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The Grand Valley Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area

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Wednesday, September 12, 1979

Teacher Strike Is Settled

Monday morning found school children boarding school buses, waving to friends they hadn't seen all summer and anxiously looking for their classrooms. Teachers shuffled books, papers and lost students. Administrators handled a barrage of questions from youngsters new to the buildings.

It was the first day of school. The four-day teacher strike was over.

Teachers and school officials reached an agreement after meeting with a state-appointed mediator on Thursday. The tentative settlement would give teachers a 10.54 percent wage hike plus major improvements in fringe benefits and class size in the first year of a two-year package.

Salary increases in the second year depend on a formula tied to the rise in the cost of living with a top end 9 percent.

A ratification vote by teachers on the proposed contract is expected within two weeks and approval is expected from both the Lowell Education Association and the Board of Education.

A stalemate in the talks occurred last Wednesday when

negotiators found their offers and counter-offers still as much as \$75,000 to \$100,000 apart on salary, fringe benefits and class size were still up in the air.

The first and second year wage hikes should bring Lowell's teachers into the "competitive range" within Kent County, according to Superintendent Don Kelly. The three year pact which expired August 30 put teachers at the bottom end of the wage list for all schools in the county according to the MEA's 1978-79 salary schedule. Lowell teachers with a Masters degree were lowest and teachers with a Bachelor degree ranked 19th of 21 area schools with a minimum pay of \$11,000.

Lillian Stoger, KCEA representative and chief negotiator, said, "We feel this is an excellent settlement and that it could be a pacesetter contract in Kent County." She said improvements in class size and fringe benefits were not possible without a strike, as the teachers saw it.

If normal teacher increments are added to the terms of the wage settlement, some teachers will realize a 12.27 percent

increase in salary this year. Next year, salary jumps will be tied to the cost of living. Teachers are guaranteed a 1 percent increase for every 1 percent rise in the Consumer Price Index up to 7 percent. For every 1 percent rise above 7 percent, salaries would be hiked 1/2 percent with a maximum of 9 percent.

Under terms of the tentative settlement, the school district will pay 90 percent of the costs of teacher health insurance in the first year and all the costs in the second year. Previously, teachers had a more basic hospitalization insurance plan offered by the Michigan Education Association.

Teachers will also get \$10,000 in life insurance coverage during the second year. Up to this time, teachers had to carry their own life insurance privately. An orthodontic rider was added to their existing dental plan. The school district will provide long-term disability insurance for teachers during the second year of the proposed contract, a new benefit. There are new restrictions on use of the teacher sick day bank as a result.

Guaranteed limits on class size were agreed to in the new pact. Previously, the district held a "gentleman's agreement" that classes would average 25 students with special care to keep grades 1 and 2 under that limit. Class size problems were to be worked out with the building administrators.

During the first year of the new settlement, school officials agreed to a goal of 24 students maximum in grades K-2; 26 in grades 3-5; 28 in grades 6-8; and 30 per class in high school. Under the new agreement, teachers will still appeal to school administrators in the first year. Next year, however, the "goals" become fixed maximums and individual teachers will have the right to use grievance procedures if the teacher-pupil ratio is exceeded by 15 percent or more.

Lowell's lengthy school calendar was shortened somewhat in the compromise agreement. Student days in school will stay the same at 182 days but the teacher calendar has been shortened from 187 1/2 days to 185 in the first year and 184 in the second.

The State Department of Education requires students to attend school 180 days each year but Lowell Schools continue to carry two extra days for unforeseen events, such as a boiler breakdown, which are not "forgiven" the district as "an act of God", such as a blizzard.

Teachers had proposed a full two week break at Christmas time with the last day of school on Friday, Dec. 21 and the return date Jan. 7. Under the agreement, students will spend

Arson Suspected In Ada Bridge Fire

The gracious covered bridge that has spanned the Thornapple River in Ada since 1867 was destroyed by fire Sunday and now lays charred and crumpled in the River. Its proper name is the Bradfield Covered Bridge but for area residents, the Ada Bridge is its familiar title.

One saddened onlooker could not stem his tears as he surveyed the total destruction. "It probably was over 60 years ago that my wife and I courted on that bridge but it seems like yesterday," he said. "That is not just a bridge there in the river. It is my memories."

The Ada Bridge was only recently restored after the roof collapsed under the weight of snow and ice in last winter's severest storms. Ken Anderson, Ada township clerk, was still in the process of setting a date this month for a special ceremony to turn over local money raised for the repair to the Kent County Road Commission when the tragedy occurred.

The KCRC cooperated with the Michigan Historical Society and Ada township officials to complete the \$17,000 restoration project in June.

