

# Merry Christmas

Springport Bindery  
(Rawson Library)  
Springport, MI  
49284

Dec. 80

From all of us at the Chronicle

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## CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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SECTION 1

Twenty-five Cents

TWENTY-FOUR PAGES

### Drink up — no chlorine needed

Have a drink — of water. Cass Cityans who read or heard last week about a report linking chlorine in drinking water to several types of cancer need not be alarmed. The village's water supply isn't chlorinated because it doesn't have to be.

Even persons living in communities which do use chlorine shouldn't be alarmed. Officials of the Environmental Protection Agency, which sets drinking water standards for the nation, said the new study does not alter their position that the benefits of chlorine far outweigh the risk. "Chlorine is a very effective disinfectant. It has saved countless thousands of lives," said Dr. Joseph Cotruvo of the EPA.

Chlorine is used, according to village Supt. Lou LaPonsie, in communities where water comes from rivers, lakes and streams. The chemical is used to kill bacteria and other disease carrying organisms.

Cass City's water comes from deep wells, which doesn't have bacteria, thus doesn't need chlorine.

The water still must be sampled regularly, however, with samples sent to the Michigan Department of Public Health for testing.

Samples are not only drawn at the well, LaPonsie said, but also throughout the community, from homes, restaurants and businesses. No problems have been found, he said.

The report released last week by the President's Council on Environmental Quality found that death statistics in five states provided evidence of a link between rectal, colon and bladder cancer and chlorinated water.

The researchers conceded, however, that their study did not take into account other factors that can alter cancer death rates, including smoking and diet.

### Gagetown chief injured at fire

Elmwood-Gagetown Fire Chief Chuck Wright was injured at a barn fire on Jodge Road Saturday night. Damage to the unused barn, owner of which was not immediately determined, was estimated at only \$300, as firemen were able to quickly extinguish the flames.

Firemen received the call at 8:33 p.m. The barn was about 1½ miles north of -81.

As the tanker was backing up at the scene of the fire, Wright said, the brakes failed, and his left leg between his hip and knee was pinned between the tanker



LLOYD AND DELORES DAMM and their children. From left, Mark, 3, Paul, 9, Andrea, 9, and Maelin, 7. The family lives at Hoppe and Jacob Roads, near Gagetown.

### Damms adopt 4

## Christians inspired to share home with kids

Lloyd Damm was the third oldest of 13 children. His wife, Delores, was the oldest of 11.

It therefore is understandable that they like children. They have four of their own.

But there is a difference: Mr. and Mrs. Damm are white. Their four children all had at least one parent who was black.

Paul and Andrea (pronounced aan-dray, he's a he), both 9, Maelin, 7, and Mark, 3, are adopted.

Mr. and Mrs. Damm, 46 and 41 respectively, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary Dec. 3. Their home is at the corner of Hoppe and Jacob Roads, southwest of Gagetown.

Paul was the first child they adopted. He arrived Feb. 4, 1972, when he was 2½ months old.

Before that, Mrs. Damm said, "The Lord led me to Holbrook Baptist church in 1971, and I was saved."

Not too long after that, in answer to their prayers, she and her husband received word that they could adopt Paul. "Before that, I could pray and my prayers bounced off the ceiling."

Andrea came next, 18 months later. Ironically, he was born 11 days after Paul.

Two children were going to be it, but Mrs. Damm received inspiration in church that they should

adopt another baby and when they saw Mark for the first time, "you're not about to turn him down." He arrived in May, 1978.

THEIR THREE SONS, all born in Detroit, were adopted through the Lutheran children's agency in Detroit, as was Maelin, the girl of the family.

She was born in Korea. Her father was a black American, her mother, Korean.

She arrived at the Damm home May 31 of this year. She had been in the United States a year, but the relationship with her first adoptive parents didn't work out.

Being somewhat quiet, she doesn't talk much, but when she does, she speaks excellent English. She can't say and her new parents don't know whether she learned to speak so well in Korea or after she came to the United States.

"She's adjusted real well," her mother said. "She makes friends real easy."

Maelin is in the first grade at Gagetown Elementary School. Andrea is in third and Paul is in fourth.

IN THE UPPER THUMB, black persons are almost as rare as cotton plants or sugar cane. So why adopt black kids into a lily white environment?

Mrs. Damm feels the Lord intervened, in helping her

and her husband make the choice they did.

Healthy white children have no trouble getting adopted, but that's not the case with black ones, she said. "They want perfect blond, blue-eyed babies, and that's why there are people (unwanted minority children) in orphanages."

She also feels people need to put less emphasis on material goods and more on children. If people weren't interested in fancy cars and stereo sets, she said, "there wouldn't be kids in orphanages."

According to Paul, he and Andrea did encounter some prejudice from other children when they first started school, but that is past and they are now accepted like anyone else.

IN ADDITION TO FOUR children and two adults, the Damm household includes four dogs, three cats, two parakeets, one rabbit and a horse, and Maelin would like a cat of her own for Christmas.

