

Rabbit tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Perhaps you caught the ad last week announcing Ed Baker's retirement from the electrical business after 50-plus years.

That's a long time to hold a "temporary job." Mrs. Baker recalls that when they were first in Cass City it was to be just a short while. They planned to move on.

Mrs. Baker also took a "temporary" job teaching school at Owendale for one year and stayed for more than a decade.

Besides running the successful business the Bakers have been a strong force in the community's social and civic endeavors.

We don't want to be tied down anymore, says Mrs. Baker, and that's why we are quitting.

Back in the days when the Chronicle used a cantankerous Intertype to produce type for the paper, Ed Baker spent many a night and early morning hours working on the machine so that the paper could meet its deadlines.

That story can be repeated by many of the businesses in town.

He'll be missed.

The school board passed a resolution by a 4-3 vote that said in part that any releases about the case that Mrs. Joyce Crouse may have with the school should come only from the Saginaw law firm hired by the board.

There's probably been a good deal of heat taken by members over this issue and it is understandable why Dr. E. Paul Lockwood, who introduced the motion, would like to see nothing about it in the media. If nothing were printed until the lawyer came up with a statement your right to know would of course be abridged.

But the issue won't go away. While there will be no announcements from the school, when the bills come pouring in from Mellinger and Mahiberg that's a public record and we'll pass the information on to you.

When the full board meets with the lawyers that's a meeting that is open to the press, according to the freedom of information act, and we'll be there for that, too.

I suppose it will be several days before the political pundits really get a handle on who "won" or "lost" the great debate Tuesday night.

I thought they both presented their cases well.

Ronald Reagan is certainly in his element in front of a television (or motion picture) camera.

The feeling that he is what his early record says he is and not what he says he is today persists and I'm just afraid to vote for the former governor.

President Carter will get my vote even though my political philosophy is closer to the Republicans than the Democrats. For me, some things override the pocketbook issue.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	58	20	trace
Thursday	56	33	0
Friday	60	36	0
Saturday	52	30	.13
Sunday	34	23	.01
Monday	47	24	0
Tuesday	40	16	0

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)

Re-Elect

NURSIE KLOC

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Novesta Township Clerk

NOVEMBER 4TH

Paid for by candidate.

The Caro

SUGAR BEET GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Urges You To

VOTE YES

For

Tuscola County Proposition I

IT WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR COUNTY TAXES

Paid for by the Caro Sugar Beet Growers Association.

Want Help Finding What You

Want? Try The Want-Ads Today!



A BIG PUMPKIN, 149½ pounds, was grown by Lynn Sorenson. Sitting behind it is his father, Harold Sorenson. Both live on E. Cass City Road, east of M-53.

Huron tries again for bridge millage

Close doesn't count, which is why Huron county voters will be asked for a second time to approve a 1-mill levy for five years for repair of bridges.

The measure was defeated in the Aug. 5 primary, 4,075-4,030, and with that close a margin, the county Road Commission asked the county Board of Commissioners to place it on the ballot again.

The one difference is that if the millage had been approved in August, the levy would have appeared for the first time on tax bills this December. If okayed this time, it won't be able to go on tax bills until December, 1981, so money won't start flowing to the Road Commission until 1982.

Based on the present state equalized valuation of Huron county, 1 mill would bring in about \$660,000 a year, but if any of the three statewide tax proposals should pass, Road Commission Director of Finance John Martin commented, "Who knows?" With present funding, the agency is replacing or rebuilding two or three bridges a year. If the millage passes, with \$560,000 or so a year, according to Martin, the pace should increase to six or seven bridges.

There is an "if" in that.

Present funding for bridges comes from the county board, which this year is contributing \$300,000, half in federal revenue sharing funds and half from the general fund (property taxes).

The Road Commission contributes a minimal amount in the form of engineering services, administration, etc.

It is assumed that if the millage passes, the county will still make its \$300,000 contribution, but that is a decision it must make each year.

Building six or seven bridges a year also depends on how much federal and state bridge money is received.

The Road Commission recently was notified it has received funding for replacement of a bridge north of Pigeon, which will cost an estimated \$162,000, but that is only one of 22 bridges for which it applied for funds.

Of the total cost, federal money pays 80 percent; the state, 10 percent, and the Road Commission, 10 percent.

Last year, Road Commission Engineer Robert Tufts studied the county's 131 bridges and rated 24 of them as in excellent condition, 22 good, 29 fair, 39 poor and 17 very poor.

