

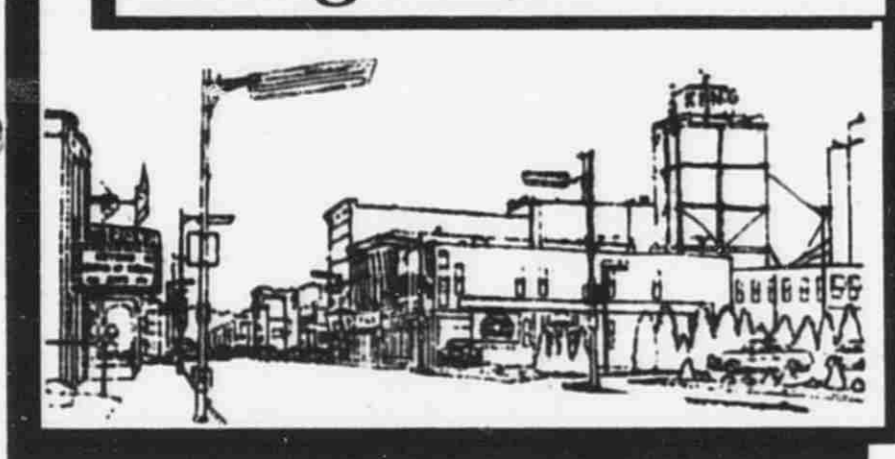
# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 17, Issue 36

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, July 21, 1993

## Along Main Street



### COUPON BOOKS

Premier Marketing will be distributing Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored coupon books. The coupons will be from local businesses.

### SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Lowell Jaycees will be sponsoring a softball tournament on August 14 and 15.

Class C double elimination tournament, 1st 16 teams to register at \$100 each.

All proceeds will be donated to the Creekside Park Playground fund. For details please contact Carl Stanford, 897-9788 or Dan Phillips, 897-8656.

### TENNIS CAMP

Lowell School's tennis camp will run from Tuesday, July 27 through Monday, August 2. The sessions will be 9 to 11 a.m. for high school students and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for middle school students.

The cost is \$10 per participant. For information, call Wendy Ackermann, 455-5621.

### COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION

Commodities will be distributed Thursday, July 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Moose Recreational Building, 1320 E. Main.

Those who have to re-register, must have proof and source of income.

### YMCA SUMMER CLUB HOUSE SPLASH TRIP CHANGED

Due to a conflict with Splash Water Park, the field trip scheduled for Friday, July 30 will now be held on Thursday, July 29.

This one day trip is open to all ages three to 12. Call the YMCA for registration information at 897-8445.

## Vandalism threatens play in the park

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

The high cost of the work of a few at Stoney-Lakeside Park may jeopardize the immense enjoyment of the masses.

The month of July is roughly 1-1/2 weeks from being over and \$804 worth of vandalism has already been incurred at Stoney-Lakeside Park according to Parks, Street Supervisor Dan DesJarden.

"The vandalism I'm talking about includes tearing down the panels, ripping the urinals and sinks out of the wall, and ripping the toilet paper dispensers off the wall. The dispensers don't sound like a lot, but when you're replacing 18 in a week it begins to add up," DesJarden said.

Police Chief Barry Emmons and DesJarden reported the problem to the Council and asked what it wanted done.



Beach parties could be in jeopardy if vandalism continues at Stoney-Lakeside Park.

The Council motioned that the park be opened at dawn and closed at dusk. It also discussed looking into hidden cameras and possibly offering a \$100 reward leading to the arrest and conviction on the culprits.

"It's a shame a few don't

take more pride in their community. If the cost to keep the park open grows too great we will have to shut it down," Lowell Mayor James Maatman said. It's a shame a few willingly can destroy something so nice. It's incredible that this kind of mentality is

out there."

Emmons reminded the Council that vandalism has not just been a problem at Stoney-Lakeside Park. "The Showboat experienced it and one of the veteran's memorial monuments on Main Street

Vandalism, cont'd., pg. 8

## Showboat floats date back to July

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Over the past 3-5 years, the Showboat has fought mother nature's thunderous weather forecast.

This year's rainout of the Sandi Patti show provided the rain drops that floated the Showboat out of June and back into July.

"I think the Board grew tired of the yearly frustration

the Showboat seemed to encounter with inclement weather on the third weekend in June and felt a change was necessary," Lowell Showboat President Thad Kraus said. "Each of the past three years I've been involved with the Showboat, inclement weather has made an impact on Showboat weekend. Most notably

with the Wayne Newton show and this year with Sandi Patti."

Kraus also noted that while there has been public sentiment each of the last three years for a change of date, this year the letters and telephone calls urging movement by the board in this direction

Showboat, cont'd., pg. 8

## Fresh is the specialty at Lowell's new produce market

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Its owner has built Cumberland Marketplace based upon what its customers have

told him to buy.

"Every time a customer spends money here they are

voting "yes" that the produce we carry is better than someplace else," said Cumberland Marketplace owner, Jeff Roys.

Roys describes Cumberland Marketplace, 11250 E. Fulton (M-21), as a specialty produce shop bent on providing the best service.

"I built this place based upon what the people said they wanted," Roys said.

Beyond produce, the year-round marketplace also provides its customers with a full line of dairy items, a full service garden center, and Roys said it is working toward a full service floral shop and bakery.

Roys's market is patterned after Westborn Market in Detroit. "Eventually we will sell fresh everything," he says.

The Ada resident wasn't even fresh out of middle school when he began working for a local grocery store at the age of 13. He stayed there working for 10 years, before starting his own financial se-

curities, investments and insurance business in 1984-85. "I knew after 2-1/2 years that it wasn't what I wanted to do," Roys remarks.

After a stay at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel as a beverage buyer, Roys went back to what he loved, he landed a job at Kingma Produce.

After five years, Roys outgrew his position, and decided at that time he needed to move on.

Next stop - Lowell.

Cumberland Marketplace, open Monday through Saturday 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. until 7 p.m., first opened on April 30.

"I decided right then that we are going to be here 20 years," Roys smiles. "I look forward to coming to work every morning. "Sure there are frustrations of opening a business, but I love working each day."

The Ada resident remem-

bers as a youth going into a Ma and Pa Spartan grocery store. "It was a big deal to me that someday I get to press the stamper on the cans," he muses.

The owner of that Ma and Pa grocery store was Ray Dumas, who advised Roys not to open his own business because he'd have to work too hard. "I told him I already do," Roys laughs.

The owner says Cumberland Marketplace will be open year-round. "I want this place to be 3-4 times larger a year from now," he explained. "In this business you can never be content. I'm going to stumble forward. Someone once said if you stumble forward 30 straight times in a football game, you'll score a touchdown."

Roys, hasn't scored a touchdown yet, but since April he's been marching forward.



Juanita Baldwin and Jeff Roys, owner of Cumberland Marketplace, hold up some fresh fruit at Lowell's new produce store.







# Main Street, continued

**LOWELL COMMUNITY ED HAS AMUSEMENT PARK TICKETS AVAILABLE**  
Once again, as a community service, Lowell Community Ed is selling amusement park tickets at discount prices. They have tickets to Cedar Point, Sea World, Pleasure Island, Great America and Geauga Lake.  
Call the Community Ed office at 897-8415.

**MACKINAW ISLAND GET-TOGETHER**  
The 26th Annual Mackinaw Island Senior Citizen Get-Together will take place on Oct. 5, 6 and 7 at the Grand Hotel. The three day package includes two nights of lodging, two breakfasts, two dinners on site, tours and more. All for \$325.  
To make reservations or for more information, call Mary Crawford Condon at 897-7092.

**OZARK MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS!**  
A trip to Branson, MO is available to all Senior Citizens. It will take place Nov. 15-20.

Tour includes transportation, 1 night accommodation St. Louis area, three nights Branson, 2 night enroute home, five breakfasts, five dinners and five music shows.  
Cost of the trip is \$649. For more information, call Mary Condon at 897-7092.

**ATLANTIC SEABOARD TRIP**  
A Senior Citizen Atlantic Seaboard trip has been scheduled for Sept. 18-24.  
The seven days/6 nights trip cost \$499. The price includes transportation, accommodations, tours, an evening cruise and much, much more.  
For reservations, contact Mary Condon at 897-7092.

**CLASS OF 1978 PRE-REUNION PLANS**  
A casual pre-reunion gathering will be held beginning at noon on Saturday, July 24 in the lower area of Fallsburg Park. Come and get re-acquainted before evening festivities at the Radisson.

Non-graduates and LHS classes of 1977 and 1979 are welcome. Bring along whatever you need to enjoy the day. No reservations are necessary.

**LITTLE LEAGUE PICNIC SET FOR JULY 27**  
The Lowell Little League picnic will be held Tuesday, July 27 at Fallsburg Park.  
Hot dogs, chips and drink will be furnished. Please bring table service and a dish to pass. Awards will be given.  
For more information call Mary Ford at 897-7176.

**OFF THE BLOTTER**  
Larry Lynn, 20, of Lowell, was involved in a property damage accident, July 15, when he pulled from a private drive, onto West Main near Valley Vista Drive, and struck a vehicle driven by Diane Gamache, 34, also of Lowell.  
Cited into 63rd District for fishing without a license was Jean Goree, 28, of Grand Rapids, July 17.

# Vandalism, continued

was torched. A scar has been left that cannot be removed. A new stone would have to be purchased in order to remove the damage from the Veterans' Memorial Park.  
The Lowell Police chief

suggested that the City start a vigil watch in the neighborhood of Stoney-Lakeside Park similar to the one instilled in the neighborhood of the Showboat."  
Maatman asked how the

cases with the Veterans' Memorial Park and Showboat would be handled following a conviction. Both Emmons and Showboat President Thad Kraus said they would pursue restitution.  
Emmons said the police department did make three arrests last week in regards to vandalism at the park.  
Other acts of destruction and inconvenience include stealing park signs, floating

# LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE**  
Notice is hereby given that a certain mortgage on the real property commonly known as 735 Crickwood SW, Wyoming, MI 49509 and more fully described as follows:

Lot 50, Baker Huison Plat, City of Wyoming, County of Kent, State of Michigan.

between BARBARA R. HAZLETT, as Mortgagor, and ROBERT WOOD, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FLAVOUS J. FLURRYESTATE, ALLEGAN COUNTY PROBATE COURT, FILE NUMBER 88-44756-SE, as Mortgagee, made the 22nd day of March, 1989, and was recorded on March 23, 1989, in Liber 2608, on page 37, Kent County Records, Michigan, is in default and there is now due and owing Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-one and 41/100 Dollars (\$17,461.41) principal and interest as of the date of this notice.

No suit has been instituted to recover the debt or any part of the debt secured by the mortgage and the power of sale contained in the mortgage has become operative by reason of such default.

Notice is hereby given that on August 26, 1993 at 10:00 A.M. at the Front Lobby of the Hall of Justice in Grand Rapids, that being the place in which the Circuit Court of Kent

boats out and loosening up the safety ropes with the buoys attached to them.  
Both DesJarden and Emmons stated that the park

doesn't have the security that is needed. They also suggested that lifeguards be there later than 5 p.m.  
"It's a shame people have

to take away from the wonderful nature of such a facility like Stoney-Lakeside Park," Councilman Jim Hodges said.

has been heavy.  
The change from July to June was made after the five-year layoff in the early 1980's.  
The thought process behind that decision according

to past Showboat President Gordon Gould was threefold: to get a jump on the competition; so that the Showboat didn't tie up the entire summer; and cutting costs by

signing talent early on.  
"Changing the date back to July will mean the Showboat will have to be more aware of the competition around it," Gould said.

Hudsonville High School joined the Navy in January 1975.  
Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Randall A. Hunter, son of Wesley H. and Joan V. Hunter, of Lowell, recently passed the midway point in a six month deployment aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke.

Theodore Roosevelt, homeported in Norfolk, VA as part of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group.  
After more than 100 days at sea, the ship transited the Suez Canal from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea where Carlen is now participating in Operation Southern Watch, enforcing the United Nations-imposed "no-fly" zone over Southern Iraq.

While deployed, elements of the battle group have worked closely with North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies enforcing a United Nations imposed "no fly" zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. While operating in the Adriatic Sea, some units also participated in Operation Provide Promise, providing relief supplies to war-torn former Yugoslavia.

USS Theodore Roosevelt is a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier that stretches 1,040 feet in length and displaces 96,358 tons. It carries a crew and air wing of 5,500 men and 85 aircraft. After spending the first 78 days at sea, Carlen visited Rhodes, Greece, for a five day port visit.  
The 1972 graduate of

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No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.  
—Charles Dickens

# Showboat, continued

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Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Barry H. Carlen, nephew

of Beryl J. and Ruth M. Delbridge of Alto, recently passed the midway point in a six month deployment aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**McGee Homestead**  
Bed & Breakfast  
2534 Alden Nash NE, Lowell  
(Just North of Arrowhead Golf Course)  
Gracious Accommodations for Your Out-Of-Town Guest  
PHONE 897-8142

**IN THE SERVICE**  
Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Barry H. Carlen, nephew

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Auto-Owners Insurance selects its agents the same way you do — carefully! That's why you can always count on quality protection and service from your Auto-Owners agent. Because our agents also represent other fine companies, they will take the time to tailor the best protection for your needs.



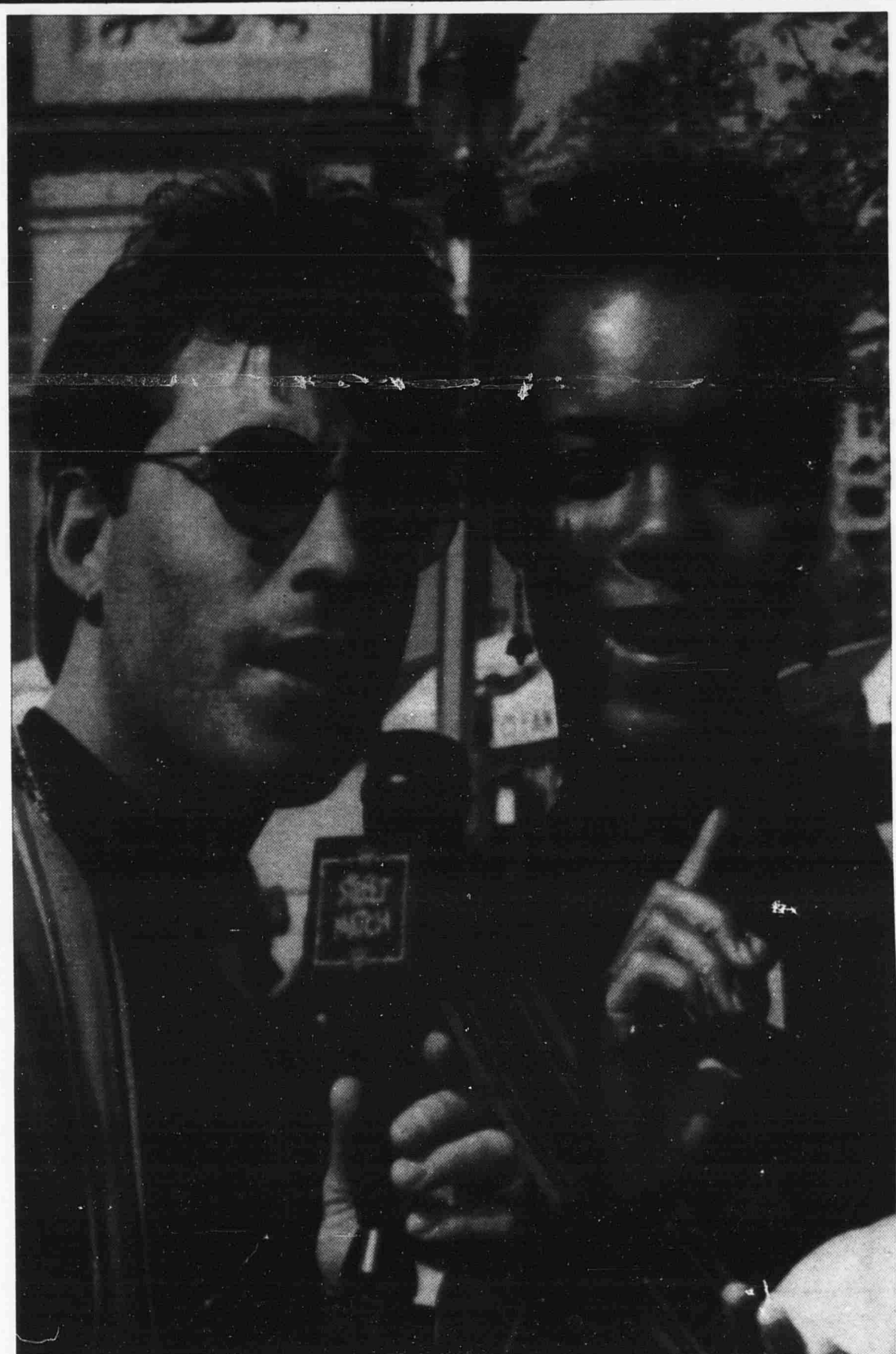
**The PATTON JRB AGENCY**  
GENERAL INSURANCE  
835 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331  
**897-9253**  
Saranac 642-9401

# The Lowell Ledger's

# TV LISTING MAGAZINE

- Features Complete Listings of Lowell Cable TV Channels On A Daily Basis.
- Complete & Easy To Use
- Listings Coincide With Numbers On Your Tuner

Channel	Station	City
1	MTV	Music
2	NASH	
3	WSYM	Lansing
4	WOTV	Grand Rapids
5	WXMI	G. Rapids
6	WGUV	Grand Rapids
7	WKAR	East Lansing
8	WZZM	Grand Rapids
9	HBO	Premium
10	TBS	Atlanta
11	MAX	Premium
12	DISN	Premium
13	USA	
14	FAM	Family
15	WGN	Chicago
16	ESPN	Sports
17	CNN	News
18	CNNHEAD	
19	NICK	
20	A&E	
21	PASS	Troy
22	WWMT	Kalamazoo
23	WUHQ	Battle Creek
24	WILX	Lansing
25	WLNS	Lansing
26	DISC	
27	TNT	Atlanta



Soap opera favorite Ricky Paul Goldin ("Another World") takes on the role of matchmaker in ABC's "Street Match," debuting Wednesday. In the show, Goldin arranges dates between people he encounters on the streets and lets the camera record what happens next.

