

The Grand Valley Ledger

Volume 5, Issue 9

Serving Lowell Area

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Wednesday, January 9, 1980

Showboat Is Deep In Debt

The new year of 1980 got off to a rather dismal start, as far as the Lowell Showboat is concerned. In its first meeting of the year, the Lowell Showboat Board of Directors was briefed on the financial condition of the Showboat Corporation. Though the directors knew the Showboat was heavily in debt, most were taken back by the fact that \$58,000 is still owed on the amphitheatre, new boat, and other miscellaneous debts.

Of the total debt, roughly \$45,000 stems from the building of the amphitheatre several years ago. Though the Re-Float the Showboat and the 1979 Showboat production, (which netted \$3,536.33) came close, about \$13,000 is still owed on the new Showboat. The new

boat was built at a total cost of \$70,207.79.

The directors remain confident that these debts can be paid with monies generated by the Showboat, one night performances, raffles, Las Vegas Nights, and other fund raising activities. The directors agree that another fund raising drive seeking donations, is out of the question.

The entertainment committee, chaired by Ray Quada, reported that they are working toward a split week for the 1980 Showboat with a top name country-western performer the first three nights and an easy-listening act the balance of the week.

Ticket prices are being revamped. Monday night (family

night) tickets will sell at \$3, \$4 and \$5 to allow families to attend Showboat at a fairly low cost. Tuesday through Thursday tickets will go for \$6, \$7 and \$8 with Friday and Saturday nights going to \$7, \$8, and \$10. These prices allow for a maximum of \$180,000 in ticket sales with a \$90,000 take if only 50% of the seats are sold.

The first step toward reducing the Showboat's debt is just around the corner in the form of the second annual Las Vegas night which is scheduled for Saturday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. Last year, this event drew nearly 900 patrons and raised about \$4,000 for the Showboat. An even bigger and better organized event is planned for this year with the basement of

Deer Run Golf Club also being opened up to provide more room.

The gaming will start at 7:00 p.m. and will include Black Jack, Over and Under Dice, Number Wheels, Race Horse Wheels, Luck-a-Luck Dice and Chuck-a-Luck Wheels. A fine assortment of prizes, to include a trip to Las Vegas, will go on sale to winners at 10:00 p.m. The gambling will be halted at 11:00 p.m. and dancing will begin to the music of Sloe Gin.

Volunteers to man Black Jack tables, sell money, etc., are needed and those interested should call Diane Siciliano at 897-5266 or Bev Hall at 897-8714. Advance tickets of \$5 are on sale at That Special Place and all Showboat Board Members.

Lowell City Council

New Councilmen Sworn In

New councilmen, Jim Maatman and Jack Fonger, along with incumbent councilman Bob Christiansen were sworn into office at the Monday, January 7 meeting of the Lowell City Council. Dean Collins was elected by the council unanimously for a second two year term as mayor. Maatman was elected unanimously as mayor pro-tem.

In answer to many calls coming into city hall regarding the Division Street Bridge (upper bridge), city manager Ray Quada stated that, "we've done everything that we possibly can to this point". The bridge was

closed to traffic when an inspection by the Kent County Road Commission and Lowell's city engineers found it unsafe last May.

The city has applied for state and federal funding for the construction of a new bridge and this application has been accepted as to form but no decision has been made as to whether the funds will be approved. Also the city has pursued another avenue. That is to turn control of the bridge over to the Kent County Road Commission in exchange for county control of some city streets. This possibility is in the negotiating stage with no idea if the city and county will ever be able to come to terms.

The council approved Newell Manufacturing's request for the establishment of an Industrial Development District on their property in Lowell. The establishment of such a district is the first stage in obtaining Public Act 198 tax relief. Tax relief under 198 allows for as much as 50% relief for up to twelve years for new buildings and equipment approved by the council. Newell will be applying for 198 relief for a planned new expansion.

The city's auditors presented their annual audit to the council. It was pointed out that the city has improved its bookkeeping methods and financial planning over the past few years to the point where the auditor's comments are "nit-picky" in nature.

VOIGHT LADIES AT HOME

On January 30, Voight House, 115 College SE, Grand Rapids, will host a Victorian "at home" day. The public is invited to call on the "Voight Ladies" and be served tea on their "at home" day. Learn more about the etiquette of "calling" and see a display of calling cards and card cases. Hours are 1-3 p.m. Admission is \$2.50 per person.

ALIEN REPORT CARDS

If you are an alien in the United States you must report your address to the United States Government each January.

In view of serious penalties for failure to comply with the Law, the Government has made it easy for you to meet this requirement.

Go to your nearest United States Post Office during the month of January to obtain an address report card.

Schools Close

Winter Finally Arrives



When Old Man Winter decides to drop in on Michigan, he really DROPS IN. Residents of the area awakened on Monday morning to nearly four inches of snow and slippery roads. The slick road conditions and extremely poor visibility were the cause of numerous accidents and abandoned cars such as the one above. School was dismissed for all Lowell schools at approximately 11:30 a.m.



