

The Grand Valley Ledger

Weekly Coverage of Ada, Alto, Cascade, Forest Hills, Lowell and Saranac

VOLUME ONE, ISSUE SEVENTEEN

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1976

PRICE FIFTEEN CENTS



The season's first grass fire brought out the Lowell Volunteer Fire Department to the corner of Foreman Road and Cumberland Avenue Monday afternoon.

The sighting of the first robin was reported to the Ledger office Monday morning by Ms. Evelyn Powell, who saw one chirping Saturday about 4:30 p.m. in the yard at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Smith at 210 Maple Street.

Fifth District Congressman Richard F. VanderVeen will have his mobile office located in Lowell at East Main and Lafayette Streets this Saturday, March 13. Residents in this area are invited to meet the Congressman and discuss with him any matters of concern or interest between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

The Lowell Police Band will provide the music for a benefit dance on March 20 at the Lowell V.F.W. Hall. Proceeds from the dance will go toward the "Life Pack Unit" used to save lives. The public is invited.

The Aroma of good things to eat will be floating through the air around the First United Methodist Church of Lowell on Thursday, March 11, and Thursday, March 18. This Thursday, a pancake supper will be served to the public between 5 and 7 p.m. Next Thursday, a Roast Beef Dinner is on the menu.

Involved in a property damage accident in front of Eberhard's Store on West Main Street, March 1, were vehicles driven by Karen Doyle and Ron Carey, both of Lowell.

Voters in the Forest Hills School District went to the polls Monday and turned down a request for a six-mill tax increase. Some 2,100 voted against the increase, with 1,600 voters giving their approval.

All train traffic through Lowell was brought to a halt Tuesday morning, when a train derailed off the tracks at the intersecting Grand Trunk and C&O lines. A railroad crew was expected in Lowell Tuesday by noon to lift the derailed car up, straighten the wheel, and get things rolling again.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual noon luncheon meeting this Thursday, March 11, at 12:30 p.m. at the Showboat Restaurant on East Main Street. A guest speaker from the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce will address the local businessmen.

Lowell Showboat Corporation will hold their annual dinner-dance this Saturday evening, March 13, at the Deer Run Golf Course. Proceeds realized from this endeavor will benefit the amphitheatre fund. All Showboat Boosters are cordially invited to attend.

Jack Boggs, Lowell Showboat spokesman, Tuesday, announced that stock certificates for Amphitheatre contributors are being issued, however, the gold name plates denoting givers of \$100 or more are still in the planning stage. Showboat Corporation feels if the name plates are put on the seats in the Amphitheatre, they will become objects of vandalism. Alternative plans for displaying them are being discussed.

Saranac Students To Attend Wolverine Boys State



It is time again when two boys are picked to represent Saranac High School at the thirty-ninth annual American Legion Wolverine Boys' State. This year's representatives are Steve London and Steve Card. Boy's State is held at Michigan State University June 16th to June 23rd.

The boys are chosen for their leadership, awareness of government, alertness, enthusiasm, responsibility and ability to get along with others. Generally, they are juniors in high school when chosen to become citizens of Boy's State. The valuable training gained at Boy's State helps them to understand their government better. At Boy's State they set up their own city, county, and state governments. Then they elect officials to govern themselves.

This will be a great learning experience for both Steves.

A special thanks goes to the American Legion who pays for the boys' trips and the existence of Boy's State.

ROSIE DRIVE INN—800 W. Main St., Lowell. This Week's Special: Flatbreads, 50 cents. Tuesday Night, Burger Night; Wednesday Night, Chicken Night; Saturday Night, Sizzler Night. c17

Above The Board Lowell Board Offers Contracts

The aftermath of last week's ice storm was felt at Monday night's Board of Education meeting when many reports listed for discussion had to be postponed because committees were unable to meet as scheduled.

Board members voted unanimously to offer contracts for the 1976-77 school year to three Kent Intermediate personnel who have been working with Lowell students in special areas.

Contracts will be offered to Barb Brown, full time speech therapist, Lorraine Freeland, half-time speech therapist, and Bill Kooyer, school psychologist.

A contract would have been offered to Eleanor Haan as school social worker but Mrs. Haan will be working in the Philippines next Fall so that position will be open.

Crossing Lights

Regarding the problem of Runciman student safety at the street crossing of Monroe and High, board members were informed that the Lowell City Council favored the installation of a yellow flashing caution light and limiting the automotive speed to 15 miles per hour.

