



**SNAKE IN THE BASEMENT** -- The snake held by John Phillips and Cheryl Hammond made the mistake Friday of going into the basement of the home of their parents, Milton and Brenda Phillips on Kelly Road. Mrs. Phillips' nephew Dennis Regnerus killed it after spotting it while working on the furnace. Probably a fox snake, it was more than 42 inches long.

## Intermediate board okays contracts

The Tuscola Intermediate School District Board of Education Monday evening approved new three-year contracts with unions representing its professional and support staffs.

The cost of the agreements, Assistant Superintendent Jerome Thienes warned Tuesday, could mean a reduction in the number of employees after Jan. 1 "if we don't get an increase in state aid, which isn't likely."

"We have an idea," he responded when asked how much the settlements will cost the district.

Specific figures won't be known until the board approves its 1980-81 budget at a special meeting Oct. 27, called to hear four property transfer requests, or the next regular meeting, Nov. 10. The budget must be submitted to the state Department of Education by Nov. 15.

Members of the Tuscola Intermediate School Education Association and the Michigan Educational Support Personnel Association approved their respective contracts last week.

Tentative agreement was reached with the TIEA Sept. 16, following a two-week strike, and with MESPA,

whose members didn't strike, Oct. 1.

The TIEA represents the district's 103 teachers, special education consultants and nurses. MESPA, also with slightly over 100 members, represents teacher aides, bus drivers, secretaries and custodial workers.

The TIEA contract provides a 9.5 percent pay increase for the current school year, 9.8 percent in 1981-82 and 10 percent in 1982-83.

The average teacher salary last year, according to Thienes, was \$18,000, but it's hard to compare last year's payroll with this one in terms of the settlement because the district added 21 teachers to staff the new skill center.

Professional staff not at the top of the pay scale will continue to receive their annual increments, in addition to the overall pay increases.

The new contract also contains improved insurance benefits, for which the district paid \$85 per employee per month last year. This year, it will pay \$110 per month; in 1981-82, \$115, and 1982-83, \$120. The union selects the insurance carrier. The contract also contains

a few changes in wording and minor changes in the teacher evaluation procedure, Thienes said.

The MESPA contract gives its members a 10 percent pay increase each of the three years, they having opted for a bigger pay increase than did the TIEA, but a smaller increase in insurance benefits.

The board, which paid \$40 per employee per month for health insurance last month, will pay \$45 this year, \$50 next year and \$55 in 1982-83. In addition to the overall pay increase, aides, secretaries and janitors, receive annual increments until they reach the top of the pay scales, in addition to the overall 10 percent annual increases. There are seven pay steps for aides and janitors, six for secretaries.

Due to lesser student enrollment, Thienes said, the district laid off eight support staff employees last June and didn't fill three or four vacancies.

The board of education approved both contracts unanimously.

This country needs more people paying as they go, and lots fewer going to pay.

## County seeking \$900,000 grant for housing

Tuscola county will probably apply for \$900,000 in federal funds for housing rehabilitation.

"We have as good a chance as anybody" to get the grant, said Richard Dehmel of Caro, chairman of the county Planning Commission, which hosted a hearing on the proposal last Wednesday at the courthouse annex in Caro.

If the grant is received, low income homeowners will be able to apply for grants or low interest loans in order to finance such home improvements as electrical or mechanical work and installation of insulation.

It will be up to the county Board of Commissioners to decide whether the money will be given out as grants or as loans to be repaid.

To qualify under present guidelines, a family of two could have an annual income of no more than \$11,900; four, under \$14,900, and eight or more, \$18,600 or less.

Explaining the proposal to the 30-40 local government officials present at the hearing was Jack Howell of Gove Associates. The Kalamazoo firm will apply for the grant in behalf of the county if the Board of Commissioners decides to proceed.

"Enough interest is shown, application will be made to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Under the Community Development Block Program, no local funds will be needed in order to receive the federal funds.

The Planning Commission is presently gauging interest by village and township officials. Each such unit's governing body must agree to participate in order for its residents to be eligible to receive money to improve their homes, if the grant is received.

So far, Gagetown, Kingston and Millington villages and Novesta, Dayton, Columbia, Wells and Elmwood townships have agreed to participate, according to Dehmel.

The Cass City Village Council will vote Oct. 27. Caro, which applied on its own, has already received \$300,000 for housing rehabilitation.

A second hearing on the proposed application will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, in the courthouse annex.

The county board will vote Oct. 28 on whether it wishes Gove Associates to apply in behalf of Tuscola.

If it does, it will be paying the consulting firm \$1,500 to do the application.

### Apartment grant sought by Gagetown

Gagetown will apply for federal funds to convert the old St. Agatha's School into apartments for senior citizens.

