

Scot's Shots

BY SCOT JEFFERIES



"I just stopped around because I heard someone tell the editor he'd have to eat those words!"

The Village Smithy

BY FRAN SMITH

Come next Monday night, there will be many among us who will have a sigh of relief and, hopefully, get back to the business of what might be classified as "normal living."

That's when the decision on Lowell's school problems will have been reached, for better or for worse.

A controversy such as the millage issue can be good for a community... but it also can have dire side effect. There has been strong evidence that the latter is substantially true in this case.

If nothing else, the present difficulties have done much to awaken people to the fact that school problems are here today... not just in some far-removed district nor at some far distant date.

Many ill-founded rumors have been dispelled (though it must be reported, in all fairness, that others will persist) and there is a feeling of public awareness that bodes well for the future.

As we started to say initially, the time of decision is at hand. Those among the readership whose interests lie elsewhere will be happy to hear that this problem will disappear from the headlines in future editions.

All that can be said has been said. Most of it has been said in the columns of this newspaper. We can only hope that we have been of service... win, lose or draw.

One of the more pleasant aspects of what we call normal living is just around the corner... namely, spring.

According to those much more learned than the Smithy, the vernal equinox (now there's a real expression) will arrive at 2:08 p. m. on March 20.

At that time, say astronomers, the sun will cross the equator, bringing about longer days than nights... and warmer weather too. Which, in turn, will cause the grass to turn green and that, of course, means the golf season will be upon us once again.

As those among the faithful are all-too-painfully aware, we have a particular affinity to the gentle art of stroking the small white spheroid around what used to be pastureland.

I doubt seriously that we gain much medical benefit from same, though certainly walking several miles per outing has got to be better for a person's health than other less-strenuous pursuits.

However, golf is, in my estimation, the finest form of mental therapy ever contrived. This may be for the simple reason that I seldom tee off with a specific score or goal in mind and, because of this, there is little cause to become provoked when things don't go too well.

Instead, I am most happy to just be out communing with nature and let the birdies, pars or bogeys (plus an occasional double or triple bogey) fall where they may.