School officials still prefer the installation of a flashing red stop light that can be controlled from the school or a post near the intersection during the periods when students are passing from building to building. This plan also includes "walk" and "don't walk" signs.

A device of this nature can be completely turned off when

school is not in session but it costs \$514.04 more than the plan favored by the city.

The board voted to come up with the additional money to cover the added expense if the city will go along with the installation.

Special Ed Camps

The Board also approved Special Ed Supervisor Roger Buck's request to send Lowell students to Special Education Summer Camp for one week again this summer.

The camp has proved to be particularly beneficial to the students in the past.

Credit Classes

Community Education head, Rod Smith informed board members that 199 students are enrolled in classes for credit this semester, with 180 of these working toward high school completion, 13 in post-graduate study and six students under 18-years-old.

In addition, 106 are enrolled in non-credit studies and 223 are taking advantage of the leisure time program for a total of 528 people taking part in the community school courses.

Alto Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting will be held at Alto Elementary on Monday, March 22, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Two meetings each year are held in Alto, the rest are in the Middle School on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Victims Aid Victims



VICTIMS AID VICTIMS—Some victims of the power outage caused by the recent ice storm were also volunteers in the Red Cross shelter at Lowell Middle School. Local resident 17-year-old Martha Kwant, shown above with her parents, Henry and Helen Kwant, and brother and sister, Klaus and Nancy, is considered an outstanding Red Cross Youth Volunteer with over 1,000 volunteer hours in Florida.

After losing their power early Tuesday night, the Kwants helped organize the local operation and coordinate the varied activities of the four-day ordeal which even included helping an eight-year-old girl celebrate her birthday with a candle on a cookie!

RED CROSS AID CONTINUES HERE

The Red Cross is now accepting applications for assistance from persons affected by the ice storm or flooding.

Red Cross assistance is specifically designed to help those who may need food, cleaning supplies, or other emergency items, and, in some cases, financial help where there is no insurance.

Call 456-8661 for more information or come to the Kent County Chapter, American Red Cross, 1050 Fuller, NE, Grand Rapids, Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A Week To Remember!

See our full page feature on last week's lousy weather, inside on page two.



Photo by Modern Photographic

As pictured in the photo above, fallen tree limbs blocked roads. As the unceasing freezing rain continued, more and more limbs and even whole trees toppled to the ground.

In the photo to the left, South Jackson Street in Lowell is shown completely underwater. Many homeowners were forced to evacuate because of the high water.



Photo by Modern Photographic

Esther M. Fahrni, Retired Public Official, Passes

Retired public official Mrs. John (Esther M.) Fahrni of 610 East Main Street, Lowell, passed away Thursday morning, March 4, following a lingering illness. She was 79-years-old.

Lowell, and was also active in the Lowell Business and Professional Women's Club.

Very active in all community projects, she was also a member of the First Congregational Church of Lowell.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Fahrni is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Frank (Jacqueline) Miller of Grand Rapids; three grandsons, Gregory, Dirk and Daniel, all of Grand Rapids; a sister, Mrs. Claude J. (Mildred) Kieft of Saginaw; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Kidney Foundation of Michigan.



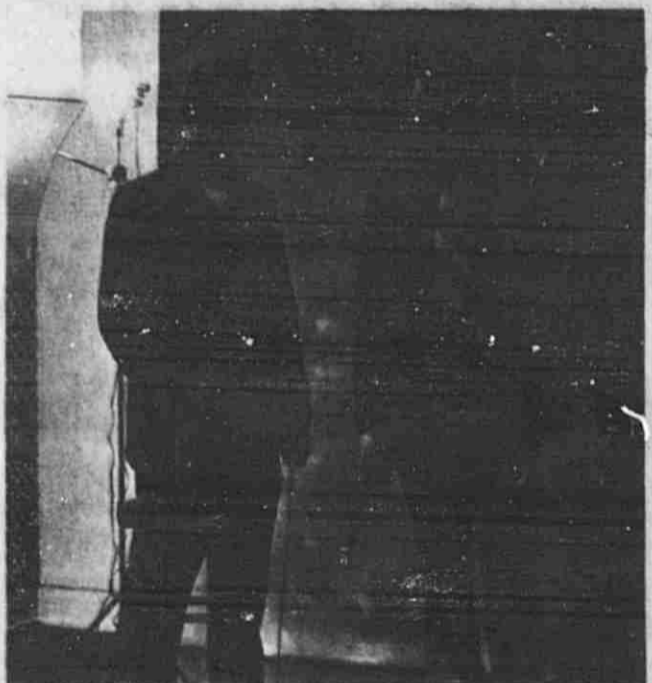
Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon, March 6, at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home with Dr. Richard Greenwood of the First Congregational Church of Lowell officiating. Burial was made in Lowell's Oakwood's Cemetery.