The Haire Net



In the 200 plus years of the republic, the closest that United States citizens have come to a dictatorship probably was Richard M. Nixon.

Really, that wasn't close at all. Certainly not as close as he attempted to make it.

The legacy of individual freedom is the natural state of affairs here. The way it is, the way it always has been.

It's like a good job and good health. If both just fall into our laps, we tend to forget how great it is, how difficult life would be without them.

We're the only country that I can think of that hasn't been under the rule of a dictatorship under one name or another.

We're just a babe in arms when measured by history. 200 years is a mere nothing compared to the European countries or the East for that matter.

If history repeats itself, as many students suggest, our time is coming. We may not be old enough to have the wisdom or the interest to prevent it.

Maybe it's because the English, Germans, Italians, French, etc., have a totalitarian regime in their histories that they take more interest than we do in participating in deciding who will govern.

There may be doubt about the reason for the interest in elections. There is no doubt

about the greater participation.

Most of the European countries routinely record a turnout of 90 percent or better. Compare that to the 50 to 60 percent that vote in presidential elections here.

You don't have to look very hard to find voters who say that they probably won't vote this year because they don't like the choices. Or they forgot to register.

After the election the excuse will be they couldn't get away from their jobs. The lines were too long. Or they just plain forgot.

Whatever the reason, every election the result is the same. A little over half the voters make it to the polls.

Even the pocketbook issues fail to up the vote totals significantly.

Bringing it closer to home, consider Cass City School District millage elections.

It's a big turnout when over 1,000 voters go to the polls. That's not over a third of the persons who could vote if they were registered.

In the primary election in Tuscola county with hot local elections, about 31 percent of the registered voters were at the polls.

It's a shameful record. It's not likely to get any better.

About all that you and I can do about it is to see that we are one of the minority that does vote next Tuesday.



"If It Fitz..."

Human rights at home

By Jim Fitzgerald

My Cousin Al sent me a clipping from his hometown newspaper, the Lapeer County Press. Publisher-columnist Bob Myers wrote:

"This country makes a big stink about 'human rights' in faraway countries like Chile and Argentina. The first human right, especially to older people, is the right to live in peace, without constant fear. That's what civilization is all about. When cities like Flint and Detroit and Pontiac are as crime free as, let's say, Japan, we will have the right to preach about human rights elsewhere..."

Verily, Cousin Al was looking for an argument. He expected me to jump to the defense of the safe life in the big city where the art museum, theaters and Coney Island hold dogs make life a cultural ball. Al will be disappointed to learn he wasted his time.

Life for me, working and living downtown, is grand, and I enjoy it. But I also feel guilty about it. I see all the improvements made or planned downtown, and I worry about the neighborhoods. The big-shot investors get tax breaks from the city while living in the suburbs. The city peasants get head breaks from the crooks while trying to survive in housing projects crawling with dope dealers.

I hear regularly from people afraid to leave their homes. A typical quote, from a news story describing an east side neighborhood: "It's almost like being in jail without bars. Your freedom is limited, you have to watch your every step."

At the Oakman School, on Detroit's near west side, some physically handicapped fifth graders have been learning to type on electric typewriters because they're unable to operate manual typewriters. Burglars hit the school three week ends in a row, and six electric typewriters are now gone, along with other expensive equipment.

There is no insurance, which isn't unusual. Many Detroit schools can't buy theft insurance because there are too many thieves working their neighborhoods. The electric typewriters haven't been re-

placed, and some kids with muscular dystrophy won't learn to type.

(If you have an electric typewriter that could be more useful, phone Oakman Principal Mary Harms at 933-4457 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.)

Michael Chmielewski of Hamtramck went shopping at his neighborhood supermarket. He saw a man put two apples in his coat pocket to free his hands to carry cheese he was ordering from the delicatessen counter. It never occurred to Chmielewski that the man might be shoplifting, but a large-size store employee made the accusation. When the customer protested his innocence, claiming he'd intended to pay for the apples, the employee shoved him, and the customer began using a billy club.

"The club against the customer's head made a dull, wet thud sound, not the crack I expected," Chmielewski told me. "As the customer fell to the floor, hollering, the employee raised the club again. I turned my head away and heard a slightly wetter thud..." The customer climbed over a counter and ran to the parking lot where he collapsed.

Chmielewski phoned a report to police. "They told me to complain to the supermarket, as only the victim can file a complaint with police. I feel like a victim. Aren't we all victims when this happens?"

