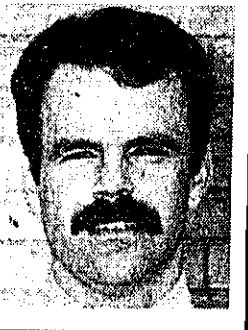


## PEDALING AROUND Batteries not included

By Mike Eliasohn



"Santa, Santa," the Chief Elf exclaimed, as he ran up to Old St. Nick. "We've got big troubles."

"Ho, ho, ho," replied Santa. "Nothing can be that bad."

"Oh, yes it can," the Chief Elf responded. "Here it is, Dec. 24, and we were getting the toys ready to be loaded into your sleigh, when we discovered the mistake."

"What mistake?" asked Santa, who had stopped ho, ho, ho-ing.

"The batteries are dead. The batteries are dead," gasped the still out of breath Chief Elf.

"What happened?" Santa queried.

"All the batteries we have stockpiled during the past year," the Chief Elf explained. "They would have worked fine if they had been kept in a warm place, but Elf Bimbo put them all in one of the unheated storage buildings. Cold storage is okay for Monopoly sets and Slinky toys, but not for batteries. When it got cold, all the batteries went dead."

"And that means..."

Santa said, leaving the sentence unfinished.

"That means," the Chief Elf said, "almost all children won't have any toys for Christmas."

"The only non-electric toys we had were going to Amish children in Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania—they don't have electricity, you know—and children with alternative lifestyle parents who don't believe in having electricity, who want to live like the pioneers. There aren't too many of them."

"The other 99.44 percent were all going to get toys that needed batteries. Electronic football games, war

games, race car sets, dolls that talk and dolls that wet their pants at the push of a button.

"But without batteries, those toys are useless."

"We can't give out footballs. Nobody plays that game outside with a ball these days, when they can play it indoors by pushing buttons. And what good is a doll that doesn't do anything? And besides, we don't even have the plans any more for how to make footballs and dolls that don't do anything."

"All our master craftsmen elves who knew how are either too old and senile to remember or they have died."

"Christmas is ruined."

Santa was momentarily silent, sighed, then finally spoke. "I'm afraid you're right, Chief Elf. If we had known earlier, we would have had time to do something. But it's too late now. A toy without a battery is worse than no toy at all. After hundreds of years of bringing smiles to children all over the world on Christmas day, I'm afraid this year, there will be no Christmas. It makes me very sad."

"I could have had Mrs. Claus bake fortune cookies with a note inside. 'Batteries not included,' or, 'Christmas has been cancelled this year only,' but there's no time."

"Call Walter Cronkite for me, would you, Chief Elf. He's the only man in America people will believe when he announces. There will be no Christmas."

"It's sad, very sad, but that's the way it is."

Keep a smile on your face—it will unnerve your enemies.



SANTA CLAUS came to Cass City Friday and among the first youngsters telling him what they wanted for Christmas were, from left, Holly Coryell, 6, Jeff Doerr, 6, and Arthur Coryell, 7. Santa's hours in his little building at Seeger and Main Streets are 7-9 p.m. Fridays and 2-4 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 20.

## Rash of thefts in Kingston area all related, police feel

Law enforcement officials last week investigated several break-ins and thefts, most in the Kingston area and most involving loss of tools.

The sheriff's department was called to investigate three the morning of Nov. 24, all having occurred the previous afternoon or night. It is believed all were committed by the same person or persons.

The greatest loss was that of Frank J. Wolak of 3021 Clothier Road.

Taken from his tool shed were a tool chest containing miscellaneous hand tools and wrench sockets, worth a total of \$1,500, and two chain saws, worth a total of \$410.

Taken from the tool shed of Fred Ruggles of 5721 E. Sanilac Road, was a tool box with miscellaneous tools, worth an estimated \$1,500; a hand grinder, \$70, and chain saw, \$150. The shed had been locked.

Taken from the business place of James L. Parker of 3525 Clothier Road were an 8-ton hydraulic jack, set of metric and American wrench sockets, screw driver set and pipe wrenches, worth a total of \$600. The door to the building had been pried open.