Esther Mae Lind was born November 20, 1896, in Ashlund, Wisconsin. On May 31, 1918, she married John H. (Jack) Fahrni in the German M.E. parsonage in Lowell. They have resided in this area for the past 54 years.

Mrs. Fahrni was Lowell Township Clerk and also Lowell Village Treasurer from 1945 through 1962. She was the branch manager of the State of Michigan Auto License Bureau in Lowell for seventeen years.

She was a Past Matron of Cyclamen Chapter No. 94, Order of the Eastern Star of

New Photographic Studio Is Now Open In Lowell



Pictured above are the owners of "Modern Photographics". Roger VanVleck on the left and Jim Maatman to the right.

Lowell will be the home of "Modern Photographics," a full service photo studio. The studio is located at 104 W. Main Street.

Modern Photographics is a new business that is a partnership between Jim Maatman and Roger VanVleck. Both Roger and Jim are presently teachers in the Saranac School System. The business will be open from 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. and 9-5 Saturdays until school is out in June. Jim and Roger will be leaving their teaching jobs and will devote their full efforts to their new business. As of June, Modern Photographics will be open regular business hours.

Talking to Roger, he stressed the fact Modern Photographics will feature old fashioned service, that is, they will be at the customer's service at all times.

If you want your family portrait posed in the studio, park, front yard or living room; it will be completely up to you. Roger or Jim will offer their professional advice and the end result will be a picture that may be cherished forever.

Their services will include nearly everything in the photographic field, weddings, senior pictures, portraits, custom black and white processing, portraits of pets, passport photos, and much more.

Their interest in photography started as a hobby, developed into a part time business and, now because of increasing demand, has become a full-time business.

Both men are presently residing with their families in Saranac. They are looking forward to becoming involved in Lowell's civic activities.

Roger and his wife, Janice, have two children, Becky 5 and Amy 1. Jim's wife, Kathy, is a fifth grade teacher at Saranac.

Why not stop by and welcome Jim and Roger to the community. They will be more than happy to meet you.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH—Individualized hair coloring at Vanity Hair Fashions, 203 E. Main, Lowell, 897-7506. c17

"A WHALE OF A TALE," will be at the Strand Theatre March 19, 20, 21 & 22. c17

FRI., MARCH 12
THRU
MON., MARCH 15

STRAND Theatre
LOWELL, MICHIGAN

ONE SHOW EACH
NIGHT AT 8 P.M.

"MEL BROOKS'
COMIC MASTERPIECE"
MUSIC BY ALBERT SATTURDAY REVUE

YOUNG
FRANKENSTEIN

MONDAY IS
DOLLAR
NIGHT

Cascade To Present Land Use Plan

On Monday, March 15, the Cascade Township Planning Commission will hold a public information meeting to review alternative Land Use concept plans for the Township.

All residents are invited to attend the meeting which will be held in the Township Hall, 2800 Orange St., S.E., at 7:30 p.m.

Members of the Planning Commission, the Township Board, and representatives of Williams and Works, will present the various elements of the plan and maps illustrating three different concept plans.

Planning Commission chairman Dan Ellinger, stated that the plan will form the basis for future development in the township.

Add's Bicentennial Arboretum Will Be A Living Museum

A 57-acre plot of land, located at the corner of Buttrick Avenue and Grand River Drive, was purchased by Ada Township in 1975 from Robert Somerville as a site for a township park.

Approximately six acres of the property has been set aside for an Arboretum, a project which will be financed solely by contributions from individuals, organizations and local businesses.

The Arboretum, a proposed bicentennial project that received a "high priority" vote from Ada citizens who responded to a questionnaire sent out by the Bicentennial Committee, will be a museum of living trees and shrubs.

