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# The Grand Valley Ledger

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Volume 3, Issue 36

July 19, 1978



**THREE IMAGINATIVE STORIES . . .**  
Three dramatizations of three imaginative stories will be part of the Story Theater to arrive at the Lowell Library, 325 West Main Street, on Monday, July 31, at 10:30 a.m. This program for elementary-age children is provided for Kent County Library System member libraries during the summer.  
The stories in next Monday's program will be taken from the books "Euphonia and the Flood," "Hubert's Hair-Raising Adventure," and "The Creeping Beauty."  
More information on the program can be secured by calling librarian Mrs. Evelyn Briggs at 897-9596 . . .

**RITTERSDORF INJURED . . .**  
Jeffrey Rittersdorf of Lowell was injured last Friday evening, when the motorcycle he was riding smashed into a car driven by Cheryl Thomas, at the intersection of Foreman Road and North Hudson Street.  
Witnesses stated that Rittersdorf was traveling at a high rate of speed when the mishap occurred . . .

**TAKEN TO JUVENILE HOME . . .**  
Taken to the Kent County Juvenile Home by Lowell Police officers Wednesday, July 12, was a 16-year-old juvenile who confessed his involvement in two breaking and enterings of homes in the area.  
Lowell officers on July 14 arrested a 16-year-old juvenile runaway and turned him over to the Kent County Sheriff's Department after he confessed to the theft of an automobile from Grand Rapids earlier in the week. The juvenile is from Lowell . . .

**PLAY AT FALLSBURG . . .**  
The Lowell Baseball team, entered into competition in the Tri-County league will be at home this Sunday, July 23, for a game against Belding. The game to be played on the field at Fallsburg Park will get underway at 2 p.m.  
Lowell's next home-game will be on August 5 at 5 p.m. against Portland . . .

**TO ERR IS HUMAN . . .**  
It never seems to fail, each time the high school honor roll is published, either the school or the Ledger is erroneous in omitting this or that name. Following last week's publication, it was brought to our attention that the following names were not included: Francis Simmerer, and Gary Warning, B or better averages and Tony Schwacha, all A's.  
Our apologies, and as always, we'll try harder next time . . .

**BECOMES VENNEN SALESMAN . . .**  
Joining the sales staff at Vennen Chrysler-Dodge at 930 West Main Street last week was Thomas Speerstra of 13163 Vergennes Street, Lowell.  
A former employee of Lippert's and a free-lance photographer, Speerstra is looking forward to the challenge put before him in the automotive field.  
A graduate of Lowell High School, he is married to the former Kay Feuerstein of Lowell. They have one son, Jeremy . . .

**LESSONS FOR ADULTS . . .**  
Gordon Hill, jr., will be providing tennis lessons for adults for three weeks starting August 1 and ending August 17. Hill, working for the Lowell YMCA, will instruct beginners and intermediates each Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. at the high school courts.  
A total of six hours will be taught over the first three weeks of August. All interested parties should stop in at the Lowell YMCA to register or call 897-8445 . . .

**JESSIE'S CAKE DID IT!**  
Last Thursday during the noon rush hour, the Lowell Fire Department was called to the Vista Inn on West Main Street, where an electrical fire had broken out when a motorist struck a utility pole near the restaurant. Due to the electrical shortages, the restaurant was closed until repairs could be made. They reopened in time for the supper hour.  
Owners Ralph and Doris VanDett and all employees at the restaurant gave a great round of applause to the Lowell Fire Department who were "Johnny on the spot," to save the restaurant from major damage . . .

**TIME TO SPRUCE UP! . . .**  
The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce this week has asked for the cooperation of all Lowell businesses to clean-up, fix-up and decorate for the week-long Lowell Showboat festivities which will get underway next Monday evening.  
"We hope to have all the new trash containers installed on Main Street before Monday night's parade, and are looking for a little rain to spruce up the tree and flower planters," a Chamber spokesman revealed . . .

**THIS 'N THAT . . .**  
The Crystal Flash gas station and convenience store on West Main is entering its fourth week of grand opening specials . . . Lowell Councilman and Main Street businessman Art Warning returned to work this week, on part-time basis until he is fully recovered from his recent surgery . . . employees of the Eberhard Store on West Main are still on strike . . . a used furniture store is now occupying the building which formerly housed Showboat Automotive on East Main . . . paving of all the City-owned parking lots on the east and west sides of town was completed last week . . . and Lowell now has its own bridal shop which is soon to open in the Debonaire buildings on East Main . . .