# THOMET'S Your Source For Top Quality GM Vehicles From...

**A Great Selection Of Used Cars & Trucks and New Car Trades**

The Most Dependable Longest-Lasting Trucks. **CHEVY TRUCKS**

**BUICK**

GET TO KNOW **GEO**

**THE HEARTBEAT OF AMERICA**

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**Thomet** CHEVROLET BUICK Geo

1250 West Main St. Lowell, MI 897-9294

FRIDAY

July 23

Table of TV programs for Friday, July 23, including Morning, Afternoon, and Evening blocks with program titles and times.

Table of TV programs for Friday, July 23, continuing from the previous page with program titles and times.

SATURDAY cont.

Table of TV programs for Saturday, July 24, including Morning, Afternoon, and Evening blocks with program titles and times.

Table of TV programs for Saturday, July 24, continuing from the previous page with program titles and times.

SATURDAY

Table of TV programs for Saturday, July 24, including Morning, Afternoon, and Evening blocks with program titles and times.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY 897-9261

Sperstra Agency advertisement: We Sell Service You're Our Top Priority! A Division of Carr Agency, Inc. 115 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI 49331 897-9259 or 897-8500

ROTH 24 HR. TOWING advertisement: 2264 W. Main (Next Door To Ferrelgas) 897-5934

DAN'S OIL DOCTOR advertisement: Mobile Oil Changing Service "WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS" 676-9807

Denny Hawk Towing advertisement: Nights & Weekends Local People... Helping Local People 868-6269

LOWELL GRAPHICS advertisement: SCREEN PRINTING EMBROIDERY Phone: (616) 897-6308

Thomet advertisement: CHEVROLET BUICK Geo 1250 West Main Street • Lowell, Michigan 49331

L.A. TRIM advertisement: LOWELL MICHIGAN 105 N. Broadway • Lowell, Michigan 49331

LOWELL LITHO advertisement: 105 N. Broadway • Lowell, Michigan 49331 (616) 897-9261

Automotive Supply, Inc. advertisement: 1450 W. Main Lowell 897-9231

Sam's Service Center advertisement: This space makes business cents at only \$5 a week

Professional Sound Systems advertisement: Call... Jay Vezino (616) 897-8520

Professional Sound & Light Show advertisement: Call... Jay Vezino (616) 897-8520

SUNDAY

Table of TV programs for Sunday, July 25, including Morning, Afternoon, and Evening blocks with program titles and times.



MONDAY cont.

- 3:30 sante. A mobster orders a former hit man killed before he testifies.
3:45 [MAX] MOVIE: The Last of the Mohicans (R)
4:00 [MAX] MOVIE: The Untouchables (R)

- 4:05 [HBO] Dream On (CC)
4:30 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
4:35 [MAX] MOVIE: The Big Town (CC)
5:00 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)

- 5:00 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)
5:05 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)
5:10 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)

- 5:15 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)
5:20 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)
5:25 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)

- 5:30 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)
5:35 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)
5:40 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)

- 5:45 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)
5:50 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)
5:55 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)

- 6:00 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)
6:05 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)
6:10 [MAX] MOVIE: Ruby (CC) (In Stereo)

TUESDAY

- July 27
6:05 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
6:10 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

- 6:15 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
6:20 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
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6:35 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
6:40 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

- 6:45 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
6:50 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
6:55 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

- 7:00 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
7:05 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
7:10 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

- 7:15 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
7:20 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
7:25 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

- 7:30 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
7:35 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
7:40 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

AFTERNOON

- 12:00 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
12:05 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
12:10 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

- 12:15 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
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- 1:00 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
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1:35 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
1:40 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

WEDNESDAY

- July 28
6:00 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
6:05 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

- 6:10 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
6:15 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
6:20 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

- 6:25 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
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7:30 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)
7:35 [MAX] MOVIE: Collision Course (CC) (In Stereo)

WEDNESDAY cont.

- 5:00 [MAX] MOVIE: Lonely Hearts (CC) (In Stereo)
5:05 [MAX] MOVIE: Lonely Hearts (CC) (In Stereo)

- 5:10 [MAX] MOVIE: Lonely Hearts (CC) (In Stereo)
5:15 [MAX] MOVIE: Lonely Hearts (CC) (In Stereo)

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TV CROSSWORD

Table with grid for TV crossword puzzle. Grid size 17x17. Includes clues for 'The Sons of Katie Elder' and other TV-related terms.

- Across: 1. 'The Sons of Katie Elder' actor; 11. Actor Everett; 13. Harris' hubby on 'Little House on the Prairie'; 16. Are backwards; 17. Commercial; 18. Estelle Getty's role; 20. Takes a 'thee'; 21. Half of MVI; 23. Orleans miss: abbr.; 25. Conjunction; 26. '... a firm, E-...'; 27. Major telecommunications corp.; 28. Baton Rouge sch.; 29. Rachins of L. A. Law; 30. Shakespearean villain; 32. One short of a full deck; 33. In the heat of the night; 38. Engine strength; abbr.; 41. Word in the title of Letterman's show; 42. Ms. McGraw; 43. Flashy one from Spain; 45. Dickinson; 47. Donahue; 48. Solel...\_Frye

WORD LINK

Fill in the missing letters in the "TV words" below.

Word link puzzle grid with missing letters: M O I E A N, S I M O, A O T H R R L D, R A L D O, A N U M P.

Now rearrange the letters you filled in to spell the name of

A COMEDY:

Word link puzzle grid with missing letters: M O I E A N, S I M O, A O T H R R L D, R A L D O, A N U M P.

TV Words: Simon and Simon, Another World, G... rald, Magnum, P. I., Answer: Designing Women



DAYTIME

Table of TV programs for Daytime on page 16, including Morning (5:00-11:30 AM), Afternoon (12:00-5:00 PM), and Evening (6:00-11:30 PM) slots.

Table of TV programs for Daytime on page 17, including Morning (5:00-11:30 AM), Afternoon (12:00-5:00 PM), and Evening (6:00-11:30 PM) slots.

Horoscope section for July 25 - July 31, featuring zodiac signs Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Sagittarius, Capricorn, and Pisces with associated advice.

Calvary Christian Reformed Church celebrates its beginning

By Marc Popiolek Contributing Writer

Twenty five years of service may seem like a long time for most organizations, but for the Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Lowell, it's just a beginning.

The church will be celebrating its twenty-five years of service to Lowell with special services July 18 and 25 and a picnic in the park July 17.

In 1953 the church operated out of the Lowell City Hall as a mission project, with part-time volunteers from A.A. and the East Paris Christian Reformed Churches.

By 1958 the Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids assumed the responsibility to sponsor the mission and promised to build a new church with a full-time pastor.

The church has had four pastors in its history. Rev. Bernard Fygaard, Rev. Richard VandeKieft, Rev. Stephen M. Arrick and the current pastor, Rev. Carl Reitsma.

The congregation has grown from 31 families with 121 members in 1968, to its current membership of 65 families embracing 275 people.

To accommodate the growth, the church has seen a face-lift over the years. In 1978 the church celebrated the dedication of an enlarged church at the cost of \$160,000.

By 1988 the congregation added a second building across from the church to accommodate ten to twelve new classrooms and needed office space.

"We see the Bible as a reliable historical book, we understand that not all is to be taken literally, but the messages should be followed," said Rev. Reitsma.

"According to Rev. Reitsma the church is different than many other churches because it doesn't just serve the community, rather it helps the community serve God.

"Most of today's churches just serve the community and don't put God in front of its congregation as an example, we believe God must be put in front of the congregation to help the community grow," said Rev. Reitsma.

The picnic in the park, staged at Fallsburg Park, invited patrons and others in the community to participate in games, slides, prizes, surprises, and food, as well as the distribution of a special anniversary souvenir.

The final celebration will take place this Sunday with Rev. VandeKieft preaching in the morning and Rev. Arrick preaching in the evening.

Tours will be available to all interested after both services.

City doesn't D.A.R.E. say "no" to state funds

By Thad Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

The City of Lowell was one of three recipients of state grant funds for its D.A.R.E. program.

The City of Lowell received \$6,975 for its anti-drug program and enforcement.

Senate Majority leader Dick Posthumus announced that the fight against drug abuse in West Michigan would be enhanced by \$325,720 in state grant dollars.

"The Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy has awarded these grants to aid in the continuing battle against drug abuse," Posthumus said.

In America, there are two classes of travel—first class and with children.

EXHIBIT B CITY OF LOWELL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Table listing street addresses and parcel numbers for public hearing, including 724 Riverside, 612 N. Hudson, etc.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the City Manager of the City of Lowell has made and certified a special assessment roll for said SAD 93SA which roll sets forth the relative portion of the cost of the said Improvements which is to be levied in the form of special assessments against each benefited lot and parcel of land in SAD 93SA.

TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Lowell will hold a public hearing on the 2nd day of August, 1993, at 7:30 p.m., local time, at the City Hall located at 301 East Main Street in said City to review the special assessment roll and to hear and consider any objections thereto.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Hudson Street Sidewalk Improvements Special Assessment District Roll No. 93SA as prepared has been submitted to the City Council and is on file with the City Clerk for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a person must either appear and object at the public hearing or submit a letter of appearance and objection to the City prior to the public hearing in order to protect his/her right to appeal the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

This notice was authorized by the City Council of the City of Lowell.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

David M. Pasquale, City Manager 301 East Main Street Lowell, Michigan 49331 Telephone: (616) 897-8457

Dated: July 19, 1993

David M. Pasquale, City Clerk

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

CLAIMS NOTICE INDEPENDENT PROBATE FILE NO. 93-156,291-IE

Estate of DELBERT R. CALLEN, deceased TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: including Jerry Callen, Samuel W. Callen, Roy D. Manbeck, Jr., Robert L. Manbeck, Carole A. Manbeck, Karen M. Manbeck, Vera V. Manbeck.

You will be blessed. The foundation has been laid for a successful venture. You are very close to getting something you have always wanted.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19) You will reap a harvest from seeds you planted in the past. The results and gains will be much better than you ever anticipated.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Investigate all aspects of a project before becoming involved. Future plans may need to be canceled. A disagreement or misunderstanding could get out of hand.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Do not be overly anxious when negotiating financial matters; things will go well if you proceed carefully. A cycle of positive change is on the way.

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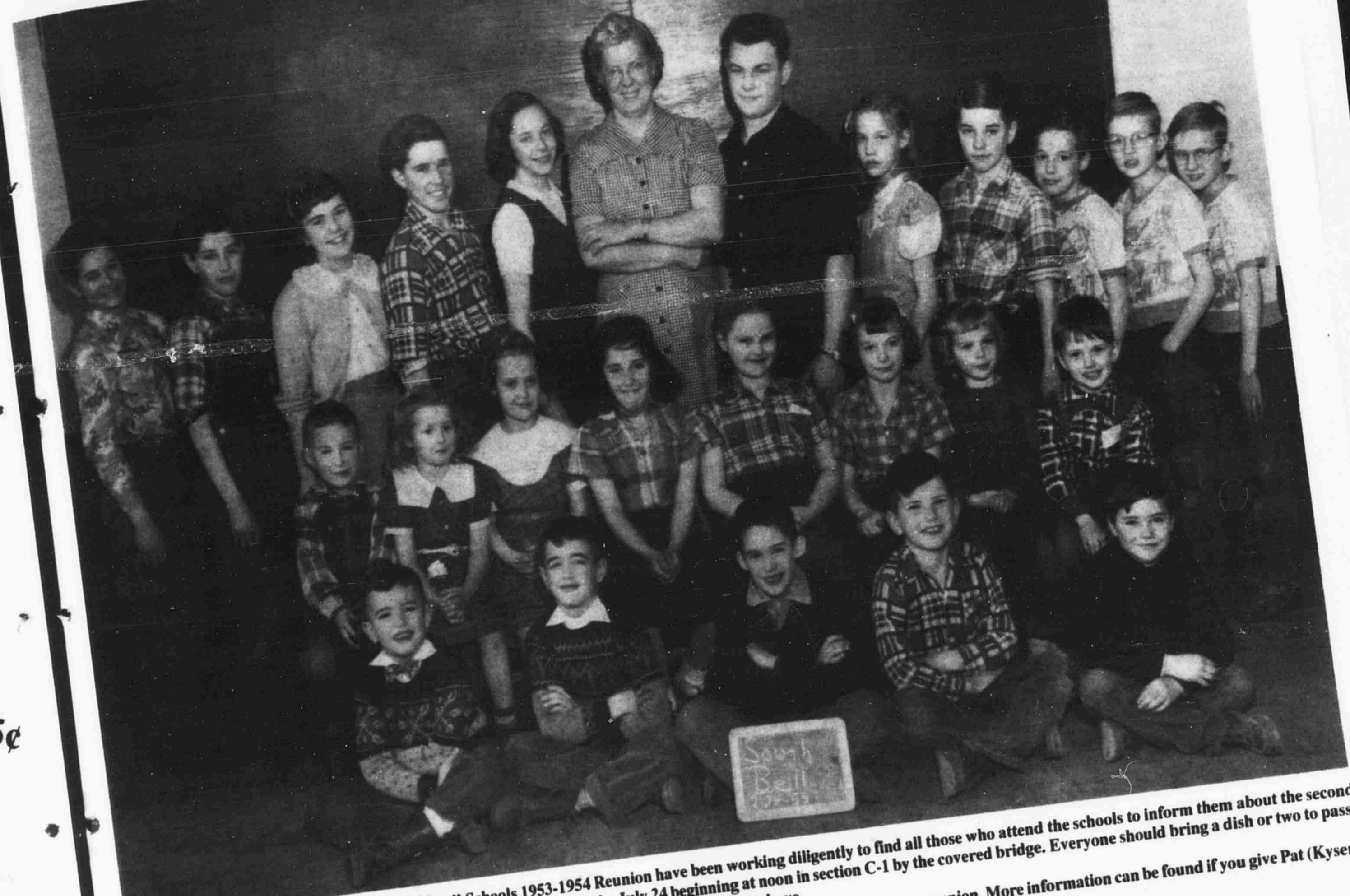
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# North Bell/South Bell Schools Reunion



The committee for the North Bell/South Bell Schools 1953-1954 Reunion have been working diligently to find all those who attend the schools to inform them about the second reunion at Fallsburg Park in Lowell this summer. The reunion will be July 24 beginning at noon in section C-1 by the covered bridge. Everyone should bring a dish or two to pass, table service and a beverage (no alcohol please); and all the old pictures and memories you have. If you know of any classmates that have moved from the area please get in touch and tell them that there will be a reunion. More information can be found if you give Pat (Kyser) Miller a call at 897-9060.

\*\*\*  
The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper.  
—Eden Phillpotts

# Lowell Ledger

## 1893-1993 OUR 100th YEAR

# The Lowell Ledger

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893  
Wednesday, January 27, 1993

ADVERTISE NOW  
100% FREE  
30 DAYS  
NO RISK

WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE AND CHARITY FOR ALL.  
VOL. I. LOWELL, KENT COUNTY, MICH., JULY 4, 1893. NO. 4

**ANNOUNCEMENT.**

**Shoes**

**Women's**

**Children's**

**Men's**

Our effort is to furnish them in quality, fit and price that an occasional buyer may become a regular customer. Yours for Trade.

**CEO. WINEGAR.**  
North Side Main Street.

**R. B. BOYLAN,**  
HAIRDRESSER EMPORIUM.  
Crystal Creamery and Creamery Supplies.

**B. C. SMITH, THE T**  
Will Give You  
Every Garment G  
LATEST AND BEST ST  
SAY, F  
Will you buy a Blazer it  
MCC  
The Best Machine on P  
Agricultural Implements, 7  
on Hand and for sale at P

### Township land use plan scrutinized closely by commission and residents

#### Timpson: If the area is controlled closely, the township can maintain growth properly.

Lowell Township citizens aired their concerns, questions and hopes to the Township Planning Commission in regard to the 1992 land use plan Monday night. About 100 citizens appeared at the Lowell Township hall to discuss amendments made to the land use plan in 1992. Amendments made to the industrial portion of the plan had the most citizen concern.

The industrial component was to recommend a prime site for industrial growth in Lowell Township. The plan looked at specific guidelines, one was designated as the best area for new industries to locate in Lowell Township.

The four areas looked at were: Area 1) M-21 immediately west of city limits; Area 2) Alden/Naak, Emery, and Sargent; Area 3) 1-06 and Alden/Naak; Area 4) M-50 between 52nd and 60th Streets.

The planning commission, with the help of Bob Timpson of Progressive Engineering, the commission used a criteria to determine where the area would be most beneficial to the community. The criteria included look transportation and circulation, utilities, revenue and costs in locating industries in Lowell.

Environmental criteria took into consideration drainage, wetlands, prime farmlands, areas involved existing land use and adjacent to the use. Transportation and circulation looked at all weather roads, distance to primary routes and traffic capabilities. Utilities, revenue and cost were taken into consideration but were not a factor for all areas.