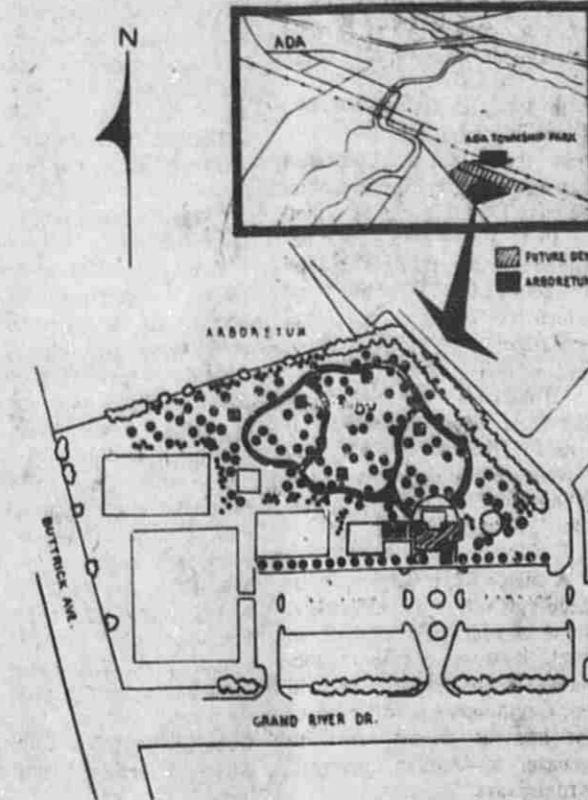
Elmer E. (Bud) Locke, Jr., chairman of the Ada Bicentennial Committee, says 200 trees, one for each year of natural life, will be planted at the site. Each tree will be identified by its common and botanical names so that visitors can familiarize themselves with the collection of 44 different kinds of conifer and deciduous trees on display.

An additional 38 Hopsa crab trees, one designated for each of the presidents from Washington to Ford, will be planted to outline the parking area. "Tree planting will begin in April," Locke added.

According to Locke, the Arboretum will develop a park-like aspect with an asphalt path winding among the trees. A picnic area and other facilities will be provided with emphasis on designs producing maximum use by the handicapped and young people.

In addition to the woody plantings, spring bulbs and other flowers will be grown through the administration of a separate fund which has been established, Locke explained.

Neighborhood meetings with



In the township are being planned to promote the Bicentennial Arboretum project, and displays explaining the details of the development will be set up in various business areas.

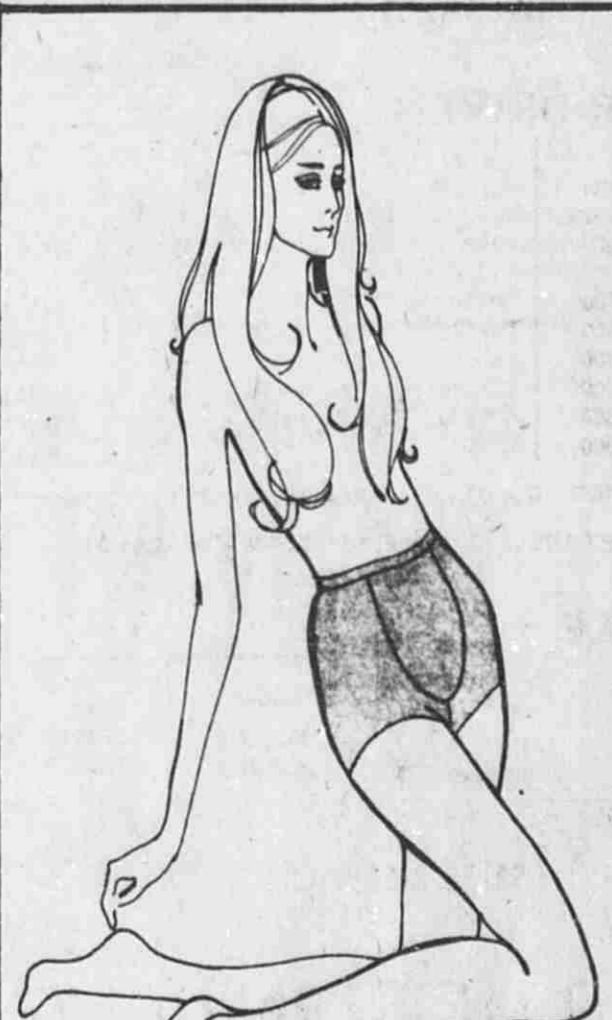
All contributions are tax deductible, and contributors will receive certificates suitable for framing to acknowledge their donations.

A permanent record and map will be maintained at the Township Hall showing the tree number (year), botanical and common name, the name of the person for whom the tree was planted and the location of the tree within the arboretum.

Anyone who would like to be a part of this exciting proposal and sponsor a living tree for themselves, family members or a friend, can contact Sandy Seckell at the Ada Township Hall, 676-9191.