Councilman Robert Christiansen was sworn in by Lowell City Manager Ray Quada at Monday night's regular Council meeting. Christiansen begins his second four year term on the Council.



Manager Quada administered the oath of office to new Councilman Jack Fonger who began his two year term.



New Councilman Jim Maatman took the official oath which began his four year term. He was named by council members as mayor pro-tem. Dean Collins was returned as Mayor of the City of Lowell by the vote of the Council.



WEATHER, WHEW

Anyone remember the dainty puppet on the old Howdy Doodly show years ago, called Princess Summerfallwinterpring? Well, how the Gammelin felt last week with a little weather from each season, especially after Ken Smith visited the Ledger. Smith is Supervisor of Maintenance for the Lowell schools and he brought in a dandelion he found on January 3, 1980. He said there were three big yellow dandelions on the Middle School lawn on Christmas Day! If you are reading this in Florida, be advised that Mother Nature was only playing footsy with Michigan. She finally dumped up to four inches of snow on the area Sunday night with high winds to make it mound up nice. She was still going strong as the Ledger went to press on Tuesday.

CANINE HOUSING

If you have a vacant dog house, the Lowell dog warden John Erickson would be glad to find an occupant for it. Michigan weather is harsh on animals as well as humans. New dog owners are often dismayed at the high costs of having a proper dog shelter built or of buying one ready made. Thus, Erickson's plea for the donation of dog houses. He is aware of several canines in the area who could use them. Call him at 897-8541 and he will pick up and deliver your donation to the needy.

SIGN UP NOW

There is still a great need for people to help with the Showboat's Las Vegas Night on February 2 from 7-11 p.m. Many dealers for blackjack are needed so that everyone will have a relief worker during the evening. There are other areas you can help, too. Call 897-8714 or 897-5266 to sign up.

OFF THE BLOTTER

Gloria Cox of Saranac lost control of her car and struck a parked vehicle in the city lot south of Main Street on Jan. 1. She was not hurt.

A vehicle belonging to Edward Coslow was struck by a hit and run driver on S. Jefferson on Jan. 1. The matter is still under investigation by Lowell police.

Still under investigation by Lowell police is the larceny of money from the Lowell Wash All, 1400 W. Main, over the weekend. The thief cut open locked boxes in the car wash and took all the money.

Issued violations for fighting (disorderly conduct) on Saturday evening, Jan. 5, were James Miles, Jeffery Jantzen, Carl Miller of Ionia and Ronald Chesebro of Rockford. The incident took place in Mel's Bar on West Main St.

Involved in a property damage accident on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 6, at Grand River and Alden Nash was Chris Weigele when he struck a vehicle driven by Jacqueline Richards which then slid into the intersection.

Lloyd Powell Jr. of Lowell was injured in an accident early Sunday, Jan. 6. Powell was walking in the roadway on West Main near West St. when he was struck by a vehicle driven by Connie Taylor. Powell sustained head injuries and is listed in fair condition at Blodgett Hospital.

According to Michigan State Police at the Ionia post, David R. Stevens of Lowell was involved in a one car accident on M-91 when he lost control of his vehicle and slid sideways into a tree on the north side of Richmond Rd. There were no injuries.

Lowell police investigated a total of 243 accidents during 1979 compared to 233 in 1978. The majority were property damage accidents (195) with 48 injury accidents this past year. In 1978, there were 35. Lowell's Rescue Unit answered 54 calls in 1979 as opposed to only 26 in 1978.

New Dental Service Available

A new dental service is available to Kent County's "working poor" adults in need of extensive dental treatment, for whom no other source of assistance exists.

Sixty dentists in Kent County have volunteered to provide dental services in their offices at reduced costs. Lowell area dentists are participating in the program. Clients must agree to pay between 8 and 25% of the

costs, depending on their income and family size.

To be eligible a client must be at least 18 years of age, a resident of Kent County for at least 6 months, have a full time working adult within the family unit who has worked at his or her present job for at least 6 months, and must qualify financially.

To inquire, call 774-6810.

Cast Announced For LAAC Play

Cast members for the Lowell Area Arts Council's Winter Play were announced last week by Director Kim Hoag.

This year's play, "The Haunting of Hill House," by Andrew Leslie, a drama of suspense in three acts, will be presented February 20-23 at Lowell Middle School.

Two of the lead players were featured in last year's comedy, "See How They Run", which Hoag also directed. They are George Dey, who has the part of Arthur, and Melissa McLauri who plays Theodora. A second lead actress, Cheryl Blodgett, who has the part of Eleanor, will be remembered for a fine lead performance in the 1978 play, "Arsenic and Old Lace". The fourth lead actor, in the part of Dr. Montague, is Charlie Doyle.