Lloyd Damm, who prefers to let his wife do most of the talking, describes his role simply as, "I have to earn the money."

He has worked for 16 years at the Chevrolet foundry in Saginaw and, with so many mouths to feed, he fortunately has never been laid off.

With four children, their

home is getting a bit crowded so the couple is planning to buy a bigger one in Gagetown, if they can sell their present one.

The two oldest boys are in Cub Scouts and are on the quiz team at the Holbrook church. Maelin is in the Brownies. The three are all taking piano lessons.

COUPLES INTERESTED in adopting a child, Mrs. Damm explained, have various options. Many religious denominations operate adoption agencies, though some require the child to be raised in that particular denomination. The county Department of Social Services is another avenue.

There is a special need now, for adopting of older children.

For the first year the child is in the home, before the adoption is finalized, the adoption worker visits the home once every three months. The only circumstances in which the child is removed are if he or she is being abused or if the parents decide they don't want the child.

With four kids now, it would be understandable if Mr. and Mrs. Damm were content with raising their present family.

They are, but there could be a fifth. "She," said Mrs. Damm, looking at Maelin, "doesn't like being the only girl."

## Health agencies need cash to stay healthy

Will residents of the Tuscola County Medical Care Facility be put out on the

lawn?

Will persons in need of home health care from county Health Department nurses not get it?

Will persons in need of counseling from the County Community Mental Health Services not get it?

The money for such services has to come from somewhere, and that is the problem facing the administrators of the three county health and health care agencies.

The three receive a large amount of their funds from the state and that is part of their problem, because the state is cutting spending to cope with declining revenues.

But they also get a lot of money from county coffers, and the 1981 county budget, which county commissioners were to have approved Tuesday, promises to be very tight, with almost no money for emergencies.

The Tuscola County Health Department, accord-

ing to Health Officer John Niederhauser, received 20 percent of its funds this year from the state and in 1981, under state law, the percentage was supposed to go to 30 percent, increasing by 10 percent each year until the state provided half the revenue, with the rest coming from the county.

Instead, he is expecting only 12 percent from the state, which means a loss of about \$50,000 to his department.

Instead of a 1981 budget of \$487,000, not including grants for specific programs, Niederhauser is anticipating a budget of from \$400,000-440,000.

Included in the revenue he is expecting is continuation of the \$175,000 received from the county board this year in federal revenue sharing

I WILL BE at the Cass City State Bank Friday, Dec. 26, to collect township taxes. Elkland township treasurer.

funds, all of which went for the home nursing program. (An additional \$205,000 will come from the county's general fund to fund overall department programs.)

The county board hasn't decided its allocation of the revenue sharing funds in 1981, expected to total \$300,000. Kenneth Kennedy, chairman of the board's finance committee, indicated to the Chronicle he would favor funding that program over some others, if cuts have to be made.

At this point, the health department hasn't "pink slipped" anyone. Two present vacancies remain unfilled.

Layoffs are a possibility, Niederhauser said last week. Two "ifs" were that he still didn't know the exact amount the department will receive from the state and how much money will be left over Dec. 31 to carry into 1981.

The board of health Friday granted each depart-

ment employee a \$775 pay raise for 1981, but that had been allotted in the tentative budget for next year.

### CARE FACILITY

The Medical Care Facility, under its former administrator, had asked for \$235,418 from the county in 1981. Instead, commissioners — unless a change is made Tuesday — will be giving it \$100,000, the same amount it got this year.

The facility, which presently has 123 residents, gets most of its funding through state Medicaid payments (partially federal funds) for those who are indigent.

According to Acting Administrator Darlene Davidson, the big problem concerning that source is that payments are being delayed from Lansing. She was unaware that any cuts in funding are being planned for next year, but there won't be any increase, despite increases in costs.

"If they get the same amount from the state and with what we gave them, I think they should make it, as far as I know," Kennedy commented. He thought the original amount requested for the facility had been needlessly inflated.

He pointed out that any money the board appropriates for repairs to the old structure on the outskirts of Caro will be in addition to the \$100,000 budgeted. It is expected some major repairs may be needed, including possible installation of a new furnace boiler.

Mrs. Davidson indicated if the facility runs out of money in 1981, she will have to go to the county board for additional funds.

The problem with that, Kennedy commented, is that the county won't have a surplus in 1981, unlike past years, to deal with such emergencies. "If they run out of money, there could be a problem."

The difficulty in laying off

staff, should that become necessary, Mrs. Davidson explained, is that the state requires a specified ratio of staff to patients, for all except kitchen personnel, and if the ratio isn't maintained, the state Medicaid funds are cut off.

The Medical Care Facility, which should finish this year with a surplus of about \$24,000, has 140 employees. The large staff is necessary since it must be manned around the clock.

### MENTAL HEALTH

The first big cut in Community Mental Health Services programs came about two weeks ago with the closing of the home for emotionally disturbed children. That meant two fewer persons on the payroll and four children returned to their parents or foster parents.

The closing isn't enough. Please turn to page 6.