

# School Studies Recovery Of 'Lost' Tax Monies

## New Law Imperils Revenues

Lowell Area School officials are awaiting a study by school attorney George Cook before taking any further action on loss of tax revenues resulting from transfer of children from Boston Township in Ionia County this past fall.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Education last Monday night, Superintendent of Schools James Pace outlined the problem to board members.

Pace said he had been notified by the Michigan Department of Education on December 27 that valuation of the Lowell district had been decreased by \$317,866 due to the fact that the Boston Township property, transferred to Lowell from Saranac on September 1, 1967, was assessed and is being taxed by Saranac this year.

The district is educating 27 students from the area and will receive state aid amounting to \$288 per student, but is not eligible for further aid, for local taxes.

The possible loss amounts to \$5,675 in operation taxes and \$2,772 in debt taxes, Pace told the board.

The development resulted from a new law passed last year that allows the previous controlling school district to tax any property transferred on or after September 1.

Cook said he is studying possible litigation to recover the tax money based on a law that holds a township supervisor liable for any taxes he fails to levy. Cook said preliminary studies indicate that the property was subject to debt taxes, but that the supervisor had not spread them on the tax rolls.

Board members indicated a desire to seek means of recovering the tax money, especially in view of Pace's estimate that the district faces a possible deficit of approximately \$32,000 at the close of business on June 30.

Included in other business conducted by the board was approval of raising the salary of Business Manager Richard Williams from \$9,000 to \$10,000. It was passed by a 5-1 vote.

The board also agreed with plans to participate in the South Kent Area Schools Adult Education Program, which will involve all schools in Kent County located south of M-21.

A meeting was scheduled for January 16 to begin contract negotiations with teachers, which Pace noted was the earliest date in district history for getting these vital talks underway.

Another meeting was set for January 23 to screen applicants for the position as head varsity football coach. At the same session, board members plan to begin the study of long-range plans for the district.

Authorization was given to sell the mobile class unit at Alto to Hillsdale schools.

Pace announced that Mrs. Elizabeth Vander Zee, a graduate of San Francisco State College, had been hired to replace Mrs. Mary VanderVelde at the beginning of the second semester as third grade teacher at Ruchnell School. Mrs. VanderVelde is expecting.

The board also approved the monthly payroll items amounting to \$99,990 and bills in the amount of \$15,077.

A plan to establish policy regarding retirement was discussed briefly, but board members felt it should be addressed further by the Personnel Committee before taking any additional action.

## Testimonial Feb. 2 For Fred Roth

Plans were set Monday night to hold a testimonial dinner Friday, February 2 at Lowell High School honoring Supervisor Fred Roth of Vergennes Township.

Mr. Roth has been elected to office in Vergennes Township since 1917.

The dinner is being sponsored by 15 organizations that Mr. Roth has been active in during the past 50 years. As a special feature of the dinner, electors of Mr. Roth in 1917 or widows of electors will be honored guests. Ray Oram will head the committee to invite the electors.

Tickets are available from local organizations or from Stan Gardner, treasurer, of the planned dinner.

# Lowell Ledger

Vol. 74—No. 47 THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1968

## New Publisher Purchases Ledger, Suburban Life

### Veteran Newsman At Helm

Purchase of the Lowell Ledger and Ada Suburban Life by Francis E. (Fran) Smith, veteran Detroit-area newspaperman, was announced today.

The two weekly publications have been owned and operated by Harold F. Jefferies of Lowell, who assumed management of the Ledger in 1946 and founded the Suburban Life in 1955.



FRANCIS E. SMITH

Though this is Smith's initial venture into the publishing field, the 44-year-old Mount Clemens native has been active in newspaper and public relations positions for the past 21 years.

Smith started his career as editor of the Cayahoga Falls (O.) Weekly News in 1947 and was named Sports Editor of the Mount Clemens Daily Monitor Leader and weekly South Macomb News (later joined as the Macomb Daily) the same year.

In 1952, Smith joined the sports staff of the Detroit Times as writer and deskman. He covered a wide assortment of events, including college and professional football, high school football, basketball and minor sports, professional and sandlot baseball and college and professional basketball.