To complete the cast, Pat Covell, who was also in "See How They Run", will play Mrs. Montague; Kathy Conrad will portray Mrs. Dudley; and Keith Swenk is Luke. Mr. Swenk is from Kentwood, while the other cast members are all from Lowell.

Dress rehearsal is set for Wednesday, February 20. This performance may be viewed for

\$1. Tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets for Thursday night are \$2 for general admission theatre seating. Tickets for this performance can be bought in advance or at the door.

Friday and Saturday nights' seats will be arranged at tables. All seats are reserved and should be bought in advance. Tickets for Friday and Saturday are \$3 each. Refreshments will be sold at the last two performances.

Ticket information and reservations are being handled by box-office co-chairmen Peggy and Steve Idema at 897-5658. If they cannot be reached, messages can be left at That Special Place, 897-8545.

Producers for the play are Gil and Jeanne Wise. Their committee chairpersons are: set design and construction, Jane Gillespie; stage manager and kiosk, Chris VanAntwerp; program, Kathie Quada; costumes, Dolores Dey; make-up, Nancy Wood; lights, John Harper; props, Marne Borgerson and Judy Greenwood; house, Donna Alkema and Diane Siciliano; refreshments, Louise Harper; publicity Jill VanAntwerp; and photographer, Jim Blodgett.

Buffinga Wins Service Award



Bob Buffinga, of Harold Zeigler Ford Inc.

Bob Buffinga, a service technician at Harold Zeigler Ford Inc. in Lowell, was a winner in the fourth annual Ford Motor Company job-skill competition involving 40,000 dealership technicians nationally.

Buffinga, participating in Ford Parts and Service Division's Certified Training Program competition, was the top scorer on a written examination among Harold Zeigler Ford's technicians and won a \$25 recognition award.

The competition is the culmination of a year-long factory training program for Ford and Lincoln-Mercury service technicians. Under the Ford Certified Training Program, the company annually awards approximately 10,000 incentives and prizes worth nearly \$400,000 to participating dealership technicians.

In addition to dealership prizes, major awards were made to the top scoring technician in the nation, & to a winner in each of the division's five regions, 34 districts and 335 zones. Ronald D. Paider, a technician at Wortman Motor Co., Aurora, Nebraska, won top honors in the competition.

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Up She Goes



Jack Lachesi [lower right] was sidewalk superintendent last week as workmen installed a new sign on the front of his eatery, The Ranch House on Riverside Dr.

Two Local Women Earn Degrees From WSU



Barbara Veldman and Ellen Moore, both of Lowell, earned their Master of Science degree in Nursing from Wayne State University recently.

Barbara Veldman, 2500 Lincoln Lake NE, (left) and Ellen Moore, 604 N. Hudson, were both graduated from Wayne State University with Master of Science degrees in Nursing on December 18.

Ms. Veldman is presently on the nursing staff of the Intensive Care Unit at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. Ms. Veldman is an active member of Lowell Adult Ed Program.

Mrs. Moore is on the faculty of Grand Rapids Junior College, teaching in the nursing program. Mrs. Moore has been active in many community organizations such as 4-H, Campfire Girls, Cub Scouts, Head Start and the Lowell Women's Club. She has professional affiliation with the Grand Rapids District Nurses Association and is active in the American Red Cross.

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Reflections From Outer Space

By Rev. Jerry Bates

Did you ever try to do anything on a regular basis? That is, something that you don't have to do? I have! You notice that I missed the paper last week! And that means that I was not able to discipline myself to get the article written. Actually, with the paper not going out the week of Christmas, I never thought about it on Monday before New Year's. But the matter of discipline is involved. In our time, discipline is a dirty word, nobody wants to discipline themselves. We want to be able to do what we want to do when we want to do it and we don't want anybody to stop us. If somebody tells us "no," we resent it.

This lack of discipline starts with children. We are afraid to discipline our children because we are afraid that they will hurt

the little dears. And then besides, we don't want them to be frustrated. So we teach them that life is simply doing everything that one wants to do, when one wants to do it and pay no attention to principle, or where what we do may affect another. I guess that you can see that I believe in discipline of children, as well as ourselves. Perhaps the more difficult person to discipline is one's self. It is hard to take oneself by the collar and say, all right, you are going to do it. We manufacture all kinds of excuses of why we did not do a thing, and all along deep down we know the reason that we did not do it, was that we did not want to do it.

We may know that the thing we should do regularly is the right thing for us, that it will make us a better person physically, emotionally or spiritually. But it is still hard to do it regularly. It may be that we know that a regular, daily time of exercise would help us physically and that we would be more alert mentally if we did. But it is still hard to do.

I suspect that each one of us has at least one thing that we ought to do on a regular basis. We know that that thing would make us a better person and still we procrastinate. We think up all kinds of reasons why we can't.