**Supervision at the new Lowell Lanes include, left to right, Luke Lukomski, lanes manager, Vilma Abby, lounge manager and Nick Abby, owner. Mr. Abby says that the entire staff will strive at all times to maintain a wholesome family oriented atmosphere at the Lowell lanes.**

The all new Lowell Lanes on M-21, west of the Lowell City Limits officially opened for business last Saturday, July 15.  
The Lowell Lanes feature 24

bowling alleys equipped with the latest Brunswick A-2 equipment, large game room, a cocktail lounge with weekend dancing and a giant screen TV,

and snack bar. Operating hours will be from 9 a.m. until 12 midnight for the lanes and 11 until 2 for the lounge. Both will be open seven days a week.  
Owner Nick Abby said that he was very pleased with the opening day turn-out and estimated that approximately 500 games were bowled. Abby went on to say that the numerous comments from the patrons were all favorable and he appreciated them very much.  
Luke Lukomski, manager of the lanes comes to his new position with more than two years of bowling alley management behind him; most recently at the Comet Lanes in Grand Rapids. A 193 average bowler last year, Lukomski says that he will be available for instruction while on duty at the lanes. Lukomski also wants to remind Ledger readers that there are still openings in the Leagues which will begin Tuesday, September 5. The number to call for further league information is 897-8443.  
Abby's wife Vilma will manage the cocktail lounge and pointed out that there will be light lunches served in the lounge throughout the day.  
Other niceties being offered by Lowell Lanes include lane to desk intercom, children's play room, a full-time Brunswick trained maintenance man, copy service for league secretaries, extensive paved parking and warm, friendly personnel.

**APPOINTMENTS** — Not always needed at Vanity Hair Fashions, open six days, Lowell, 897-7506. c36

**WEDDING MEMORIES** — To last a lifetime. Modern Photographics, Lowell—the finest in distinctive wedding photography. 897-5606. c-31

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## Metric Mfg. Gets City Council Okay

Despite many negative comments and dissenting votes from councilmen Dave Carter and Robert Christiansen, a resolution establishing an industrial development district on property owned by Metric Manufacturing was passed by a 3-2 vote of the Lowell City Council.

The vote followed a public hearing, which preceded the regular July 17 meeting of the council.  
The establishment of an industrial development district is the first step in obtaining tax relief under Public Act 198 which allows for a maximum of a fifty percent reduction in property taxes over a maximum twelve year period.

The reasons behind the act are to entice industry to stay in Michigan and it is also a tool for local governments to attract new industry into their taxing jurisdiction.

The act is applicable only to new or expanding industries that will provide new jobs along with their growth.

Under the provisions of the act, only the city would lose tax revenue as the school district would be reimbursed for their losses by the state. The five percent of the local government's total state equalized valuation was until recently a limit of Act 198's reductions allowed in any single community. There is currently no limit imposed by the state, but Lowell has surpassed the old 5% limit with King Milling Co., Attwood Corp., and Christoff and Sons, Inc. all taking advantage of the tax break because of recent expansions.

Carter and Christiansen argued that they would not be in favor of any further Act 198 reductions for the following reasons: it only applies to industry with no provisions for

commercial or residential properties, the November election with the Tisch and Headly amendments on the ballot may cause a drastic cut in the city's income, puts burden on local government to entice business to stay in Michigan when the state continues to drive business out by raising unemployment, workman's compensation, etc., and the fact that the city has already surpassed the old 5% limit.

But at the request of Metric Manufacturing representatives, the council granted the establishment of the industrial development district in view of the fact that it is merely a preliminary step and that the city still has the final word when it comes time to accept or reject the application for 1978 tax relief.

In other decisions, the council opted to sell excess and obsolete equipment from the old well sites on Foreman Rd., and invite the Michigan Artrain for a return visit next spring, and pay the lodging for the train's staff providing various community organizations will shoulder the other responsibilities involved.

## Parade Monday

# Here Comes The '78 Lowell Showboat



At the Lowell Showboat Amphitheatre last Saturday night, 12 top-notch amateur acts were picked to appear on the 1978 Lowell Showboat, July 24-29, along with professional entertainer Vic Damone.