He left the Times in 1957 to become Director of Public Relations for the Detroit Pistons Basketball Club of the National Basketball Association and was elevated to the position of Director of Staff for the club in 1961.

Smith resigned from his position with the Pistons to enter private business in Mount Clemens in association with Lou Van's Men's Store in 1965.

He returned to public relations late in 1965 as Director of Public Relations for Windsor Raceway in Canada, a position he held until establishing his own PR firm in 1967. Among his accounts were Dixie Speedway near Flint and Owosso

## Lowell Man Shot In B&E Attempt

A former Lowell-area man was listed in "fair" condition in Blodgett Hospital, Grand Rapids, with gunshot wounds suffered while trying to escape a police stakeout Wednesday morning.

Kent County Sheriff's Department officers reported that Robert T. Signor, 30, was shot in the back while fleeing the scene of a breaking-and-entering of the Cascade Hills Shell Station at 2:20 a. m.

The station had been broken into three times in recent days, prompting authorities to establish a stakeout in the building.

Signor's address was given as 3691 Lake Drive, S. E., but local authorities said he had maintained residency until recently on 38th Street, on Rt. 2.

Hospital officials said that Signor underwent surgery for removal of the bullet after being admitted to emergency.

Lt. Herman Dykstra of the Kent County Sheriff's Department said that Signor was shot by either Detective Richard Winkhaus or Deputy Wm. Dice, both of whom shot at the fleeing man after first firing several warning shots.

Williams and Dice were staked out inside the station and were alerted to the burglary attempt by the sound of falling glass, according to Dykstra.

The officers cornered Signor, who fled through a window. They followed the fugitive through the same window and finally apprehended him after he fell from the gun wound.

Signor had lived in the Lowell area for several years and formerly owned and operated a service station nearby.

The Cascade station, located at 4919 Cascade Rd., in Grand Rapids, is owned by Howard Hobbs of Route 1, Alto.

"Because of the frequency of break-ins, a stakeout was ordered on the premises," said Lt. Dykstra.

Police said that the station was first broken into two nights in a row, then for a third time a few nights later.

Notice is being given this week for filing nominating petitions for positions on the Lowell City Council. The terms of Carlen Anderson, Phil Schneider and Richard Schlemmer expire this spring.

Candidates have until January 22 to file petitions.

Windows were found broken early Wednesday morning at the rear of the Levee Restaurant, Lowell Automotive & Hahn Hardware. The vandalism was apparently the result of throwing ice chunks.

Three children of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Laux, Jr., were taken into Butterworth Hospital on Saturday afternoon, treated for cuts and bruises and released.

The accident occurred on Grindie Drive in Vergennes Township at 2:40 on Saturday afternoon. Kent County Sheriff's Department reported that Richard H. Wright, 20, of Saranac, dove left of the center line on a curve and struck the side of the Laux car.

The three injured Laux children; Elaine, 11, Rita, 10, Jane, 7, along with five other passengers and Mrs. Laux were taken to the hospital.

Work was started this week on remodeling the office of the Lowell Light and Power Plant. The new work includes painting, new counter, lighted ceiling and is expected to be completed in a couple of weeks.

A quick survey of auto accidents on M-21 between Lake Drive on the edge of Grand Rapids and Alden Nash Avenue on the city limits of Lowell reveal that there were 77 accidents, 5 deaths, 127 vehicles involved, 72 injured.

The need for a new highway from Grand Rapids to Lowell should be apparent to highway planners.

Speedway.

Now in its 75th year of continuous publication, the Lowell Ledger has been owned by the Jefferies family since 1930 when Remick G. Jefferies purchased the paper from its founder, Frank M. Johnson. Harold Jefferies assumed management of the Ledger in 1946, one year before his father passed away.

Smith says that two major factors entered into his decision to purchase the Ledger and Suburban Life:

"It is the goal of practically every newspaperman to have his own publication and this opportunity enables me to realize a lifelong ambition. But, more importantly, extensive studies indicate great potential for growth in the area and this represents an interesting challenge to those charged with the responsibility of heralding events leading to this development."

