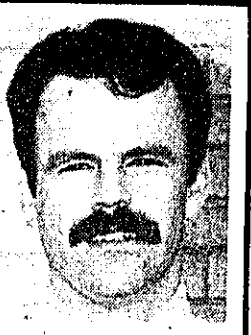


## PEDALING AROUND

## Gloom and doom

By Mike Eliasohn



Remember what it said in the history books about the thousands of persons who left the south to move to the industrial cities of the north, where the jobs were?

Next time the history books are revised, the writers will have to add a chapter about how in the 1970s and especially the 1980s, the people were leaving the north to find jobs in the south and west.

I find it unfortunate that the only place many Michiganders can find employment these days, as indicated in the article I wrote last week, is in other states.

A person should be able to stay in his home state, close to family and friends and -- for some -- in the home they worked so long to buy, but the laws of economics aren't working out that way.

Unfortunately, it doesn't appear the employment picture in Michigan is going to get better soon and may never get back to what it was.

Presumably car sales will get back to normal some day, but even if foreign car sales retreat to a reasonable percentage, employment in the auto industry won't ever get back to what it once was.

The auto makers are using more automation and more foreign-made parts. I recall seeing on television a shot of a welding operation at the Chrysler K-car assembly line. All the welding was being done by robot machines and there wasn't a human being to be seen.

Buy a K-car with the larger engine and you will find the engine was made in Japan. The new Ford Escorts use an automatic transmission built in Japan. (The standard transmission may also be built there. I'm not sure.)

Some of the Big 3 are building engine plants in Mexico. The engines will go in otherwise American-built cars.

The auto companies, though still building some new plants in Michigan, are building more new ones elsewhere.

Michigan has two strikes against it, in addition to overdependence on the auto industry.

One is that the cost of labor is so high. The cost of unemployment compensation and worker's compensation makes it cheaper for businesses to do their business elsewhere, although some reforms are finally being made, and wage rates are very high.

I recall reading a few

years ago that of the 22 states Kroger's did business in (the number may be inexact), its labor costs were the highest in Michigan.

One reason why people are not buying cars like they used to is because they are so expensive and the major reason they are so expensive is the high cost of labor.

Chrysler board Chairman Lee Iacocca said last week that if Chrysler workers accept a wage freeze, they will still be making \$17.50 an hour (including fringe benefits), instead of \$20.

The other reason why Michigan is losing jobs to the Sunshine Belt is that there are more persons who hate cold weather than like it. Air conditioning has removed the "hardship" of living in a hot and humid climate.

Adding to the above negative factors, for small towns like Cass City that are seeking industry, is the added cost of transportation.

With fuel so expensive and getting even more so, the additional transportation costs for towns located a long distance from major markets is a negative factor to add to the other negative factors about Michigan.

What it all boils down to, according to the latest statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, is that seven of the 10 highest unemployment areas in the nation in October were in Michigan, with Flint the highest at 16.4 percent, while six of the 10 areas with the lowest unemployment rates, ranging from 3.9-3.9 percent, were in Texas.

Merry Christmas, y'all.

## Golden Rule class meets

Twenty members of the Golden Rule class of Salem UM church and one guest attended a turkey dinner and Christmas party Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Bartle.

In the business meeting, officers were elected for the coming year as follows: president, Clayton Turner; vice-president, Esther McCullough; and secretary-treasurer, Maurice Joos.

Christmas cards were signed to send to the George Dillmans, the Earl Harrises and the Luke Tuckeys, all who are in Florida, and a get-well card to Herman Hildinger, who had surgery.

Monthly meetings of the class will be resumed in April.



SHERIFF HUGH MARR

## Retirement near for Marr after 18 years at helm

When Hugh Marr steps down as sheriff Jan. 1, he will have served in the position longer than anyone else.

He was first elected in November, 1962, and took over from retiring William Tomlinson, who until then had served the longest, seven years.

Marr, now 67, won the Republican primary election that year by only 24 votes over the then Vassar police chief. He won the general election over his Democratic opponent by 3,615 votes and took office Jan. 1.

It was Tomlinson who asked Marr to join the department to run the driver's license bureau. He started with the sheriff's department Dec. 1, 1959.

Before then, he had farmed, raised cattle, was in the trucking business and sold real estate. He was born and raised in Mayville.

Other than that he was asked by Tomlinson to join, whom he knew "real well," he said there was no special reason why he chose to go into law enforcement.

As for his becoming sheriff, "It just kind of fell in place, I guess."

When Marr joined the department, he was one of seven employees. "We had two typewriters, and three filing cabinets, three police cars and a radio."

Deputies worked 10-hour shifts, six days a week. In addition to running the driver's license bureau, Marr also was on road patrol part-time. He ran the license bureau for a couple of years, then was on road-control full-time, until 1961, when he and his wife Melissa moved into the jail because of Tomlinson's ill health. Marr ran the jail and his wife was the matron. Mrs. Marr died in 1973.

THERE HAVE BEEN many changes during his 17 years in office, one of which is the jail completed in December, 1966, partially built on the site of the old one.

In contrast to the seven employees when he started, the department roster now numbers 42.

"Demand (by the public) is what makes the department increase," the sheriff explained. There is more crime and more traffic on the roads, hence a greater need for police protection. "Everyone knows criminal activity is increasing 10-15 percent a year."

The big increases in Tuscola county, he said, have been in the number of break-ins and robberies. The latter

were virtually unheard of back in 1959.