### School payroll discrepancies leads to dismissal of employee

An internal audit of Lowell Schools payroll records uncovered a number of irregularities in an employee's payroll account. Lowell Superintendent Fritz Esch stated Tuesday, in late December of 1992, a discrepancy was noticed in an employee's payroll account by auditing firm, Helmsboldt and Co. of Grand Rapids. Auditors and school administration determined in early January that a number of irregularities were discovered, the employee deserved further investigation. "That same day the district's auditors, central office auditors and staff have been investigating the alleged irregularities, the results of the audit show that undocumented overtime pay for the payroll entries on Jan. 25. The Lowell Board of Education is continuing to conduct its internal auditing procedures to determine its future direction," Esch concluded.

### New public library a motivating force behind East Riverfront plan

The East Riverfront Area Master Plan does not dictate where possible, provide joint facilities by the City of Lowell and Lowell Schools, such as parking facilities and open space/recreation area.

The purpose and intent of the plan is to provide a sense of direction for the area. Lowell City Manager Dave Pasquale said, "The motivating force behind the plan is determining a site for public library."

"With vision and thought the plan can enhance the area," said Pasquale. "Once you have a vision, then you lose all concern as to what you are doing."

### Lowell's Shores has a difficult time with proposed assessment

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Jeanne Shores, 315 Spring, did a little property cleaning before an anticipated vacation in Colorado.

Shores attended the Monday night City Council meeting with concerns about the time table for construction of the new sidewalk on North Hudson if the assessment roll is passed following the Aug. 2 public hearing.

"I want sidewalk specifications from the City so if this is passed I have an opportunity to get my own private contractor," Shores says. "I don't want the City digging up my yard while I'm gone."

Monday night, Van Lan Concrete Construction, Dutton, was awarded the bid. The company will charge \$15 per lineal foot for replacement sidewalk; \$14.30 per lineal foot for new sidewalk; \$490 each for a double handicap ramp; and \$375 each for a single handicap ramp.

Pasquale told the questioning Shores that the City would incur the entire cost of handicap ramps and it would not be figured in on the property owners costs.

## LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

### There will be community forum meetings with the Lowell Board of Education

The Lowell Board of Education invites and encourages all citizens of the school district to openly discuss the financial crisis facing the district and the need for the passage of the Headlee Waiver in order to continue the educational program for its students and keep the 6 hour day student schedule.

- #### Community forum meeting dates and locations are as follows:
- Monday, July 26, at 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Bushnell Elementary Media Center  
700 Elizabeth St., Lowell
  - Monday, August 9, at 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Bushnell Elementary Media Center  
700 Elizabeth St., Lowell  
(prior to the regular Board meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m.)
  - Monday, August 16, at 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Alto Elementary School  
6150 Bancroft, Alto
  - Monday, August 23, at 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Vergennes United Methodist Church  
10411 Bailey Dr., Lowell

## LARKIN'S ANNUAL

### 3 Man Scramble

Sat., Aug. 7 at Tyler Creek

1st Place: Jackets (& next year free)  
2nd & 3rd Places: Trophies

Cash Prizes:  
Longest Drive (2 Holes)  
Longest Putt (2 Holes)  
Closest to Pin (2 Holes)

**\$115.00 per team**

Includes: 18 holes of golf, cart, steak dinner, beer & prizes

Register at Larkin's, 301 W. Main, Lowell or call 897-5977

Tea Times available from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

## HELP US CELEBRATE OUR CENTENNIAL!

Subscribe today and save 100 pennies!  
\$1 Off A Regular Subscription  
Phone: 897-9261















# RECORD BREAKING FLOOD

## LOSSES REACH FAR INTO THE THOUSANDS.

### RALPH NORMAN DROWNED ON HUSTON FARM.

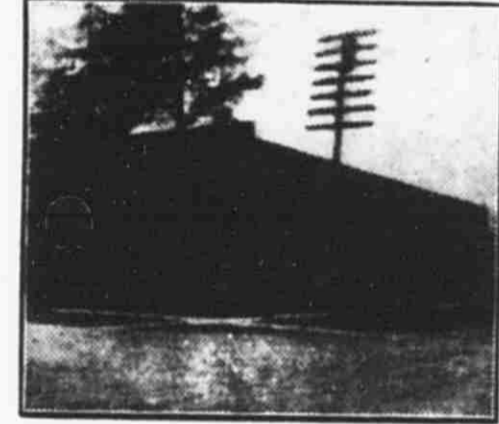
#### SCORES OF FAMILIES DRIVEN FROM HOME. NARROW ESCAPES. HORSE DROWNED.

Nov. 24, 1904

## PARKS CO. AT HOME

### IN ITS NEWLY BUILT FACTORY.

The Building, Its Purpose and Projectors of the Enterprise.



The above shows the new home of the Parks Manufacturing company of Lowell, on the corner of Main and Hudson streets. It is a two story frame building 20 x 100 feet in dimensions covered with steel and presents a neat appearance.

Cement walks run the entire length of the lot on both streets, and the factory is near the Pere Marquette sidetracks.

The first floor has pleasant business offices in front and a bench room with accommodations for twenty-four men in the rear. The second floor is used for storage, painting and the mounting of woodwork. The entire building is well illuminated by ample windows by day and electric lights by night.

The small building on the lot will be used for metal finishing and storage, and there is room on the lot for another factory building of equal capacity to the first, and with ample room between for light.

The company has three men on the road and is making cream separators, sprayers, hand trucks and Mr. Parks' latest production, the Cyclone plaster distributor and insect killer, which has practically a clear market and finds ready sale.

These are the stock holders and officers: C. W. Parks, president; F. W. Hinyon, vice president; D. R. Whitney, secretary; D. H. Owen, treasurer; R. B. Loveland, trustee.

### INDIVIDUAL LOSERS—NAMES OF THE EXILES—SIGHTS—INCIDENTS—DRIFTWOOD NOTES.

Mar. 31, 1904



Main Street, Looking East From Flat River Bridge.

The worst flood in the history of Lowell has been experienced since our last issue; all former high-water records having been eclipsed by at least two feet, and scores of families driven from their homes with water, in many cases reaching the middle window sash, or half-way to the ceiling of the ground-floor rooms. Business men have been driven from their factories, shops and stores, after placing movable partitions above what was supposed to be high-water mark, while others have remained on guard for from twenty-four to thirty-six hours at a stretch, showing valiantly higher and higher as the greedy waters rose hour by hour and inch by inch.

The first floor has pleasant business offices in front and a bench room with accommodations for twenty-four men in the rear. The second floor is used for storage, painting and the mounting of woodwork. The entire building is well illuminated by ample windows by day and electric lights by night.

On Monday occurred the drowning of Ralph Norman of West Lafayette.

Three Narrow Escapes. Two nearly fatal accidents occurred last night. Mr. Norman was driving south in a single buggy, when the horse became unmanageable, the buggy overturned and the occupants thrown into the deep and powerful current. Mrs. Baley clung to the fence and was rescued in an exhausted condition half an hour later. Mr. Green and



Main Street, Looking West From the Methodist Church.

Ohio, who has been employed in the construction gang on the new Pere Marquette steel bridge. Norman was in a boat with Fred Jacob and James Elliott, when all three were thrown into the water on the flats north of lower Grand River bridge, and clinging to the boat were drifted over the W. R. Huston farm. Norman lost his hold and sank in seven or eight feet of water. His body was recovered Tuesday morning. A coroner's inquest over the body was held before Justice Ferris Tuesday afternoon at H. W. Hakes' underlying rooms. The jurors were Isaac Wood, Lewis Morse, Wallace Lang, Hanson Vaughan, Orren Ford, Chester Leary. The verdict was that "Said Ralph Norman came to his death on the afternoon of Monday, March 28, 1904, at about three o'clock p. m., of said day, in Grand river overflow within the township of Lowell, by drowning, by and from the accidental upsetting of a row-boat in which said Ralph Norman with Jas. Elliott was rowed by Fred Jacob."

Norman was a single man, about 21 years old. His father, Thomas J. Norman, and cousin, Henry O. Norman, came from West Lafayette yesterday to take the body back home where funeral will be held Friday. The relatives are grateful to the people of Lowell for kind attentions.

Grand River Bridge. The wooden section of the Pere Marquette bridge carried away lodged against lower Grand river bridge at 5 o'clock Saturday night. Since that time a about fifteen men have been trying to pull the old bridge apart to relieve the strain upon the steel bridge. Though they have succeeded in removing a portion of it and reducing the pressure somewhat, we are informed this (Wednesday) morning that the middle pier has been considerably damaged and that the whole bridge is out of true. No teams are permitted to cross. This bridge cost Lowell township about \$25,000. Estimate of the total damage to private individuals vary from \$25,000 to \$75,000. At this writing, no definite information is obtainable; but probably the real loss will be (Continued on Page 8. More Flood News on Page 5 and Supplement.)

April 12, 1905

## A BATTLE WITH FLAMES

### LOWELL SUFFERS GREAT LOSS BY FIRE.

#### WILL AGGREGATE \$100,000, PARTIALLY INSURED.

#### NINE BUSINESS HOUSES BURNED OUT, BESIDES PROFESSIONALS AND FAMILIES

#### THE LOSERS, LOSSES, INSURANCE, PROSPECTS, BRANDS FROM THE BURNING.

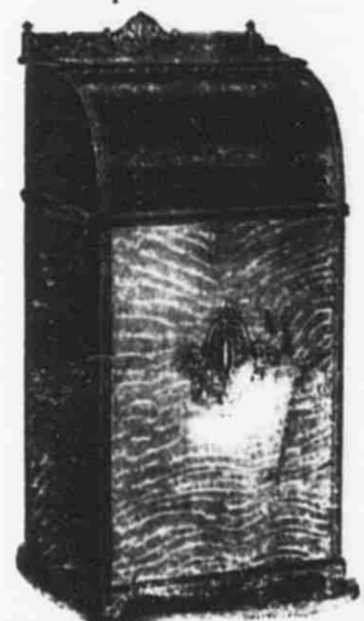
Aug. 24, 1905

## Postponed!

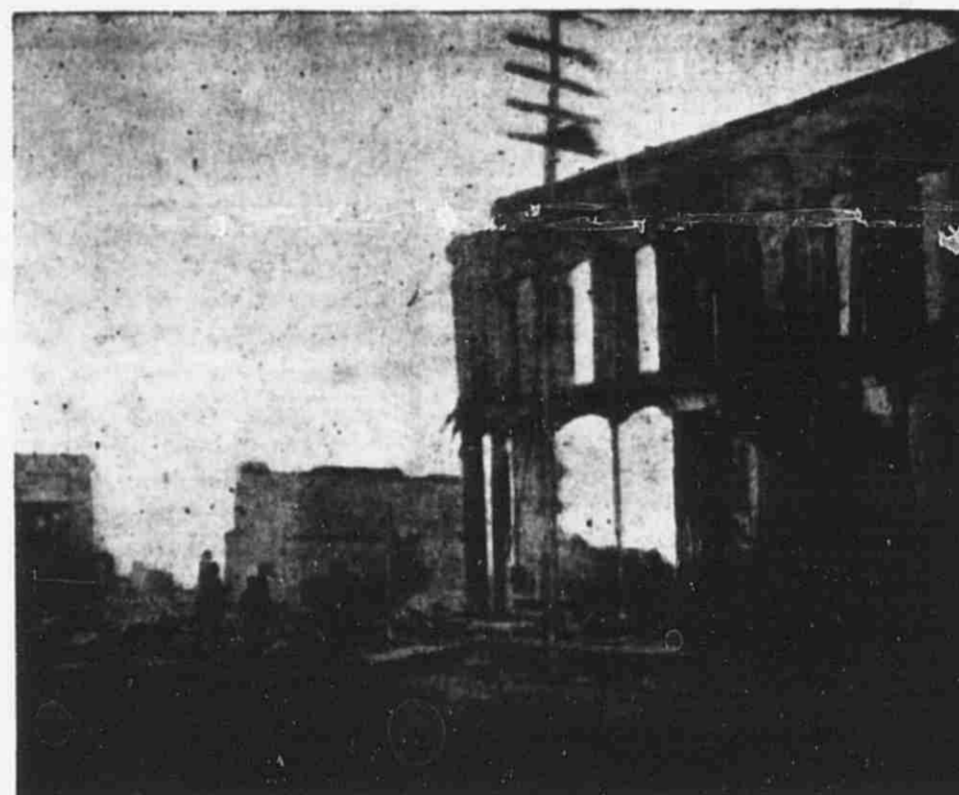
The giving away of my Sewing Machine has been postponed until the evening of

### Saturday, September 2nd

at 8 o'clock, when it will positively take place.



R. D. STOCKING.



The ruins Wednesday morning at 5:30. The walls in the foreground are those of the Sherman and Ruben stores. In the distance is the Smith building where the fire was stopped.

Fire broke out in the wooden oil room at the rear of Boylan's hardware store at 6 o'clock Tuesday evening and was quickly followed by a

terrific explosion of gasoline or dynamite, or both, and the rear ends of the Boylan store and the five adjoining store buildings, all two-story

## ANOTHER FLOOD DISASTER

### MAIN STREET BRIDGE AND WALKS SWEEPED AWAY

#### TWO BUSINESS BUILDINGS CARRIED DOWN AND DASHED TO PIECES

#### TWO OTHERS WRECKED. H. S. SCHREINER NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH.

#### SNAP SHOTS.

Two Lowell business buildings were carried away and destroyed by a Flat river flood at an early hour Tuesday morning. The downtown office of the Grand Trunk railway and Western Union Telegraph office and the harness store of H. S. Schreiner were swept down stream and broken to pieces on the Pere Marquette bridge below. Mrs. M. A. Carr's store building occupied by Mrs. E. S. White as a millinery store has gone down so that the roof is on a level with the street, a total wreck, and the contents greatly damaged.

The Merritt Wright building occupied by Dan Ringler as a harness shop, by Mrs. Wright as a dwelling and Miss C. R. Bosworth as a millinery store is also tottering to ruin. The contents of this building were mostly saved. A terrific thunderstorm raged most of Monday afternoon and all night and early Tuesday morning Flat river was raging and carried out the west side dam of the King Milling Company on Main street, where the destroyed buildings were located, and swept away that section of the village bridge and a large

section of the roadway, inflicting a loss of thousands of dollars to the municipality.

Mr. Schreiner was in his building when it collapsed and narrowly escaped with his life. He was jammed into a small space and felt his feet entangled in the wreckage, when Frank Pickard managed to reach him with his friendly hand. At the same time Mr. Schreiner says, he felt his feet released, and he was lifted to safety, just as the ruined building started on its trip to the Pere Mar-

quette bridge, where it soon went to pieces. Mr. Schreiner got a wrist cut and was severely injured in the chest. He figures his loss at about \$3,000, which will be lessened somewhat by the small amount of stock that was saved.

The fire alarm was sounded at 2 o'clock in the morning and later to arouse the people from their slumbers. Men and teams responded and bags of gravel and stones were thrown into the breach to save the roadway from further destruction.

When the excitement was at its height yesterday and crowds on either bank were watching the progress of the foot bridge, the people were horrified to see what was apparently the body of a man come rushing down stream. A cry went up "Save that man!" and several boats started in a wild and dangerous chase and young Snyder was about to plunge in to the rescue when it was discovered that the supposed man was a dummy, fixed and placed in the current above for the purpose of having some fun, by some very thoughtless persons. There were some very indignant men when the hoax was discovered; and it is well for the hoaxers that their identity was unknown, or excusable violence might have been used.

Following are, as far known, the families whose houses were surrounded by water so that they were compelled to move out or upstairs, though the water did not in every case reach the floor: Dr. E. A. Hodges, F. R. Ecker, Miss Mary Ecker, L.

The foundation of F. T. King's new block was being rapidly undermined; and all possible was done to prevent further damage. Mrs. Wright's household goods, Dan Ringler's harness stock and Miss C. R. Bosworth's stock of mill-

homes were in the apartments above the store, had short warning of the danger. Mrs. Crawford and her daughters saved practically nothing but the clothing they wore. Mr. Godfrey's kitchen was burning in ten minutes after the alarm was given, and they hadn't time to save any of their goods.

In the meantime, the large cooperative building of the King Milling company had been totally destroyed and fire catching in the rear of Goodrich Kopf's wooden building drove out Maynard brothers and threatened the wooden row clear to the post office. A. L. Weyrick's new steel-covered meat market went next, a small portion of the contents being saved. F. Spagnuolo lost his household goods and most of his stock.

Now the Wisner mill was smoking and scorching and a hard fight was on, in front and on the roof. Had that gone nothing could have saved the wooden mill, cutter factory, the seven brick buildings on the south side of the street—all three stories but the bank building—and the wooden row and residences to the east.

Another good fight and a winning one was made at B. C. Smith's tailor shop and residence. This had been recently steel-covered; and after a long and fierce battle the fire was stopped there. Mr. Smith's stock of cloths had been removed in safety; but his household goods and building were nearly ruined by fire and water. He was fairly well insured.

At this junction an engine and firemen from Grand Rapids arrived. They had been delayed at Ada, another train having the right of way. They showed their good will, however.

A good word should be said for the Lowell Water & Light company, which connected with Flat river and pumped "to beat the band;" and also had steam on in its Grand river plant and was pumping there in twenty minutes after the alarm.



Looking South Toward the Grand Trunk Depot From Top of Train's Opera House.

## Looking Back.. through the years 1903-1912

by Marc Popiolek Contributing Writer

The second decade of the Ledger, 1903-1912 showed improved news coverage both locally and nationally. The articles were more detailed and up to date, this period also introduced pictures on the front page.

Many of today's devices we take for granted were introduced to Lowellites at this time.

Advertisements for the

phonograph, typewriter, camera, gasoline engine and automobiles began to pop up.

This decade also showed to be prosperous for the city. Factories, a new high school and city hall and an electrical company all began to operate. Although many of the factories closed over the years the city hall and electrical building have survived over the years.

Natural disasters proved costly for Lowell residents during the decade. Two floods

and a cyclone caused much damage to the growing community. The worst of it being the flood of 1904, the damage of this flood would be the worst Lowell would face in the coming years.

