

Inside the Ledger:

Mike Tummino shares research on the shooting of Charles Knapp, pg. 2.

School using cost-centered analysis to break down expenses, pg. 23

The Lowell Ledger

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Lowell YMCA Director Andy Johnson presents Susan Geha of WOOD TV-8 with a Lowell YMCA

TV 8's Geha commends effort of YMCA volunteers

By Thad Kraus

The spirit of the Fifth Annual Lowell YMCA Volunteer Recognition Dinner was clearly defined by guest speaker, Suzanne Geha, WOOD TV 8 news anchor woman.

"Tonight we honor volunteers, who honor us with their stoutish community service," Geha said.

Four members of the Lowell Community were recognized with the Rose Award for their significant effort and involvement with the Lowell YMCA. The honorees were Nancy

Anderson, Mary Roth, Pinky McPherson and Steve Brown.

Receiving outstanding community service awards were Jim Bosserd, Invest In Youth chairman, and Rick Seese.

"Art museums, zoos, libraries, homeless shelters, food shelters, and missions of mercy would all be silent if not for volunteers," Geha explained.

Details of a Gallop Poll Geha shared with the 95 guests at the Hillside Restaurant, 14043 E. Fulton, Geha, cont'd., pg. 8

Now, The Rest of The Story...

Paul Harvey applauds Vennen's local cut-spending campaign

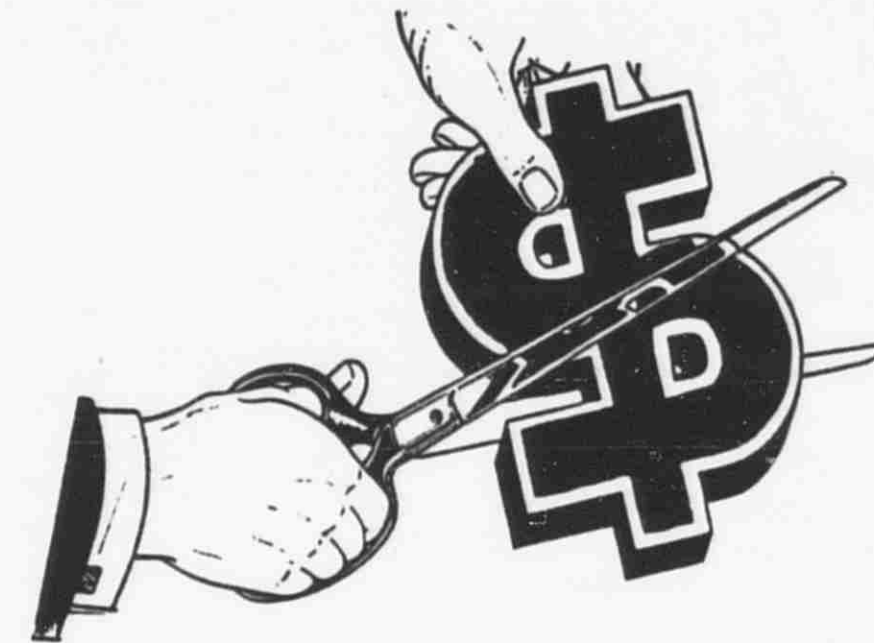
By Thad Kraus

"PAGE TWO" - Daryl Kuiper, owner (not really, Paul, just general manager) of Vennen, Chrysler, Dodge, Plymouth, Dodge Trucks and Jeep Eagle of Lowell, MI faxed me an ad he is running in local papers to encourage taxpayers to write to their senators and congressman to cut spending first before raising taxes.

Shortly after Paul Harvey's national commentary, Kuiper received a call from a dealer in Oshkosh WI asking Kuiper if he'd mind if he'd run a similar program in his community.

The program Kuiper and the Vennen dealership put together was an ad that encourages people to write a short note to their congressman and/or senator to encourage them to cut spending first, before raising taxes.