Saturday's winners and the nights they will be on the Showboat stage, are: Monday, July 24, John Braderburg, Davison, vocalist, acc. Sheryl McGinnis, and Susan Marshall, Muir, vocalist.

Tuesday, July 25, Limbo Rock from Durand, novelty-gymnastics, and the Sunshine Kids from Vernonia doing a tap dance routine.

Wednesday, July 26, Georgette Wendling, Cheesman, song and tap, and Space Odyssey, Sholly Suttler, (Cheesman, tumbling.

Thursday, July 27, Staying Alive, Novi, Elaine School of Dance, Jazz, and Owosso Skating Center's Rolling Squares, Owosso skate-square dance. Friday, July 28, Hell's Kazoos, Grand Rapids, novelty-comedy and The Saltans Dancers, Grand Rapids, Middle Eastern dancers.

Closing out the Showboat on Saturday, July 29, will be Bright Majorjty, Grand Rapids, a barbershop quartet, and Lois Sage, Hastings, piccolo solo.

## Lanes Opened; Over 500 Games Bowled



Supervision at the new Lowell Lanes include, left to right, Luke Lukomski, lanes manager, Vilma Abby, lounge manager and Nick Abby, owner. Mr. Abby says that the entire staff will strive at all times to maintain a wholesome family oriented atmosphere at the Lowell lanes.

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The Showboat, the biggest community project of the year for Lowell, will be steaming round Cattail Bend on the Flat River for six nights starting next Monday.

As the decked out barge, a replica of a Mississippi riverboat, ties up to the Lowell Amphitheatre dock at 9 p.m. nightly, amid the fanfare and color of the Old Showboat Days, it marks the start of more than 2 1/2 hours of top flight entertainment.

As the sound of the 28-piece orchestra and the words of the huge Showboat Chorus singing, "Here Comes the Showboat" echo through the night, the Showboat will be starting its 44th year under the guidance of many energetic and proud Lowell volunteer workers.

While the Showboat spotlight falls on the heralded and talented vocalist Vic Damone for the final 60 minutes of the show, many of the immediate area residents will be featured on the Amphitheatre stage during the first part.

Forrest Buck, dean of the popular Endmen and who has been with the Showboat for 40-plus summers, is featured along with veteran Endmen Joe Vezino, Terry Fenech, Jerry Meredith and Dick McNeal. They will provide plenty of atmosphere with their songs and zany antics.

As for the past 12 summers, Gordon Gould serves as inter-locutor for the gala six nights. The Lowell High School Director of Guidance joined the Showboat ranks as one of the endmen in 1964.

This year's Showboat chorus Showboat history and under the

direction of Tom Hagan, music director at Saranac High School. The chorus has been rehearsing for the past three weeks for the week-long presentation.

Backing singer Damone and the rest of the entertainers is the giant 28-piece Showboat orchestra under the direction of Bruce Early, director of Aquinas College's musical department. Many of the band members are from the West Michigan areas. Normally, the Showboat Band numbers 12 to 14 pieces, but was enlarged for Pearl Bailey last year and for Damone's show.

The popular Showboat Talent winners are also in the spotlight nightly. Two separate amateur acts selected in last Saturday's talent night finals will be performing each of the six nights.

Damone has been a recording, movie and TV star for the past 30 years. In the past month he has starred at the Resort International Hotel Casino's Su-

perstar Theater in Atlantic City. Last Saturday night he concluded a week's engagement at the twink Playboy Resort & Country Club Great Gorge in McAlfee, N.J.

The brown eyed baritone has been associated with many recording hits including "An Affair to Remember," "On the Street Where You Live," and "You Were Only Fooling," along with others.

The big Showboat week kicks off Monday night with the Showboat parade starting at 7 p.m. The starting point for the floats, the Showboat chorus, Endmen and other participants will be the Methodist Church. The parade will follow Main Street to Broadway, north to Riverside Drive and then to the boat dock.

This is the second year for the Showboat parade and features more marching units than the first attempt.

## Need Help?

The East Kent Community Center, 10763 Grand River Dr., Lowell, wishes to inform all senior citizens, disabled and chronically ill persons in the community and surrounding area of its summer "Home Assis-

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**ROSIE DRIVE INN** — 800 W. Main St., Lowell. This Week's Special: Quarter Lb. Hot Dogs, 80c. Tuesday Night, Family Night, Burger Night; Wednesday Night, Chicken Night; Thursday Night, Liver & Onions, Saturday Night, a Delicious Sizzler. c36

tance Program." The program is funded by a CETA grant and employs local teenagers.

