at \$50,000-60,000 in a fire that destroyed an under construction home north of Kingston Tuesday.

Cause is still unknown and Kingston Fire Chief Robert Phillips has requested the sheriff's department or state fire marshal's office to investigate.

Owner of the home was Gordon Teddy of 3436 Washington Street, Kingston.

Phillips said Teddy apparently purchased the home partially built, had been working on it about a year and was getting ready to move in with his family.

The home is located on Kingston Road, north of Barrett Road.

Firemen received the call at 4:20 a.m. The fire was reported by a neighbor, Phillips said, who was awakened when a 50 gallon drum of naphtha in the garage of the Teddy home exploded. Teddy is a professional painter and used the naphtha in his business. The fire started in the garage, "near as we can figure."

The two furnaces in the home were still in the crates. The wiring was in, but not everything was hooked up. There was "no reason to suspect" arson, according to the chief.

Whatever the cause, when the drum of naphtha exploded, "it really helped the fire along."

Although the tri-level, partially brick structure was gutted and otherwise extensively damaged, Phillips said, enough remained to probably permit reconstruction.

Firemen were at the scene about three hours.

TRAILER FIRE

Arson is suspected as the cause of a fire that destroyed a small trailer Sunday night on Severance Road, west of Keilitz Road in Ellington township. (Photo page 10.)

Owner of the trailer and the land it was sitting on is Juane Chippi of Cass City. The unoccupied trailer was used while hunting.

Firemen received the call at 7:18 p.m. The trailer was too far gone by the time they arrived to save it.

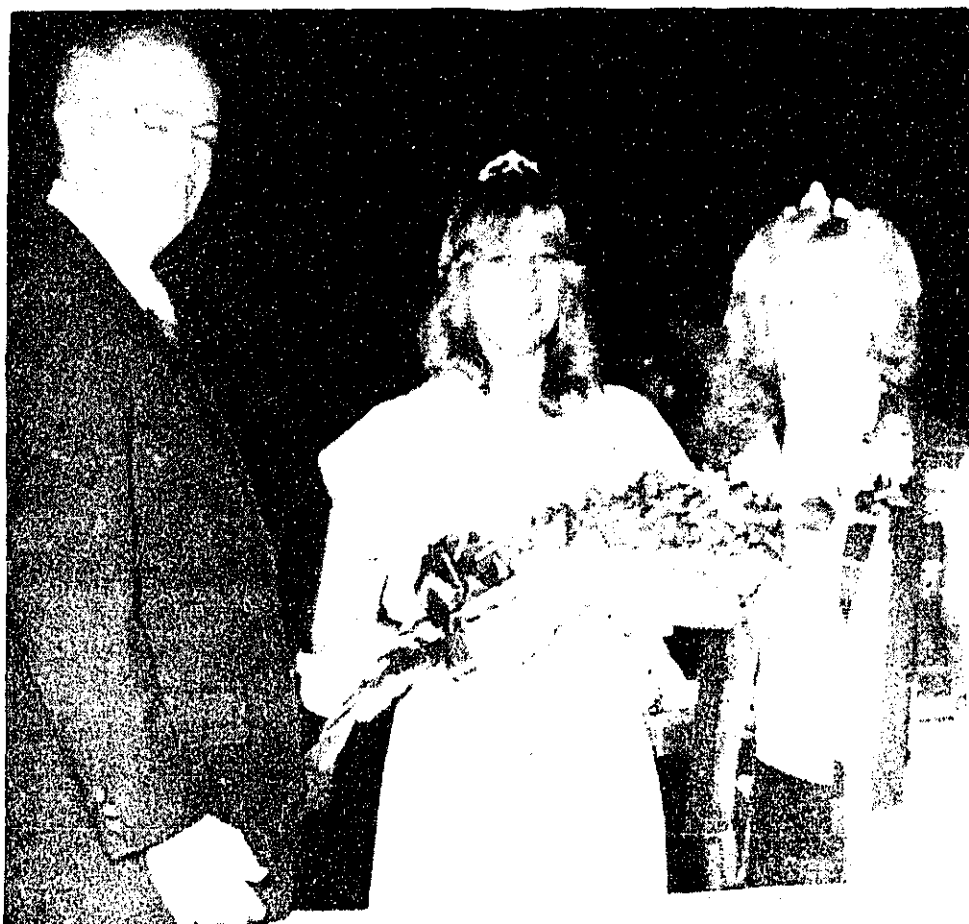
According to Fire Chief Jack Hartwick, a nearby resident who was outside checking a deer trail was about 200 yards away when he heard the trailer door slam and a car drive away. He didn't think anything of it until he got closer and discovered the trailer was burning.