Kuiper credits Boyd Noviskey in helping to motivate him to do more than just complain about the way things are over a cup of coffee. "In all the years I've known Boyd, he's always writing to someone about something," Kuiper said. "On top of that, I've been listening to Paul Harvey talk about cutting spending."



Those two factors pushed Kuiper, with the help of his managers, to develop a "cut spending first" ad campaign, which would also encourage letter writing.

From that, he wrote a short letter and then faxed a copy of it and his ad and postcards to Paul Harvey. "In two hours Paul was telling a national radio audience about this campaign," says Kuiper in a disbelieving tone. "Hearing this was quite a rush. Then, I get a call from a guy in Oshkosh, WI who was listen-

ing to Harvey and wanted to start a similar campaign in his community."

A call from a gentleman in West Virginia followed. "I'm getting more involved than I intended. It's out of character for me," Kuiper said. "But it is a good feeling."

The Vennen campaign was advertised in Monday's Buyers Guide and is being advertised on WCUZ radio this week. Postcards on which to write a short message to your Senator/congressman are available at the Vennen

dealership. Kuiper added that they will be mailed out to accounts, and to the Vennen customer base. Postage will be provided by Vennen. Addresses of our State representatives and senators were listed in the Buyers Guide.

For those interested in writing, your representatives can be reached at these addresses:

Senator Carl Levin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Senator Donald Riegle, Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510.

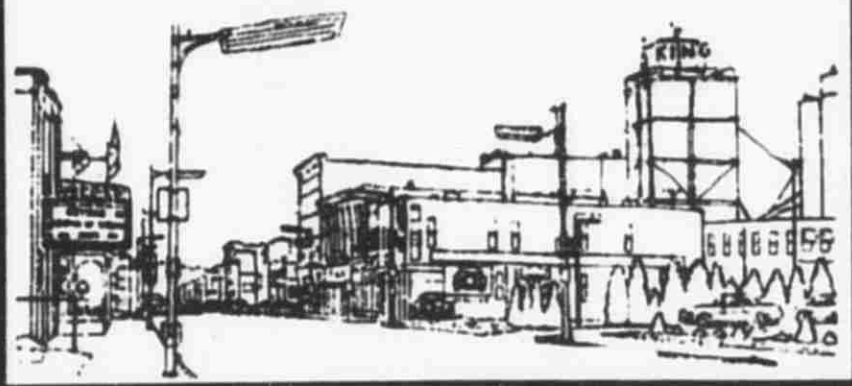
Representative Paul Henry, House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515

Representative Peter Hoekstra, House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515.

Kuiper said, ideally, the ad campaign will make more and more people aware. "If enough people respond we can make a difference."

From a business standpoint Kuiper added that dwindling profits and higher taxes have already made it difficult to survive. "More of the same for next year will make things that much more difficult."

Along Main Street



LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS "EXIT THE BODY"

Lowell High School drama class presents "Exit The Body" March 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. and March 6 at 2 p.m. in the Lowell High School Auditorium. There is a \$2 admission.

THE TOGETHER LOWELL CARES COMMITTEE HOLDS FREE SEMINAR

The Together Lowell Cares Committee is offering a free seminar, Thursday, March 11 from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Lowell Middle School, and will introduce the widely acclaimed parent education program called Active Parenting.

This discussion will be led by Suzy Schwark, the area representative of Active Parenting. She will present information on ways to build effective family communication skills.

For more information contact Sue Burt or Karen Latva at 897-8471.

Main St., cont'd., pg. 8



"Exit The Body" enters center stage

Lowell High School students under the direction of Laurie Summerfield will be performing a three-act farce entitled, "Exit the Body," on March 4th, 5th and 6th (Thurs. Fri. Sat.) at 7 p.m. It will also hold a Saturday matinee at 2p.m. Crane Hammond, the famous mystery writer retires to a New England village for a peaceful

vacation. Instead, she finds herself in the middle of a mad house. Stolen diamonds, mysterious bodies, amnesia victims, gangsters and not-so innocent country folks come together in a whirlwind climax. Tickets are available at the high school for \$2 and/or can be purchased at the door.