Services that may be provided include general housecleaning, window and wall washing, some types of yard work and painting. Inquiries from non-profit organizations and community service groups are also welcome.

For further information, please contact Cindy Osborne at the East Kent Community Center, 897-8485.

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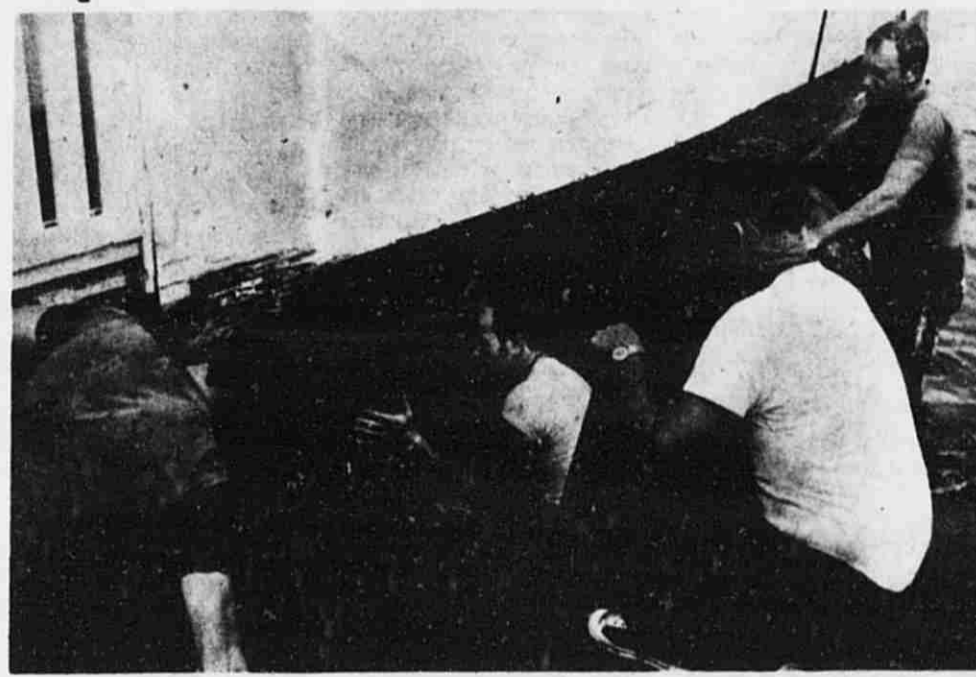
## Great Turnout For Moose's Catfish Derby

Yes, the fishing was great for some, as the Fishing Derby sponsored by the Moose came to an end last weekend. Prizes and money were given for the largest, heaviest and most catfish caught. All prizes received were donated by Ski-Way, Western Auto.

Ge'e and Trapp's. "Pickney's Camp took first place in all three categories, and laid claim to the first prize of \$100. Second place was won by the Dale Roose camp which won \$5.00 and minnow bucket donated by Trapp's of Ada. Third

place was won by Les Sherman's camp, \$5 and trout creel donated by Western Auto. Fourth place went to Simon's camp; a tackle box donated by Ski-Way, a flashlight by Ge'e's and lures donated by Orvis Tackle in Ada. Fifth place went to the Bristol camp which was nothing. "What happened Red?" After the derby everyone in the different camps donated fish for the fry which was held at Bristol Park. Red Bristol, chairman of this event and official judge, would like to thank everyone who donated prizes and participated and would like to tell all the fisherman to get ready for the Bristol Park Fishing Derby to be held in September.

## Replace Flotation Barrels On Boat



The annual task of replacing missing or damaged flotation barrels beneath the Lowell Showboat was undertaken by a group of local volunteers Saturday, July 15. Boat maintenance chairman Jim Hall said that the nearly forty new barrels installed this year was the largest number ever replaced of the estimated 150 barrels that support the boat. A tip of the hat for a job well done goes to Rich Bieri, Bill Barber, Chris Bieri, Dale Bieri, Bob Laughlin, Joe Bieri, Jerry Ganger, Jim Hall, Tony Siciliano and George Watson who all worked on the project. The 55 gallon drums used for flotation barrels are saved throughout the year by Attwood Corporation, and donated to the Showboat.