The fire was reported about 9:40 p.m. by Kent County Sheriff's Deputy Dan Krajewski who was checking an empty vehicle in Fase Park when he



The Ada Covered Bridge went down in flames last Sunday night about 9:40 p.m. Eight area fire units responded in minutes but the structure was nearly engulfed when they arrived. The roof and sides were completely consumed and the end nearest the ball diamond at Fase Park fell into the river. There were no plans to rebuild at press time.

Above The Board

After weeks of pressure and discussions with teacher union negotiations and with a contract settlement imminent, Board members welcomed beginning-of-the-year problems that faced them at Monday's regular meeting.

Some parents were present to voice their complaints on bus route changes. Superintendent Don Kelly expressed the board's concern, but commented that, being a rural district, it is almost impossible to accommodate all families living on spur routes. A committee will attempt to seek a solution that will be consistent and fair to rural district residents.

With legislation pending on a school breakfast program, Board members were unanimous in their desires to keep such program optional to local districts.

Supt. Kelly reported that preliminary figures indicate enrollments have dropped in the schools below the figures used in computing our tentative budget. At the present time, 100 fewer students have enrolled than in the 1978-79 Fourth Friday Count.

High school and middle school student handbooks were reviewed and adopted. These handbooks, distributed at the start of every school year, are discussed with students. Administrators and teachers feel Lowell has been effective in establishing good discipline with their student body through these means. Gordon Gould commented that students from other districts have voiced their approval of Lowell's student conduct, and the general cleanliness and atmosphere of the schools.

After adopting a resolution supporting the Kent Intermediate School District as fiscal agent and coordinator of the Professional Development Center as it involves Section 97 funds of the State Aid Act, the Board adjourned into closed session to discuss the status of negotiations.

under the jurisdiction of the KCRC and they term it a total loss. James Porritt, KCRC manager, doesn't have a dollar figure on the damages. Estimated figures for the restoration of the bridge range from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

The Ada bridge was built by Will Holmes and Jared Brazeo and was one of three covered bridges built on the same patent. The other two are just outside of Lowell, Fallasburg Bridge and White's Bridge. Recently named an historic site by state officials, the bridge was closed to auto traffic years ago but it continued to serve as a pedestrian overpass.

It also served the community as a link between their rich history and present growth.

And for many it served as a reminder of those lovely days when life was simpler and just holding hands on the Ada bridge meant you would share a wonderful future with a beautiful girl.



GOING, GOING...

Response to the Ledger's sale of 45 Lowell Centennial booklets published in 1931 to commemorate the history of the city was predictable—terrific. As with those found and sold last winter, these booklets went fast and there are only few remaining. Sorry, we cannot take phone reservations for the last few booklets but they can be purchased at the Ledger, 105 N. Broadway for \$5.

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE

Lowell Lions intend to light up your life with their annual Light Bulb Sale on Tuesday, Sept. 18 starting at 6:30 p.m. They will be going door to door in the sale so it would be good if you left your porch light on (if it has a bulb.)

SWITCH

Bills for Michigan Bell Telephone Co. can now be paid locally at Lippert Pharmacy. The service is no longer available at West's Apparel, formerly Cary's.

WELCOME

The Grand Valley Ledger welcomes to its pages a new advertiser Giant's Enterprises. Our neighbor to the east, Giant's bills itself as the "Big Store In The Country" and is located on M-66 north of Ionia. See their ads this issue and when you pay them a visit tell them the Ledger gremlin sent you.

Erb Lumber points out that do-it-yourselfers haven't many good outdoor days left until the snow flies. Their specials can be found in this week's ad. Count on good advice from the experienced folks at Erb's.

PP&K REGISTRATION

There is still time to register for the local Punt, Pass and Kick competition. The event takes place on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m. and is sponsored by the Lowell Jaycees and Harold Zeigler Ford, Inc. Locally the program for youngsters 8-13 is in its 19th year. There is no fee and no body contact during competition. No special equipment is needed. Participants should sign up now at Zeigler's.

OFF THE BLOTTER

Involved in a property damage accident on Friday evening, Aug. 31 was Hattie Hoag. She disregarded a stop light at Main and Hudson Sts., and struck a vehicle driven by Evelyn Sobleskey who was eastbound on Main.

Injured in an accident at James and Main on Friday evening, Aug. 31 were Bernie Condon, Geneva Wright and two juvenile passengers in her vehicle.

A local juvenile was apprehended by store employees at Eberhard's on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 8 in an alleged shoplifting incident.