Tummino researches cowardly shooting of Charles Knapp

Lowell's Michael Tummino, Tummino and Tummino (311 E. Main), has his sights set on detecting a golden piece of Lowell history.

Tummino has worked off and on, researching the death of famed Lowell officer Charlie Knapp.

Knapp was shot trying to stop a group of gangsters on their way through Lowell after they had robbed the Grand Rapids Savings Bank.

Through his research, Tummino learned that not all of the gold coins taken from the bank were recovered. Authorities used a map to locate the site (north of Smyrna) of the many buried coins.

The Lowell attorney would like to capture some history by using the map to return to the location and try to find some of the missing gold coins

that were never recovered by authorities.

Tummino's year-long research has allowed him to put together pieces of Lowell history surrounding the robbery and subsequent death of Charlie Knapp.

The information he gathered was taken from the preliminary exam transcript that is on microfilm at the Grand Rapids Court House, and the three accounts from the newspapers. The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo, the Ionia Sentinel Standard and the Grand Rapids Press. He was also able to get the eyewitness account from Newton Dilley.

One subject Tummino was unable to find a whole lot of information on was Knapp himself.

Tummino is still working on looking at the files at the



Charles A. Knapp

State Police Department and the Department of Corrections to see what they can shed on the case.

What follows is a review of his findings, as told by Tummino to the Lowell Area Historical Association.

The year is 1932. The papers contain news of the Lindberg kidnapping, Amelia Earhart, Hoover, Roosevelt, prohibition, Al Capone and:

It is Tuesday, May 24, 1932, approximately 11:45 a.m. and Helen Jean Bannings, 15 years old, is sitting on her porch at 133 Carlton Ave., S. E. Grand Rapids enjoying the day, when she notices two automobiles pull up in front of her house and park along the curb. She later testifies that one of the vehicles was black and the other was green.

She observes four men. They appear to be whispering to each other as they change cars. The men are wearing

suits. Two blue, one grey, and one homely purple. The man in the blue suit was wearing a grey fedora hat, whom she later identified as Henry Marshall. One man had bulging eyes and was called "Popeye" by the others. The men leave in one of the cars. Approximately 20 minutes later, the men return and leave in both cars in the direction of Fulton Street.

Grand Rapids Savings Bank is located on the corner of Wealthy and Lake Drive. Clifford Zinn and a gentleman named James are busy at work in the bank. Three men enter the bank. One of the men stands in line behind a female customer whose last name name was Hunington, a customer. As he approaches the teller cage, he pulls out a nickel plated revolver. The gun is pointed at Zinn, he thinks that this is a joke until the man tells him to step back and to keep his hands down and hold still.

Zinn is observing this man trying to determine if he is a customer or not. The man reaches over the teller window and grabs handfuls of money. He then orders Zinn to the vault where he helps himself to gold and cash in the amount of \$6,000. As quickly as this incident took place, it was over.

The Gang consisted of, in one way or another, Henry Marshall a/k/a Henry Marshwick a/k/a Baldy, Mr. James Gallagher a/k/a Walter Galloway, Jack Scherr, Harry a/k/a Goldberg, Carol Johnson, and Henry Vincent, all from the Detroit area. Some or all of the men were renting an apartment near where the bank was robbed.

Deputy Charles Knapp, 40 years old, married without children, was described as an efficient deputy. He had a very nice personality. He was well liked in the community. He served in World War I in the military police. He was a car salesman and worked for Gould Rivette's father. He had been a deputy for three years. Knapp was a member of the local American Legion post and a Mason.

In the morning hours of May 24, 1932, Deputy Knapp was in the Ionia County Sheriff's Department checking up on a car deal. The news of the bank robbery in Grand Rapids was picked up by the Ionia Sheriff.

The news was that the Gang was headed towards the Village of Lowell. This was to be Deputy Knapp's first important case. He jumped on his Harley Davidson motorcycle and headed to Lowell.

