

Assessment test scores

Mrs. Crouse with draws complaint against board

There was good news for members of the Cass City Board of Education and members of the district Monday night at the regular meeting of the board at the high school.

After several months of controversy over the hiring of Mrs. Joyce Crouse that split the board, the issue was settled without cost to the taxpayers.

In addition, it was revealed that the scores of the Michigan Assessment tests were up as a result of more emphasis by the school in preparing for the tests.

In a letter to Board President Geraldine Prieskorn, Mrs. Crouse castigated several members of the board (not named) for acting in a way not in the best interest of the kids.

In the letter she said she was withdrawing her complaint with the Civil Rights Commission to save the district a costly law suit. The letter was accepted and placed on file. In the vote J.D. Tuckey voted no. He has been for signing an apology to Mrs. Crouse.

While the issue with Mrs. Crouse has been settled, the board still must wrestle with a policy concerning employment of relatives of administrators or board members as teachers or long term substitutes.

The issue was referred to the personnel committee which meets Tuesday, Nov. 18.

Wednesday, Nov. 19, the findings of the committee will be presented to the board at a special meeting.

At least one board member, Dr. E. Paul Lockwood, feels that this is not enough time to study the question and come up with a policy.

There is some urgency in the situation because a sick leave for Jacquie Zawilinski was granted and the post will have to be filled, probably in January. A substitute could be a relative of a board member.

The basic problem that the board will have to solve is how deeply involved the board will become in the selection of personnel.

In the past the board has routinely approved the selection of the administration. Since the hassle over the hiring of Mrs. Crouse no clear line of authority now exists.

TEST SCORES

Guidance Counselor Jerry Cleland presented the results of the State Assessment Tests. They were sharply higher when compared to last year's state averages than they were in

1979.

The reason for this, Cleland and Principal Bob Stickle said, was that the teachers were instructed to gear the study to the test to a greater degree than they did previously. The change in procedure was adopted after the board was critical of last year's below state average results.

After discussion the board instructed the administration to continue the same efforts this year.

READING—4th GRADE

	Cass City	State
1980	78.8	NA
1979	75.2	70.3
1978	78.8	62.4
1977	64.0	60.5
1976	62.7	55.4
1975	54.5	51.4

MATH—4th GRADE

	Cass City	State
1980	82.8	NA
1979	87.9	86.3
1978	94.7	79.1
1977	85.3	76.8
1976	90.0	79.3
1975	87.2	77.2

READING—7th GRADE

	Cass City	State
1980	81.0	NA
1979	64.4	73.3
1978	72.2	67.3
1977	67.7	65.7
1976	57.4	55.6
1975	61.5	56.6

MATH—7th GRADE

	Cass City	State
1980	70.4	NA
1979	45.6	56.0
1978	50.9	49.2
1977	47.7	46.6
1976	56.3	53.0
1975	62.0	55.7

READING—10th GRADE

	Cass City	State
1980	65.4	NA
1979	58.6	62.1
1978	59.5	61.0
1977	62.9	55.4

MATH—10th GRADE

	Cass City	State
1980	51.3	NA
1979	44.5	52.8
1978	45.8	51.0
1977	54.0	43.9

The percentage indicates the number of students who achieved 75 percent of the objectives of the tests.

BIDS RECEIVED

Bids were accepted for the sale of bus tires and a bus. The bus was sold to the high bidder, Eugene Kritzman of Snover, for \$476. There were two bids.

Eight of 21 used bus tires were sold. Four tires went to Joe Viney and four were sold to Roy Powell. The remaining tires will be rebid.

Hunt Construction was hired for snow removal at the school for the 1980-81 school years. Rates this year are: 4-cubic foot bucket, \$45 per hour, up \$10 from 1979-80; 2½-cubic foot bucket, \$33 per hour, up \$8, and grader, \$35 per hour, up \$7.

In other business the board okayed the attendance of one principal per year to an out-of-state convention. This year Bob Stickle will go to Atlanta.