This lack of discipline in our private lives then gets over into how we discipline ourselves on matters of more importance. We don't do things we ought to do, (like going to Church) because we can't discipline ourselves. We do things that we ought not to do, (gossip, mistaking alcohol) because we can't discipline ourselves.

Maybe what each one of us needs to do is take one thing that we don't want to do, or know that we should not do, and make a resolution to do it and then discipline ourselves so that we do. Think of it as a **RESOLVE WITH THE JONATHANS**.

Don't be the last in your neighborhood to subscribe to the Ledger. 35 a year in Kent & Ionia Co., 36.50 elsewhere.

Rubber Stamps and Engraved Signs made to order, 897-9261.

LAAC To Elect New Officers

New officers will be elected at the annual general membership meeting of the Lowell Area Arts Council to be held on Thursday, Jan. 10 in the Kiva of Busnell Elementary School.

Members are reminded that in order to vote, the member must be present. Family memberships and sustaining memberships are entitled to two (2) votes per membership.

On the ballot for officers are: President, John Harper; Vice President, Dolores Dey and Kathy Kemp; Secretary, Laura Garcia or Jo Ritzena; Treasurer, Jill VanAntwerp; Director, Jane Gillespie and Kathie Quada.

Other important items on the agenda are approval of an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation and presentation of numerous projects. Deadlines for sculpture designs for Richards Park is February 1. Also to be discussed will be a Serigraph Workshop, the Media Center Graphic, the lecture-demonstration by a dance troupe from Interlochen, and the Third Annual winter theatre production in February.

Members will be given an opportunity for involvement in

Food Stamp Benefits Increase This Month

Most households that receive food stamps will see an increase in the amount of benefits they get beginning this month.

The rise in food stamps amounts reflects changes in food prices surveyed and published periodically by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Food Stamp Act requires semi-annual adjustments in the coupon allotments. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used as the basis for these changes.

All food stamp recipients—except for one- and two-person households at the upper income levels—will benefit. However, the amount of the increase will vary with household size.

On Saturday morning at the YMCA you will find some very original, creative things made by children in grades 3 through 6. Before Christmas, they made Christmas gifts, cookies and ornaments.

Mrs. Marilyn Hyzer, the instructor, has many exciting crafts to share with this group. Her list seems endless. She comes up with most of the craft ideas herself. Mrs. Hyzer enjoys working with this group on Saturday morning, but wishes more children would join them. If you are interested in joining this group, there is still time to do so. Just give us a call at the Lowell YMCA, 897-8445.

TIPS FOR THE INDOOR GARDENER

Unless plants are severely underpotted, repotting a pale and puny plant is probably not the best action to take. Repotting, no matter how carefully it's done, disturbs the plant roots and adds to the stress on an ailing plant. Adding fertilizer can further injure sensitive roots.

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Icy Roads Blamed For 6 Car Pile Up

Sunday's snow storm made roads treacherous and is blamed for an accident which eventually involved six vehicles.

Michigan State Police at the Ionia Post reported that Angela Voorheis, 18, of 4547 Morrison Lake Rd., Saranac, was coming off an entrance ramp onto what appeared to be dry pavement on westbound I96 Sunday at 8:15 p.m.

The road, however, was glazed with ice and the Voorheis' vehicle spun sideways and hit another westbound vehicle driven by Peter Bailey of Big Rapids.

Kelly Prindle of Grand Rapids also attempted to brake at the scene of the accident, but her vehicle also went into a slide and went into a ditch, hitting a post on the way.

No injuries or tickets were reported.

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Board Of Ed Searches For New Supt.

Saranac officially began its search for a new school superintendent Thursday, January 3 as the school board formed a committee, consisting of John Bauman, board president, Donald Leslie and David Simpson, who will formulate criteria and guidelines for the superintendent selection process.

Bauman said he would like to see the committee screen the initial applicants down to a certain number set by the board. After the applicant field is narrowed down, he said, the remaining candidates could go before the board as a whole.

Saranac's superintendent of 20 years, Earl Cady, told the board, "You'll get 60 applicants, I'm sure."

Cady also pointed out to the board that the school district already has several existing requirements for the school superintendent. Those require-

ments, he said, include having a masters degree, teacher certification and three years of administrative experience. "But you might want to go beyond that," Cady said.

Expressing approval for the committee to formulate criteria, board member Bernard Adgate explained, "It sounds good to me. The only thing I can add is to move with haste."

The board's search for a new school superintendent follows Cady's announcement in December that he would be resigning as of June 30.

Despite the fact that he had been criticized by several board members for living outside the school district, Cady said his resignation—effective June 30—was not a result of that criticism.

"It's time, I'm 59, I don't want to stay in the saddle," Cady explained.

Cady moved to Porterville in August. His decision to resign, he said, was not a "rash" move. "It was a planned deal," he explained, adding that he informed the school board "a long time ago" of his plans to build a home in Porterville.