Chippi came to the scene later and discovered a 50-gallon drum containing some fuel oil and a propane gas cylinder had been taken.

The sheriff's department was asked to investigate, as arson was suspected. No report of the investigation was available by Tuesday.

The trailer was valued at \$350, plus contents, which included a bed, refrigerator and stove.

Firemen had the fire out when the pumper stopped running due to an undetermined electrical short. A tow truck had to be summoned to pull the truck bumper nine miles back to Cass City.



THE 1980 CASS CITY High School homecoming queen was crowned by last year's queen, Julie Helwig, right, and presented the traditional bouquet by Principal Russell Richards. The queen is Lori Gohsman.



ANNETTE ROCKEFELLER was crowned 1980 homecoming queen at Owen-Gage Friday night, receiving her crown from last year's queen, Mary Kay Burrows. Annette is the daughter of John D. and Sharon Rockefeller of Gagetown.

County death toll climbs

The death toll on Tuscola county roads this year has exceeded the 1979 total with the death early Sunday of Humberto R. Balli Jr., south of Vassar.

Sheriff's deputies reported he was northbound on M-15, south of Rupprecht Road, at 2:30 a.m., when he attempted to pass another car.

His car went out of control, went off the west side of the road, struck a guard rail and then a concrete bridge.

The impact sent several parts of the car flying in different directions. The victim, who was not wearing a

safety belt, was thrown from the car. He was dead at the scene, with the body taken to Caro Community Hospital.

Balli, 20, of S. Vassar Road, Vassar, was the 20th person to die in a traffic accident this year in the county, one more than was killed in all of 1979. It was the third week end in a row there has been a fatality.

Some of the pieces of his car struck the auto behind him, driven by Frances I. Barnes, 52, of Ann Arbor. She and her passenger were witnesses to the accident.

OTHER ACCIDENTS

Albert T. Desgrange, 33, of 6900 Pringle Road, Cass City, was ticketed by deputies on a charge of failure to report a personal injury accident after a mishap at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7.

They reported he was eastbound on Elmwood Road, east of Cemetery Road, when his vehicle went off the north side of the road, struck a tree and then hit two picnic tables.

Desgrange was admitted to Hills and Dales Hospital the following day for treat-

ment. He was released Saturday.

A 4:30 a.m. accident Saturday about 3 1/2 miles south of Elkton sent two Owendale teenagers to Huron Memorial Hospital, Bad Axe, for treatment.

The driver, Raymond S. Abbe, 16, of 5426 Kilmanagh Road, was treated and released.

His passenger, Brian Pryor, 17, of Moore Road, was discharged Tuesday.

According to Huron county deputies, their ve-

Please turn to page 10.

Boaru... to reach accord in volatile issues

Decisions on four major issues facing the Cass City School Board Monday, including the proposed apology to Mrs. Joyce Crouse, were again stalled by members who referred them to the personnel committee.

Other questions that the committee received for study were:

- A change in the health insurance plan for administrators. The administrators were asking for a major medical plan to compare with the plan granted the teachers in the recently approved master contract. It would cost the district about \$200 per month more than the present policy.

- A change in the sick leave program for administrators. Details were not revealed but Supt. Donald Crouse said that it was part of an agreement reached in anticipation that administrative raises would not keep pace with boosts to teachers. Details of the proposal were not released.

- Establishment of a board policy on hiring of husband and wife in the district.

Sending the issues to committee was a hotly contested procedure. The Crouse apology brought sharp criticism from Trustee J.D.

Tuckey.

