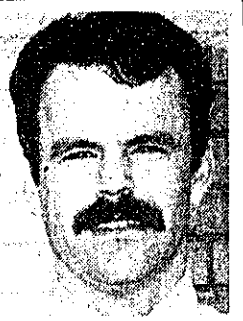


CASS CITY, MICHIGAN

PEDALING AROUND

Good-bye to 1980

By Mike Eliasohn



To mark the end of another year, I have decided I will designate some award winners and other highlights of 1980. Most are meant in jest; however, it is not necessary to laugh hysterically.

Those named should not get excited. No prizes are being awarded.

In no special order, here goes:

"Your Neighbor Says" of the year — Nell Wallace, for correctly predicting that Kristin was the person who shot J.R. Ewing on "Dallas."

Sore winner of the year — Larry Glass, coach of the Leland girls' basketball team, which won the state Class D championship, 65-36, over Ashley. Despite the enormous margin, Glass kept his starters in most of the game and didn't give seven of his 15 players a chance to play in the state championship game.

My dumb, absent-minded mistake of the year — My article in October about the upcoming open house in honor of the 95th birthday of John D. Jones and centennial of the farm he owns at Shabbona. I wrote that the open house was on a Sunday, when it was on Saturday.

My embarrassing mistake of the year — Cass City native and now Troy at-

torney Karl G. Heidemann came in the office one day during an infrequent visit to his home town. He bemoaned the fact that unlike past visits, he hadn't recognized anyone while he was walking around town.

I persuaded the 1939 graduate of Cass City High School to volunteer to be my "Your Neighbor Says" — people would remember him when they saw his name and photo in the paper, I said — and also sold him a Chronicle subscription.

I still don't know what I did wrong, but the photograph I took of him did not come out. I think that's the only time in my 3 1/2 years here that I took a photo of someone for the "Your Neighbor Says" column that didn't come out.

If a man had said it, he would be called a chauvinist pig award — To Owen-Gage girls' basketball coach Judy Campbell for commenting at the recent athletic banquet that compared to other teams, hers was the best looking. If a male sports writer commented about a women's team being the "best looking," the National Organization of Women would hang him in effigy, and maybe for real.

Dumbest political decision of the year, and probably of the decade — committed by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, with help from State Sen. Alvin DeGraw, in deciding Tuscola county was better off with a circuit judge of its own instead of sharing three judges with Lapeer county.

Despite clear evidence that it would result in a backlog of cases and opposition by almost everyone connected with the judicial system, commissioners voted in favor of having the lone judge here. A beautiful example of: "Don't confuse me with facts. I've already made up my mind."

The only time staying up late was worthwhile — When Tom Snyder had Slim Whitman as his guest on the "Tomorrow Show." It answered the question, "Who is Slim Whitman?" Of course, if I always went to bed at a decent hour, I never would have seen the Slim Whitman record commercials on television, so never would have wondered, "Who is Slim Whitman?"

The man who deceives himself is the worst swindler of all.



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON -- When you live in Michigan, age 4 is soon enough to help shovel out the driveway. Helping Dana Truemmner of 6577 Huron Street with the shoveling last Wednesday was his son, Gary.

Compromise settlement ends court wage hassle

The almost year long dispute between the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners and Probate Judge W. Wallace Kent Jr. concerning pay for seven probate court employees has ended with reaching of a compromise settlement.

The settlement was reached at a hearing Dec. 15 in Lansing before state Court Administrator Einar Bohlin, but wasn't made public until a letter from him to the county board was received Dec. 23, making it official.

The key to the settlement is that starting Jan. 1, the probate court reporter will be elevated from pay grade 5 to grade 6 and the three juvenile probation officers will move up one step to pay grade 11.

That will cost the county about \$3,200 additional, according to Donna Rayl, chairman of the county board's personnel committee.

The dispute goes back to last January, when Kent, as he is permitted to do under state law, negotiated a labor contract with his seven employees.

The contract elevated six of the seven one pay grade, plus "slightly more," according to the judge.

The county board contended all along the seven were included in the contract it negotiated in December, 1979, for all other courthouse employees, which gave them an 8.18 percent pay increase this year and 7.65 percent the second year.

Accepting the separate probate court contract would have cost the county almost \$15,000 additional this year, later reduced to \$10,476 in accordance with a salary study conducted by the court administrator's office. In the second year of the contract, the probate court employees would have received the same percentage pay increase as the other courthouse workers.

Under the compromise settlement, the probate employees are included in the

contract negotiated with the other courthouse employees and their 1980 pay is what was negotiated in that pact.

The adjustments, as mentioned, will start in 1981, which will require meeting with representatives of the employees' union, Local 2697 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, to put those changes in the contract.

The final provision of the agreement is that Kent will withdraw his proposed administrative order mandating that his employees be paid at the rate he negotiated.

"I THINK IT WAS ... sadly, it was necessary to go this far before we could come to an agreement," Kent said of the almost year-long dispute that led to the settlement.

As for his threatened court order to mandate the salaries he negotiated, he commented, "The order was a necessary device to get us

to the bargaining table."

He expressed general satisfaction with the agreement, that although his staff didn't get all they wanted, they got more than the county commissioners wanted to give them. "I don't think there was a winner and a loser."

His motivation throughout, he explained, was that he felt the probate court employees were underpaid. "YES, I WOULD SAY we're pleased with the settlement," was the comment of Mrs. Rayl.

Although a salary study conducted by a private firm hired by the county board had recommended an elevation in pay grade for the probate court recorder, it had made no such recommendation concerning the probation officers.