Social awareness began to pervade the minds of residents. In 1904 the paper started printing articles discussing the benefits of a temperance society. A column called Temperance Topics appeared weekly persuading residents to outlaw alcohol.

By 1909 the paper printed a story claiming Lowell was to go dry and by 1910 a map detailing the counties in Michigan which were considered dry and Lowell was among those counties.

A national issue of much importance to local women was equality for women. Articles asking for women to attend meetings and support national issues became a weekly occurrence.

Congratulations to The Lowell Ledger 1893 - 1993 Happy 100th Birthday! Lowell Granite Co. 306 E. Main, Lowell • 897-7191 Serving the Area For Over 130 Years

Congratulations to The Lowell Ledger 1893 - 1993 Happy 100th Birthday! SUPERIOR FURNITURE 318 E. Main • 897-9285 Lowell, Michigan 49331 Serving the Area Since 1936

Congratulations to The Lowell Ledger 1893 - 1993 Happy 100th Birthday! "The Most Unusual Shop In Lowell!" PIPPI'S PLAYHOUSE 219 W. Main, Lowell 897-4774 Serving the Area Since 1989



Main Street Looking West from Methodist Church.





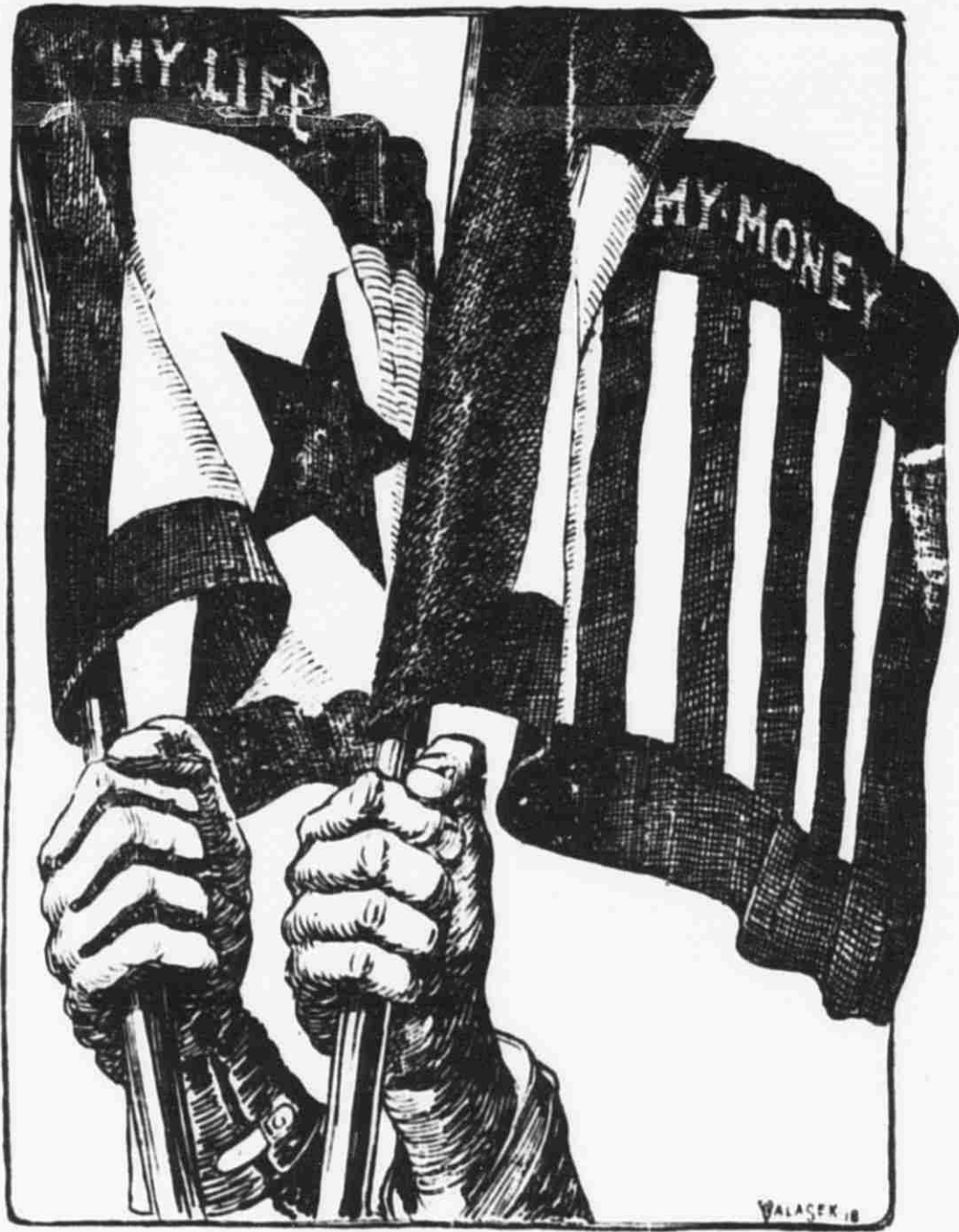




Oct. 3, 1918 WITH THE COLORS Hobart A. Cole's Letter to Home Folks

1913 1922

Oct. 3, 1918 THE STANDARDS OF TRUE AMERICANISM



The houses are all built out of stone with high stone fences around many of them. All the cities have large gates you have to go through before you can get into them.

Nov. 18, 1918 GREAT WAR IS OVER GERMANY SURRENDERS. KAISER BILL ABDICATES AND FLEES TO HOLLAND.

Germany has surrendered! That was the word received in Lowell by telephone from Grand Rapids last Thursday after half of The Ledger edition had been printed.

April 8, 1919 DAMAGED BY FIRE

Holcomb Sanitarium Narrowly Escaped Destruction. Occupants Safely Removed. The Holcomb sanitarium was badly damaged by fire and water last Friday morning.

Jan. 16, 1919 LOWELL FORD CO Makes an Important Announcement to Ledger Readers

January 15th. The demand this year is strong and much delay will be experienced in the spring unless orders are placed now for spring delivery.

Jan. 9, 1919 ROOSEVELT IS DEAD Great American President Passed Away Monday at 4:15 A. M.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Jan. 8, 1920 WHOOPIING COUGH EPIDEMIC. Lowell is having an unusual number of cases of whooping cough, called by the doctors, Pertussis.

Jan. 6, 1919 NAT'L PROHIBITION WINS Thirty-five States Have Ratified Prohibition Amendment to Constitution.

Nebraska, Missouri and Minnesota are in keen competition today to be the thirty-sixth state to ratify the federal constitutional amendment for prohibition.



WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Legislatures of 35 states—one less than the required three-fourth—have ratified the prohibition constitutional amendment.

Advertisement for Lowell Family Hairstyling, celebrating the 100th birthday of The Lowell Ledger (1893-1993). Includes phone number 897-7981 and address 512 E. Main, Lowell.

Advertisement for Flat River Antique Mall, celebrating the 100th birthday of The Lowell Ledger (1893-1993). Located at 212 W. Main, phone 897-5360.

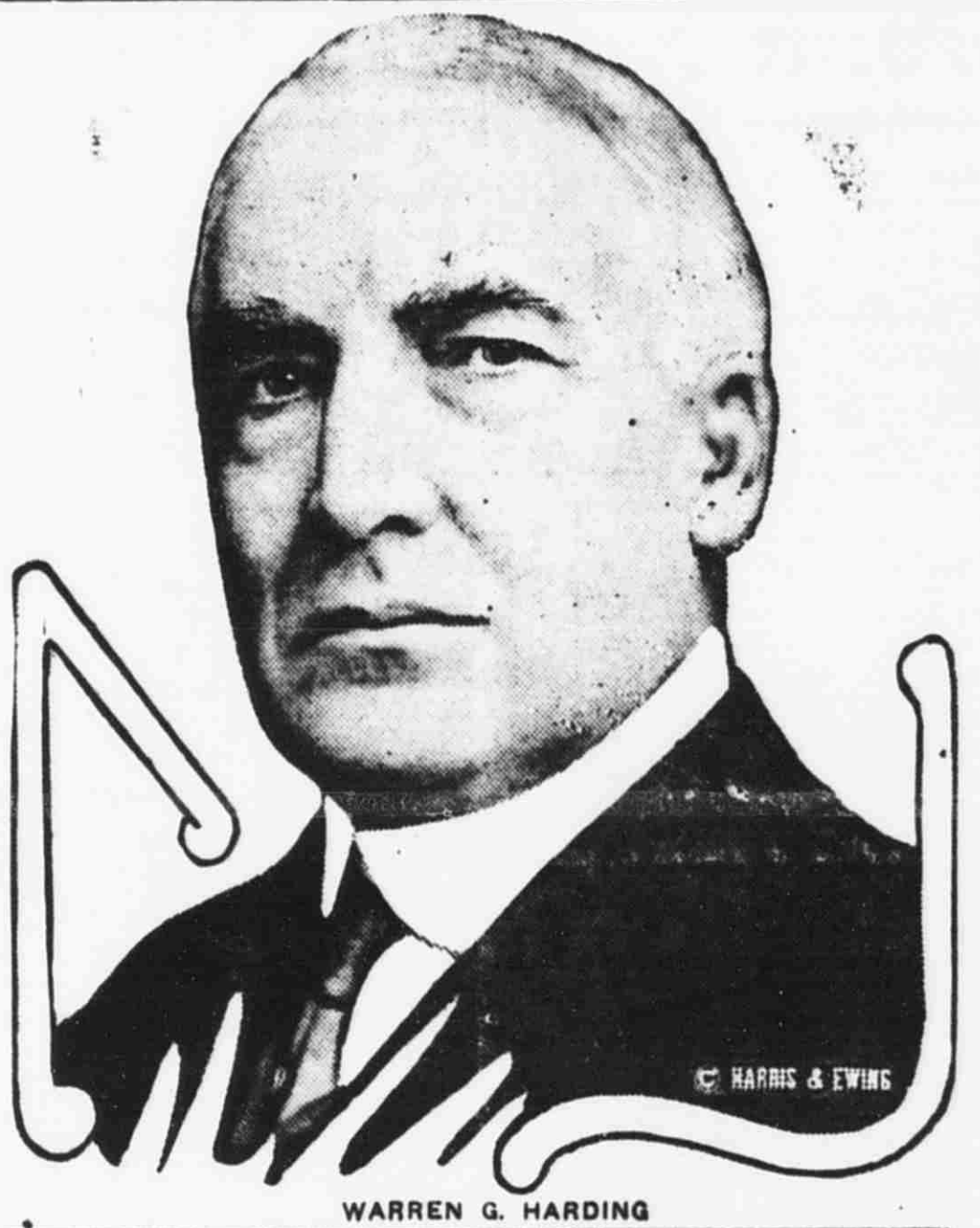
1920 WAKED UP AT LAST Lowell Citizens Call For Enforcement of Federal Liquor Laws.

1920 NEW BOARDIN' HOUSE Falls Canning Company Getting Ready for Fall Campaign.





OUR DEAD PRESIDENT



WARREN G. HARDING

OUR NEW PRESIDENT



PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE

Ledger Business Has Been Sold

GEORGE H. McMILLEN OF ATHENS, MICH., IS THE NEW PUBLISHER. Owing to long continued ill health, F. M. Johnson, founder of and publisher of this paper for thirty years, has sold the same to Mr. George H. McMillen, founder of The Lake Odessa Times, and for fifteen years publisher of the Athens Times. The new publisher took possession Tuesday morning, Oct. 2, and the retiring editor will be pleased to present his friends to him at the old stand during the next several weeks as he shall be settling up his long standing affairs. Mr. McMillen and his excellent wife and children, Lola and Hugh, will occupy the house recently vacated by W. L. Merriman at 419 Monroe avenue north. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson will continue to reside at Sevenoaks, where they hope to greet their many friends from time to time. By the terms of the sale all sums due The Ledger for advertising and printing are payable to F. M. Johnson, by whom all bills against the concern to time of sale will be paid. All advance paid subscriptions will be continued by Mr. McMillen, to whom all sums due on subscription are payable. The retiring publisher confidently asks and expects that the loyal support so long given to him be transferred to his successor. Without the co-operation of the public he cannot succeed; with it he can not fail. Frank M. Johnson. Lowell, Michigan, October 2, 1923.

Not The Ledger Has Not Been Sold

Rumors generally circulated about town during the past two weeks that The Ledger had been sold were founded on nothing more substantial than the wish-bone of the prospective buyer, who proved to have more wind than money. While the editor has been advised that his health would benefit by a change of business, we have no disposition to sacrifice the business—not yet. We expect to be here a long time yet and business entrusted to us will be gladly accepted and taken care of as usual. While these rumors—considering the outcome—were matters of regret to us, they brought out some unkind and testimonial of appreciation, which will be prized. Even some whose business we have fought in years past, have given us a good word. Guess they know it was the business and not them we were after; and that was true.

Pioneer Editor Returns to Lowell

WEBSTER MORRIS COMES BACK TO SCENES OF BOYHOOD AFTER 50 YEARS



Mr. Morris as he was when he lived in Lowell. Webster Morris, founder of The Lowell Journal in 1865, after an absence of many years returned to Lowell last week to visit the graves of his parents at Oakwood cemetery.

was the guest of honor at an informal and hurriedly arranged dinner given at Hotel Waverly Friday afternoon by Frank T. King, who as a lad of 3 years, was present when Mr. Morris pulled off the first edition of Lowell's first newspaper on a hand press and remarked—so Mr. Morris states—that the sight "made him dizzy." Seated at the table were Webster Morris, F. T. King, A. D. Oliver, B. D. Stocking, Frank N. White, W. S. Vinegar, J. A. Arehart, R. VanDyke, J. M. Hutchinson, Dr. S. S. Lee, D. G. Mangle, F. M. Johnson, D. G. Look and E. D. McQueen. After an excellent repast, cigars and impromptu talks followed with Mr. King as toastmaster, all at table participating in a round of reminiscences and felicitations for the guest of honor, returned to the scenes of his early manhood after an absence of half a century. Mr. Morris is now 83 years old and has retired from business life, having in recent years lost his wife and feeling that life now has for him little worth while. He is, however, a well-preserved man for his years and was much pleased with his visit at Lowell. The Journal was started July 13, 1865, and Mr. Morris continued with the paper until 1873, when he sold to James W. Hine, who had for some time been associated with him as a partner.

It is proposed that Mr. Morris repeat his Lowell visit two years from now, when, no doubt, a greeting fitting the occasion will be given him; and The Ledger cheerfully joins in the hope that our pioneer editor may be here in good health and spirits at that time. DO YOU OWE THE LEDGER? The notice under this head last week met with a gratifying response from many. For the convenience of others who may wish to comply with the request to "square up" The Ledger office will be open from 7:30 to 9 o'clock, p. m., Saturday.

SOLO BUGLE NOTES

The Sayings and Doings of Our Home Folks Remember the free movies at Alto Tuesday evening. If Jay Dintaman of Indiana is visiting his brother Elmer. Miss Mary Sinclair visited friends in Rockford last week. Rev. and Mrs. Beckett are spending the week in Albion. Miss Irene Chapple is home from Lansing for the summer. Frank McNaughton went to Lansing Tuesday on business. Mrs. Sydnam's friends will be glad to know she is improving. Albert Duell made a business trip to Lowell Tuesday morning. Mrs. John Keiser and family of Ionia visited relatives here Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas of Freeport spent Thursday at Frank Allerding's. Mrs. Konkle is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Alice Weaver, at Hastings. Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Stauffer and little grandson were in Alto Monday. Mr. and Mrs. Deroy Wood visited at Ed. Chapple's last Wednesday evening. Nellie Mohler of Muskegon is visiting her cousin, Esther Bunker, this week. Thomas Curley has traded his sedan for a Cadillac roadster. It's a peach. Frank McNaughton and wife spent Sunday with his sister in Grand Rapids. Mrs. Mack Watson and little daughter spent Tuesday at A. J. Watson's. Misses Vada and Helen Linton are visiting their aunt, Mrs. Madson of Greenville. Mrs. Lucy Duell entertains the girls' classes of the M. E. and Baptist Sunday school Saturday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Leon Anderson and family and the Thomas Griffin family were in Lowell Wednesday shopping. William Anderson and son Joe were in Grand Rapids Friday of last week and called on his son Jay and wife. Miss Orpha Bunker spent Friday night with Frances Kahn and attended the parish party at West Lowell. Bert Sydnam and wife of Elkton were called to the bedside of his mother, Mrs. Lucinda Sydnam, who is very ill. Mrs. Norris and daughter of Detroit visited her daughter, Mrs. Carroll Sadler, and attended the funeral of William Acheson of Keene.