Deputy Knapp parked his motorcycle in front of the ice cream parlor in Lowell. He entered the establishment, observed by Edward DeVries and Billie Boylen. The cousins were 15 years old and enjoying an ice cream special. They overheard Deputy Knapp use the telephone to call the Kent County Sheriff's Department to get additional information on the robbery. He made a second call to Fred Kelly, the Sheriff of Kent County, to find out what was happening. He left the parlor and mounted his machine.

His wait would seem like an eternity and, though short in time, it would be his last.

The Gang's vehicle was heading east on Main Street when Deputy Knapp spotted it. The Deputy immediately pursued his quarry. Just east of King Milling and near Stormzand's Garage, the cousins testified that Deputy Knapp motioned for the driver to pull over. It appeared that the car moved towards the curb and then pulled out into the roadway. Deputy Knapp told the driver to pull over a second time, when the driver responded by saying he did not know where to put the car.

Deputy Knapp was in a standing position on his motorcycle as he attempted to pull the Gang's car over. The witnesses' testimony was that the Deputy's expression appeared to be one of shock. The driver continued to steer with his left hand. With his right hand, he brought a revolver over his left arm. The shot fired was heard throughout all of Lowell.

Deputy Knapp fell sideways and backwards. His bike rolled onto his legs. He raised up into a sitting position. The sights of his service revolver were pointed at the black car when he fired five shots at the fleeing felons.

The Gang returned the Deputy's fire. One shot struck and wounded 10 year old Kenneth Smith in the face.

Michael Litschewski, an employee of King Milling and one of the first to reach Deputy Knapp, asked the officer if he had been hit. He nodded that

he had. Mr. Litschewski picked up Knapp and carried him to the sidewalk. His bloodied clothing was removed. His wounds were mortal and the deputy was to die in route to the hospital.

The autopsy report stated that the bullet entered three inches above the deputy's right elbow. A bullet wound through the fleshy portion of the right arm, through the chest going through the lobe of the right lung, through the surface of the stomach, through the pancreas, through the spleen and the bullet, a .38 caliber, was taken from under the skin on the left side.

A group of vigilantes were formed and were quickly in hot pursuit of the murderers. The men had loaded up in a car with two additional men on the running boards. The Ionia Sheriff's Department had set up road blocks. Somehow the gang slipped through.

That evening two local farmers just south of Smyrna, were detaining a man wearing a suit walking the back roads. The Sheriff and State Police arrived and interrogated the subject. His story did not make sense and seemed to change with each telling. He was James Gallagher, and a positive I.D. was made by one of the bank tellers.

Gallagher was taken back to the lock-up in Lowell where he was met by an angry crowd of 200 citizens who were planning on hanging the murderer. For his safety, he was spirited away to Grand Rapids. Gallagher was charged with armed robbery and incarcerated on the 24th.

The early morning of the 25th, at nearly the same location that Gallagher was apprehended, Henry Marshall and Jack Scherr appeared. They were immediately stopped by the local authorities. Their story was that they had just arrived from Detroit and were there to do some fishing. They were going to fish at White Lake in Smyrna. There being neither a White Lake in Smyrna, nor any fishing tackle in their possession to fish with, they were detained. One of the pair did have gold coins similar to the coins taken from the robbery.

In Marshall's possession was found a notebook in which had been noted a set of directions where the cache had been made. The note reads: "Go to store. Turn left. Go up hill to a tree. 1,300." Searchers found the currency a short time after reading the instructions.