That was the outcome of a public hearing conducted last Thursday, according to Village President Bill Downing.

In the meantime, the village will try to extend its option for 90 days with the parish to buy the structure. The present one expires in December.

Attending the hearing were members of the village council, Downing, four citizens, representatives of the Gagetown Development Corp. and Leonard Hool, the village's federal grants advisor.

Gagetown unsuccessfully applied about 10 months ago for \$135,000 in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Small Cities Program funds to buy the building and convert it into four two-bedroom and one one-bedroom apartments.

The Development Corp., Downing said, may contribute some funds for the project, but an amount hasn't been determined.

A second public hearing will be required in November, but in the meantime, Hool will proceed with filing the application.

The parish conducted classes in the building from March, 1950, to June, 1969, used it for Sunday school for some years after that, and rented it to the Owendale-Gagetown School District for a few years.

submit the pre-application. If HUD approves that, Dehmel said, it means it will probably approve the final application. Gove will then be paid its further fee with the federal funds.

If the grant is received, the county will probably have to hire an administrator to run the program, who will be paid from the grant funds.

The pre-application must be submitted to Washington by Nov. 17. Dehmel thought the county might know by early next year whether its application has been approved.

The \$900,000 is for one year. If Tuscola gets that, it might receive a total of \$2.75 million on a multi-year basis.

### Elkland oks farm pacts

The Elkland Township Board Monday evening approved granting of Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act contracts for property owned by two persons.

They were Robert Biebel, 390 acres in Sections 1 and 12, north and south of Bay City-Forestville Road, and a total of 220 acres in Sections 31 and 32, south of M-81, and 6, north of Bay City-Forestville, owned by Harland Lounsbury.

The contracts are between the property owner and the state, in which the owner agrees to retain the land for farming for a specified minimum number of years.

The board also approved participating in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation program, should Tuscola county apply and its application for funds be approved. (See above story.)

### Clarify Gilford road status

There were more than one person in favor of closing Gilford Road between Crawford and Lamton Roads, according to one of them, Carl Labisch.

The Chronicle incorrectly reported last week the only person to speak at the hearing in favor of closing it was the man who requested the township board ask the Road Commission to close it.

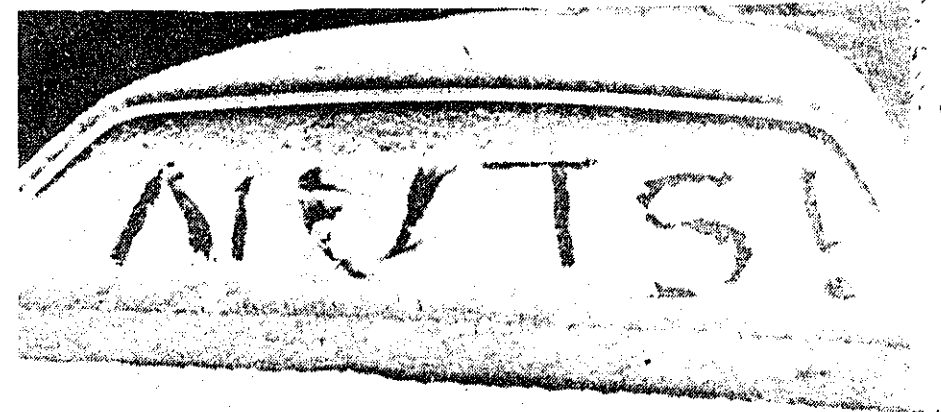
That was Earl Parker, who was at work at the time of the hearing.

Labisch and Fred Hicks, speaking in behalf of his father, Gerald Hicks, favored the closing, but withdrew their support after it was explained doing so would leave property owned by Maynard Venema landlocked.