Smith plans to move his wife, Betty, and their 11 children to the Lowell area sometime in late spring. One son, Bruce, is a junior at Michigan State University and another son, David, is enrolled in VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and is serving in Des Moines, Iowa.

Daughters Kathy, 19, Karen, 16, Kim, 12, Kay C, 10, Keely, 8, Kelly, 7, and Kerry, 4, and sons Kevin, 14, and Kent, 9, all reside at 327 Esplanade Drive in Mount Clemens.

## Cold Air Causes Problems

With temperatures dropping to record setting lows all over the American Midwest the past few days, Lowell temperatures have proved no exception.

Along with the cold weather has come many inconveniences and an increased need for the winter services. Local garages and wrecker service firms have been kept busy, especially during the morning rush hours, starting cold and reluctant cars for their owners.

Numerous accidents have dotted the area with the majority a simple matter of slipping... oh, so easily... into the ditch and needing the assistance of a wrecker to get back on the road.

The major concern of all the Lowell residents has been keeping warm.

With furnaces working at top speed almost 24 hours a day, there have been many breakdowns which have forced furnace repairmen to put in long hours.

The suppliers of fuel have been busy too, with Consumer's Power Company pumping a record number of cubic feet of gas into this area in the past few days.

Fairchild Oil Company indicated that they are delivering about 12 percent more oil than would be unusual without this extra cold weather, while Dan Byrne at Parnell says his trucks are stopping about twice as often to fill his customer's tanks.

Berwyn Kloosterman, who delivers for Standard Oil in this community, says he's too busy to figure it out, but he is making more frequent calls on his customers as well. Story and Thorne estimated a low 2 percent increase in oil delivered, but admitted that in the time one delivery would usually be sufficient, they are now making two or three.

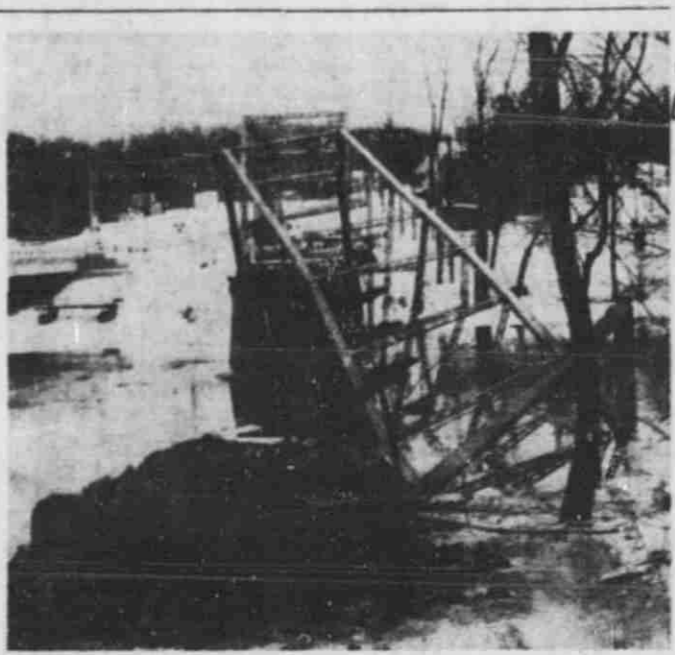
All this activity has brought to light a new problem. With heating bills accumulating so rapidly, most customers are now charging their fuel and creating an unexpected hardship on some dealers.

While the snowfall this winter hasn't been too hard to cope with... so far, snow plow operators haven't found it too hard to keep busy. The weather bureau indicates that we are keeping up with and even surpassing some of the recent snowfall totals, and of course, the end of winter is not yet in sight.

Through it all the youngsters keep up their winter activities of skiing, skating and sliding with an apparent disregard for the cold which has been keeping most adults indoors mentally ticking off the time until spring arrives.

As a service to readers, regular five-day weather forecasts will be published in the Ledger each week. Here is the forecast issued by the Weather Bureau:

Temperatures are expected to average 5-10 degrees below normal through Monday. Highs will range from 19 to 29 degrees and lows from three above to 15. It will be warmer Thursday and quite cold from Friday through Monday. Precipitation in the form of snow is expected to be nearly one inch.