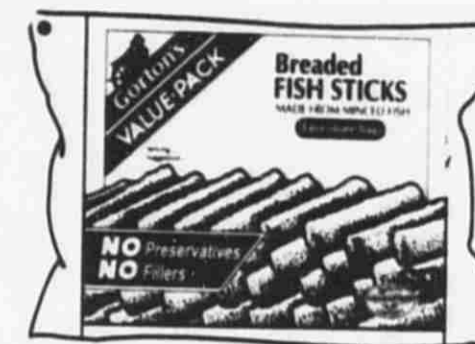
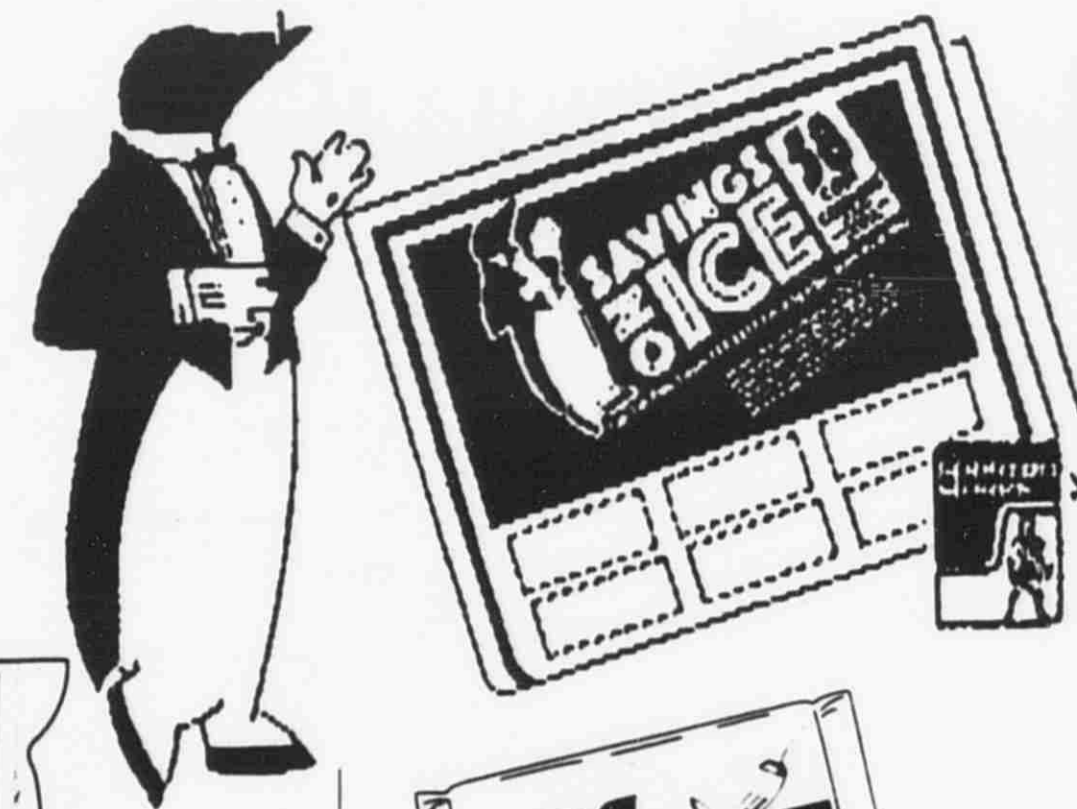
In Marshall's Buick touring car a dozen sheets of emery cloth and a bottle of safe-cracking wax were found. The pair were returned to Grand Rapids where Marshall was positively identified by Zinn as the robber with the gun. Both Marshall and Scherr were charged with armed robbery. Marshall was later identified by one of the cousins as the driver of the getaway car and the killer of Deputy Knapp.