The Dairy Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture has fined Clarence Klahn of Lowell \$35 for the sale of milk containing antibiotics. He pled guilty before Judge Joe White in District Court on Sept. 19.

Lowell officers investigated 26 accident complaints in August, one less than last year at this time. Five of those were injury accidents. Accident totals this year stands at 152, same as last year.

continued back page

LOST OR STOLEN — At 4 Mile and Alden Nash, 3-month-old English Springer Spaniel pup, liver & white, children's pet. Reward for information of whereabouts or return. No reprisals. Call 897-8586 or 897-9216. c44

GREAT CURL! GREAT BODY! With Uniperm at Vanity Hair Fashions, 203 E. Main, Lowell. 897-7506. c44

PRECISION & FASHION HAIR-STYLEING—For both men and women. Man's World Hairstyling. Phone 897-8102. c51f

Ribbon Cut At First Security Lowell Opening

Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held Monday, September 10, marking the opening of First Security Bank's new office in Lowell. The office is located at 11947 East Fulton Street. Attending the ceremonies were Harry Larkin, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive officer of First Security and Clare Colwell, Lowell Branch Manager.

The new bank will provide a full range of services, including lobby teller stations, a private loan area, night depository and drive-in service.



ROSE DRIVE INN — 806 W. Main St., Lowell. Breakfast Special: Bacon & Eggs, Toast & Coffee, \$1.50. Weekly Special: Hamburger Deluxe, 60c. Every night from 5 to 7 p.m. 4 oz. Sizzler, Baked Potato, Tossed Salad, Homemade bread, \$2.95. Also 8 oz. Sizzler, Baked Potato, Tossed Salad, Homemade Bread, \$4.95. Chicken Plate every evening, \$1.50. Bucket Chicken to go. Don't forget Chicken Night Wednesday night and Steak Night Saturday night. **STARTING THURS. NIGHTS ONLY**
Liver & Onions \$1.95
NEW HOURS
Mon. & Tues., 5:30 'til 7 p.m.; Wed., Thurs. & Fri., 5:30 a.m. 'til 9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 6:30 a.m. 'til 7 p.m. c44

Officiating at the ribbon cutting ceremony were: Harry Larkin, Chief Executive Officer of the Bank; Barry Emmons, Lowell Chief of Police; Harry Yetter, Lowell Township Supervisor; Don Kelly, Superintendent of Lowell Area Schools, and Clare Colwell, Manager of Lowell Branch of First Security Bank.

Clare Colwell, manager of the new office, is an experienced loan officer and has been employed by First Security Bank for the past two years. Previously, he worked for a financial services organization making consumer loans.

Harry R. Larkin, Chief Executive Officer of the bank commented, "We are delighted to be in Lowell. We intend to do everything possible to ensure that the people of the Lowell area will become equally pleased that we have come."

The bank lobby will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Friday the lobby will be open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to noon. The drive-in will be open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Friday the drive-in will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TAXI SERVICE — D & K Shuttling, Ph. 897-8638, Hrs. 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday. c51f

Where All The Other Bonds End... This One Begins!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 THRU MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

ROGER MOORE JAMES BOND 007 MOONRAKER

United Artists

ONE SHOW EACH NIGHT AT 8 P.M.

Monday Is Bargain Night

The Back Page...

Strike, from pg. one

Dec. 21 in school, enjoy 11 days vacation and return on Jan. 2. The Board's "rights clause" in the new contract will be improved, according to Supt. Kelly. The grievance procedure was improved with a language change which eliminates a Board hearing and the possibility of the Board having to oppose the superintendent.

The district snow day policy for teachers has also been a sticking point which precluded settlement. By contract, teachers will report to school whether there is school for students "wherever it is reasonable," according to Kelly.

The agreement is "still in line with what we had been offering from the beginning," according to Kelly. There were concessions on both sides, according to Stoner.

Two school athletic events went on as scheduled last Friday, a Cross Country meet with Ionia at Caledonia and the Varsity Football game with Ionia here. The events were not cancelled, according to Kelly, because kids would be the only real losers. Any scheduled season event lost because of contract dispute could not be regained.

Most school children were unconcerned with the particulars of the teacher-district tentative settlement. They were just glad to get back to school in those brand-spanking new school buildings.

Happy Birthday

September 14: Paul Blocher.
September 15: Gert Steffens, Lila Thaler.

September 16: Don Sheffer, Elaine Dryger, Della Braschwitz.

September 17: Kathy McFall, Robert Kline, Gail Dawson.
September 18: Bradley Kinyon, Herman Kline, Thurzie Thompson.

September 19: Judy Kline, Teresa Heintzever, Mark Ketter, Carol Shimmel, Thelma Phelps.