Listen, Friend

If you want a good Home Paper, you'll have to go some to find a better value than The

Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo

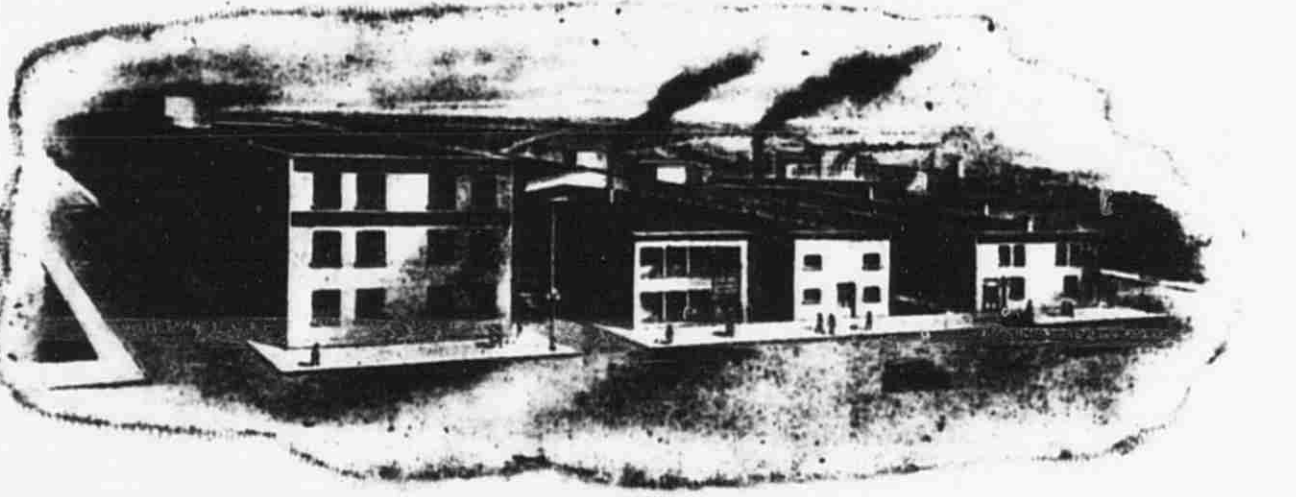
Try it and see. The regular 10-page edition is sold for \$2.00 per year or \$1.00 for six months. The 6-page local edition, with all the home news, is only \$1.50 per year or 75c for six months.

If you want to advertise in a good home paper that reaches the homes of Lowell, Alto, McCords, Ada, Elmdale, Moseley, Vergennes, Boston, Keene, Bowne, Cascade, Grattan, etc., this is the paper to do it in to get the biggest returns for the least money. And as for JOB PRINTING That's our second name. Good work, prompt service and low prices. Go elsewhere and you'll fare worse, pay more and be sorry.

The Lowell Ledger F. M. Johnson, Proprietor "30 Years on the Job"

THE LEDGER'S FARM DEPARTMENT Carefully Compiled Information That Will Be Of Help To The Progressive Farmer

Looking Back.. 1924 on 1923-1932 By Thad Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor



What truly struck me about this time period (1923-1932) was how the Ledger truly represented a community newspaper. The front page was filled each week with community announcements about what was happening in Lowell. The front page was also a venue for church and wedding news. So that everybody knew what the Jones' were doing, there was a weekly column entitled Solo Bugle Notes. It reported on the sayings and doings of the home folks. The rest of the paper was filled with what is commonly known as filler. In the early days of the Ledger, the community paper paid for a service which provided news items and columns. This was referred to as boiler plate material, because the columns and stories were already processed onto a thin metal sheet. Examples of what was sent include, a state and general news section which provided condensed reports of what happened nationally, domestically and foreign news. The Ledger also printed serial stories for its readers to follow along with each week. Some of the authors highlighted were Zehn Grey, Victor Rosseau and Sidney Herschel Small. Up until 1931 ads were lined up the whole left side of the Ledger front page. A format like that today might classify it as a "shopper." Another well read column found each week in the Ledger on page two was Uncle Marcus (alias Frank M. Johnson, publisher). Bootlegging was reported on nearly every issue. Johnson, time and time again wrote on the evils of drinking and had little tolerance for those who did. In 1930 Johnson sold the paper to R.G. Jefferies.

In the year 1900 D. G. Look and W. A. Watts conceived the idea of manufacturing Sprayers, believing that the time was not far distant when all living vegetation would have to be sprayed if marketable fruit and vegetables were to be grown. They started in one room over the Rouse blacksmith shop employing one man, using a room located in the City State Bank for an office. This arrangement, of course, answered their requirements, but a very short time as business prospered from the start, and a building was purchased on Main street, which was a nucleus of the present factory, which comprises better than 60,000

square feet of floor space at the present time have one hundred employees. Sprayers in all styles and sizes are now being manufactured in large quantities and are being shipped not only to every State in the Union, but also to many foreign countries. They always have used the slogan "Lowell Goods of Quality" and in the year 1923 had the word "Lowell" copyrighted and adopted same as their Trade Mark so that today every sprayer is stenciled, thus spreading the name and fame of Lowell to all corners of the earth. To keep up with their rapidly increasing business since January of 1926, orders being already on file to keep the factory assured of steady operation.

July, 1924

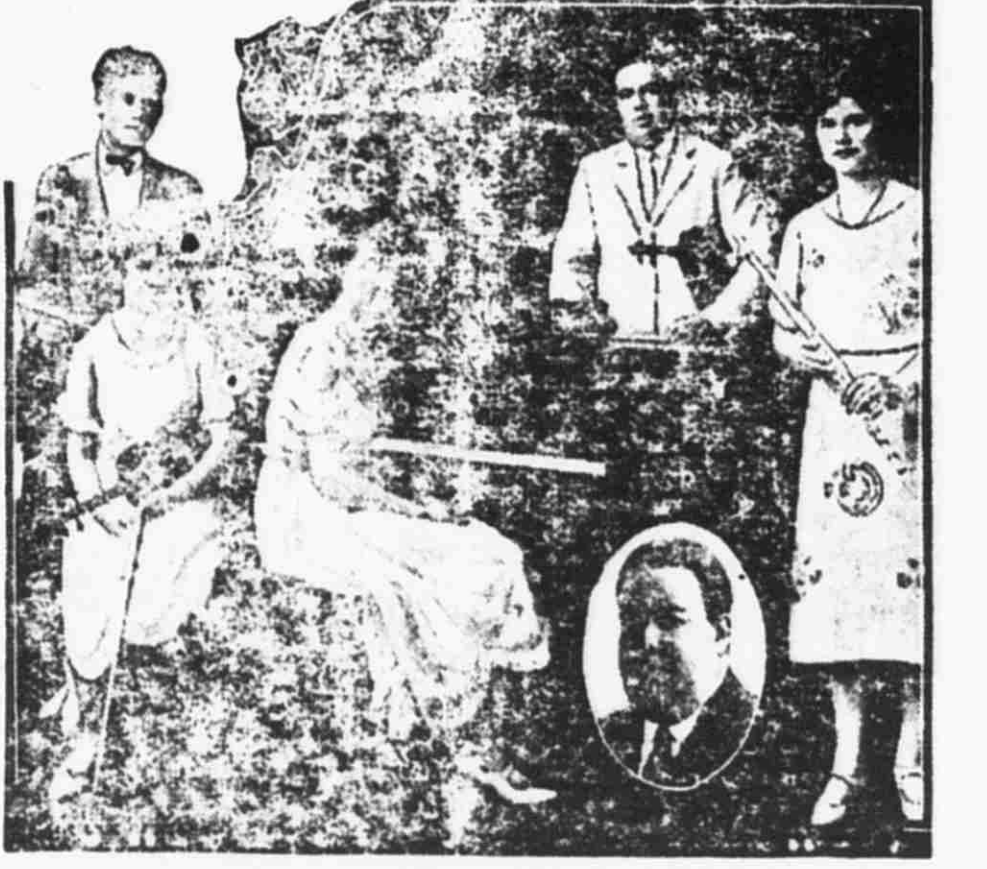
LOWELL'S BIG FREE CHAUTAUQUA TUES., WED., THURS. FRI. JULY 28-29-30-31

THE AMERICAN GLEE CLUB



A RARE TREAT FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY PROGRAM FOR THE FOUR-DAY SESSION GIVEN BELOW RITUAL-MORGAN BUREAU ANNOUNCES ALL-STAR 1925 PROGRAM. DIRECTION OF GLEN MacCADDAM INLAND CIRCUIT FIRST DAY—Afternoon. ORGANIZATION OF JUNIOR CHAUTAUQUA, Junior Director Evening. CONCERT, Strongren Duo ENTERTAINMENT, S. Platt Jones SECOND DAY—Afternoon. PRELUDE, Howard Orchestral Quintette. LECTURE, A. L. Flude "The Fairyland of the Orient." Evening. CONCERT, Howard Orchestral Quintette. LECTURE, A. L. Flude "One Thousand Miles Thru Siberia." THIRD DAY—Afternoon. ENTERTAINMENT, Elias Day Players Dramatic Sketch. LECTURE, Ethel Irwin "A Day In Mexico." Evening. FLAY, Elias Day Players "Pollyanna." FOURTH DAY—Afternoon. PRELUDE, The American Glee Club. LECTURE, Frank S. Regan "The Fool Taxpayer." Evening. PAGEANT, Junior Chautauqua. CONCERT, The American Glee Club. LECTURE, Frank S. Regan "Odd People and Strange Places"

HOWARD ORCHESTRAL QUINTETTE



The Howard Quintette is a thoroughly artistic and effective platform of talent. The Director and Manager, JOHN E. HOWARD, has been known to convert patrons for years as one of the musical geniuses of the platform. His ability lies in his interpretation of the music of the masters through his own musicianship as well as with the help of his assisting artists. Mr. Howard's brief explanations of all numbers give added interest and pleasure. In this little orchestra is a company of artists who are able to put into our hearts an understanding and a love for the finest things in music.

Charlie Stocking Seaplane Victim

WELL KNOWN LOWELL MAN NEAR DEATH WHEN SEA FLYER FIRED.

Charles D. Stocking of Detroit, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Stocking of Lowell, experienced army aviator, was seriously injured Tuesday afternoon when a new seaplane which he and another aviator were trying out, crashed into a tree on Belle Isle and fell to the ground. The Detroit News published the following: The first attempt of Russel North and Charles D. Stocking, former army aviator, to fly a seaplane resulted in a crash and their serious injury a minute after the plane left the water Tuesday afternoon. It fell on, Belle Isle, narrowly missing a group of picnickers. Stocking suffered a fracture of the skull at the base of the brain, and physicians at R receiving Hospital fear he is dying. North has concussion of the brain, and his condition today was regarded as still critical. The seaplane was one owned by Richard Locke, 285 Marlborough avenue, son of David H. Locke, president of the Locke Pattern Co. It was brand new, its first trip having been made during the morning. Its pilot for the morning trip was Locke, and he pronounced it perfect in every respect. In the afternoon, North, 30 years old, who lives at 400 Newport avenue, and Stocking, 27, 159 Phillip avenue, started to take the machine into the air. Their experience with land planes convinced them that they would have no difficulty, and until they were clear of the Detroit river near the head of Belle Isle they seemed justified. But soon after they left the water the seaplane became unmanageable, witness declared. They barely missed a mast of a small yacht near the Detroit Yacht Club, and swerved low over the Belle Isle bath house. Thousands on the island, watching the ship's uncertain course and sensing the impending fall, fled or watched spellbound. Then, after it had swooped over the road and past the police station, it struck a tree and fell, upside down. Both men were caught underneath. The seaplane, valued at \$12,000, is a total loss. Word received here Wednesday evening from Mrs. Charles Stocking was encouraging. He was conscious and talked with his sister, Mrs. Hazel Kropf of Saginaw, who had gone there immediately on hearing of the accident. An X-ray was to have been taken Wednesday evening but up to 3 p. m., Thursday no report of same had been received in Lowell. Later—Just as we go to press, word comes by phone that the X-ray shows no fracture, that while he is suffering greatly Charlie is expected to recover, also that he was not driving the plane, was just a passenger.

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Children Cry for Fletcher's CASTORIA



MOTHER:—Fletcher's Castoria is a pleasant, harmless Substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Teething Drops and Soothing Syrups, especially prepared for Infants in arms and Children all ages. To avoid imitations, always look for the signature of J.C. Fletcher. Proven directions on each package. Physicians everywhere recommend it











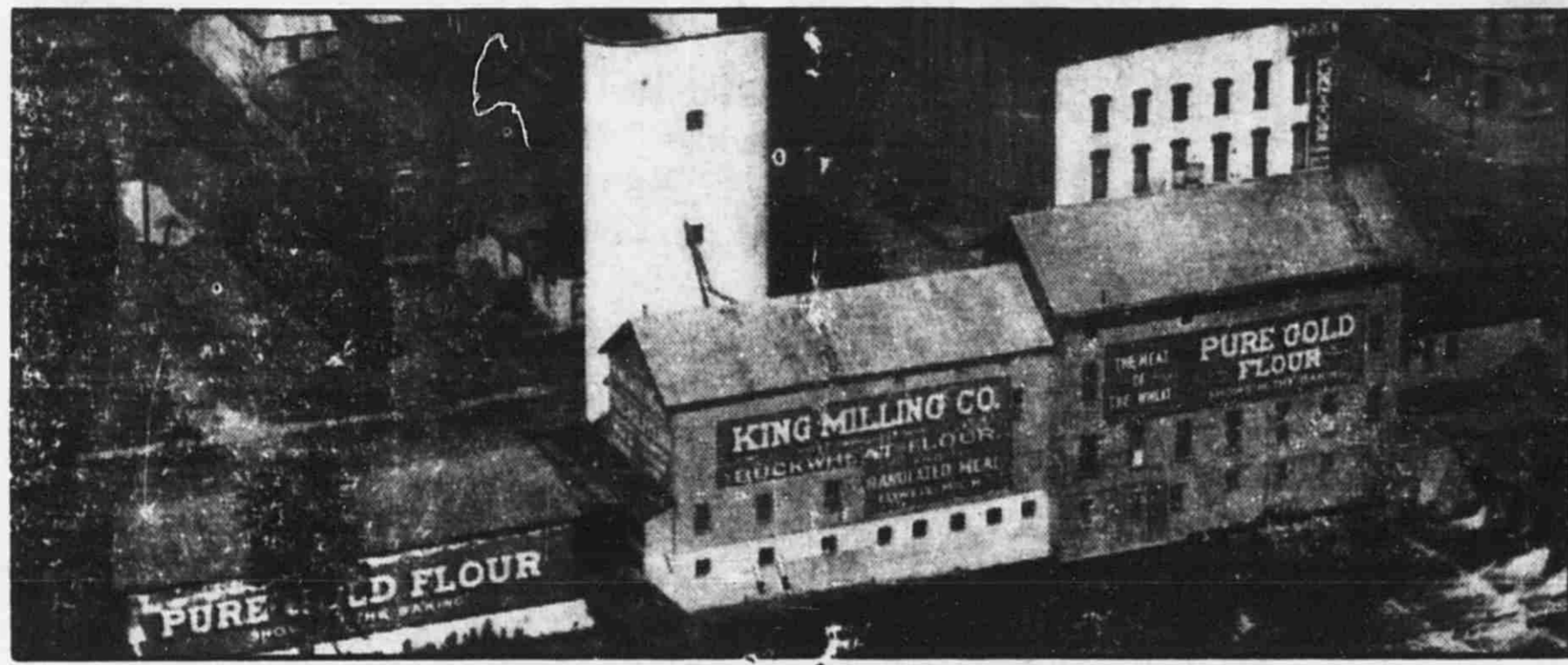








Lowell's Historic Flour Mill Goes Up in Flames



Aerialview of mill which had its beginning in 1867. View also shows the recently constructed grain storage tower.

Flour Mill of the King Milling Company Is Destroyed By Fire, Loss \$200,000

Mar. 11, 1943

The greatest loss by fire in Lowell's industrial history occurred last Sunday when the flour mill and its contents, owned by the King Milling Company, was completely destroyed by fire, resulting in a property loss of not far from a quarter of a million dollars. It is estimated that the amount of wheat destroyed may total as much as 70,000 bushels.

The mill had shut down about 8 o'clock Sunday morning after running throughout Saturday night. The fire was discovered shortly after three o'clock by Harry Eickhoff and Jerry Roth, who noticed the smoke as they were driving by on Main-st.

Four Fire Departments on the Job The Lowell fire department responded immediately, and a few minutes later sounded a second alarm for help, which also called out a good share of the townspeople who assisted in carrying out the office furnishings and business records.

At times the flames rose high into the air and the dense smoke blotted out the surrounding scenery. Nearby business blocks were greatly endangered, but were saved by the efforts of the firemen and also because a favorable wind carried the sparks and blazing embers in a southeasterly direction over the river. The first to burn through as there was a short section over the river which could not be reached by the fire hose. By the heroic efforts of the firemen, however, the adjacent warehouse and office were saved.

The stock in the warehouse back of the mill, consisting mostly of packaged flour was removed to a place of safety by trucks belonging to the C. H. Runciman company. A P. M. switch engine also removed a box car to a safe distance.

15 Below Zero Weather

It was feared that the building might explode and State police aided by local members of civilian defense worked to keep the large crowd, which had gathered, at a safe distance. All traffic on M-21 had to be detoured around the bridges until Monday noon.

Nearby lunch rooms soon began serving steaming cups of coffee to the firemen and many volunteers whose clothes were coated with ice, and who were greatly handicapped by near-zero temperatures which steadily dropped through the night to reach a low of around 15 degrees below zero.

Monday morning the ruins of the mighty structure stood glistening in the sun like a huge ice palace, weighted down by tons of ice.

The mill which operated day and night, and employed about 25 persons, only last fall had installed all new waterwheels and a new power plant, one of the finest in the state. The owners hope to rebuild but cannot say at the present time whether this will be possible until after the war.

During the past two years, one-third of the output has gone to the government, and at the time of the fire there were 6,000 barrels of unfilled orders on the books. The company is fortunate in that a neighbor

millier will be able to mill their flour for them. The two east side mills which were untouched by the fire, will continue to operate as usual.

History of the Old Mill

The mill building destroyed, known as the Superior Mills, was erected in 1867 and was known as a model mill of some 200 barrels capacity. It was operated by a succession of owners, and was purchased about 53 years ago by the King Milling Company, a corporation composed of Francis King, Charles McCarty, Reuben Quick, and Frank T. King, who rebuilt the mills at a cost of \$20,000. In 1896 they acquired the Forest Mills on the east bank of the river and in 1911 Mr. T. F. Doyle purchased the interest of Charles McCarty. Mr. Doyle's stock in the business passing to his children at the time of his death in 1915.