Gallagher pled guilty to armed robbery and turned

Knapp, cont'd., pg. 10

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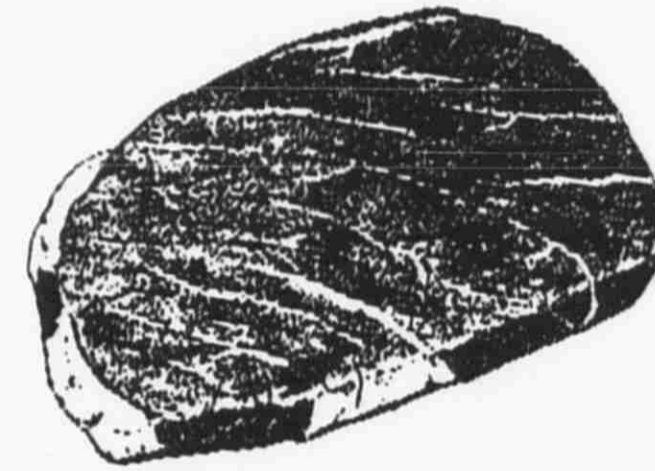
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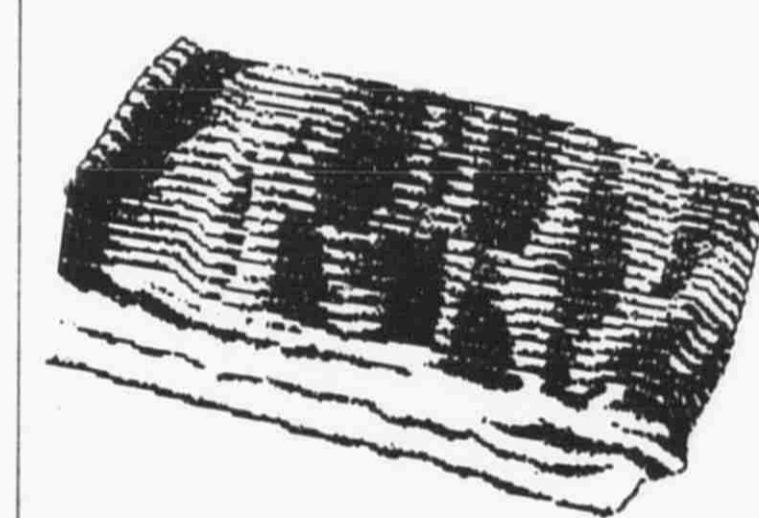
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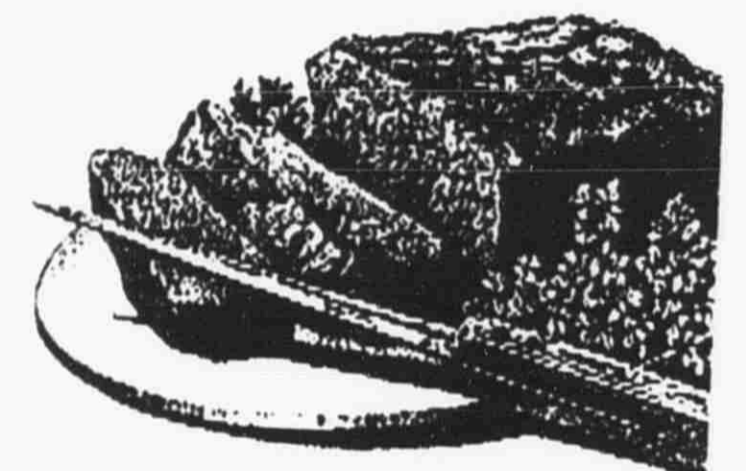
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OBITUARIES

HUYSER - LaVern Huyser, aged 80, of Hudsonville, passed away Monday morning, February 22, 1993. He is survived by his wife Burdene and his children, Arlen and Mary Huyser of Jenison, Wanda and Del Grem of Hudsonville, Carter and Dixie Huyser of Ada; his grandchildren, Duane and Cherie Huyser of Hudsonville, Troy Huyser of Jenison, Brett and Bonnie Grem of Troy, Mark and Elisabeth Grem of Hastings, Kelly and Kevin Abbott of Framington, MA;

his sister Evelyn DeCator of Wyoming; his half brothers and sisters Lester and Evelyn Huyser of Grand Rapids, Dorothy and Albert Tap of Lowell, Esther Post of Wyoming; several nieces and nephews. Memorial Services were held Saturday at the Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ with Rev. Lee R. Bayer and Rev. Thomas Mason officiating. Interment Georgetown Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of Grand Rapids.

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Pat VanTatenhove, Lindsay Scigliano, Lindsey Thaler, Kim Farrell, Brian Conley

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The following list of residents, organizations and businesses have made a commitment to help with the 1993 Showboat.

What are you waiting for... Join The Fun!

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- Lowell Area Fire Dept.
- Lowell Lions Club
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- Lou D'Agostino
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