

Rabbit tracks

By John Haire
(And anyone else he/ can get to help)

A strictly unofficial, seat-of-the-pants survey (I asked several merchants on the main stem) revealed that the last three business days "saved" the Christmas season. Most reported sales equal to or slightly above last year after a November that lagged seriously behind the previous year's totals.

While comparatively few were able to claim sales that made up for inflation, most were reasonably satisfied considering the depressed economy in Michigan.

It's the New Year and our best wishes . . . to the Cass City School Board and, without apology, we trust that 1981 will be fruitful, full of cooperation and harmony for every member.

To school officials, an instant weather gauge guaranteed to tell when it's time to send the kids home because of weather conditions.

To the parents of these kids, a little understanding and many assurances that their children may be delayed but are safe, safe, safe.

To Village President Lambert Althaver, an instant people counter to find those 206 residents that were lost in the census count.

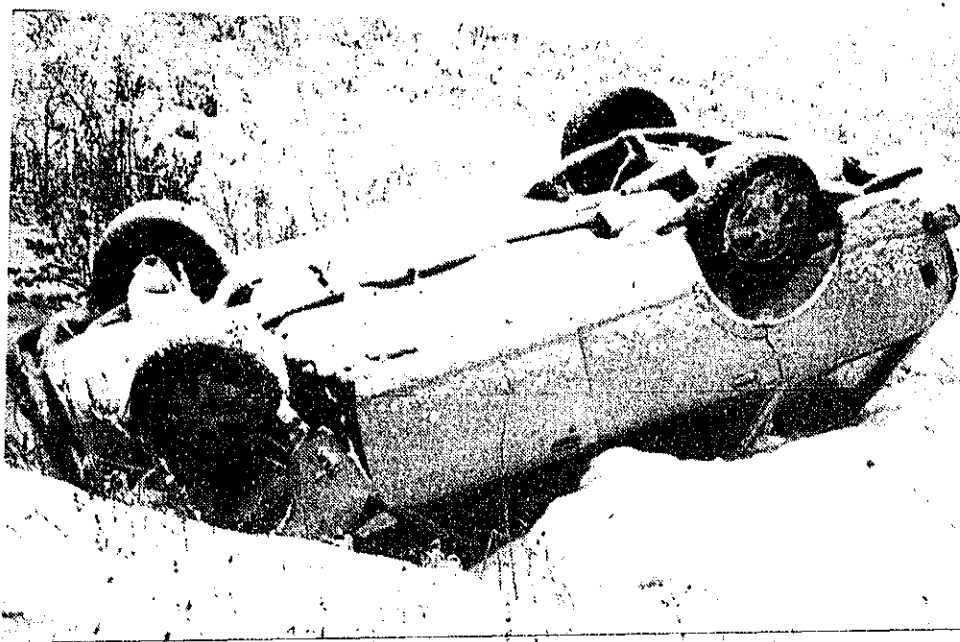
To the vandals that took the chains from one of the stations at the Rotary exercise trail, the spirit of the season so that you'll take them back. The same for the outdoor Christmas tree light bulb thieves.

To Paul Berry, new Tuscola county sheriff, and all of the other elected officials, the wisdom and the courage to make this a better year for all of us you serve . . . and to never forget it is us that you are serving.

To President Dale Deering, Don Englehart, Art Holmberg, Ron Keegan and Dan Allen, gratitude for proving that area folks still care. Under their direction, the area United Way surpassed its goal. Did it in spite of a very real belt tightening caused by economic conditions.

To Tom Herron, a third Fourth of July Festival as successful as the original two with twice the number of volunteers to do the work.

To each and every one of you, a 1981 full of good health and prosperity.



OVERTURNED -- Timothy Johnson of Cass City overturned his car Sunday while trying to turn from Beechwood Drive onto Hospital Drive. He and two passengers were unhurt.

2 tragic crashes mar yule season

Continued from page one

his own treatment for minor injuries. A passenger was unhurt.

The accident remains under investigation. It occurred at 3:49 p.m. near the Genesee Valley Mall.

Mrs. Schuette is the daughter of Jack and Dorothy Stahlbaum of Cass City.

INJURY ACCIDENTS

A Tuesday, Dec. 23, accident north of Mayville resulted in four persons being sent to Caro Community Hospital.

They were the driver of one of the vehicles involved, Raymond G. Crane, 59, of Silverwood, discharged Monday, and his passengers, his wife, Violet, 55, reported in stable but improving condition Monday afternoon, and Billy and Donna Arnold, 51 and 48, respectively, of 5442 S. Cemetery Road, Kingston, who were treated and released.

Sheriff's deputies reported Calvin F. Rowbotham, 41, of Mayville was castbound on Snover Road and the Crane auto was northbound on Lobdell Road.