Due To Our Company Picnic We Will Be Closed All-Day Saturday, July 22.



Thank You

For Your Cooperation

# THOMET

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## Lowell Youths At Basketball Camp

Darryl Dumas, Greg Machado of Lowell Senior High School, are attending Grand Valley Basketball Camp this week. The camp is designed to help players between the 6th and 12th grades improve their ball handling as well as strategy team play and fundamentals. The five-day session is under the direction of Grand Valley's head basketball coach, Tom Villemure, who has a career record of 269-82. Two years ago, Villemure led Grand Valley to a fourth-place finish in the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City. In compiling a 30-4 record, GVSC became the first college in Michigan to win 30 basketball games in a single season. Several area coaches are assisting Villemure with the camp.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER



Any community worth a toot has some means of identification. Holland has its Tulip Festival, Muskegon its Seaway Festival, Traverse City its Cherry Festival, Greenville its Danish Festival, Ionia, the Free Fair, Wyoming its Rodeo, just to name a few. The list goes on and on.

With us it's the Lowell Showboat. It is a time of year when thousands of people come to pay us a visit, many for the first time. It gives every individual, family and organization an opportunity to show off and brag a little. Let's go all out to make these visitors WELCOME.

A bus load of people visited the Chesaning Showboat last week. It was a good show, however, I may be a bit prejudiced when I insist, "Were No. One!"

Everyone is urged to attend the Showboat Garden Club show "Flora, Fantasy and Fairy Tales," at the Runciman Elementary School, Wednesday, July 26, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, July 27, 1 to 9 p.m. and Friday, July 28, 1 to 8 p.m.

There will be a Showboat Parade Monday, July 24, at about 7 o'clock. Yes, I have been informed that there will be a band. Come put on a big smile and get the 1978 show off to a good start.

The Deer Run Country Club and the Lowell Middle School will serve dinners to the bus tours and others who palce reservations during Showboat

Week. Visitors who have time on their hands are reminded that Michigan has about five Covered Bridges. Three of these are within ten miles of Lowell. They are a photographer's delight.

The Showboat Board of Directors survived a rare crisis when Barb Curtis overslept and was a half hour late for the board meeting.

The 1978 Talent Search Contest, was something else, enthusiasm was rampant. It seemed that each contestant brought their own cheering section, and when the winners were announced complete bedlam broke loose.

I would like to say that in my estimation there were no losers, every act was great, and good enough to appear on any show. I am sure that all Showboat goers are in for a treat.

A vote of thanks goes out to Nola Bryant, who painted and numbered the seats in the amphitheater, and Bruce Walter and the Garden Club for providing planters at the ticket booth.

Showboat fans are apt to judge one show against another, however, there is only one Pearl Bailey, one Dinah Shore and one Louis Armstrong. Each show stands on its own merits. Each headliner has been tops in their field, Vic Damone is no exception. He carries out the Showboat tradition. He is tops in his profession. Come see and hear for yourself.

Showboat fever is about to hit Lowell. I warn you it is contagious. I hope to see you at the show, in the meantime, wear a big smile and keep listening for those whistle toots.—Bucky.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 24: Marsha and Mark Anderson, Amy Jo Lathwell.  
July 25: Ken Hale, James Bewell, Chris Bieri, Alfred Pratt, Dot McCaul, Eric Arnett, Robert McWhinney.  
July 26: Anne Borgerson, Evelyn Briggs, Mrs. Glenn Gooden, N. Johnson, John Lasby, Elaine Gregerson, Julie Rowe, Ronald Feuerstein.  
July 27: Mike Schuff, Toby Jones, Gail Acheson, Charlie Thuston.  
July 28: Jodi Boyce, Kathryn Ann Abel, Don Yeiter, Gloria Roth.  
July 29: Susan Ritter, Paul Wittenbach, Sharon Eickhoff, Hazel Stuckey.  
July 30: Roxanne Seese, Arlo Bray.

**DAIRY DYNASTY**  
Even though the Patent Office expressed doubts on the value of the invention, it issued a patent to Gail Borden Aug. 19, 1856, for condensed milk. Borden went on to prove the Patent Office's view was sour.

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