ANOTHER LINK WITH THE PAST is disappearing from the Lowell scene with demolition of the M-91 bridge over the Grand River. Recently replaced by the new structure seen at the left, the bridge erected in 1884 was financed by funds from the 1850 Swampland Act. It became part of the state highway system in 1927. Workmen from Brown Bros., Inc. of Lansing had been stripping the bridge in recent work and added the coup de grace Monday by topping the northern approach from its moorings.

## The Village Smithy

I remember as a youngster that my folks moved to a new house and for quite a few days I was referred to as "that new kid in town."

And so it is again. You may have to look hard to recognize the face on the street, for surely the photographer who took the picture seen elsewhere on this page was a professional in every sense of the word.

He took a face lined with years of worrying about a team known as the Detroit Pistons—further etched from the frustrations of getting newspapers put together against demanding deadlines... additionally scarred by the fret and strain of feeding, clothing and generally administering to the needs, desires and fantasies of a family of 11 children, not to mention countless cats, dogs, turtles, goldfish and an occasional hamster... and made it look much different from that which greets me each morning in the mirror.

Yes, I'm the "new kid in town" and by way of more formal introduction the name is Fran Smith.

Now before all the gals start reaching for the "phone to let all the others know that at last, indeed at last, there's a woman editor down at the paper, please rest assured that this is not the case.

Fran is short for Francis, which you will note is spelled with an "i" and was, at last glance still the masculine way of spelling the name.

But I have been "Fran" since I was old enough to recognize that my mother was trying to attract my attention while calling out the name.

Some guys are lucky. With a name like Francis, they instantly become Frank. Or perhaps Bud.

But not me. I was "Fran" at the outset and I have remained so ever since.

It has driven many secretaries to absolute distraction down through the years, both mine and those whose bosses directed communications to me.

And how would you like it if mail came to you addressed to "Miss Fran Smith" when you distinctly recall having shaved in the morning!

But I've lived with the name



A NEW STEEPLE was raised on the century-old First Methodist Church of Lowell Monday. The church had been without a steeple since the early 1940's, according to Reverend Robert G. Weber. Plans to add the steeple had been initiated by Gougl Rivette, former chairman of trustees, and completed under the supervision of his successor, Stanley Gardner. Designed by Jon Walter of Lowell and constructed by Bieri Bros. of Lowell, the steeple was raised in place by DeVries & Sons of Grand Rapids.

## Not Retired... Just Unemployed!

The Ledger this week is being turned over to Fran Smith who is a capable and energetic newspaperman. I know that he will find a real challenge and opportunity in this community. Lowell is moving forward and the future looks bright.

few weeks I will be around giving what assistance I can to the new editor; after this gradual tapering off, I will be looking for something different and perhaps not so confining.

But first I am going to take a full two-week vacation; something that I have not had the opportunity to try since 1950. Maybe a look at the sunny south where we have

watched what seems like half of the town's population migrate each year.

In case you are interested the old editor's status is not "retired" but just "unemployed."

At the moment I have no plans to leave Lowell. Instead, I would like to have more time to take an active part in the life of the community.

HAROLD F. JEFFERIES



FOR SALE - Straw for sale - At 2200 Burton Street, c-41

SHOP SATURDAY - At Walter's Lumber Mart, 925 West Main St., Lowell, Phone 897-3211

FOR SALE - Dinette table, brown formica top, 36" x 60"

NEVER-Used anything like it, says users of Blue Lux for cleaning carpets

FOR SALE - Men's figure skates, like new, size 8, \$5

SNOWMOBILE - Used, 1967, Scrambler with skis and wheels

FOR SALE - 21" model television, Zenith, and a Columbia Record player

SNOW REMOVAL - And plowing, two units to serve you

RIKER'S - Michigan Sketch books, engagements and recipe calendar

GERMAN SHEPHERDS - AKC, pedigreed, shots, puppies 9 weeks

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FOR SALE - 1000 lakes alfalfa hay, 2 Holstein heifers