Charlotte Fisher of M-46, Wells township, reported to Caro state police Nov. 24 that two pole barns on her property had been broken into, and an attempt had been made to get into a garage.

Taken from a travel trailer stored in one of the barns was a shotgun, \$50.

and television, \$100. The trailer and items belonged to her father.

Damage to the barn and trailer doors done by the bandits was estimated at \$150. The break-ins occurred after 7 p.m. Nov. 23.

Larry Merchant of 5599 Schwegler Road reported to deputies Friday morning that his tool shed had been entered some time after 11 p.m. Thursday.

Taken from the shed or two tractors, a car and a pickup parked inside were various hand and power tools, including a tool chest with tools inside, worth an estimated \$1,000.

A nearby tool shed, owned by someone else, was broken into about the same time, but no police report was available Tuesday.

Larry Ziehm of 6221 Green Road, Gageton, reported to deputies last Wednesday afternoon that someone had taken a Remington shotgun worth \$200 and snowmobile suit, \$60, from his pickup, which had been parked overnight in a field off Dale Road in Elmwood township.

Damage was estimated at \$50 to the citizens band radio, which was damaged when the thieves tried to remove it from the pickup.

Cass City police were

called to the Thumb Area Commodity Cooperative elevator south of town Monday to investigate the theft of corn between noon Saturday and 7 a.m. Monday. The matter was turned over to the sheriff's department for further investigation.

Ray Deering, owner of The Station on Main Street, reported to village police last Wednesday night that a person had broken the glass on an electronic game, the loss being over \$100.

The person accused denied breaking the glass, but witnesses said otherwise.

A warrant may be sought, charging the person with malicious destruction of property over \$100.

Lawrence Smith of 6359 Houghton Street told village police Monday that a hit and run vehicle had damaged his car some time since Nov. 20. Damage, consisting of a dent and scratched paint, was estimated at \$90.

Belinda Messer of 4505 Hadley Road reported to Cass City police Saturday that her purse was stolen from her pickup that evening while it was parked behind the taverns on Main Street.

The contents were found the next day on West Street, including her wallet, but the purse was still missing.

Coming Auction

Saturday, Dec. 13 - Archie and Linda Weller will hold an auction of farm machinery, household goods and real estate, located four miles west and 1/4 south of Cass City on Cedar Run Rd. Osentoski Auction Service.

## Arrest Cook after high speed chase

Michael E. Cook, 34, of 6275 Robinson Road, Cass City, faces three charges as the aftermath of a Nov. 24 police chase at speeds up to 100 miles per hour.

He is scheduled to be arraigned Monday before District Judge Richard F. Kern on charges of attempted fleeing and eluding a police officer, driving under the influence of liquor and a controlled substance, and reckless driving. He is presently free on \$250 bond, having been released from the county jail the day after his arrest.

The incident began at the Wildwood Farms restaurant and bar on M-53, south of M-81, when Sanilac county deputies were called regarding a man threatening persons with a gun.

Tuscola county deputies were then called as back-up. The complainant, who later declined to press charges, told Tuscola deputies he and his girlfriend and the suspect and his wife had gone to the Wildwood together.

A fight started concerning advances supposedly made by the suspect toward the girlfriend.

The suspect and his wife then left, but he later return-

ed, armed with a hand gun, and forced the complainant into his (the suspect's) pickup.

They drove to Gageton, where the suspect told his passenger to stay in the truck while he went into a house. The man fled and hid in a field until the suspect left.

Cass City police received a "be on the lookout" alert on the radio at 10:30 p.m. after the man was reported to have left Gageton.

Just as officers Ken Schott, the driver, and Phil Klaus pulled their car into the Cass City High School lot, in case the man drove by, they saw the pickup, eastbound on Milligan, cross Cemetery Road without stopping.

The officers gave chase, at speeds up to 100 mph, as the car turned right on Schwegler Road and left on M-81.

The two sheriff's departments were notified of the chase in progress and a Sanilac patrol car partially blocked the M-53 - M-81 intersection, with its overhead lights flashing.

The driver of the pursued pickup stopped his vehicle just west of the intersection and surrendered.