Another reason for the increase in the number of staff is that employees work 40 hours a week now and they obviously can't do as much as they did in 60 hours a week back in 1959.

MARR COMMENTED that the criminal of today is better educated and expressed gratitude that so are the deputies.

When he started, all one needed to be a deputy was a badge and a gun. For about the past 10 years, state law has required all law enforcement officers to go through an extensive training program before getting their badges. "If it wasn't for education, I don't know what we'd do today."

There has also been education for inmates. For about as long as Marr has been sheriff, the Caro schools have been offering classes at the jail, such as for high school completion. "We were probably the first rural jail (in Michigan) that started school," according to Marr.

DEPUTIES AND OTHER department staff now belong to a union, the Fraternal Order of Police. The existence of a union, Marr said, makes it harder to run the department, but sometimes the sheriff has to go ahead and make decisions without first concerning himself with how the union might react. "You can't go look at the book all the time."

The sheriff's successor, Paul Berry, has been with the department full-time since 1961 and worked part-time before that.

Marr denies they haven't gotten along. "How would the guy stay there that long if we were feuding?" If he had wanted to get rid of Berry, he could have done so, he said, adding he is helping him in the transition.

MARR WILL BE THE last sheriff to live at the jail, as the space now devoted to his apartment will be put to some other use after Jan. 1. The county Board of Commissioners will decide who gets to use it.

Marr feels the department can use all the space, plus all of the basement, should the Cooperative Extension Service ever vacate it.

It, the sheriff's department and emergency services office (civil defense) share space there now.

He would like to see an exercise room in the basement for inmates. The only exercise area they have now is outdoors.

Living in the jail is to the

sheriff's disadvantage, Marr said. "You can't get a moment's rest." When someone has a problem, it's too easy to knock on his door.

During the early days, because he was there all the time, in the evening, he often took care of persons applying for drivers' licenses and handled dispatching.

MARR'S RETIREMENT home will be a mobile home he owns on Cameron Road, outside of Caro.

He also owns a motor

home, which he plans on driving to Florida toward the end of January. He will return in April.

His two children, both married, live in Caro. They are Janet (Mrs. Richard) Bertrand and Larry Marr, who have five and two children respectively.

With a few weeks to go before his final day in office, Tuscola county's top law enforcement officer viewed the end without apparent strong emotions. "You got to retire some time," he said simply.

## 3,182 receive CETA jobs, job training in 1979-80

The Thumb Area Consortium spent \$7,796,292 in Federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) funds during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, according to the report presented last Thursday to the consortium administrative board.

During the year, there were 3,182 persons enrolled in job training or job programs.

The consortium finished the fiscal year with \$813,157 left over, most of which was carried over into the present fiscal year.

The consortium plans to spend \$8.15 million in 1980-81, but that is still an educated guess, executive Director Frank Lenard said, because Congress hasn't yet approved a new CETA program, even though the fiscal year is almost three months old.

As of Nov. 30, there were 1,406 persons enrolled in the CETA program, with the big drop in two months being in the Title VI emergency jobs program, from 517 enrolled as of Sept. 30 to 435. Leonard Hool, who is in charge of the Title VI jobs, said the number will drop to 300 by early January.

The forecast, according to Frank Lenard, is the Reagan administration will de-emphasize the Title VI program and put more emphasis on the Title VII program, which pays half the entry level wage to private employers who hire a person for a newly created job. The person must meet eligibility requirements (low income,

etc.). Fifty percent of the wage is paid a maximum of 30 months, but so far, none of the contracts with private employers has run longer than eight or nine months.

As of Nov. 30, there were 113 persons enrolled in the program in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties, the area served by the consortium.

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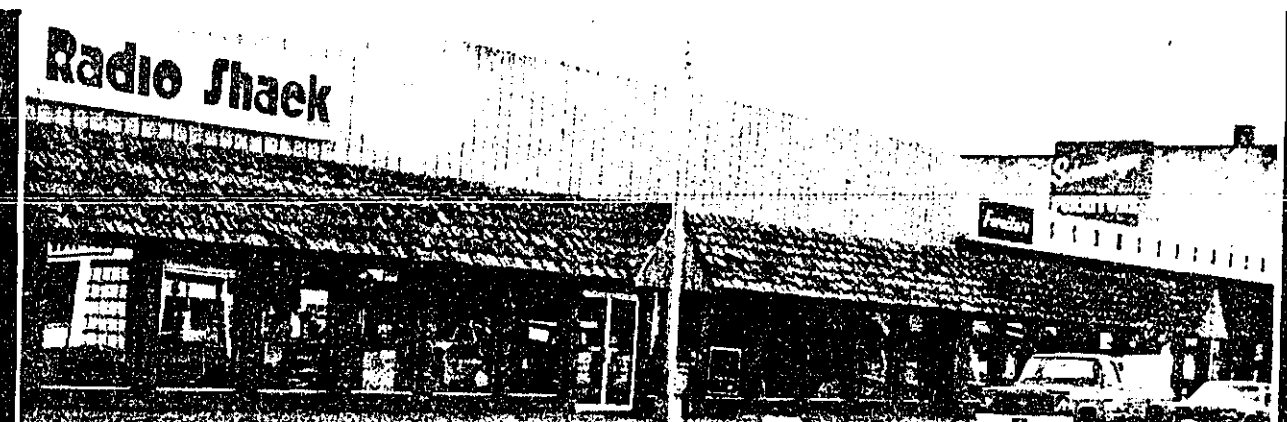
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