He pointed out that the board had been debating the issue for two months and that sending it to committee was simply stalling some more.

Also ready to act on the proposal were Board President Geraldine Prieskorn and Dr. Edward Scollon.

Voting to send the matter to committee were Mrs. Thresa Burnette, Dean Hoag and Dr. E. Paul Lockwood. Lockwood said that he would like to have a lawyer look over the proposed apology. The 3-3 tie was broken in a second vote when Prieskorn voted to send to committee.

Meanwhile, Supt. Crouse explained to members that he had received a form from the American Civil Liberties Union requesting information about the case as the ACLU prepared to act on the basis of discrimination.

He said that he had been successful in getting an extension of the time limit until Nov. 15.

If the board signs the apology it will not be necessary to file the form, Crouse said. Mrs. Crouse has agreed to drop all charges if the apology is signed.

The annual meeting and budget hearing was set for Oct. 27 and Burnette, per-

sonnel committee chairman, agreed to have recommendations about the health insurance and sick leave program for administrators at that time. She was non-committal when asked to have a recommendation about the apology at the same time.

The board quickly approved the hiring of Rita Rysse, the special education teacher hired instead of Mrs. Crouse. She did degree work at Eastern Michigan and Michigan State. This is her first teaching assignment. Principal Russell Richards said.

VOTE FUNDS

The remainder of the items on the agenda were quickly disposed of.

The board voted \$500 towards the support of Art-rain, coming to Cass City in May. The village is one of four in Michigan that will be visited. The youth theatre program at the school was awarded a \$350 grant.

The board allotted \$2.00 for lunch for each person attending an inservice day in Caro Oct. 29 from 2 to 8 p.m. The bill to the district is expected to be about \$200.

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Owen-Gage ends in black, with big 'if'

The Owendale-Gagetown School District eliminated the last of its old debt in 1979-80 and finished the year in the black.

The school board, which received the audit report Monday evening, also approved a standstill budget calling for \$991,473 in general fund expenditures, only \$65 more than was spent during the fiscal year that ended June 30.

The audit, presented by Walter E. Moore and Mark Janke of the certified public accounting firm of Laine, Appold and Co. of Bay City, showed an excess of general fund revenues over expenditures as of June 30 of \$63,465.

Applied against a deficit of \$49,015 remaining from the year before, that left a fund balance of \$14,450.

That amount, Moore commented later to the Chronicle, "isn't anything to write home about," but in light of the district's past deficits, indicates that the district is "operating quite successfully."

There is one big "if." Included as revenue is the Goslin parcel tax money, which would have totaled \$101,231 in 1979-80. That plus the amount from the year before, listed as "taxes receivable," total \$183,500.

Owen-Gage doesn't have that money, it having instead gone to the Cass City

School District (collected at Cass City's tax rate).

The auditors included the Goslin revenue because, "It is the opinion of the legal counsel of the district that, regardless of whatever ruling (the Michigan) Supreme Court renders and notwithstanding the action of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, the 1979 and 1978 state equalized valuation of the Goslin transfer will ultimately be assigned to the Owendale-Gagetown Area School District."

Accordingly, the auditors included the Goslin revenue in the same way that a business audit would list money owed to the business as revenue even though it hadn't been received yet.

As for how a school district gets by when almost 1-10th of its revenue is still "on paper," Moore said it does so by such means as postponing paying some bills and when money is very tight, payless paydays.

If, however, Owen-Gage were to not get the Goslin money eventually, he commented, the district would be in serious financial difficulty.

One result of Owen-Gage's legal difficulties involving the Goslin property transfer case and others is that it spent \$91,317 in legal fees in 1979-80, \$12,720 more than it spent the previous year.

Noteworthy was that the district spent \$21,966 for heating fuel during the last fiscal year, \$2,985 less than it spent the year before, and \$25,169 for electricity, only \$11 more.

The lunch program lost \$4,477 last year.

The auditors recommended some changes be made concerning some accounting procedures and some overdrawn internal accounts, some of which were recommended last year but haven't been implemented by the board. None was major, however.

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Coupon
Days
In
Cass City
See
Special
Section