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street - 897-7514 Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m. Church School 9:45 a.m. GERALD R. BATES, MINISTER Donald L. Buge, Assoc. Minister	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 2287 Segwon, S.E. Lowell, Michigan 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	LOWELL ASSEMBLY OF GOD 3090 Almen Nash, S.E. (Offices south of Lowell) Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Family Night 7:30 p.m.	VERGENNES UNITED METHODIST Corner Pennell & Bailey Drive Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Cafeteria 1:00 p.m. Church School 11:15 a.m.
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Area Sports...

Arrows Top Broncos 49-48

Lowell pulled off a squeaker of a win against the Coopersville Broncos on Friday night, Jan. 4, 49-48. A last-second shot by Bronco guard Ryan Phelps went long and the Red Arrows began to breathe again.

The first half saw neither team gain more than a four-point advantage as both teams were patient on offense and played aggressive defense. The Broncos squad went to the locker room at halftime holding a slim two-point margin, 27-25.

As the third quarter unfolded, the Lowell five began to take control of the game by denying

Grapplers Lose To Carson City

It was the same old story for the Redskin wrestlers on Thursday, Jan. 3 as they met Carson City. Because there aren't enough grapplers for each weight division on the team, Saranac had to forfeit six matches.

Between injuries, ineligibilities and lack of interest, the squad may be in its last season, according to coach Sam Adams.

The Saranac grapplers held their own in the Carson City meet, winning three of the seven matches that they entered.

Saranac Still Unbeaten

Still in the unbeaten column, the Saranac Redskins rolled up another victory on Friday night, Jan. 4 against Vestaburg, 71-58.

Ben Tower was again top scorer for the Redskins with 11 baskets and five of six free throws for 27 points.

Saranac snowed Vestaburg under outscoring the visitors in all four quarters. They led 17-12 in the first period, Tower

YMCA Will Keep You Active

The Lowell YMCA will be starting its Winter Programs shortly. We still have room for those who have not yet signed up for classes.

The Y is also interested in starting a Soccer Program in Lowell. Anyone interested in playing, coaching or helping in any other way, please call the YMCA at 897-8445.

For more information on any of our programs give us a call at the YMCA.

IT'S NO SECRET

Ferns like cool temperatures, indirect light and moist soil. To increase the humidity around your fern, try placing the pot on a tray filled with wet gravel.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF OUR PROGRAMS, CALL THE Y AT 897-8445.

Ski Areas Push Fun With Safety

Half of the 57 state ski areas open to the public this winter are hoping to attract record crowds by offering improvements such as new lodging, runs and lifts, according to Automobile Club of Michigan.

Although looking for increases, most major lodges are hesitant to project how business and the number of skiers will compare with last winter's all-time record. Last winter, it is estimated that nearly 400,000 downhill skiers spent \$145 million in Michigan. So far, 1979 Michigan tourism is down an estimated 6 percent from a year ago.

With gasoline more available now than at any time since early spring in Michigan and the remainder of the Midwest, skiers should have confidence in fuel availability, even for leaving an accident scene.

Along with physical improvements, skiers will find an increased emphasis on safety at many Michigan lodges. Bro-

chures from nine of 13 major ski lodges polled have warnings about the inherent risks of injury!

This new approach is the result of a landmark Vermont court ruling that resorts could be liable for damages stemming from skiing accidents. It also has spawned a bill backed by the Michigan ski industry which will be introduced in the Legislature this fall.

Michigan's proposed law grants resorts immunity from skier lawsuits as long as certain requirements are met. Those include marking open and closed areas and all man-made obstacles, showing degrees of difficulty on all runs and placing trail maps in the ski area.

The bill also calls for fitting skiers for readiness on slopes or lifts or for leaving an accident scene.

Improvements skiers can expect at lodges this winter are listed below by region:

West Michigan—Crystal Mt., Thompsonville, eight condominiums offering 24 rooms, each room with whirlpool bath, plus six chalets, boosting lodging capacity 48 percent; Hilton Shanty Creek, Bellaire, 40 deluxe rental units and a ski touring center; Nub's Nob, Bellaire, five beginner-intermediate runs from 1,000 feet to three-fourths of a mile long, served by a three-place chairlift; Boyne Mt., 26 miles of cross-country trails and a touring center with restaurant, saunas and 1,000 sets of rental skis, and Swiss Valley, Jones, parking lot doubled and a man-made intermediate-advanced hill with a 228-foot vertical drop.