FOR SALE - Spinet Piano, Wanted, responsible party to take over

COLORFUL PAPER - Napkins, imprinted with name or names for weddings

PIANO TUNING - And repair service, Registered craftsman member of Piano Technicians Guild

WANTED: A REAL SALESMAN... who wants to operate independently and who has ability and ambition to build his own business

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Fun and Music at the LOWELL MOOSE LODGE EACH SATURDAY NIGHT FEATURING Bob Mattison and the Matri-Sound Trio

LOWELL LEDGER SUBURBAN LIFE WANT AD PAGE CASH RATE: 15 words \$2, additional words \$2 each

REAL ESTATE DO YOU NEED MONEY - To buy, build, remodel or repair a home?

QUALITY HOMES - In highly restricted area, Vergennes & Scenic, 1.1 mile north of Lowell

R. J. TIMMER REALTY WE NEED - Your real estate to sell! Have buyers for the following properties

GOOD THINGS TO EAT APPLES - Sweet cider, potatoes, beans, Wittenbach's Orchard

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HELP WANTED - Full or part time help for Service Station, 224 Edwards, SW. GL 3-131

CLEANING LADY - Wants work one day a week. Neat, efficient, reliable. 676-2558

FOR RENT - February 1 to June 1, furnished house at 885 Kramer, East side of Campau Lake

HASTINGS LIVESTOCK January 5, 1968 Feeder Pigs - \$10.00-15.75

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MEN WANTED - Permanent position as resident caretaker for a Youth Camp near Midville

WOMEN'S FUN DAY - Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m. For all league or non-league bowlers

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No Sign...but we're going strong! McQUEEN MOTOR CO., Inc. 1450 West Main St., Lowell - Telephone 897-9225

Art's Radio & TV Service Main Street, Lowell, Mich. COMPLETE REPAIR OF TV-RADIO ANTENNAS-ETC.

ELECTRICAL WIRING-FIXTURES REPAIRS Ricker Electric 208 South Hudson Lowell

CLARK PLUMBING & HEATING 309 East Main St., Lowell Residential, Commercial Phone: TW 7-7534 or TW 7-7104

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Wanted Ads... Want Ads... ON TARGET EVERY TIME

Wanted Ads... Want Ads... ON TARGET EVERY TIME

Wanted Ads... Want Ads... ON TARGET EVERY TIME

Gove Lake MRS. LEON SEELEY Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Seeley and Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Louie Seeley and family and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Potter and Robyn, all of Lowell, spent Christmas morning opening gifts and enjoying a brunch at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Darold Seeley and family.

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Wanted Ads... Want Ads... ON TARGET EVERY TIME

Alto Party Line Mothers' Club Set January Meeting Date The Alto Mothers' Club held their December meeting on the 19th

Workers Named For Annual Mothers' March The captains and workers for the 1968 annual Mothers' March of Dimes have been named

Methodist... The Bowne Center Young Adults will meet for a potluck dinner at the Aid Hall after church services Sunday, January 14

Public Notice State of Michigan, Office of Kent County Drain Commissioner

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School Board Lowell Area Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting December 11, 1967

Emergency Dismissal of School School will be closed, the parents will be notified by means of area radio for TV stations

Riding School Bus Other Than Regular Bus Students shall not be allowed to ride any school bus other than the one assigned to be ridden

OLD BUSINESS 1. The District Boundary Committee composed of members Fred Maternick, and Coons

2. Motion by Jones and seconded by Shade to adjourn at 9:10 P. M.

3. Motion by Jones and seconded by Shade to adjourn at 9:10 P. M.

4. Motion by Jones and seconded by Shade to adjourn at 9:10 P. M.

5. Motion by Jones and seconded by Shade to adjourn at 9:10 P. M.

6. Motion by Jones and seconded by Shade to adjourn at 9:10 P. M.

7. Motion by Jones and seconded by Shade to adjourn at 9:10 P. M.

8. Motion by Jones and seconded by Shade to adjourn at 9:10 P. M.

VANDER VEEN, FREIHOFER & COOK 115 W. Main Street Lowell, Michigan 49121

State of Michigan, The Probate Court for the County of Kent

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