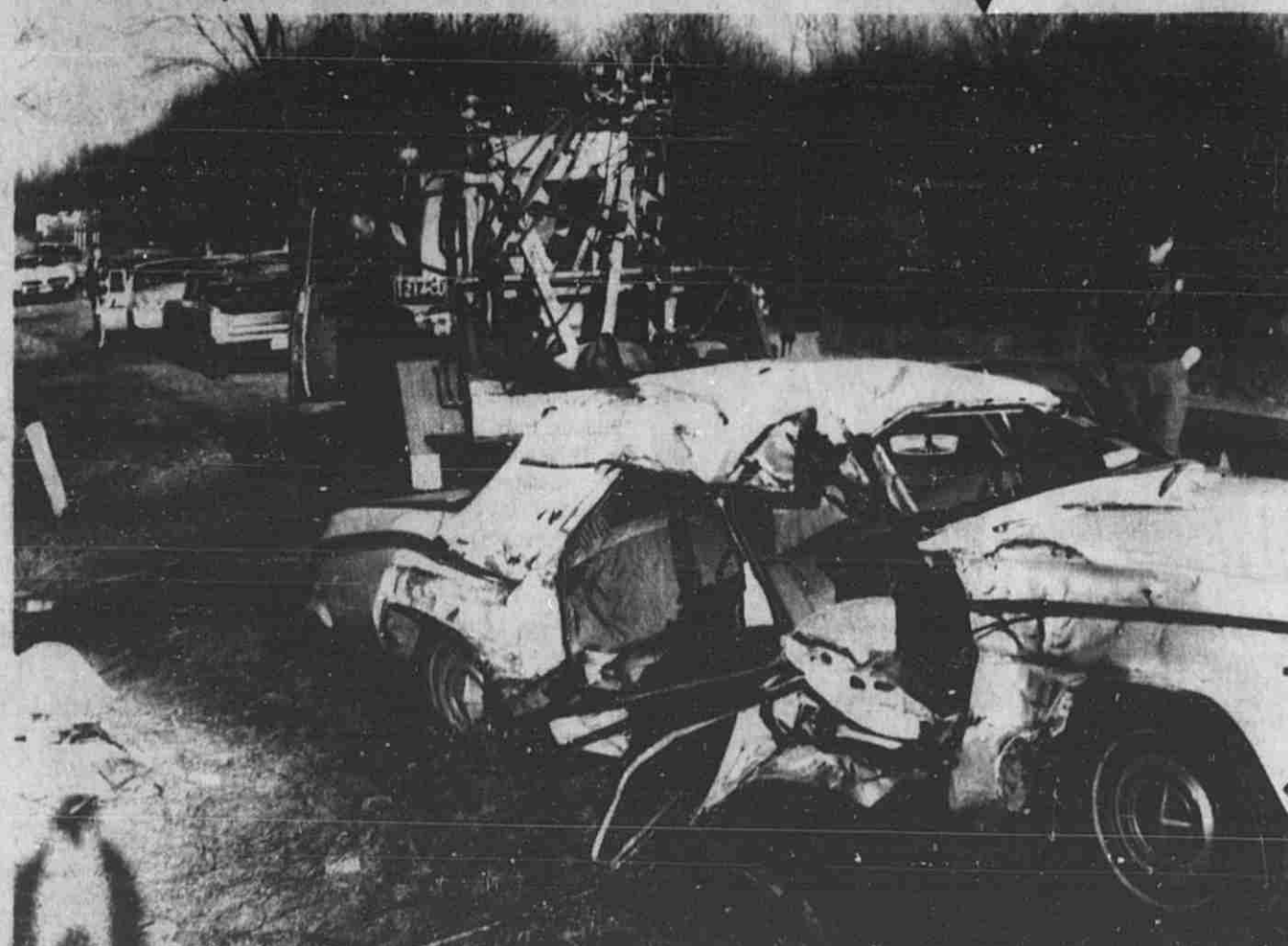
LSD Attracts Students!

Junior high students in Lowell appear to be "addicted" to LSD.

In this case, however, LSD stands for "Let's Study Delinquency", a nine-week course to be conducted daily by members of the Lowell Police Department commencing March 31.

The course will be attended by 50 students as part of the junior high's unique elective curriculum.

A total of 110 students registered for the class as a "first choice" and 93 others picked it as a second choice.



FATAL CRASH SCENE — Death rode "Accident Alley" again Monday when two area men died and three others were injured in a car-truck crash on M-21, about 2½ miles west of Lowell city limits. The dangerous stretch of highway has been the scene of many accidents, a number of them fatal, in recent years. (Staff photo by Scot Jefferies)

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Be Sure
to Vote
Monday!

Will Hold Line, Board Pledges

By a 6-0 affirmative vote, members of the Lowell Area School Board of Education offered further re-assurance to district residents Monday night that it will hold the line on 1969-70 school operating expenses.

Board president Dr. Robert Reagan, calling for a rare roll call vote, received "yes" votes from William Jones, Dr. R. D. Siegle, Harold Metternick, Dale Shade and Gould Rivette to the following motion submitted by Jones:

"Moved that the Board of Education does re-affirm its intent to levy only that amount of money, by virtue of millage up to seven mills, that is necessary to support an adequate education program."

The board is seeking voter approval for seven additional mills for operating expenses in a special millage election scheduled for next Monday, March 17.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at two voting sites — Runciman Elementary School in Lowell and Alto Elementary School in Alto.

Though absent from the city on vacation, the seventh member of the board, Dr. Donald Gerard, had indicated prior to his departure an intent to support the motion, according to Dr. Reagan.

While the roll call vote established a precedent, the board has in six of the past seven years, not levied the full amount of millage allocated or voted.