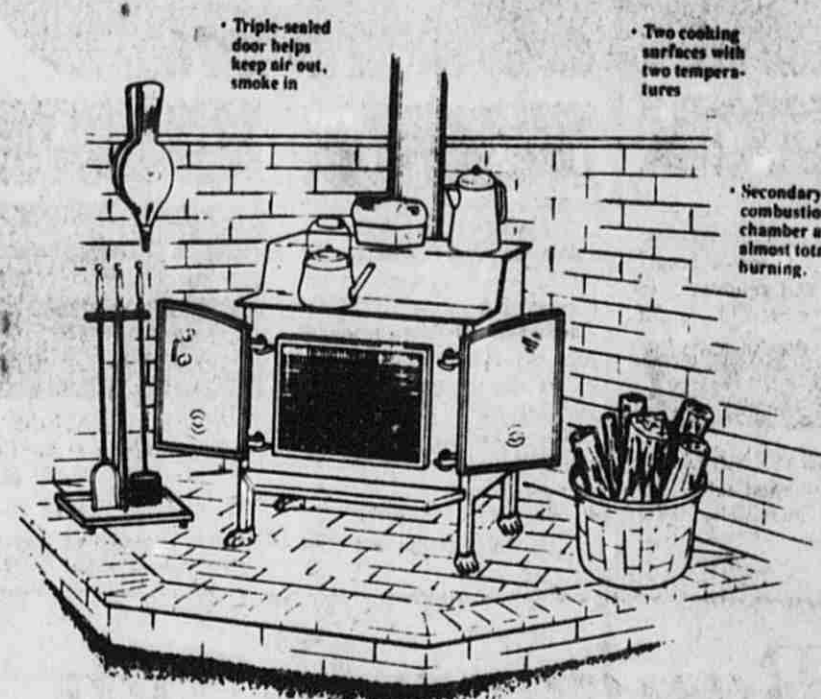
Mt. Manicoua, 2 dormitory cabins with 20 bunks each, 12 piles of cross-country trails, 100 snowshoe trails; Mt. Mansfield, Charlevoix, slope lighting increased 10 to 15 times and a 2.5-mile cross-country trail; Royal Valley, Buchanan, two miles of cross-country trails, 50 pairs of touring and 300 sets of downhill rental skis and a 6,000-square-foot ski drop; Cannonsburg, snow-making capacity doubled; Traverse City Holiday, a dining area seating 125; Pando, Rockford, a cross-country trail and rentals; Middleville, a poma lift replacing a rope tow, and Winterski, Leckie, two runs and increased snowmaking.

HEART-HEALTHY COOKBOOK IS AVAILABLE FREE

No doubt you already know that how you eat can affect your heart over a period of years. And eating a heart-healthy diet isn't all no-no's. In fact, it can be a whole new adventure. We have a lot of free information on heart-healthy eating—and we also have the American Heart Association Cookbook, which contains more than 500 recipes, plus shopping tips and calorie counts—now in paperback. If you'd like more information on how to help your heart—and have fun eating, too, give us a call. We're the Michigan Heart Association and we're fighting for your life.

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MATT — Your first photos were really super. However, NO MORE pictures of Mom napping! — Mom & Dad.

MINDY LOVES POPCORN & TOES.

KATHY — Did you receive our Christmas tape? We enjoyed taping it. Love, Mom, Dad & All.

JACKPOT BINGO — Every Friday night, 7:30 p.m. Lowell VFW Hall, East Main St., Lowell. Early Bird Bingo at 7 p.m. Public welcome. c9f

GRANDPA & GRANDMA — My tooth is coming in. I got 50 for the old one. — Andy.

JANET — S-T-R-A-N-G-E way to get out of exercise class. — Bev.

I WILL NOT BE — Responsible for any debts contracted by anyone but myself after this date, January 9, 1980.
James R. Austin c9-10

A.M.J.C.K.G.V. — Keep watching this space. Your Valentine will be here soon. — Guess Who?

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Up to 20 words, \$1.00 three months or more additional word. All errors in telephone advertisements at sender's risk. If not paid on or before ten days after insertion, a bookkeeping charge of 50 cents will be added. Box numbers in care of this office, add 50 cents.

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HOUSE FOR SALE — 3 Bed ranch, 1 1/2 bath in Eastgate. Land contract available. 67-5660. c9

1971 CAMARO — V-8 automatic, power steering, 64,000 actual miles. Excellent mechanical condition. \$895. Call 897-5126. c9

SOFA SLEET — Traditional style, with Heavy Herculon cover. Factory samples. Values to \$500, now from \$199. King of Discounts, 1100 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, 456-1787. Week nights till 9. c3

WOODSTOVES — Add on wood furnaces with blowers for all sized homes. Special discount prices now in effect. Also Echo chain saws. Call 949-5067 for appointment any time. c6-10

FOR RENT — 2 bedroom furnished home on Slayton Lake, \$300 per month. Security deposit and reference required. Phone 691-7739. c3f

LOST & FOUND
LOST SUNDAY NIGHT — Yellow long-haired tabby cat with white underbelly. 897-6525, Reward. c9