The Michigan employment Relations Commission has dismissed the complaint submitted by the Operating Engineers (union at the school) for Ron Sieradzki. Sieradzki had claimed that he should have had a full time job as custodian in place of another person hired.

Kathleen O'Donnell wrote a letter outlining why she felt that her salary was not adequate for her work as director of the continuing education department. It was referred to the personnel committee.

24 charged in Tuscola

Big 'drug bust' only a start, law enforcement officials say

The 24 persons charged in Tuscola county last week with delivery of various illegal drugs represent only the tip of the iceberg, according to sheriff's department detective Larry Walker.

"We haven't even touched it," he said of the problem. Twenty-eight warrants were issued last Wednesday, along with 42 in Lapeer county.

It is the largest "drug bust" in Tuscola county history.

As of Monday, 22 persons had been arrested in Tuscola, with three of them having two warrants issued against them. Two warrants were to be served on one of the two persons still to be arrested. Two persons arrested were from Cass City.

According to Tuscola County Prosecutor Artis Noel, he and Lapeer county Prosecutor Earl Morgan began discussing the possibility of a joint anti-drug effort in fall of last year. There were people who felt "nothing was being done" about drug trafficking in the two counties, he explained. "One of our objectives was to get

the drugs out of the schools."

The formal two-county effort began in May, with Walker heading the Tuscola unit within the sheriff's department and Tom Fischhaber, director of the intelligence unit of the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department, heading that end of the operation.

In order to charge anyone with delivery of a controlled substance, Noel explained, it is necessary for an undercover officer to buy the substance from the person.

Buys were made in such places as bars and streets. None was made in schools.

FINDING SOMEONE TO buy from and making the buy were only the first steps. Drug dealers don't hand out business cards listing their name and address.

Determining who the sellers were, Walker said, was done by such means as tracing vehicle license numbers and poring through high school yearbooks.

Although the undercover officers stayed out of schools, he said investigators are sure some of those arrested were selling to students, though not

necessarily in school.

According to the prosecutor, those doing the selling "pretty much operated on an individual basis." There was no organized large-scale drug ring in the county.

Some sellers were doing it as a means to supplement their income, Walker indicated, and some did it as a full-time business.

MAKING THE BUYS and paying other expenses required money, which was appropriated by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners. Noel gave special praise to Commissioners Paul Nagy of Vassar, the board chairman, and Ken Kennedy of Millington, the finance committee chairman, for getting the appropriation approved.

The prosecutor declined to say how much the operation cost, only that, "It was not as expensive as you would think."

The anti-drug operation will continue, Noel said. "Hopefully, this is the first step in trying to keep drugs off the streets."

According to the individual criminal warrants, the drug buys were made between May 13 and Oct. 23.

Arrests began Wednesday afternoon, with drugs being confiscated in some instances.

Arrests were made all at once, Noel explained, to avoid prematurely exposing the undercover officers. "You'd put him in jeopardy." If arrests had been made as buys were made,