"It has always been our policy to levy only the millage required to operate the school system," explained Dr. Reagan. "This year, because we are attempting to reduce the deficit, the full amount was levied."

Another record turnout is expected at the polls Monday. Two previous requests for additional millage were turned down in August and November last year... the latter by a 113-vote margin when 60.7 percent of the registered electorate turned out to reject a seven-mill request by a vote of 1136-1023.

The August election, for 3.3 mills, resulted in a 457-457 stand-off when a recount upset an apparent one-vote victory.

Both requests, as is the case with Monday's election, were for one-year duration.

Outgoing Superintendent James C. Pace, whose resignation becomes effective June 30, indicated to the board Monday night that tentative budget figures for 1969-70 call for an outlay of approximately \$1,390,000.

Recent increases in state equalized valuation in the City of Lowell, plus anticipated increases in adjacent townships, can be expected to bring in additional operating revenues, Pace told the board.

"However," he cautioned, "it will not produce the bonanza some people apparently seem to believe at this time. Our estimates indicate that about \$17,000 will come from the new assessments in the City of Lowell."

Jones noted to the board and a turnout of approximately 35

interested residents, that the full millage picture will not be known for some time.

"At this point, we are playing a guessing game," declared Jones. "We do not have all the facts on state equalized increases, on state aid, on teachers salaries and on bus transportation."

"Until these facts are known, we can only go on record to guarantee our voters that we will spend only that money necessary to retire the present deficit and to provide an adequate educational program for our children."

Jones then expressed the opinion that the board should re-affirm, officially, a similar stand taken during the December meeting and repeated in the January session.

Dr. Reagan concurred, noting that the board should depart from usual voting procedures in this instance. The roll call vote followed.

"We want the record to speak for itself that every member of this board, including Dr. Gerard, who is not present, had the opportunity to stand and be counted," said Dr. Reagan.

Several items of business calling for cash outlays were tabled pending the outcome of Monday's election.

These included a request from Pace that repairs and preventive maintenance be considered for the junior high, intermediate buildings and football stands.

Plans for purchase of two new buses also were tabled, though the board authorized Pace to advertise for bids for purchase of the vehicles, expected to cost about \$17,500.

Pace told the board that changes in bus routes for this school year has resulted in approximately 20,000 fewer miles than at a corresponding period of the 1967-68 school term.

In other action, the board: Re-affirmed its bus transportation policy in turning down a request that afternoon kindergarten students attending Bushnell School would not be transported to classes;

Granted tenure to 13 teachers as required by the Teacher Tenure Act; namely, Mrs. Dolores Gabrion, Charles Johnson, Miss Virginia Kauffman, Ronald Moore, Harry Peacock, Mrs. Patricia Pierce, Mrs. Phyllis Reyburn, Darwin Sampson, George Stegmier, Mrs. Esther Teerling, Mrs. Elizabeth VanderSee, Gilbert Woolworth, and Mrs. Marge Benedict;

Tabled and turned over to Metternick bids on a built-up roof for the intermediate school gymnasium;

Tabled a request from the Kent Intermediate Board that three properties be transferred to the Forest Hills School District and a fourth be transferred to the Lakewood School District pending results of a block transfer hearing held recently in Lansing; and

Accepted the resignation of Miss Kay Wood, third grade teacher at Bushnell School.



PERFECT RECORD — Superintendent Robert G. Masten congratulates Mrs. Mary Flynn, who last week retired after 10 years of accident-free driving with the Forest Hills Public School bus fleet.

Bus Driver Terminates Accident-Free Career

BY JERRY HANES

A decade of service to Forest Hills Public Schools has come to an end for Mrs. Mary Flynn.

Last week, much to her surprise, Mrs. Flynn was guest of honor at a party given by fellow bus drivers, members of the office staff and Superintendent of Schools Robert G. Masten.

The occasion marked Mrs. Flynn's resignation, with regrets, from the driver's corps... and the anniversary of 10 years of accident-free driving for the system.