Phone 872-2522

# CASS CITY

Thursday thru Sunday (4 Days)  
Dec. 4 - 5 - 6 - 7

FIRST THUMB AREA SHOWING  
THURSDAY "BARGAIN NITE" - 8:00 Only  
Fri.-Sat.-Sun. 7:30 & 9:20 (Reg. Price)

College Students Having A New Years Eve Party Aboard A Train, With A Killer Stalking Amongst Them - This Thriller Is Not For Children.

ALL ABOARD... IF YOU DARE!

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SOME WILL LIVE.  
SOME WILL DIE.

## TERROR TRAIN

HAROLD GREENBERG AND SANDY HOWARD PRESENT  
BEN JOHNSON • JAMIE LEE CURTIS

Happy Holiday Gifting

## Valley Pool Tables

Available Now For Christmas

One Piece  
\*Solid Slate Top

\*Includes Balls  
Cue Sticks  
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Rack

\*Available in 7', 7 1/2' & 8'

Can Be Set Up In 15 Minutes

11 1/2 miles SW of Cass City on M-81, turn left by Colwood Rd. on Tomlinson Rd.; 1/2 mile down.

## BARGAIN CENTER FURNITURE

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.  
Fri. till 9 p.m., Sat. till 4 p.m.

2249 Tomlinson Road Caro Ph. 673-2480

## Sewer and water rates to go up

Continued from page one

chamber.

The bingo game may be run by St. Pancratius Catholic church, which runs weekly games at the church hall, with a portion of the proceeds going to the chamber.

Councilman Richard Hampshire complained that First Michigan Cablevision which raised the basic monthly rate from \$7 to \$8, as the council had authorized in August, 1979, once improvements had been made, had raised the charge for each additional television outlet from 50 cents per month to \$2.

It appears the charge for additional outlets was ignored in the council action, but an inquiry will be made.

A resolution authorizing the annexation of Mary Wilding's property on the south side of Seventh Street was approved. The parcel measures 66-by-132 feet. The county Board of Commissioners must now approve the annexation.

STRAND - CARO  
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TWO ADMITTED FOR \$2.50 ON MON. & TUES. COME & SAVE!

SUN., 2:30 till 6:00 ADULTS...\$1.50

The One You Have Been Waiting To See

FRI. thru THURS. DECEMBER 5-11  
FRI. and SAT. FEATURE @ 7:44 - 9:47  
SUNDAY FEATURE @ 3:09-5:12-7:15-9:18  
MON. thru THURS. FEATURE @ 7:39 - 9:42

That's right. I made another movie. You know me. I can't stop creating.

## OH, GOD! BOOK II

PG

SATURDAY DEC. 6...CARO MERCHANTS  
FREE KIDDIE MATINEE...2:00 P.M.  
SEE: "THE YELLOW SUBMARINE"

Christmas Savings

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CHAMPION

QUILTED VEST  
Terrific gift idea New western styling  
100% nylon with 5 1/2 oz. Dacron® HoloFill® 808  
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AM-FM STEREO RADIO & CASSETTE

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Both vertical and horizontal mount  
4 1/2" deep chassis in-dash installation

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Covers repairs for many popular 1973-79 import cars, light trucks

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Step by step instructions for repairing U.S. cars since 1974. Thousands of crisp clear illustrations. Sug. List \$15.95

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Solid state For all ignition systems, standard or electronic. 4, 6, or 8 cyl. and rotary engines. Lighted. Mounts on or under dash. International dial. Reads 0-8000 rpm. 90 sweep. Handsome black case. Complete with hardware, connections, instructions

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MINI FM CONVERTER  
Converts any AM radio to FM  
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AUDIOVOX **16.99**

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PORTABLE CAR RAMPS  
Make oil and filter changes and lube jobs easy. 4,500 lb. capacity per pair with 6,500 GVW.

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Every CARQUEST special is a bona fide offer. If we sell out of an advertised item or fail to receive the merchandise, we will issue a "raincheck" entitling you to the sale price. Rainchecks do not apply to items stated as being in limited quantity. We reserve the right to substitute items of equal or better value in the event that our stocks of advertised specials become depleted.

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