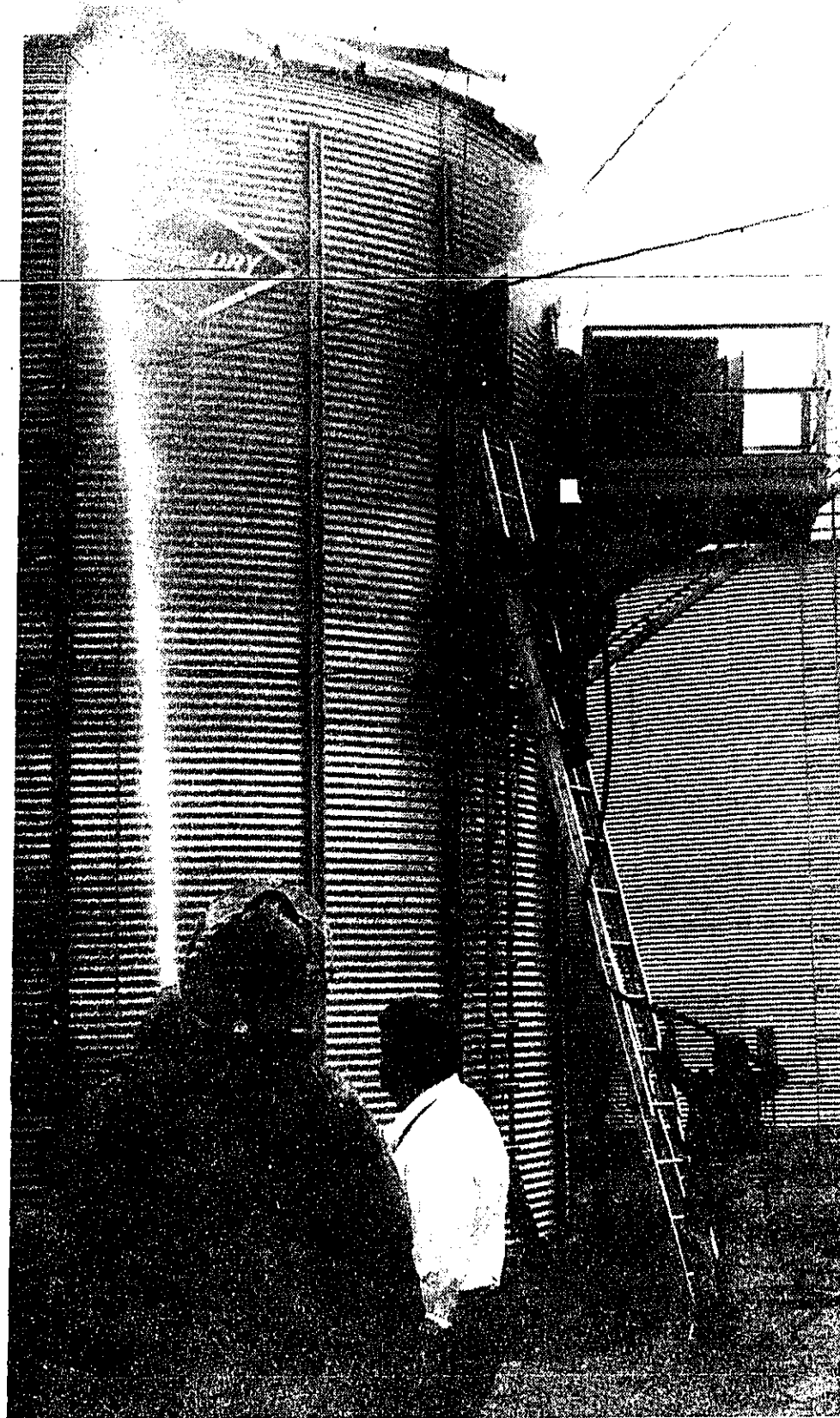
the officers would soon be known.

Conviction for delivery of marijuana carries a maximum sentence of four years in prison. Delivery of the other drugs involved carries a maximum of seven years.

THOSE ARRESTED WHO were arraigned Monday before District Judge Richard F. Kern are as follows. Preliminary examinations for all were scheduled Nov. 17, with preliminary examinations Nov. 21 or Dec. 5. Bonds range from \$3,000-5,000. Locations where buy was made is listed in parentheses:

Marcus E. Bradley, 26, Phillips Road, Cass City, delivery of marijuana

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GRAIN BIN FIRE -- The fire in the storage bin on the Arnold Broecker farm was in its early stages, shown here, with firemen pouring water inside, before the decision was made to try to empty the bin of its almost 9,000 bushels of sunflower seeds. Smoke is coming through the door above the ladder and from the dryer, top right, which started the fire.

Dryer bin fire loss more than \$50,000

It was a long day for Elkland township firemen Friday as they spent more than nine hours fighting a grain bin fire in Evergreen township.