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CARD OF THANKS
We wish to thank our family for the delicious dinner served us on our 60th Wedding Anniversary. Our friends and relatives for the beautiful plants and the many cards of well wishes.
We appreciate the thoughtfulness of everyone who remembered us on that occasion. It will never be forgotten.
Ed & Maude Adriame

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F8-9, c10-13

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3 ROOMS — Of furniture, all 17 pieces were \$990, now \$397 Terms, will discount for cash only at Rex Furniture Warehouse Outlet, 1157 Plainfield NE, Grand Rapids, Phone 454-8914. c4

SOFA, LOVE SEAT, CHAIR & Ottoman, heavy duty herculon cover, country western styling. Bankrupt stock, close out. Was \$499, now \$299 for all 4 pieces. King of Discounts, 1100 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, 456-1787. Week nights till 9. c3

1975 K-5 — Blazer Cheyenne 4 x 4, 52,950. Call 897-6482. Great for getting around in a blizzard! c9

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The newspaper cannot verify the financial potential of these advertisements. Readers are advised to approach any business opportunity with reasonable caution.

HELP WANTED — Bookkeeper, experienced only, part time. Call 897-9251 for appointment. Older person preferred. c9-12

NO LADIES, NO STRIKES
Residentials are advised to approach any business opportunity with reasonable caution. We train. Phone 368-7853. c1f

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GREAT SNOWMOBILING — Property for sale on lake 32 miles north of Lowell, adjacent to acres and acres of state land. 60x120 lot has 16x20 insulated and heated building with electric in subdivision with county maintained road open all year. Lot is loaded with trees and slopes toward lake for eventual walk-out cottage possibilities. Asking \$8,500. Phone 897-9261 days, 897-5381 evenings. c1f

WOODSTOVES — Add on wood furnaces with blowers for all sized homes. Special discount prices now in effect. Also Echo chain saws. Call 949-5067 for appointment anytime. c6-10

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The Back Page...

Farm Builders, Equipment Suppliers Meet At MSU

Improved methods for farm building construction and better livestock environments will be outlined in a meeting for contractors, supply representatives and equipment dealers Jan. 30-31 at Michigan State University.

The meeting, to be held at The Kellogg Center for Continuing Education, will emphasize improved livestock housing, insulation practices and potential solar energy use.

The opening session Jan. 30 will deal with proper livestock housing, with emphasis on ventilation guidelines. Heating, insulation, lighting and other aspects of a good environment for livestock will also be covered.

The afternoon program that day will focus on insulation, specifically, possible hazards associated with use of rigid plastic foam insulation.

"There are some real concerns about fire hazards which we will discuss while stressing safe installation methods," says William Bickert, MSU agricultural engineer and conference coordinator.

The next morning, Marvin Hall, University of Illinois Extension agricultural engineer, will explain potential uses of solar heating in various types of farm buildings.

Hall has many years of practical experience with solar heating systems for livestock housing and grain drying.

The final session will give commercial manufacturers an opportunity to describe new products offered by their firms.

Conference details should be obtained from Bickert as soon as possible to assure proper scheduling, especially for commercial representatives wishing to participate in the concluding session.

All meals and housing at Kellogg Center can be arranged through Bickert. Commercial persons interested should write to him at Room 120, Agricultural Engineering Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, or call him at (517-353-3713).

The conference is cosponsored by MSU Cooperative Extension Service and the Michigan chapter of the National Farm Builders' Association.

Market Savvy Needed To Produce Profit

Michigan farmers will need sound management strategies to enter the new decade on steady economic footing, says Dr. Myron Kelsey.

Kelsey, Extension agricultural economist at Michigan State University, says farmland is one of the best hedges against inflation but its current income potential is low. He expects costs of farm-owned inputs such as land and machinery to continue increasing with inflation during the next few years. Farm input prices increased more than 11 percent this year over 1978 and are expected to increase at least that much in 1980.

Fertilizer prices, which have been relatively stable for four years, are expected to increase as much as 15 percent in 1980. Increases in other raw materials, wages and interest rates are also pushing up farm production costs.

Kelsey says high interest rates will continue for several years, allowing fewer new farmers to start businesses. Farmers with highly leveraged operations will find growth difficult and many marginal operations will be forced out of business.

Kelsey advises against making major farm business expansions without careful financial planning. He suggests farmers hold down interest costs by borrowing only when necessary and repaying as quickly as possible.

National net farm income is expected to decrease about 20 percent in 1980, but Kelsey says Michigan will not be as seriously affected. Dairy farm income, which represents about one-third of the state's agricultural income, should remain healthy because milk prices are linked to the Consumer Price Index.

Cash crop farmers will have to watch the market more carefully, particularly corn and soybean prospects. Soybean acreage has increased substantially in recent years, Kelsey notes, as has foreign competition from Argentina, Brazil and other producers. Substantial price fluctuations over the next few years, and within any one crop year, will call for marketing strategies to achieve better than average prices.