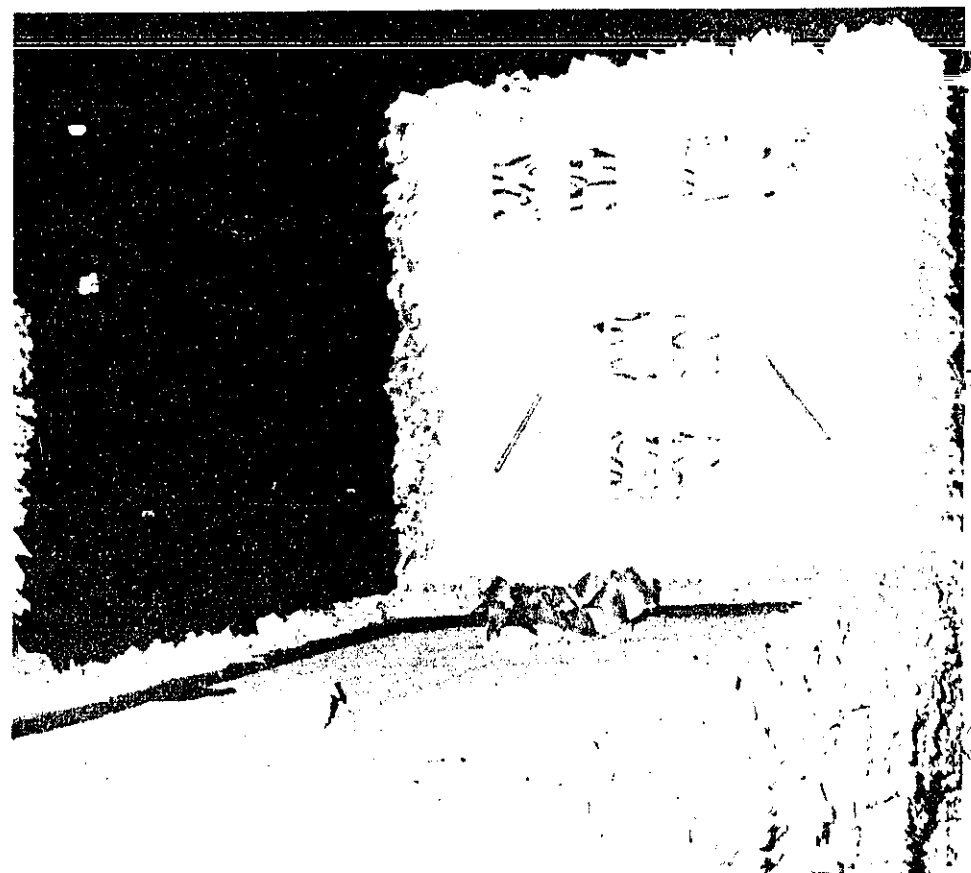
The reason he and the other property owners wanted the road closed, Labisch explained, was to keep out motorcycles and other off-road vehicles and persons who dump garbage on their property.



**EVERYONE KNEW** snow was coming eventually, but Oct. 14 was a bit early. For kids like Greg Mika, 10 (left) and brother Kevin, 6, snow anytime is a pleasurable experience, but the sentiment of most adults was expressed Tuesday in the writing on the car window below.



**BEST FLOAT** -- The junior class float was judged the best one in the Cass City High School homecoming parade Friday. Seniors took second.



**OWEN-GAGE HOMECOMING** -- The junior class float was judged the best one in homecoming activities Friday at Owen-Gage High School. The horizontal part was decorated like a pool table. The senior float was second; sophomores, third.

## AUCTION SALE

Located 3 miles north, 3/4 mile east of Bad Axe on Richardson Road on:

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18**

Commencing at 12:30 p.m. sharp B & C lunch wagon on the grounds

International 340 tractor with loader; International H tractor; Allis Chalmers C tractor narrow front; New Holland baler; New Holland mowing machine; 2 side rakes; IHC 50 ft. bale elevator; IHC plow for 2 point hitch; Oliver 2 bottom trailer plow; IHC 10 ft. disc; field cultivator; fence posts; cement mixer; extension ladder; quantity of plywood and paneling; quantity of tires; 400 bales of hay, more or less; jewelry wagon. Rupp snowmobile; 1964 Mercury car for parts; 1968 Dodge car for parts; 1970 Chevrolet pickup; 1966 Ford car. **HOUSEHOLD GOODS:** Frigidaire range; GE 15.6 cu. ft. refrigerator; Maytag washer; Zenith black and white TV; hide-a-bed; dinette set; roll-a-way bed; space heaters; electric fan; card table and chairs; Hoover vacuum cleaner; curtains; linens; pots, pans, garden tools; barbecue and tools; cooler, tent, lawn mower, many other items.

**Announcements made day of sale take preference over printed matter. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS AT SALE OR STOLEN ITEMS -- ALL SALES FINAL**

**TERMS:** Cash or checks with proper ID. Nothing removed until settled for. **CLERK:** Osentoski Auction Service

**ESTHER ZICK - PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ESTATE OF THEODORE STEINBIS**

**AUCTIONEERS:** Ira, David and Martin Osentoski, Phone Cass City 872-2352 or Bad Axe 269-9303



**BIG PUFF** -- Mary Ann Faust of 5906 Hadley Road found this big puffball growing in her back yard.

**6-MONTH  
MONEY MARKET  
CERTIFICATE**

Now Paying

**11.531%**

(Minimum \$10,000)

Federal regulation requires substantial interest penalty for deposit withdrawal before maturity.

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