September 20: Jack Winks, Claude Ellis, Mildred Kinsey.

BEER IS OLD DRINK

Beer is a primitive beverage, traced as far back as ancient Mesopotamia. Its brewing could have been one of the earliest uses of grain.

Zeigler Ford Is Honored

Harold Zeigler Ford, Inc. of Lowell has been selected as one of the nation's outstanding Ford dealerships and will receive Ford Motor Company's Distinguished Achievement Award.

The Distinguished Achievement Award is presented "in recognition of progressive management... modern sales and service facilities... sound merchandising practices... high quality standards... and continuing interest in rendering superior service to Ford owners."

Harold Zeigler Jr. has been a Ford dealer in Lowell since 1975. The dealership is located at 11979 E. Fulton.

ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION

New offerings, including an historical tour of Detroit, an introduction to the world of art and a lecture on Admiral Byrd's flight over the South Pole highlight the Sept. 15 day and evening classes of Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum's adult education program. Registration is Sept. 15. Call (313) 271-1620, ext. 528, for details.

Petitions For New Upper Bridge

Petitions containing 550 signatures from residents of the City of Lowell, Lowell Township, Saranac and Clarksville were presented at City Hall on Tuesday morning, Sept. 4 urg-

Potpourri

Celebrating wedding anniversaries this week are Ival and Effie Paulsen on Sept. 15; Chris and Sue Wolfe on Sept. 16; Hoot and Ev Roudabush on September 20.

Paul Miller is attending Michigan Technologic University. His address is 123 W. Coed Hall, MTU, Houghton, Mich. 49931.

Kevin Conrad, son of Mrs. Katherine Conrad, 804 Lincoln Lake, Lowell won a tennis trophy at the Greenville Danish Festival this summer in the Singles Event for 16 and under.

Bob McWhinney of Lowell is in Butterworth Hospital, Grand Rapids. Cards and letters would be appreciated. His address is Bob McWhinney, c/o Butterworth Hospital, Room 5027, 100 Michigan, NE, Grand Rapids, MI. His phone number is 774-1159.

Among the 1,838 graduates who received diplomas at the 104th summer Commencement exercises August 17 at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah was Peggy Reflee Covert (BAC) of Lowell.

ing the repair or replacement of the Upper Bridge. The bridge was closed on May 3, 1979, after engineers warned the City that it was in a dangerous state of disrepair.

A group called the Committee for the Re-opening of the Division St. (Upper) Bridge circulated the petitions in response to the City's request for letters citing specific reasons for wanting the bridge repaired. The petitions and any other letters received will accompany the City's request of the Michigan Department of Transportation for priority status for replacement of the bridge or its repair.

The City will turn in its request to the MDOT by September 15 and will accept other letters regarding the need for use of the Upper Bridge until that time at City Hall. Application will be made for state and federal funding with the possibility that Kent County may participate in the local funding.

OLD CAR FESTIVAL

More than 300 antique automobiles will trundle into Greenfield Village for two days of friendly competition and exhibitions Sept. 8 & 9. Special exhibits include automobiles built in 1925, (the year the Village and Henry Ford Museum were founded), early porcelain license plates and old-fashioned gas pumps.

Mother Nature Builds Corny Bouquet



This array of corn actually grew with three smaller cobs attached at its base. Gladys Fletcher of 12632 Grand River Dr., Lowell, purchased the corn at Dick Watson's produce stand west of Lowell on M-21. Must be Mother Nature decided it might be nice to make her own corny bouquet.

Garden Club Ready For Fall

Lowell Showboat Garden Club met Monday evening for a potluck dinner with hostess Ruby Lecman. They enjoyed a visit to the unique and interesting Japanese garden of Bill and Ardis Barber on North Monroe Avenue.

Several tips on drying flowers and greenery were given by Avis King and Evelyn Free. This in preparation for participation in the Arts and Crafts Show at Fallsburg Park later in the month.

People age 75 and older are increasing in number faster than any other segment of the U.S. population.

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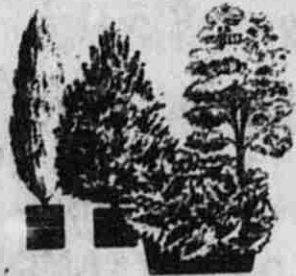
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HR78x15... \$48.00

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480x12 Trailer... \$18.00

530x12 Trailer... \$18.00

13-14-15 Tubes... \$ 5.00

700/7.50x15/16 Tubes... \$ 7.00

700x20 Tubes... \$10.00

GR78x15... \$2.75

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