She explained the county's representatives at the Dec. 15 hearing became agreeable to the pay increase for the probation officers when it was pointed out they,

despite their college degrees, were making less than the assessors in the equalization department, who do not have college degrees.

Kent said the major factor in his agreeing to accept the compromise was "the county's budgetary problems."

STILL TO BE RESOLVED is how negotiations with probate court employees will be handled at the end of 1981, when the present contract expires.

Kent can waive his right to be involved with negotiations, he can do the negotiating, or he can become a "co-employer" with the county, which will presumably involve him in the bargaining process.

The judge said he will be studying some agreements made in other counties between judges and boards of commissioners as to how negotiations are handled, before deciding what he will do in this county.

Report \$75,000 loss in area fires

Continued from page 2
when the fire started.

She is now staying there temporarily. Her mother is Mrs. Helen Morell of Argyle Road.

Mrs. Cutright said she may purchase a mobile home to put on her property, once the insurance settlement is made.

She lost everything in the fire. "All I got is a bunch of ashes," she told the Chronicle.

Mrs. Cutright, who works at Snover Stamping, is in need of clothing, and possibly furniture later, when she gets the trailer. She wears size 12. She can be contacted at her mother's, telephone (313) 672-9488.

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Boost wages 9%

the First Michigan Cablevision Corp. stating that its franchise from the village does not require the council to approve cable television rates. The Michigan Municipal League was asked to check and found there is no Federal Communications

Commission ruling giving local communities control over rates.

The council approved an emergency preparedness ordinance and designated LaPonsie as village emergency services coordinator in case of natural or manmade disasters.

The weather table with columns for High, Low, and Precip. for days from Wednesday to Monday. Includes a note: (Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.) Snow recorded as melted water — 1" water = 10" snow.

STRAND — CARO Phone 673-3033 TWO ADMITTED FOR \$2.50 ON MON. & TUES. COME & SAVE!

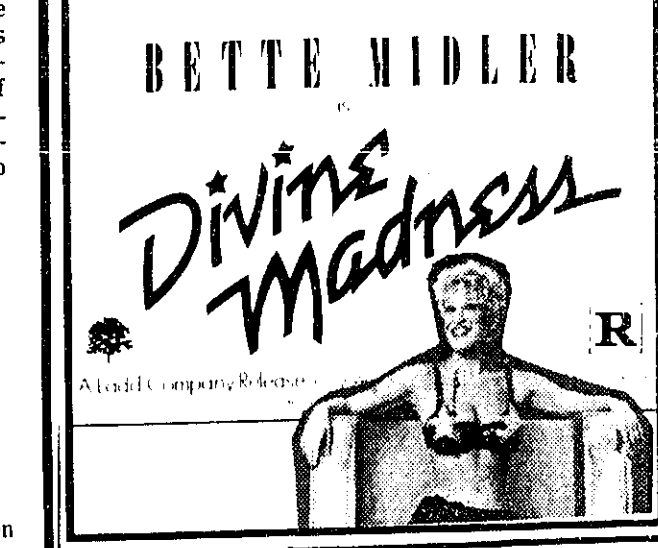
SUN. 2:30 till 6:00 ADULTS...\$1.50

STARTS WED., DEC. 31 A BRAND NEW HORROR HIT!! Friday and Saturday Feature at 7:34 and 9:43



Sunday thru Thursday, January 4 - 8 ONLY FOR ADULTS...RATED "R". Sunday Feature at 3:09-5:13-7:17-9:21 Monday thru Thursday Feature at 7:24 & 9:28

"It's good, clean dirty fun." Stuart Klein WNEV-TV



HANGAR 18 STARTS FRIDAY JANUARY 9... ONE FULL WEEK!

HOPE YOUR NEW YEAR IS THE HAPPIEST YET! Frank's Music Store & Flea Market

CASS CITY HELD OVER — HELD OVER DECEMBER 31 (New Year's Eve) JANUARY 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 THE #1 MOTION PICTURE IS STILL HERE BIGGER THAN LIFE ON OUR GIANT SCREEN ALL WEEK NITES -- 8:00 ONLY Friday-Saturday-Sunday 7:30 & 9:40 Sorry, no passes or bargain nite this engagement.

"A BETTER FILM THAN STAR WARS..." THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK COMING THURSDAY JANUARY 8 "My Bodyguard" Every High School Boy Should Have One.

HAPPY NEW YEAR Loud and clear we say thanks for your patronage. Hope your New Year rings the bell Frank's Service Frank and Ruth Spencer and Family

Charge 4 with pot delivery

Four persons charged with delivery of marijuana when warrants were issued against 24 persons in the Nov. 5 "drug bust" in Tuscola county stood mute at their arraignments Dec. 22 before Circuit Judge Norman H. Baguley. They were Edward A. Westerby, 27, of 2771 Main Street, Akron; Charles H. Lake Jr., 22, of O'Brien Road, Mayville; Joseph H. Wenta, 22, of 1405 Oak Ridge Drive, Caro, and Alvin K. Vollmar, 33, of 3648 N. Main Street, Akron. Pleas of innocent were entered in their behalf and pretrial hearings scheduled Jan. 19. Bond was continued for all four. They are charged with selling marijuana to the same undercover officer, for Westerby, Aug. 15 in Akron township; Lake, May 13 in Fremont township; Wenta, May 16 in Indianfields township, and Vollmar, Aug. 12 in Akron.

Peace Love Celebrate the joys of living by welcoming the New Year with loved ones. Erla Food Center & Erla Packing Company AND ALL THE EMPLOYEES CASS CITY