Keith Neederhous, left, and Dave Jeltema recently cleaned up 1/4 mile of trash at the site for Ada's Bicentennial Arboretum.



BERKSHIRE SALE PANTY HOSE & STOCKINGS

Table listing items for sale: Panty Hose, Support Panty Hose, Micro Mesh Stocking, 2-Way Stretch Stocking, Agilon Stocking, Sheer Knee HI. Includes regular and sale prices.

Cary's 219-221 West Main Street Lowell-897-7577

Advertisement for Arrowhead Golf Club. Includes text: 'Our Club House will be open Thursday thru Sunday, 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. beginning March 18, until 'golf season' begins. Come On Out... Meet The New Owners And Sign-up For A Season Of 'Fun' Golf.' Also lists membership fees.

Oberlin At Air Forces 'Fire Field'



Alvan Michael A. Oberlin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Oberlin of 4363 Bedaki Drive, Lowell, has been selected for technical training in the U.S. Air Force fire protection field at Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois.

The alumnus recently completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where he studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special instruction in human relations.

Alvan Oberlin is a 1971 graduate of Lowell High School.

COLLEGE DAY FOR WOMEN, MARCH 30

Do you want to be one of the best informed women in town? If so, plan now to attend the annual College Day for Women program sponsored by Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service. College Day will be held March 30th at the Lakewood High School in Lake Odessa. The day long (9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) event is open to the public.

Lunch will be served in the high school cafeteria. For more information about registering for the College Day program, call Roberta Rodgers, Extension Home Economist for Ionia County at 527-1400 or drop in the office located at 110 E. Washington St., Ionia, 48846.

He started working at his brother-in-law's, Carl Loveland's Drug Store in 1934. In 1936, he opened his first Nestlé Drug Store in Grand Rapids, later opening two more outlets. He retired and sold his business in 1974.

Mr. Nellist was born in Ada and attended Ada High School. He attended Michigan State University until 1919 and also served in World War I in the Medical Corps.

He taught chemistry and manual arts at Dowagiac High School in Richland for 13 years. He attended Ferris State College where he received his pharmacist degree, and completed his masters degree at Cornell University in New York.

Mr. Nellist was a member of Ada Lodge No. 260, F&AM. He attended Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and was a former member of the Standale Businessmen's Association. He was also a member of American Legion Post No. 179 and of the Saladin Temple Shrine.

He leaves two daughters, Mrs. Mary Jane Murphy at home, and Mrs. Rodney (Margaret) Cumberworth of Traverse City; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Clark and Kenneth Nellist of Ada; and one sister, Mrs. Robert (Alice) Morris of Ada.

Dog Obedience Graduating Class

Graduation ceremonies were conducted Wednesday, February 25, for the 1976 YMCA Dog Obedience Class.

The graduates of the class with their Masters were: "Polly" and Milo DeVries; the instructors, "Briggett" and Margaret Sherman, "Peppy" and Jackie Spencer; "Rael" and Mary Klostra; "Carole" and Diane Scott, and "Lady" and Tom Kauffman.

"Stoney" and Sue Haveman; "Duffy" and Beverly Jansma; "Chippie" and George Poullias; "Fuffy" and Ruth Hoag; and "Crown" and Tom Reiger.

To Rebuild Portions Of Area Roads

Rebuilding of Cascade Road from Int. 96 to the Thornapple River in the village of Cascade, SE, will take place later in the year, with the bid being let in four to six weeks, reports Donald Schofield, engineer-manager of the Kent County Road Commission. Cost of the major project is estimated at \$390,000.

Work will include removing the raised, concrete median, putting in curbs and gutters in the west portion, improving the shoulders and resurfacing.

Tentative plans call for the elimination in 1977 of two, long, low spots on Reeds Lake Blvd. at the east end of Reeds Lake, Grand Rapids Township, and rebuilding the road from Hall Street generally northly and then northwesterly to the East Grand Rapids city limits, estimated at \$200,000.

The KCR also has plans for 1978 to rebuild Lincoln Lake

Avenue between Three and Four Mile Roads, NE, estimated at \$250,000; and rebuilding and widening Grand River Drive between Segwan Avenue and Oberly Drive, SE, on the south side of Lowell, to cost about \$150,000.