In 1927 the King Milling Company purchased the property of the Peckham Furniture Co., with water power, and converted it into a chick and stock feed manufacturing plant, with a capacity of 250 to 300 cars a year. The Forest Mills is devoted to the manufacture of granulated corn meal, buckwheat and pancake flour. The mill which burned turned out flour and self-rising flour, and had a capacity of 250 barrels a day, consuming around 250,000 bushels of wheat a year.

Present officers of the company are Wm. C. Doyle, who is president and general manager, R. M. Shivel, vice president, and Mrs. Eda Starkey, secretary.



View taken about 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon as firemen battled vainly for control of stubborn blaze.

1943

Sparks From Fire

George Wood, a volunteer fireman, was overcome by smoke and taken to a Grand Rapids hospital where it was found that his condition was not serious.

Local clothiers brought out their stock of gloves and ear muffs for the fire ladders, local restaurants furnished pots of steaming hot coffee, and Roth's Chapel was kept open as a place where firemen could go for warmth and dry their clothing. Several ladies remained on the job to dry the firemen's gloves over the fire.

Soon after the fire started the local office of the Bell Telephone company became a beehive of activity, practically all of the off-duty operators being called to the switchboard because of the hundreds of calls pouring in from all directions. It was a case of news of the fire spreading like wild fire.

President Wm. C. Doyle of the King Milling Company says that words fail him when it comes to expressing the appreciation of the company to the scores and scores of people who helped battle the fire. Mr. Doyle says: "The Lowell fire department and the visiting fire departments did a magnificent job, and to them and to all others who helped, we say 'Thanks a million,' and we mean every word of it."

Sunday's fire recalls other bad fires, the one that destroyed nearly the entire north side business block between Flat river and Monroe-av. in 1905, and the fire about that same period when the old wooden row of buildings on the south side of main street, between Monroe and Washington Avenues, was razed to the ground. Also in the early 1900's a bad fire occurred southeast of Main-st. in the lumber yard owned by the late Frank Yecker. Still earlier occurred the burning of the old roller skating rink which stood across the street diagonally from the Superior Mills.

Supt. F. J. McMahon lost no time in seeing to it that all of the high tension wires in the vicinity of the burning mill were disconnected, thus avoiding any likelihood of serious injury to firemen and others. Many years ago two fatalities occurred on Main Street from high tension wires, once when a balloonist lost her life at a 4th of July celebration, the other death occurring at the time of the burning of the "old wooden row."

Everybody was dressed in his Sunday best when the fire alarm was sounded, but no one went home to change his clothes before rendering help. Palace Cleaners will be renovating a lot of suits.

The myriads of doves which have made their home around the old mill all through the years took flight to other places of safety when the fire broke out, and it was not until Wednesday morning that they began to return in numbers.

Main Street won't seem quite the same with the old mill gone from the place where it has stood 67 years. Old landmarks become a part of us with the passing of time.

Fighting a fire in a biting wind, coupled with 15 degrees below zero, is no summer picnic.

Roosevelt Wins Fourth Term Election Entire Republican State Ticket Pulls Through



PRESIDENTIAL WINNER KELLY RE-ELECTED

Incomplete returns from Tuesday's general election show conclusively that Franklin D. Roosevelt has been elected to a fourth term as president of the United States. At this writing (Wednesday afternoon) many thousands of votes are yet to be tabulated, nevertheless returns show that Roosevelt has carried as many as thirty four of the states, with Dewey ahead in fourteen states. Roosevelt was strong in Detroit and other great industrial centers. Dewey's strength was mainly in the smaller cities and towns and the agricultural areas.

Although complete returns may show Michigan in the Roosevelt column, the Roosevelt ballot strength was apparently not being felt by the Democratic state ticket. The Republican state ticket was showing lesser but comfortable lead over their opponents.

Returns indicate that the Democratic party will have control of the House of Representatives and that they have also gained a seat or two in the U. S. Senate.

1944

Lowell Mfg. Company Lands Big Contract

The Lowell Manufacturing company has just received a large contract from the U. S. Army for dusters and sprayers. Mr. E. G. Schaefer, manager of the company, states that this will require a larger force of employees.

Mr. Schaefer also announces that the company has just set up a group accident, health and hospitalization insurance, with 87% of the employees signed up. The cost of the insurance is shared equally between employer and employee.

1944

The Ledger Completes 50 Years

(EDITORIAL)

The Lowell Ledger begins, with this issue, its 51st year of continuous publication. The value and permanence of the service it has rendered are indicated by the fact that it has had but two owners during this half century. The late Frank M. Johnson who founded it, served this community so well that he published it for nearly 37 years. The present editor and publisher, R. G. Jefferies, finds great satisfaction in his 13th year of this service.

In our job as an expression of the life of this community, it is a great satisfaction to look at its fine development, and to feel that we have had some share in its progress. The prosperous and scientific agriculture of this section, our community which lives up to its slogan of "The Friendly Town", our admirable electric light and water and sewage systems, our excellent schools and churches and parks, are a splendid demonstration of community development. We have reason to feel very proud of our organizations, and the completeness with which they meet the needs of the community and provide centers of activity. Associations like the Board of Trade, the Rotary Club, the Women's Club, the Garden Club and several study clubs are activities of incalculable value.

How far our newspaper has contributed to this development is not for us to say. As it has been our purpose to present a complete record of all the activities and the progress of Lowell and the surrounding country, it would seem as if this constant stream of publicity and favorable comment had helped greatly to excite enthusiasm and enlist support and workers for all our community activities.

The enterprising industries of our community, and the very able group of business people who carry on retail trade, have done wonders for our town and nation. It has been a great pleasure to work with them for progress and development.

The past 50 years have completely revolutionized life in America. The transformation our communities have undergone since 1893 would have been considered inconceivable at that date of former years. To publish a newspaper successfully through all these changing conditions, to keep up with new forms of competition, to respond to new needs, and keep pace with modern thought, has not been an easy proposition. The words of commendation which our people speak from time to time give us reason to hope we have passed through this test successfully. Anyway we have given it our best thought and all our energy.

For the future the Lowell Ledger will as in the past work with all its heart for the success of our community and the surrounding region, for the good of our great state, and grand country. May the coming years give us new ideas and development that shall realize all our present hopes.

We ask the cooperation of all who are interested in the progress of the community, for a newspaper not merely represents the effort of its publisher to carry on business and earn a living, but it is a public institution on which the community depends, and the success of which helps the community and expresses the views of the public.

We have a strong faith in the future of towns like Lowell, feeling that they are ideal places for homes, and offer excellent chances for business enterprise, and that the changes of the future will make them even more desirable as centers of opportunity. In the present critical war situation of the United States, the Lowell Ledger joins ardently in support of the government, and the efforts of our soldier boys, and it desires to aid in the great cause in every means with its power.

So with warm thanks for the public support which has made possible the life of this newspaper, we enter on a new period of enthusiastic service.

R. G. Jefferies

Editor and Publisher.

Men may come and men may go but the Ledger goes on forever.



News of Our Boys

David Sigler, formerly of Lowell, is now serving in the U. S. Navy.

A/C Howard Acheson has been sent to Maxwell Field, Ala., where he will start his pre-flight training for pilot.

Corp. Robert E. Sayles arrived home Monday from Camp Polk, La., on a 15-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Sayles.

Pvt. Fred E. Guild, Jr., has graduated from the Demolition School in the school for parachutists at Fort Benning, Ga. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Guild of Ithaca, formerly of Lowell.

1945

War Ended in Europe Germany Signs Unconditional Surrender War on Japan Still Rages

VE-day, the triumphant day long looked forward to by allied peoples all over the world, was proclaimed officially Tuesday morning, May 8, by President Harry S. Truman, in a radio broadcast in which he declared that he had set next Sunday, Mothers Day, as a day of prayer in which he wanted all to join. For in rejoicing over victory he asked the nation not to forget that "sorrow and heartache" abide in the homes of thousands of Americans, and that there is work and more work, still to be done before the Japanese menace to civilization is erased by their unconditional surrender.

People of all parties throughout the nation were in accord with President Truman as he expressed regret that the late president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who gave so much of his heart and strength to bring about the triumph of right and justice over cruelty, could not have lived to see its fulfillment.

VE-day came as an anti-climax after the chain of startling events and premature announcements leading up to it, and there seemed to be no organized observance of the fateful day, each one celebrating as his heart dictated. A number of business places closed voluntarily for the afternoon, flags were displayed along Main street, the Lowell high school held an appropriate program in the morning, and churches of the community will observe with appropriate services this coming Sunday.

Proclamation by the Village President

In conformity with the proclamation issued by President Harry S. Truman on VE day, Tuesday morning, May 8, I hereby PROCLAIM Sunday, May 13, as the day for observance in this community, and petition the citizens to observe the occasion by serious thinking on the problems which remain to be solved.

Prayerful thanks should be offered to God for the triumph of our gallant forces over the European evil which ran rampant over the world for the past five years, and at the same time earnest petitions should be made to Our Maker for assistance in our war against the wrong doers in the Pacific. And I earnestly request all citizens to continue to direct every energy toward an early and successful conclusion of this war against Japan.

I, therefore, proclaim Sunday, May 13, as a day of triumph but a day of prayerful contemplation.

In testimony of this proclamation I have attached my seal on this eighth day of May, nineteen hundred forty-five in the City Hall.

THERON RICHMOND, President of the Village of Lowell.

1945

\$10,000 Blaze Hits Elevator Fire Starts Suddenly in the C. H. Runciman Co.'s Sorting Room

Fire of undetermined origin broke out suddenly on the second floor of the C. H. Runciman company elevator about 4:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, and although the flames were soon under control, damage in the neighborhood of \$10,000 is estimated.

The fire began in an office adjacent to the room where 132 electric eye beam sorting machines were operating on a 24-hour shift. Two employees in the sorting room noticed the smoke, but as they turned in the alarm, flames are through the partition and swept through the entire room, covering the cell-

ing in less than five minutes.

The Lowell fire department brought the fire under control within half an hour after it was discovered, although the building was quite badly damaged. Only the presence of fire walls around the sorting room prevented the flames from spreading to other parts of the elevator.

The electric sorting machines were seriously damaged, mostly by water, and Mr. Runciman states that they are expected to be again in operation within a few days. There was some loss of beans also, due to water and smoke. The loss is covered by insurance.

Sheriff's Deputies Frank Stephens of Lowell, George Laman and James Tooley, as well as LeRoy Hunt of the Michigan State Police, were dispatched to investigate the fire.