The two drivers told officers they didn't see each other at the intersection until it was too late. The

Rowbotham vehicle then struck the Crane auto.

A passenger in the Rowbotham four-wheel-drive canvas-top vehicle, Richard Rowbotham, 13, was thrown out the door during the collision. He sought his own treatment for minor injuries.

Joseph L. Gruber, 21, of 6787 E. Elmwood Road, was treated and released from Hills and Dales after a 5:50 p.m. accident last Wednesday.

Cass City police reported he was southbound on Seeger Street and ran into the rear of a car parked by the west curb, just south of Seventh Street.

Owner of the parked car was Bradley Goslin of Gagetown.

Gruber was ticketed by officers on a charge of failure to stop within an assured clear distance.

OTHER ACCIDENTS

Cass City police reported that at 9 p.m. Sunday, Timothy F. Johnson, 18, of 4286 Oak Street, westbound on Beechwood Drive, attempted to turn south onto Hospital Drive. Due to slippery conditions, the car went over the curb and rolled into a ditch, landing on its roof.

He and two passengers escaped injury. (See photo, above.)

At 1:15 p.m. Dec. 22, Cass City village police reported, Douglas R. McArthur, 19, of 6733 E. Main Street, was northbound on Leach Street, couldn't stop in time at Third Street due to slippery conditions and slid into a westbound car.

Driver of the other vehicle was Mark Wilson, 16, of 6365 Third Street.

Deborah Lee Baker, 19, of 3495 White Creek Road, Kingston, was headed northwest on E. Dayton Road, east of Ryan Road, at 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, when she lost control of her car on the icy surface. Deputies reported her car then hit a mailbox on the right side of the road.

At 11:50 p.m. last Wednesday, according to Tuscola deputies, Orrie W. Reimann, 73, of 3475 River Street, Kingston, was southbound on M-53, north of Downington Road, when a deer ran into the left side of his car.

At 9:05 p.m. Sunday, Adam B. Noyes, 16, of 5685 Kingston Road, Kingston, was northbound on M-24, north of Bliss Road, according to deputies, when he lost control of his car on the icy roadway.

The auto spun off the right side of the road, struck a mailbox and went into a ditch.



"If It Fitz. . ." Free parking

By Jim Fitzgerald

We were trapped in a parking garage by big-city drama. After going to the parking attendant's booth to conduct a lengthy investigation, I reported back to my wife: "There are 1.1 million stories in this city, or perhaps more, depending on the census recount, and I am going to tell you one of them."

And then I told her the heart-rending story of the stubborn woman who wouldn't pay her parking tab and the angry man who wanted to slug her but ended up almost slugging his innocent wife instead.

It was 8:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11. After seeing a movie, we had descended to the parking lot beneath the Renaissance Center to redeem our car, and what did our dismayed eyes behold but dozens of cars lined up, eager to escape into the night, but unable to move forward because the attendant would not raise the wooden arm blocking the only exit.

Why wasn't the barrier raised? Because the woman driving the car at the head of the line refused to pay the \$3 parking fee. She insisted her parking ticket had been validated by Manufacturer's National Bank which not only has its headquarters and a branch bank in Ren-Cen, but is also the only tenant allowed to mar the exterior of the pristine towers by hanging out a sign.

The chief parking attendant declared the alleged validation invalid. He said the smeared red letters stamped on the back of the stubborn woman's parking ticket meant nothing. He said Manufacturer's doesn't validate. (Later a phone call proved him right. Manufacturer's customers don't get free parking, especially four hours after the bank has closed.)

But the stubborn woman wasn't impressed. As the honking continued, she continued to insist she didn't have to pay. When the man directly behind her got out of his car to exchange hot words with her, she rolled up her window and locked her doors. She appeared middle-aged and taut. He was plainly bald and steaming. He banged on her window with his fist. She snarled at him.

The bald man yelled that she was making him late for a \$30 concert. The stubborn woman looked straight

ahead, and the garage employees remained equally determined.

Giving up, the bald man said he'd pay the woman's parking fee just to see the outdoors again. He pulled out \$3, but then suddenly changed his mind. By this time he was so angry he decided he'd rather send "that stupid woman" to jail than attend the concert. "Phone the cops," he instructed the parking attendants. "I'll sign the complaint."

The honking got louder as the line of waiting cars got longer. The bald man's wife burst out of their car and said she wanted to hear the concert and she would pay the stubborn woman's parking fee. She also produced \$3 and waved it toward the parking attendants. Her husband grabbed her arm and said she wouldn't dare. He wanted the stubborn woman arrested.

"It's my \$3," the wife yelled, but her husband blocked her away from the attendant's booth. He was now madder at her than at the stubborn woman who started the fight.