REPUBLICANS WILL FEAST ON SPAGHETTI DINNER

Dr. Paul B. Henry, chairman of the Kent County Republican Committee, has named Mrs. James B. Stone and Edward Bowden as general co-chairmen of the 89th Annual Lincoln Day Dinner to be held March 16, 1976, at the George W. Welsh Civic Auditorium.

Co-chairmen Stone and Bowden announced that Lieutenant Governor James J. Damman, a two-term State Representative picked by Governor William G. Milliken to be his running mate in the 1974 election, will be honored guest.

Growing Fast

Participants in the federal food stamp program totaled 13.5 million in 1974, more than twice the total for 1970, according to the Census Bureau.

Advertisement for Flat River Post No. 8303 V.F.W. Will Host A Benefit Dance. Lowell Police Band will provide music from 8 p.m. till 2 a.m. Proceeds from dance will go toward the LIFE PACK UNIT which will be on display the same evening. \$1.00 Donation Cover Charge. "LET'S ALL HELP SUPPORT THIS LIFE SAVING PROJECT"

Erickson Begins Fourth Year In His 'Showboat Restaurant'



Paul Erickson is shown above, pictured where he is most at home, in the kitchen of his Showboat Restaurant.

This week marks the beginning of Paul Erickson's fourth year as owner of Lowell's Showboat Restaurant. Paul is very proud of the improvements that he has made in the restaurant in the last three years.

Paul's salad bar will be back this summer, and Paul says it will be bigger and better than ever.

Paul likes to stress the fact that his is a restaurant, that caters to the family. His menu offers a wide selection, to include children's dinners. Banquet facilities are available with family style service, if requested.

Paul points out that two additions have increased the seating capacity of the restaurant from its original 40 to its present 100 seats.

Government Influence Is Hurting Michigan Fam Operations

"Michigan's farm industry is becoming more and more like a public utility which is poorly regulated by state agencies," said a Michigan State University, labor and industrial relations specialist, speaking at the Great Lakes Vegetable Convention in Lansing January 27-29.

"It seems to me that farmers and their friends have got to educate the legislators and the state regulatory agencies that farming is not like General Motors," says Dr. Daniel H. Kruger.

"Management problems at GM are entirely different from those of farmers and farmers have to contend with uncontrollable factors of weather and natural disasters. They had more than their share last year," he said.

OUR FLAG Historical Highlights

FIRST FOREFATHER The first flag of the colonists to have any resemblance to the present Stars and Stripes was the Grand Union flag, sometimes referred to as the "Congress Colors." It consisted of thirteen stripes, alternately red and white, representing the Thirteen Colonies, with a blue field



in the upper left hand corner bearing the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, signifying union with the mother country, according to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. This banner was first flown by the ships of the Continental Fleet in the Delaware River in December, 1775. The Grand Union flag was carried by Marines and American Bluejackets comprising an expeditionary force in the West Indies during 1776.

It has been reported that cigars kept in ideal condition (in a humidifier room) improve in quality for five years and hold a peak for another five years before they start to decline in taste.

One out of every two women 65 and over is a widow. One out of every seven men in that age group is a widower, says the Census Bureau.

LOWELL SCHOOL MENU

- Week of March 15, 1976 MONDAY Italian Spaghetti Rolls or French Bread Cole Slaw Assorted Fruits Milk TUESDAY Cheeseburgers Pickles, Mustard or Catsup Potato Chips Tossed Salad with Dressing Peaches and Cookies Milk WEDNESDAY Chili and Crackers Salad Cinnamon Rolls Chilled Applesauce Milk THURSDAY Roast Beef and Gravy On Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Dinner Rolls and Butter Cranberry Sauce Jello with Whip Milk FRIDAY Red Arrow Submarine Sandwiches with Special Sauce or Catsup and Pickles. Potato Sticks Buttered Peas Cookies & Chilled Fruit Cup Milk

Advertisement for Harold Metternick, Jr., Licensed Electrician. Includes text: 'WHEN POWER FAILS WIN POWER DELIVERS TRACTOR DRIVEN PORTABLE'. Includes tables with specifications for tractor driven and portable generators.

Advertisement for Shaw's Fine Groceries. Includes text: 'SAVINGS STREET DAYS FINAL BIG WEEK'. Lists various food items and prices, such as Old Fashion Smoked Picnics, Turkey Drumsticks, and various canned goods.

Advertisement for Jackson Motor Sales. Includes text: 'SEE THIS COMPLETE SELECTION OF Chrysler And Dodge Cars & Trucks'. Lists various models and provides contact information for Jackson Motor Sales.