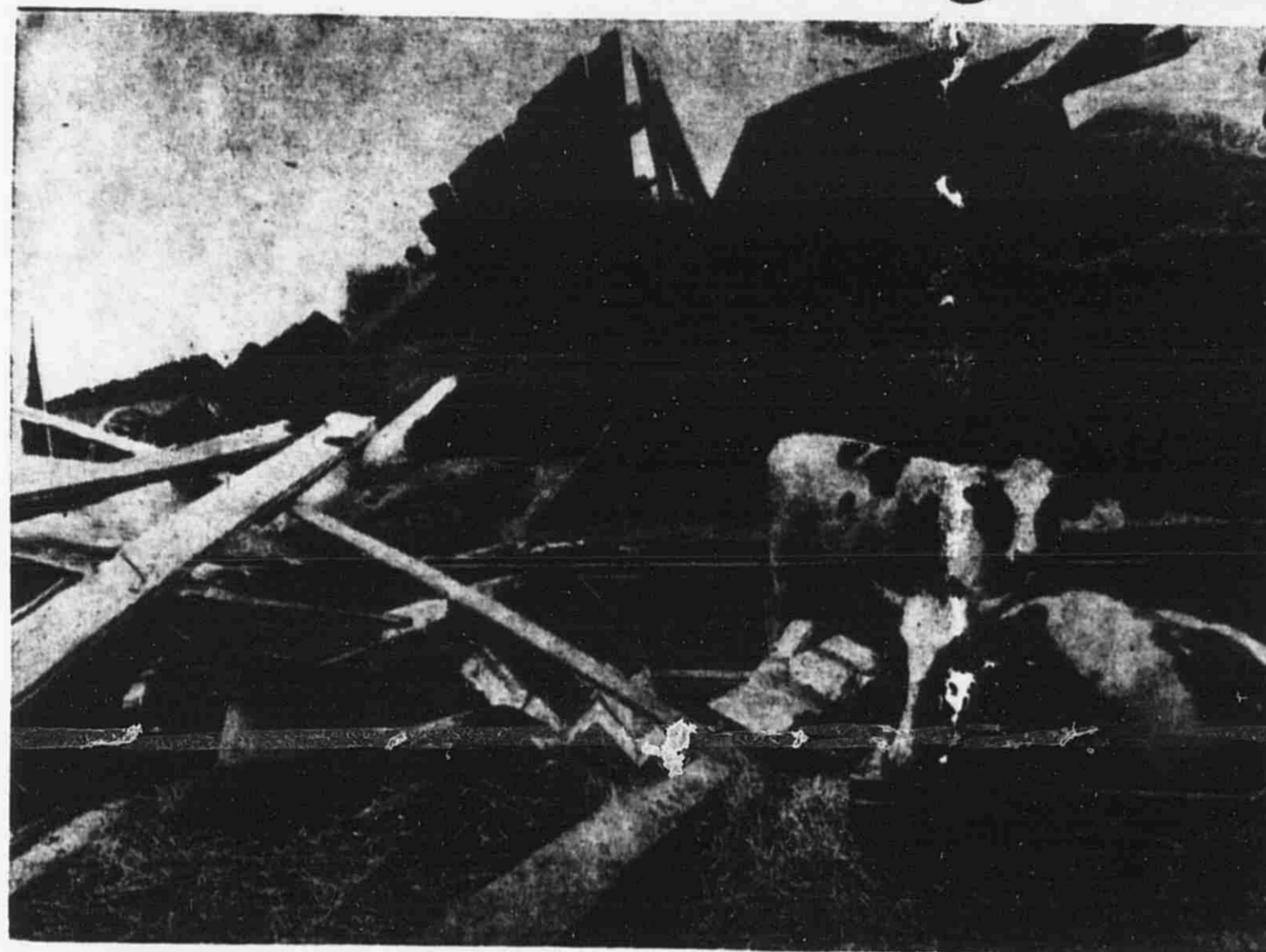




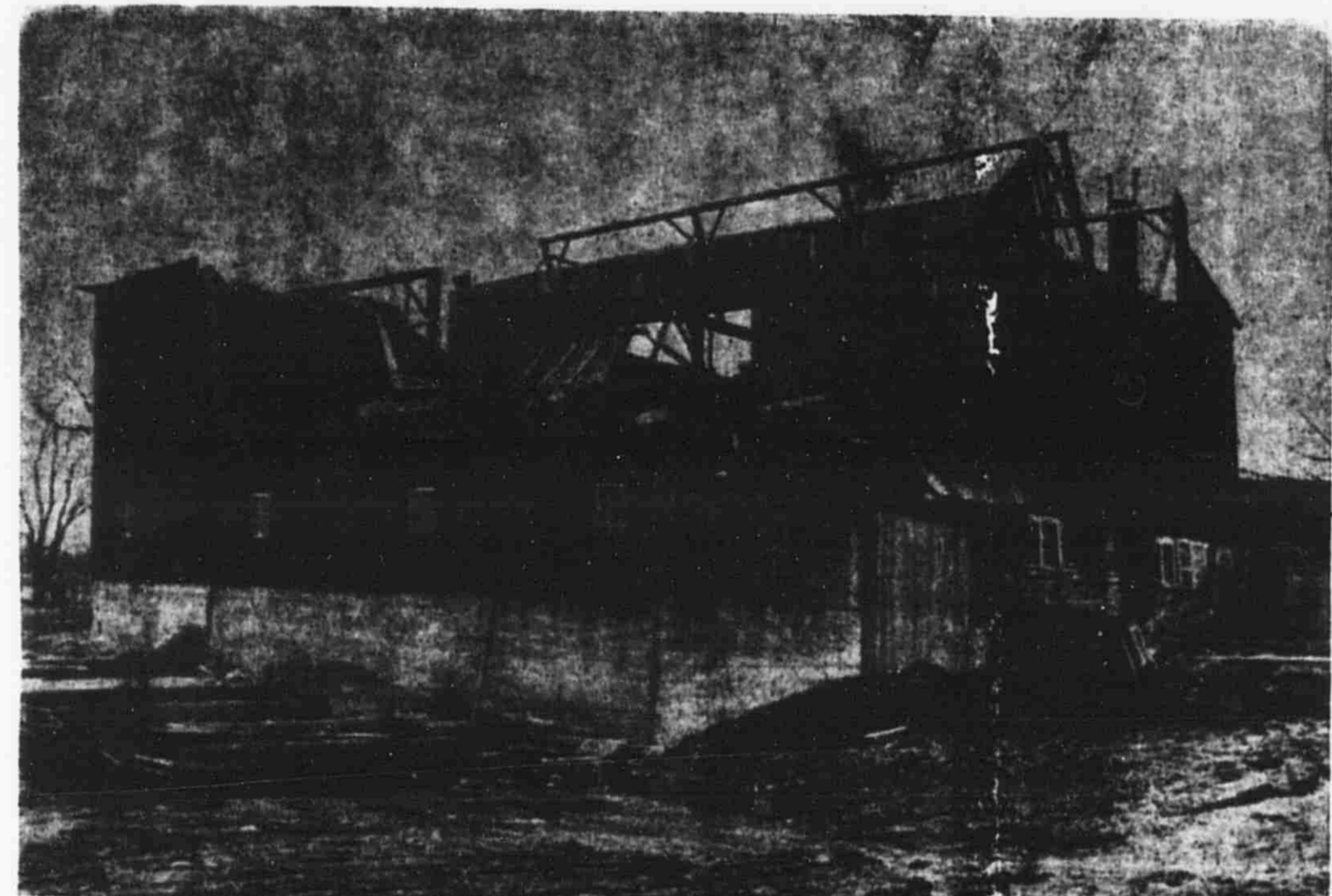




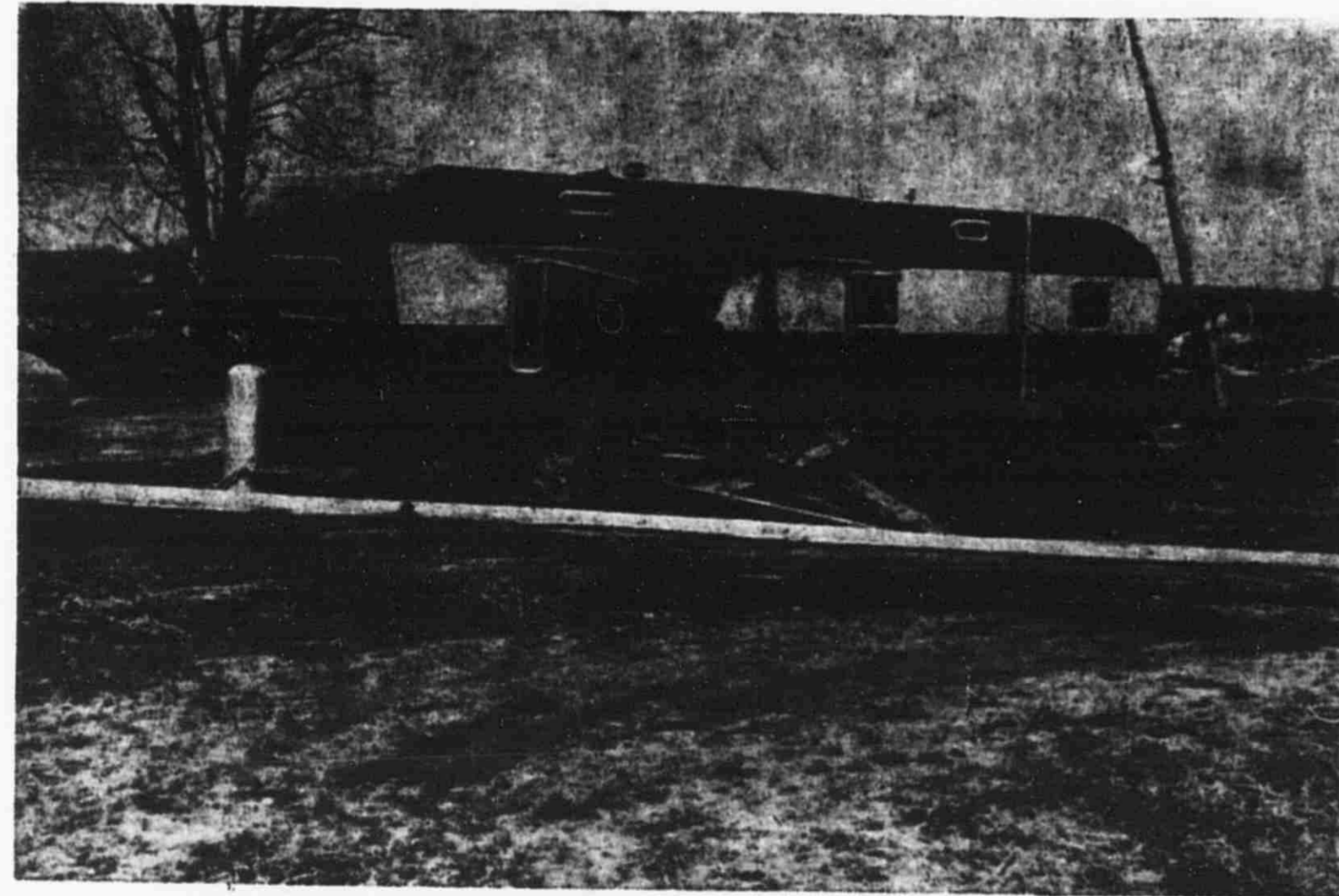
# Tornado Strikes, Damages Many Buildings



These two sorrowful cattle were not camera shy Wednesday morning. Although both animals were injured when the Etof Erickson barn collapsed, luckily they were not buried beneath the debris as the other 26 members of the herd were. Mr. Erickson feels they will all have to be slaughtered because of injuries.



No cattle were lost, but this barn was almost completely wrecked at the Glen Vos farm on Cascade road. The twister took roof, timbers, and bales of hay, hurling them across a wide area. The home was uninhabitable because of severe roof damage.



Although Mrs. William Sterzick did suffer minor head cuts when she attempted to run from her car to the Amos Sterzick house, she should feel very lucky that she wasn't in her trailer home, pictured above, at the time of the storm. Flying timbers caused this damage.

Alto and Bowne folks were busy Wednesday morning and late Tuesday night "digging out" from under fallen barns, buildings, trees and other debris scattered everywhere when a tornado ripped a path of destruction north-northeasterly, just missing Alto village by about a quarter mile, and destroying property extensively as far north as U.S. 16.

The twister dropped down for a short while in Lowell also, but damage here was slight compared to the havoc created in our neighboring farm area.

If we were going to list the names of everyone over at Alto who suffered damage in the storm we would have to devote the entire Ledger this week to that task. But, here are some of the incidents about which we have heard:

The Leo Smith house and barn on 84th street were badly damaged. It is reported that a wall of the home was torn away, and that the kitchen stove was found in another room of the house.

Etof Erickson, on M-50, was contemplating losing all of his herd of 28 head of cattle, most of which were trapped under the debris as the barn was blown in. Also in the building were 30 hogs and a riding horse. The cattle will no doubt have to be slaughtered, as is in the case of so many of the farmers stricken in the storm.

The Glen Vos farm on Cascade road received extensive damage to the house and barn.

Mr. and Mrs. William Sterzick and baby had just arrived home from church when the storm hit the Amos Sterzick farm where they park their trailer home. Mr. Sterzick stayed in the car, but his wife attempted to enter the house, and was struck about the head by flying branches. Their trailer home was smashed by timbers. Another Sterzick, Gordon, is still looking for the remains of his barn.

### Pup Stays Put

After the tornado had passed, Amos Sterzick went outside to see how his cocker dog was, who was tied in a small outbuilding. The building had flown away, but the poor pup was meekly sitting, still tied, but no longer protected.

The show windows of the Alto Farm Equipment store near Alto were blown in, causing extensive damage to stock.

A roof blew off the barn of the L. M. Headworth farm, and the end of the barn at the Leo Bryant place on M-50 was down.

At the Elmer Swanson place the main barn structure remained standing but the straw shed was collapsed. Swanson was doing chores in the barn when the storm hit. Young cattle in the straw shed were covered with debris.

At this writing we don't know who own the two farm homes on 92nd street between Morse Lake road and Bergy avenue, but the tops of these dwellings are gone, and clothing is strewn about in tree tops, etc.

Our reporters haven't covered the entire area at this writing, but damage is excessive, and it will be days before the fallen wires, branches, etc., can be cleared away. Power is out in most of the area.

Telephone poles were snapped right off; a 200 yard wide strip of fallen trees make a new highway through the woods between Bergy and Nash Avenues, north of 74th street.

### Lowell Damage

Many trees were toppled, roofs damaged, and tv antennae knocked over in this area. If you look at a Kent County map you can mark the pathway of the storm heading north-northeasterly, from the Alto area farms hit, across to the east side of Lowell, where two large pines fell at the Frank Battistella residence, 1019 East Main street. One of the huge trees was entirely uprooted, while another, closer to the house, is leaning heavily against the roof. Mr. Battistella also reports the roof of his laboratory was torn badly.

then ran the factory. Mr. Cook was the father of George Cook, our local attorney, and Grand Rapids city attorney.

Our former editor and publisher, the late Remick Jefferies, was a close friend of Mr. Cook. So, when the big performance was over 25 years ago, and the crew mis-

### First Interlocutor Chair in Ledger Front Office

The first chair used by veteran Showboat interlocutor C. H. Runeman at the first Showboat many years ago is still being used in the Lowell Ledger office.

The chair, recalls Don MacNaughton—who has worked for the Ledger for over 25 years—was taken from the furniture company, and belonged to Jerry Cook who

Dec. 20, 1956

## Timpson Fire Loss Heavy

A loss of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 is estimated by Mr. and Mrs. John Timpson from their barn fire last Thursday evening.

Although the structure was not new, it was well built, and almost air tight for apple storage. Also, the contents of the barn were valued very high. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

Firemen from Alto and Lowell battled the blaze which leveled the structure in two hours.

The barn, which is across M91 from the Timpson home, was perilously close to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hill (Mrs. Hill is the Timpson's daughter), and it was necessary to move the family out immediately. (This is the former Post farm).

Heat from the fire made it impossible to enter the home, but expert work by the volunteer firemen saved it from possible destruction.

Also, according to Mrs. Timpson, a full tank of gasoline had been delivered to the pump adjacent to the barn during the day Thursday. Firemen kept water trained on the pumps, but the hose was charred almost to the base. If it had burned much further a terrific explosion would have resulted.

The fire must have been smoldering for some time, and had a good start before it was discovered by a passerby, according to Mrs. Timpson. She stated that the fire inspector explained it appeared the fire burned to a good start, and was confined because of the excellent air-tightness of the apple storage in the basement, finally escaping under the barn door, and up the side of the structure before it was noticed.

About 15 barrels of motor oil were stored in the barn, as well as an acetelny torch and fuel for same. Also lost were 2300 bushels of apples, 200 brand new apple boxes just delivered last week, and much heavy machinery.

1957

## Mackinac Bridge Carried 20,621 in First Week's Use

The huge new \$100,000,000 Mackinac Bridge carried 20,621 vehicles in its first full week of operation which ended Friday. Many cars passed over it during the gale on Friday night with never a quiver.

During the same week a year ago the ferries carried 9,383 vehicles. Some deer hunters have already taken to the woods north of the Straits and many more are planning to go toward the latter part of the week. This will add to the number normally crossing. It is estimated that the bridge has a capacity of 6,000 an hour which will expedite the hunters crossing and eliminate the long wait at the ferry docks as in years past.

The Bridge Authority reported to date there have been no traffic accidents and only one driver had a flat tire.

## Jackson Brothers Buy Speerstra Motor Sales; Grand Opening Tuesday

The grand opening of "Jackson Motor Sales" will be held starting Tuesday, October 30, through Saturday, November 3.

The Jacksons both stressed their aim to continue the same fine service that Lowell has expected and received from the former owner.

### About the Brothers

Leonard Jackson is the better known of the two brothers, per-

haps, having been here for two years. He came here from Grand Rapids, where he was the manager of the used vehicle sales at Bissell-Sears Motors for five years. Before that he was employed in Mt. Pleasant by a motor sales business.

He was educated at Hesperia high school, and graduated from Howell's School of Business, Muskegon. He also received a B. A. degree in Business Administration from Michigan State University.

Leonard is married and has two children. He is a veteran of World War II, in which he served as a combat fighter pilot. The Clark-Ellis Post of the American Legion in Lowell claim him as a member; also the V.F.W. in Hesperia, and the B.P.O.E. No. 48 in Grand Rapids.

### Comes From Lakeview

The other partner, Orville B. Jackson, has been service and sales manager of R. & C. C. Bollinger Motors in Lakeview for the past twenty years. Before that he was employed 4 years as office school, and graduated from the manager of Hesperia Auto company in Hesperia.



Leonard E. Jackson



Orville B. Jackson

Leonard Jackson, sales manager of Speerstra Motor Sales the past two years, and his brother, Orville of Lakeview, have purchased the Dodge-Plymouth sales agency from Mr. Speerstra, and will take over the helm of this Main street business next week.

The senior of the two brothers, Orville also attended Hesperia high

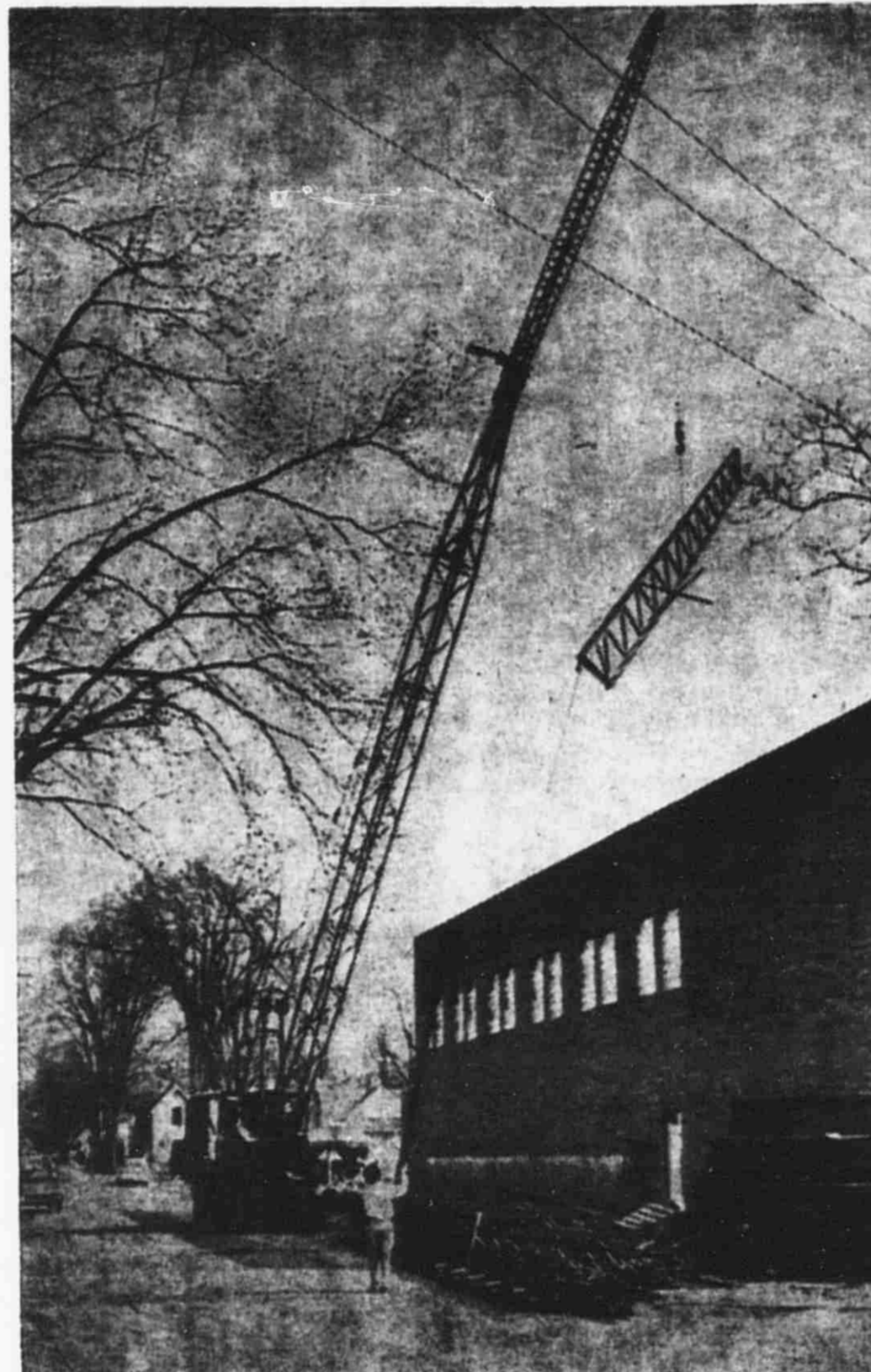
June, 1957

## Lowell Grocery, Locker and Ice Cream Business Sold Eberhard Takes Over Christiansen Super Market on July 1



L. V. Eberhard talks over the "Aristocrat" ice cream product with William Christiansen. The Eberhard chain of grocery stores has purchased the Christiansen Super Market, Locker department and ice cream business, and will take over Monday, July 1. This transaction between Eberhard and Christiansen is probably one of the biggest personal property transfers that has occurred in Lowell in some years. The building has been retained by Mr. Christiansen, and will be leased by the new owners.

1956



On Monday of this week this giant crane placed the last of the steel roof beams on the 600 capacity auditorium. This will complete the roof of this new \$300,000 7-room elementary building, corner of High and Monroe streets. Superintendent of Schools, W. W. Gumsier reports the work is on schedule and unless there is a delay in delivery of some of the materials the school will be done by September.

Jan. 17, 1957

## Lowell Lodge No. 90, F. & A. M. Celebrates Centennial



Lowell Masonic Lodge, No. 90, F. & A. M., celebrates its 100th year of existence next week when a centennial banquet will be held on Saturday, January 26th, at the auditorium of the Runciman Elementary building. The above picture shows the officers for 1957 of the Lowell Lodge, left to right, front row: Mert Sinclair, Tyler; Ronald Story, Senior Deacon; Gurney Hahn, Steward; Carl Freyer-muth, Marshal. In the second row are Charles Wood, Steward; D. A. Wingeier, Treasurer; Orval Jessup, Secretary; and Oscar Nelson, Junior Deacon. In the back row are Cecil DeRushia, Senior Warder; Rev. J. Marlon DeVinney, Chaplain; Emil O. Nelson, Worshipful Master; and Lee Keech, Junior Warder.

1956

## Had Soft Spot in Heart for Lowell Carl English Dies; First Lowell Power Plant Superintendent, 1896

Carl S. English, a Lowell native, and the first superintendent of the Lowell Municipal Utility, passed away October 17, at Camas, Washington.

Mr. English was born March 8, 1860—and lived on Riverside drive during his adult life. He perhaps, is best remembered here as the man who built the first automobile in Lowell!

Mr. English managed the light plant from 1896 to 1901.

A very colorful individual, Mr. English was an exemplary man, a member of the Methodist church, of the choir, and an adult Bible class teacher. As a child he lived in the South Boston area.