STORY OF PRINTING

Beginning January 13 and running until March 9, "Printing Impact on Man" will be on exhibit at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, 54 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. The exhibit shows the history and future of printing. Printing presses and other related pieces of equipment will be included along with weekend demonstrations. Museum hours are 10-5 weekdays and 1-5 weekends and holidays. Admission is free.

if it fitz'

By Jim Fitzgerald

According to the society pages, Henry Ford II and his guests will spend Christmas at his country estate at Henley-on-the-Thames of England. That's 3 hyphens, darlings, and that's class.

I smoke the same cigar that Henry Ford II smokes. I don't mean I pick up his butts. I mean it said in the newspaper that Ford smokes 10 Anthony Cleopatra Grendaier cigars every day, despite doctor's orders. I also smoke Antoni y Cleopatra Grendaiers.

They cost 20 cents each. When I order them at a cigar counter, I always ask for A&C Lights. This is the first time I've ever called them by their full name. I guess y is Spanish for &. I am learning how to be classy.

I'm telling about these cigars because I want to make a positive statement about myself. Certainly people will receive a positive impression of me when they learn that I smoke the same cigar smoked by a man whose country estate is protected by 3 hyphens before you even get to his cul-de-sacs.

Positive statements are important. I learned this when I read in the New York Times that fountain pens are making a comeback. People are paying as much as \$250 for fountain pens made by Christian Dior. Why?

"Fountain pens make a positive statement, like a Burberry raincoat or a Rolex watch," said Frank Lassman, co-owner of Paper y Ink in New York City.

A positive statement says something good about a person, as opposed to a negative statement which says something cheaper. For instance, it is reported that in the divorce settlement between Christina Onassis and Sergei Kuzov, she will give him a 60,000-ton ship. That is a positive statement by Christina. A canoe would be negative.

When a man takes a \$250 fountain pen out of his pocket and uncaps it to sign a contract, he is saying he really doesn't need to sign that contract to survive. He is saying if there doesn't happen to be any ink in his fountain pen, he will forget signing the silly contract and go play polo instead. This is a positive statement.

Joe Slob, who is signing the contract with the polo player will be awed by the fountain pen. If he is fairly young, it may be the first time Joe has seen a non-disposable pen. If the owner of the fountain pen fills it in Joe's presence, Joe will probably wonder why nobody ever thought of such a marvelous pen before.

Joe will rush home to tell his wife about the wondrous invention he has seen and he will say: "By golly, if they can invent a pen that never has to be thrown away, the next thing you know, orange juice will come in oranges instead of cans."

But Joe won't go home with the owner of the \$250 fountain pen. In fact, Joe will be so anxious to do business with such an impressive person, he will sign without reading the fine print. The next time the seductive pen runs dry, Joe will discover he unwittingly sold his soul for use as a polo ball.

That's how things happen for people who make positive statements about themselves. Not only can they sign contracts with pens that write forever, they can also buy polo balls with nearly as many legs as polo ponies.

Things don't happen that way for people who sign contracts with pencil stubs. Pencils make a negative statement. Just the other day, for instance, a pencil failed my son.

He was using the side of a yellow wooden pencil to scrape the salt off pretzel sticks. He explained he doesn't like salt on his pretzels, and the pencil was handy. He scraped the salt into one of his mother's plants which, she later said, might kill them.

But not likely, as it turned out the pretzel sticks didn't taste good, my son investigated and discovered he had scraped the yellow paint off the pencil. I swear to God I'm not making this up.

Anyway, my son is over 21 and it's none of my business if he wants to go around making negative statements. But I'd never do it. I can't afford a \$250 fountain pen, but I can afford to smoke the same cigar smoked by Henry Ford II, one of the world's wealthiest industrialists.

And I'm spending Christmas at my daughter's country estate at Dog-Poop-on-the-Driveway in Lapeer County. That's 4 hyphens darlings.

Lawn And Garden Chores In January?

January seems a prime month for hibernating, but Michigan State University Extension specialists suggest some lawn and garden chores are timely now.

To keep holiday plants healthy well into the new year, place them in a spot out of hot or cold drafts. Keep them on the cool side, especially at night, and water whenever the soil surface feels dry. Fertilize according to the care instructions that came with each plant.


Pinch off the growing tips of coleus and geraniums to encourage plants to grow bushy rather than spindly.

Water houseplants sparingly during winter. Because light levels are low, plants are not growing as rapidly as they did in spring and summer. They need less water now and probably no fertilizer until spring.

Place houseplants near south windows whenever possible, so they can take advantage of all the natural light available.

Save the ashes from your fireplace or wood-burning stove to plow into the garden spot in the spring.

Try to avoid following the same path across the lawn when grass blades are frozen or snow-covered. Worn areas will show up in the spring.



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