Yes. The older people trapped in their homes by fear are victims. The handicapped children without typewriters at Oakman School are victims. By-standers who sicken at the violence in a supermarket

are victims.

This time, Cousin Al is right, along with Publisher Myers. It is a human right "to live in peace, without constant fear." Until that human right is enjoyed in all our neighborhoods, the United States mounts a shaky pulpit when it preaches human rights to other nations, and our cities are guilty of blind gall when they brag about the shiny new buildings going up downtown.

Big cities like Detroit are festering with neighborhoods full of frightened people who can't find peace. Their human rights are being violated. When President Reagan have their big "debate" this week, neither one of them will say one word that will help these frightened people.

Historical Society

The October meeting of the Cass City Historical Society was held Monday night at the Cultural Center.

There were approximately 20 persons in attendance. The program centered around antique guns and a talk given by Jerry Cleland.

The guns ranged from the period of the American Revolution to the late 1880s, including muzzle loaders, repeaters, and hand guns.

A few guns were brought in by other members of the society including one that belonged to Travis Leach.

The historical marker for the Cultural Center has arrived and is paid for.

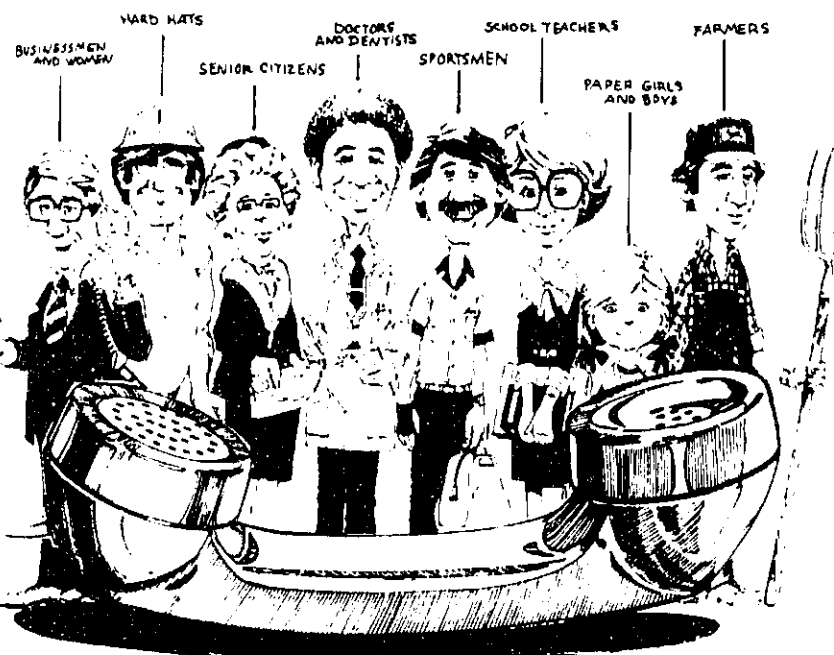
Dedication plans are being set for July 4, 1981 which will also mark the centennial of the Great Fire of 1881.

A YES VOTE FOR TUSCOLA COUNTY PROPOSITION I

will assure local matching funds for state and federal grants for bridge construction.

Paid for by Tuscola County Proposition I Committee.

WHY DO PEOPLE PAY THEIR BILLS BY TELEPHONE?



BECAUSE THERE'S NO EASIER WAY!

BECAUSE TEL-CHECK HAS SO MANY ADVANTAGES! With Mutual's convenient Tel-Check System there are no checks to write or mail—and Mutual pays you 5½% interest compounded daily on your Tel-Check balance. (Ask your bank if they'll do that.)

BECAUSE TEL-CHECK COSTS SO LITTLE! As a matter of fact, Tel-Check ser-

vices can be completely free (subject to certain requirements).

BECAUSE TEL-CHECK IS READILY AVAILABLE! Mutual's Tel-Check System is at work 24 hours a day and never takes a day off. And, you can give Tel-Check a transaction date up to 30 days in advance and the System takes care of those payments.

BECAUSE TEL-CHECK IS THE WAY TO MAINTAIN COMPLETE AND ACCURATE RECORDS! Each month you receive a detailed statement clearly showing every transaction you made during the statement period.

IT'S ABOUT TIME (AND MONEY) YOU PUT TEL-CHECK TO WORK!

25 convenient mid-Michigan locations including:

CASS CITY
6241 Main Street
872-2105
Linda Gaymer, Manager

MUTUAL SAVINGS TEL-CHECK

Takes the hassle out of paying bills.