Loss to the bin and contents, sunflower seeds, was more than \$50,000.

The combination dryer and bin was on the Arnold Broecker farm on Hadley Road, south of Deckerville Road.

According to his son, John, the cause "was a malfunction in the dryer, as far as I can see."

Storage capacity of the bin was 9,000 bushels. It was loaded almost to capacity, Arnold Broecker said.

Elkland firemen received the call at 12:28 p.m. The Lamotte Township Fire Department was called at the same time.

Sunflower seeds are highly flammable because of a fine fuzz on the surface and because of the oil they contain.

After spraying water into the bin, the decision was made to empty it.

According to fireman Chuck Hughes who was at the scene the entire time, after four truckloads were removed and dumped, the seeds still inside clogged.

All the vents at the top were opened and more water was poured inside. To get closer to the top with the hose, a 24-foot ladder was used, stuck in the raised front-end bucket of a tractor.

That was somewhat futile,

so after 5 p.m., the Caro Fire Department was asked to bring its 65-foot aerial ladder and a tanker.

The Kingston Fire Department was also contacted at that time and responded with a pumper and a tanker.

"We more or less drowned it," Hughes said in explaining how the fire was finally extinguished. There was about 26,000 gallons of water used.

Firemen left about 10 p.m. Value of the sunflower seeds lost was set at \$35,640. The dryer and bin were worth about \$26,000, John Broecker said. It wasn't immediately known whether any part of the bin would be reusable.

The bin and its contents were insured, according to Broecker.

O-G board oks teacher pact; crucial court hearing Monday

The Owendale-Gagetown Board of Education Monday evening gave conditional approval to a three-year contract with its teachers.

That was preceded by news that payless paydays will probably start Dec. 5 and a warning by Supt. Ronald Erickson that should the district lose the property transfer case now before the Michigan Supreme Court, "we go down the tubes," possibly by the end of the current school year.

The justices of the state's highest court will hear oral arguments in the Goslin property transfer case Monday in Lansing.

Tentative agreement between the superintendent and the Tri-County Bargaining Association on a three-

year contract was reached last Thursday. The pact will cover the current school year and the next two.

Details won't be released until it has been approved by both sides.

The board gave its preliminary approval following a 1½-hour executive session. Official approval is contingent, members decided, on the teachers agreeing to accept an additional paragraph.

The paragraph says that should Owen-Gage lose either 10 percent of its revenue or 10 percent of its state equalized valuation, the board can notify the teacher union it is terminating the contract for the second and/or third year. The final year

or years would then be renegotiated.

The reason for the desired addition, Erickson explained, is that should an adverse Supreme Court ruling result in loss of a large amount of territory from the district, and hence of property tax revenue, renegotiating the contract might enable the district to avoid laying off teachers by instead reducing salaries.

Owen-Gage Education Association President Manuel Thies said if the TCBA bargaining council approves the contract this Thursday, the teachers might have the contract by Monday of next week. Once they get it, they must have it at least five days before voting on it, which means the earliest

they might vote will be Monday, Nov. 24.

The board decided it will meet the day after teachers vote -- provided teachers approve it -- to give its official okay to the pact.

SUPREME COURT

The high court will hear oral arguments in the Goslin case Monday. It may be several months before it makes a decision.

Erickson predicted Owen-Gage will lose its 10 percent argument -- that once more than 10 percent of the original school district has been transferred away, all subsequent property transfers must be approved by a vote of the people -- but it might win on its contention that the