She was presented with a gift certificate from Fenstermacher's Fabric Shop, a most appropriate gift since Mary's hobby is sewing.

Things were far different when Mrs. Flynn started driving school buses for the district back in 1959. Her runs in those days called for 50 miles a day, compared to approximately 100 miles a day in recent years.

There were but 12 buses in the fleet a decade ago compared to 34 this year.

Mrs. Flynn recalls with fond memories the many hours spent in transporting children to and from classrooms... and, perhaps not as pleasantly, the mornings when it was necessary to clear ice and snow from buses for early morning trips on icy roads.

Plan 'March for Millage'

A full-scale parade, carrying the theme of "March for Millage," will be held in Lowell this Saturday morning.

Under the auspices of the Citizens for Better Education, the parade is expected to include some 20 or more units, including representatives from every club and organization in the Lowell school system.

Marchers will assemble at Richards Park and will get underway at 10 a.m. along a route to Main Street, then east to Washington.

A special performance by the Green Hornets Junior Drum and Bugle Corps from Comstock Park will be one of the highlights. In addition, the Lowell High School band and Scarlet Troubadours Junior Drum and Bugle Corps color guard will be in action.

Antique cars from Grand Rapids and new automobiles furnished by local dealers will participate in the event.

A number of youth groups and a special contingent from the Lowell YMCA will be among the expected turnout of 500 marchers.

Student groups from the school system will include members of the various athletic teams and extra-curricular activities classes.

Police Nab Two at High Speeds

A pair of high-speed chases, both involving 22-year-old drivers, were terminated by cohesive police action during the past week.

Kent County Sheriff's deputies were called to handle an accident early Thursday morning when a Clarksville man ran off the road at a high rate of speed on M-91 while attempting to out-distance Lowell police.

In turn, Lowell police succeeded Sunday morning in blocking a Lowell-area motorist who was seeking to elude sheriff's deputies on 36th Street.

Gary R. Warner, 22 of Clarksville and a companion, 22-year-old James Mullinix of New York, were injured slightly when Warner's car left the road south of Lowell, hit a utility pole and rolled over several times in an open field.

Police report that Warner was observed in Lowell traveling at a high rate of speed. When local officers sought to arrest him, he sped away at speeds estimated at 100 m.p.h.

The two men were taken to St. Mary's Hospital for treatment.

Lowell police issued a ticket for reckless driving. Roger A. Keech, 22, of 3250 Kissing Rock Road, was arrested after he was stopped by a blockade established by Lowell police at M-91 and 36th Street following a call for assistance by the Sheriff's Department. He was ticketed for reckless driving.

Delmer Kidder, 33, of Twin Lakes was fined a total of \$103 and sentenced to three days in the county jail after appearing before District Judge Joseph B. White on a charge of driving with license revoked. He was arrested in Lowell March 3.

New Construction in Ada Tops '68

BY SHIRLEY DYBERT

Building permits for 1969 are running well ahead of figures for the first two months of last year in Ada Township.

Building Inspector Herman Stukkie reported to the township board at its bi-monthly meeting Monday that total valuation for permits issued to date is \$378,500, compared to \$100,000 at the same time in 1968.

Included is a permit calling for construction of the new Ada Community Reformed Church on Thornapple River Drive, valued at \$155,000. (See story on Page 6.)

Additional permits were issued during the month of February for seven new residential dwellings and three additions and remodelings.

Stukkie also outlined procedures required by the Kent County Health Department that a special sewer and septic tank permit must be obtained from the county before construction can begin on any property not located adjacent to regular sewer lines.

The board also received notice that the report on a special survey to determine feasibility of creating a municipal water system for the township will be in its hands within 30 days.

Fire Chief Stan Osmolinski reported that his department has answered five calls for grass fires. He pointed out that dry weather has created a dangerous situation.

LOWELL BEER STORE — Open every day and evening until 10:00 p.m. Sunday until 9:00 p.m.