Horns kept honking. The stall was now about 30 minutes old. A third woman

entered the scene, walking from her car way back in line. She waved cash and said she also wanted to pay the \$3 so she could see her family one more time before she died. The bald man fought her off, too.

At this point the chief parking attendant succumbed to the pressure of the honking and squabbling. He raised the exit gate, and the stubborn woman quickly escaped, probably singing "Born Free" as she drove into the night.

The bald-headed man was furious that the hangman had been cheated. He was still swearing as he and his wife went off late to a concert they couldn't possibly enjoy.

The moral to this story, only one of 1.1 million in this city, is that the sweetest words of tongue or pen are: Free Parking.

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HILLS AND DALES

Schedule of Events

OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC
Jan. 4 thru Jan. 10

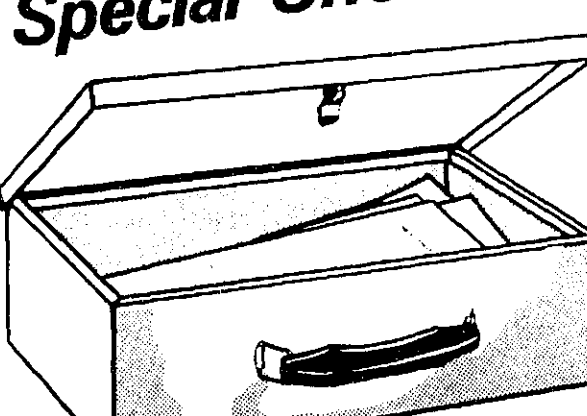
EVENT	DATE	TIME	PLACE
EMT Class	Jan. 5	7-10 p.m.	Lg. Meeting Room
Diabetic Class	Jan. 6	1-3 p.m.	Lg. Meeting Room
Dr. Isterabadi & Dr. Donahue	Jan. 7	8-12 a.m.	Out Patient Clinic
Dr. John, Urologist	Jan. 8	8-12 a.m.	Office
Dr. Pike, Podiatrist	Jan. 8	1-5 p.m.	Out Patient Clinic
Dr. Jeung	Jan. 9	8-12 a.m.	Out Patient Clinic
Dr. Kahn & Dr. Mahan, Cardiologists	Jan. 9	1-5 p.m.	Out Patient Clinic

To schedule yourself for any of the above classes or clinics call 872-2121 extension 255.



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If you were to grade old man 1980 on a scale of one to 10 you'd be generous if you gave him more than a five.

Man, he's leaving us with more problems than he faced just 12 months ago. Many more.

If you are one of Michigan's 15 percent unemployed you certainly question what 1980 has done to earn even a point on the rating scale.

The old man did all right weatherwise here although in other parts of the nation they'll tell you when it comes to controlling the weather he was a negative one.

For the farmers in the Thumb his rating has to be around a seven or better. If it weren't for high operating cost he might have been a perfect 10.

That's inflation, of course, and the old man never did seem to be able to come to grips with it. Rather it appeared to have him in its grip.

It was a vice-like hold, too. Inflation of above 12 percent coupled with record interest rates put a wrinkle in the brow of the old boy and more than one in the people he served.

When it comes to dollars and cents 1980 was a dismal failure. In the spirit of the season let's be generous and give him a three over-all.

On the international front 1980 can leave with his head up.

All's not roses. The hostages are still in Iran. The oil cartel (foreign and domestic) has us by the throat. The dollar has depreciated and detente is very sick, if not dead.

But there's not one American that lost his life in battle and even though the hos-

tages are not free, they are alive.

That has to be worth a seven on anybody's scale.

If 1981 can do as well he'll have done a good job, too.

For the youngster comes on the scene where nations are playing with matches and the lid is off the gas tank.

On the domestic front many have high hopes for the new arrival.

After all, given the conditions today, many feel there's no way to go but up.

Of course that was the stuff that 1980 heard when he came strutting in.

Certainly if 1981 can meet expectations he'll rate way up there on the scale.

And if he does everything that Republicans are promising will happen and keeps us out of war, too, he'll be greater than all his ancestors.

A perfect 10? That's too much to expect or even hope for.

But if he rates a nine I'd guess we'd all be happy. I know I would.

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THE CASS CITY CHRONICLE
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HAPPY NEW YEAR



Bottom row, left to right, Louis Salas, Teri Groombridge, Jim Groombridge, Dave Martin
Top row, left to right, John Klebba, Tammy Cockerill, Wayne "Buck" Rabideau, Jerry Limberger

As you go forward to greet the shining New Year,
we hope that you and those dear to you, will be blessed with all the good things in life.

FARM DIVISION
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