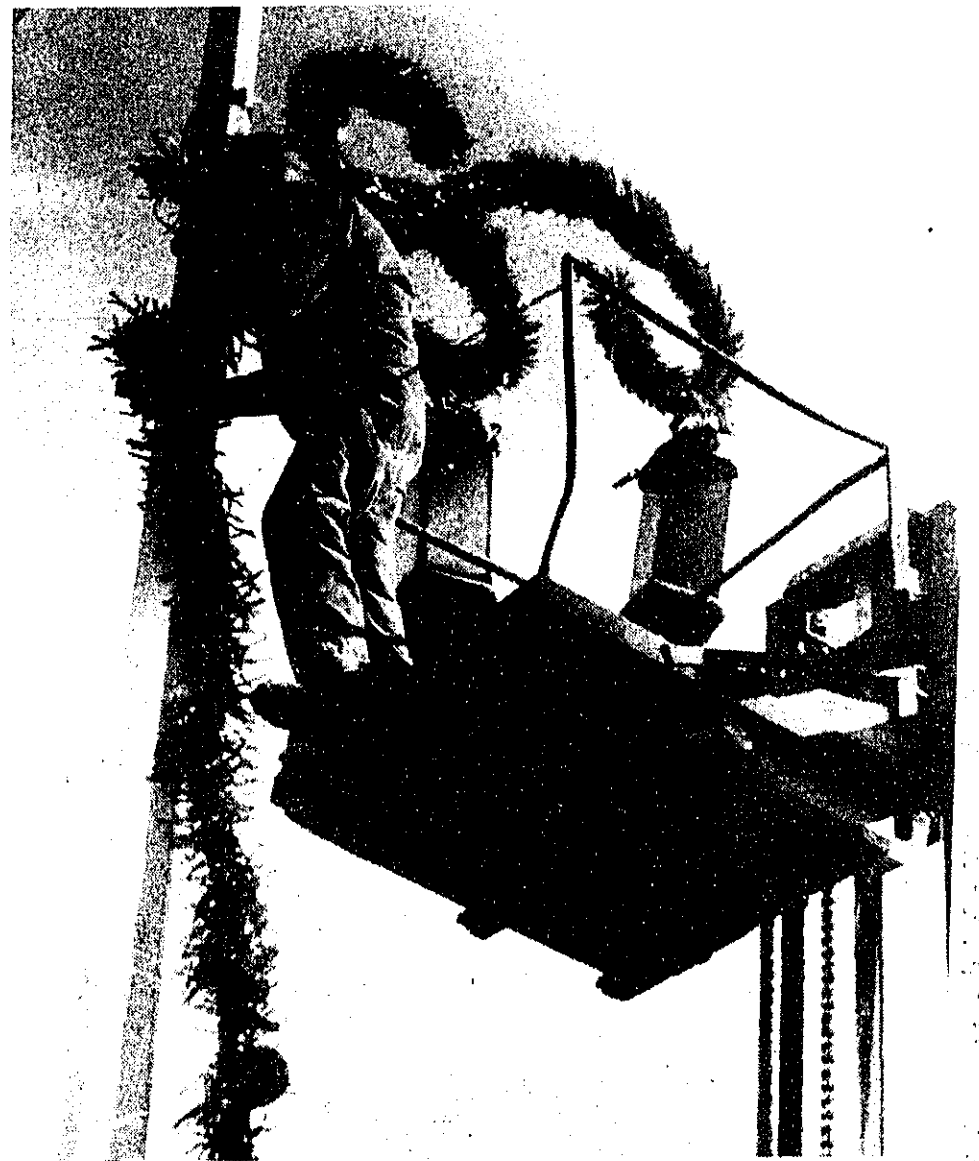
state Board of Education acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner in approving the Goslin transfer to the Cass City district in 1976.

Even if Owen-Gage wins the latter argument, the Supreme Court might simply remand the transfer case back to the state board for a rehearing.

Should the district lose, he warned, "There are no more rabbits after this one (to pull out of a hat). This is a very serious decision."

Losing the case, he explained, would put the district immediately in the red \$170,000, and clear the way for the state board to approve additional property

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A SURE SIGN of approaching winter is hanging of Christmas decorations in downtown Cass City. Performing the aerial portion of the task, with other workers on the ground, was village employee Joe Gruber.