Mr. and Mrs. English (she preceded him in death November 6, 1950) had only 3 children when they left Lowell, but are now survived by 8 children, 14 grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

### First Lowell Auto

The motor car, which he built in his garage, was a two-cylinder air-cooled affair, with wheels of 30 inch solid rubber tire. The frame, of 2-inch angle iron, supported a surrey body built by Lowell Cutter factory. Power was transmitted to the wheels from a friction clutch and jack shaft by sprocket and chain, one speed ahead, ten or twelve miles per hour. To back up the engine would reverse.

There are some folks here who can remember riding in this auto.

1957

### Frank Newell, Lowell Manufacturer, Dies Sunday Following Heart Attack



and began business in a Main Street store building; the next year the Lowell Board of Trade purchased the old West Ward School from the Board of Education and leased it to Mr. Newell and I. O. Altenberger, who were associated together in the business of manufacturing door closers and other door hardware.

During World War II, the Newell Manufacturing Co. purchased the school site and constructed a modern manufacturing plant; an air-fired toy gun was added to their line and this was very popular for many years. Four years ago a warehouse addition was added to the factory, and at the present time, the area of the plant is nearly doubled with an addition being completed. Now the company is engaged exclusively in the manufacturing of door hardware.

Frank M. Newell, president of the Lowell Manufacturing Company and active in many civic affairs died Sunday afternoon following a short illness. Mr. Newell suffered a heart attack on Monday, November 18 and was taken to Butterworth hospital where he died.

He was born in Pittsburg, Pa. on December 21, 1897; before coming to Lowell he was engaged in the sales department of several industries. He worked in the sales division of the Lowell Manufacturing Co. and was instrumental in organizing the former Universal Manufacturing Co. in Saranac. Mr. Newell organized the Lowell Manufacturing Co. here in 1940

He is survived only by his wife, Helen, whom he married in 1931. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 2:00 p. m. at the Lowell Congregational Church. The body will lie in state at the church from noon until the time of the services. Mrs. Newell will meet friends at the chapel on Tuesday evening. Burial will be in Grace-land Mausoleum.

### Reconstruction Underway Following Lowell Cafe's \$25,000 Flash Fire

Reconstruction was underway Monday following the flash fire which threatened complete destruction of the Lowell Cafe around midnight Friday. According to Clare Palen, owner, the loss on the building and contents is around \$25,000. He will lower the ceilings and otherwise remodel the building and replace much of the equipment which was seriously damaged, and hopes to have the Cafe ready for reopening in about a month.

The fire is said to have started from a small grill and flashed into a deep fryer which spread rapidly and in minutes the entire main floor of the building was enveloped in flames.

Fire Chief Frank Baker said firemen had much trouble fighting the

blaze because of heavy smoke and blistering heat. Flames crept in to ceiling joists and gave stubborn resistance before they could be brought under control. Firemen were able to hold the fire to the lower floor and though the families living in apartments over the cafe were routed out they were able to go back to their rooms when the fire was cooled down. No damage was reported from the upper story, except for heat and smoke.

The interior of the cafe was badly damaged and electrical equipment and supplies were practically destroyed.

Mr. Palen, owner-operator states he carried insurance to cover at least a part of the loss.

1958

### Borgerson Opens Dental Office

Dr. Norman Borgerson opened up his dental office in Big Rapids Monday, July 21. He began practicing when modernization of his office was completed. The building is located at 126 Maple Street in Big Rapids.

Dr. Borgerson received his D. D. S. degree from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. He and his fiancée, Sheila Olin, will be married August 9.



1958

### C. H. Runciman Announces Retirement After 38 Years on Lowell School Board

C. H. Runciman, member of the Lowell Board of Education since 1920, announced this week that he will not seek re-election to the board when his term expires this June. He has served as president of the school board for 36 years.

Runciman was graduated from Michigan State Normal College in 1911. Before coming to Lowell in January of 1917, he was superintendent of schools in Millington

and Grosse Ile for five and a half years. As head of the board during these many years, the Lowell school has felt the steady leadership and outstanding record of educational achievement, Mr. Runciman has handed diplomas to three generations of Lowell High graduates in his duties as president of the board.

In announcing his decision to retire, he said that it was time for



new leaders to take on the responsibilities of education, but that his interest in the young people of the community would never diminish. Gives Farewell Dinner

On Thursday evening of this week, Mr. and Mrs. Runciman will entertain the teachers, board members and staff of the school with a dinner at the Cascade Country Club.

1953

### Seven Stores Burn Thursday; Most Plan Early Reopening

Jan. 9, 1958

Nearly \$100,000 in damages resulted when a blazing fire swept through seven buildings in Lowell Thursday morning. The fire is believed to have started in Mel's Bar, but the cause is unknown. The bar and six other stores were destroyed in the blaze. This includes the Showboat Inn, Wepman's Clothing Store, two barbershops, two empty buildings.

Eight fire engines fought the flames from 7:00 a. m. to 9:45 when it was brought under control. Water was still being poured on until late in the evening.

Firemen were able to bring the fire under control in time to save the stores on either side—the Levee and Avery's Jewelry.

The community was crowded with over a thousand spectators lining the streets as news of the fire went out on radio broadcasts throughout the state. Even national newscasters carried the news of this spectacular blaze. M-21 was blocked

by a mass of twisting hoses and traffic was diverted to US-16.

Lowell Special Police turned out and handled the jam of traffic, remaining on their posts until the street was cleared about noon. Coffee was served to the fire fighters by the Levee, Eberhards, the Ladies Auxiliaries and others. Many firemen rushing from their homes at 7 a. m. had nothing but a little coffee during the entire morning.

The fire was first reported by Mrs. Glen Bassett who saw the reflection of the flames on the ice at the rear of their restaurant. The Bassetts lived in an apartment over their store and saved nothing but a few clothes. They are now staying with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. John Pemberton, their two children and Clinton Meisner who lived over the Noah barbershop, lost all their household goods and nearly all their clothing in the fire. The Lions Club and other organizations came to their aid with clothing. Myron Henry, owner of their apartment, found room for them in another one of his buildings.

#### No Serious Injury

In the confusion of the fire, one of the fire trucks knocked over a light post and it fell on Gerald Parker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Parker. X-rays were taken but he was found to be uninjured.

Clare Phillips, fireman, fell from a ladder, but landed in a pile of snow and was unhurt.

Frank Stephens, Lowell Police Chief, missed all the excitement as he was up north on his day off.

Early radio reports had said Christiansen's and Avery's and also the Levee were burning and another report even said that all Main Street was on fire.

#### Not Much Insurance

Molly Wepman who suffered the biggest loss, of \$40,000, didn't recover much of her merchandise because she felt that the fire wouldn't come as far as her store. However, Mrs. Wepman and several others were able to get out some shoes and her charge-account book. She plans to open temporarily in one of the Bruce Walter buildings across the street.

Myron Henry of McCords lost four of the buildings in the blaze—the two barbershops and the empty buildings, which were formerly a candy store and the Fashion Box. Mr. Henry had a little insurance but not enough to cover the buildings entirely. He has no immediate plans to rebuild.

Charles Barber, who operates Barber's Watch Repair in back of Bernie's Barbershop, lost all his equipment but he plans to open again with Bernie Bedell in the east Bruce Walter building. Tentative plans have been made to open on Friday, January 17.

Earl Noah lost \$900 in barber-shop equipment and is planning to open again at 209 East Main Street.

The Lowell Village Council requested the Street Department to remove the debris so the sidewalk can be cleared. They also contacted the State Highway Department to assist in constructing a railing.

Several of the owners have indicated that they would like to rebuild but no definite plans have been made.



Top view is a picture taken shortly after 7:00 a. m. on Thursday morning, January 2 showing the big start the fire had before the fire department arrived. Flames roared into the sky lighting up the entire area. Light poles forty feet from the buildings caught fire and had to be extinguished by utility plant line superintendent, John Jones. The second view is one of the firemen concentrating their entire supply of water on the

Wepman store next to the Avery building. Firemen from Lowell, Ionia, Saranac, Ada, Cascade, and Grattan all worked to halt the blaze at this point. The lower view is one on Thursday afternoon after the fire was practically extinguished except for a few smoldering areas. Nothing is left of the seven stores except for a small portion in the front of the Wepman buildings; all the rest is gone.

1953

1958

### Retires as Director of Lowell Building & Loan

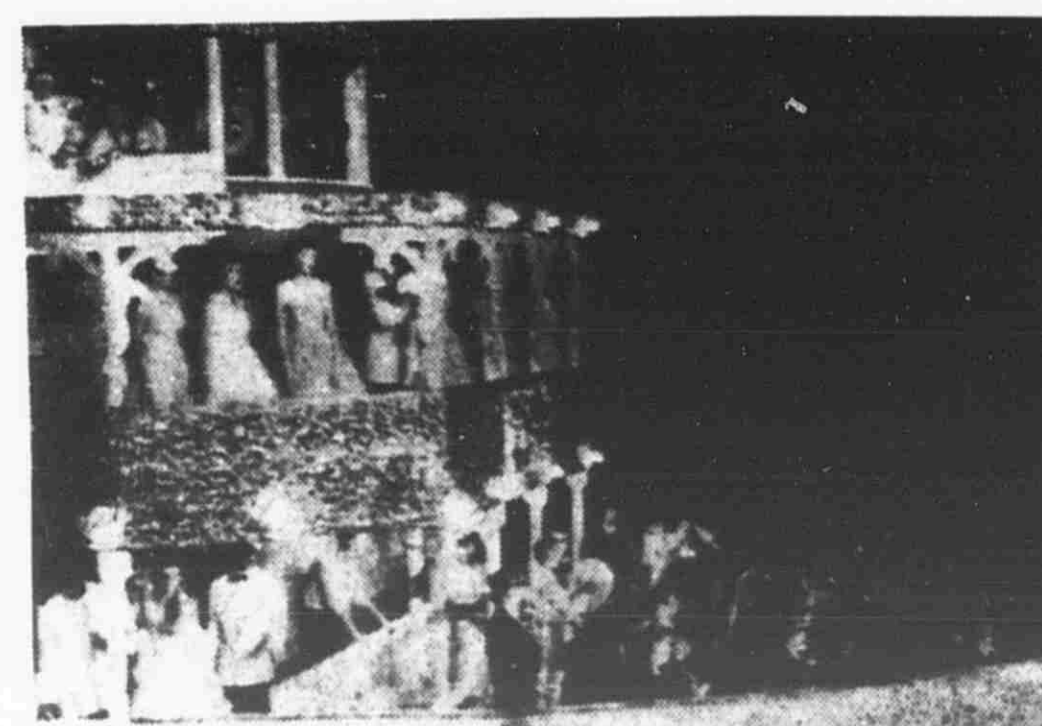
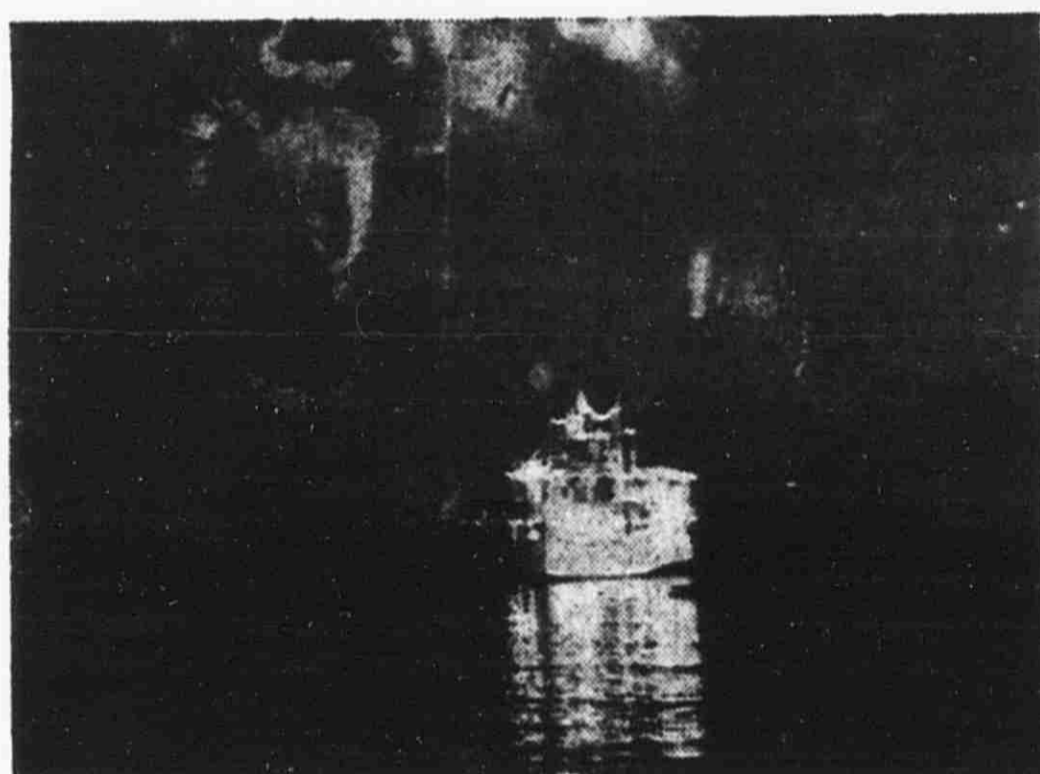
Frank F. Coons, secretary of the Lowell Building and Loan Association from 1931 until just recently and director of the association, announced his retirement because of moving to the Clark Memorial Home in Grand Rapids. Mr. Coons, known among the many who have been able to own their own homes through this association as Mr. Building & Loan, ran the secretary's office from his clothing store where it is still being operated by his son, David, now secretary of the group.

The annual meeting where his resignation was announced voted Mr. Coons an honorary director of the association for his long, faithful service.

The Lowell Association was one of the first in Michigan, being established in 1888, and has shown its greatest growth during the past 25 years, while Mr. Coons has served as secretary. The assets of the group have now passed the million dollar mark.

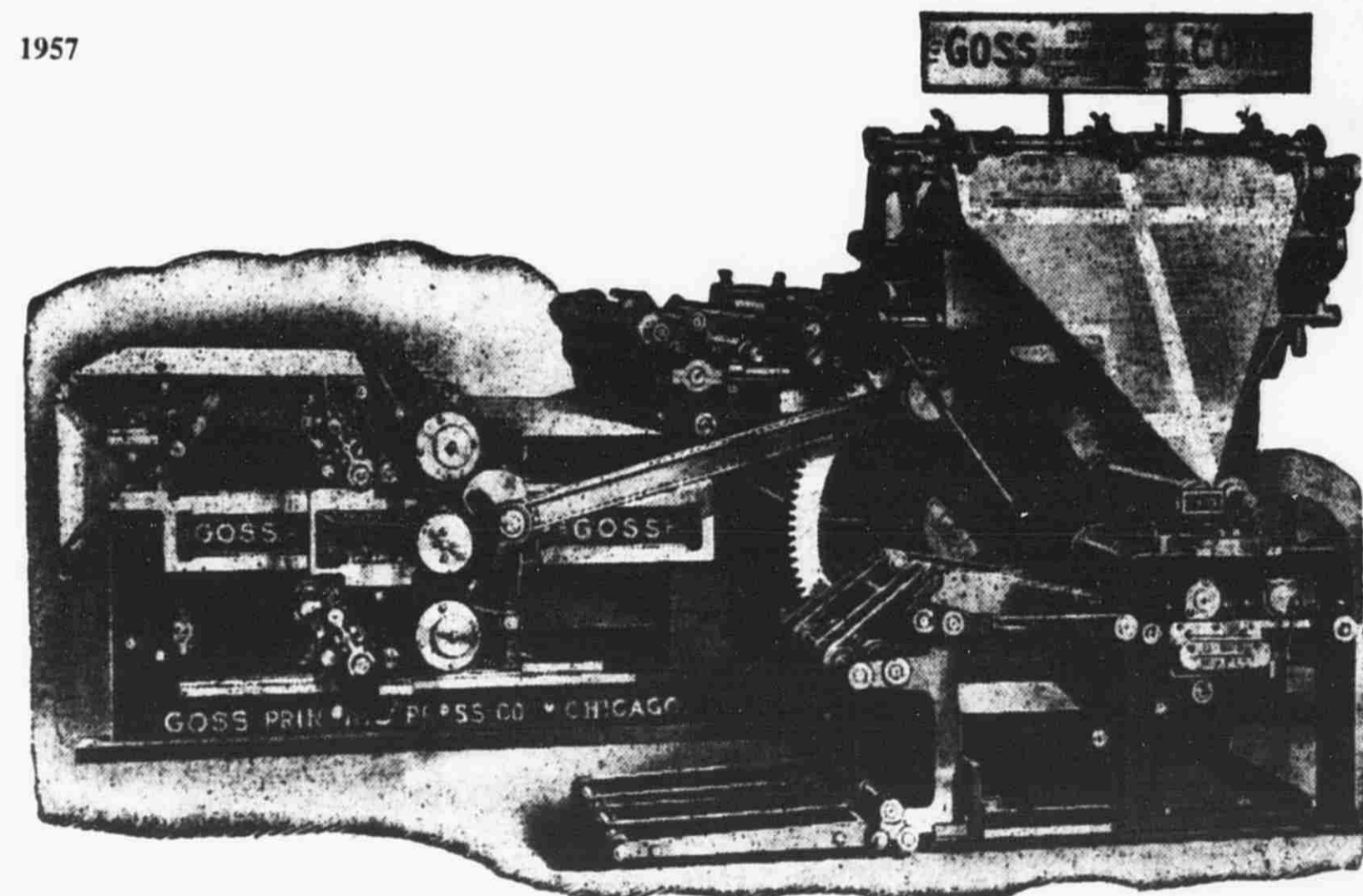
## Here Comes the Showboat — Silver Anniversary Year

1957



### Our First Ledger on Newly - Installed Goss Comet Press!

1957



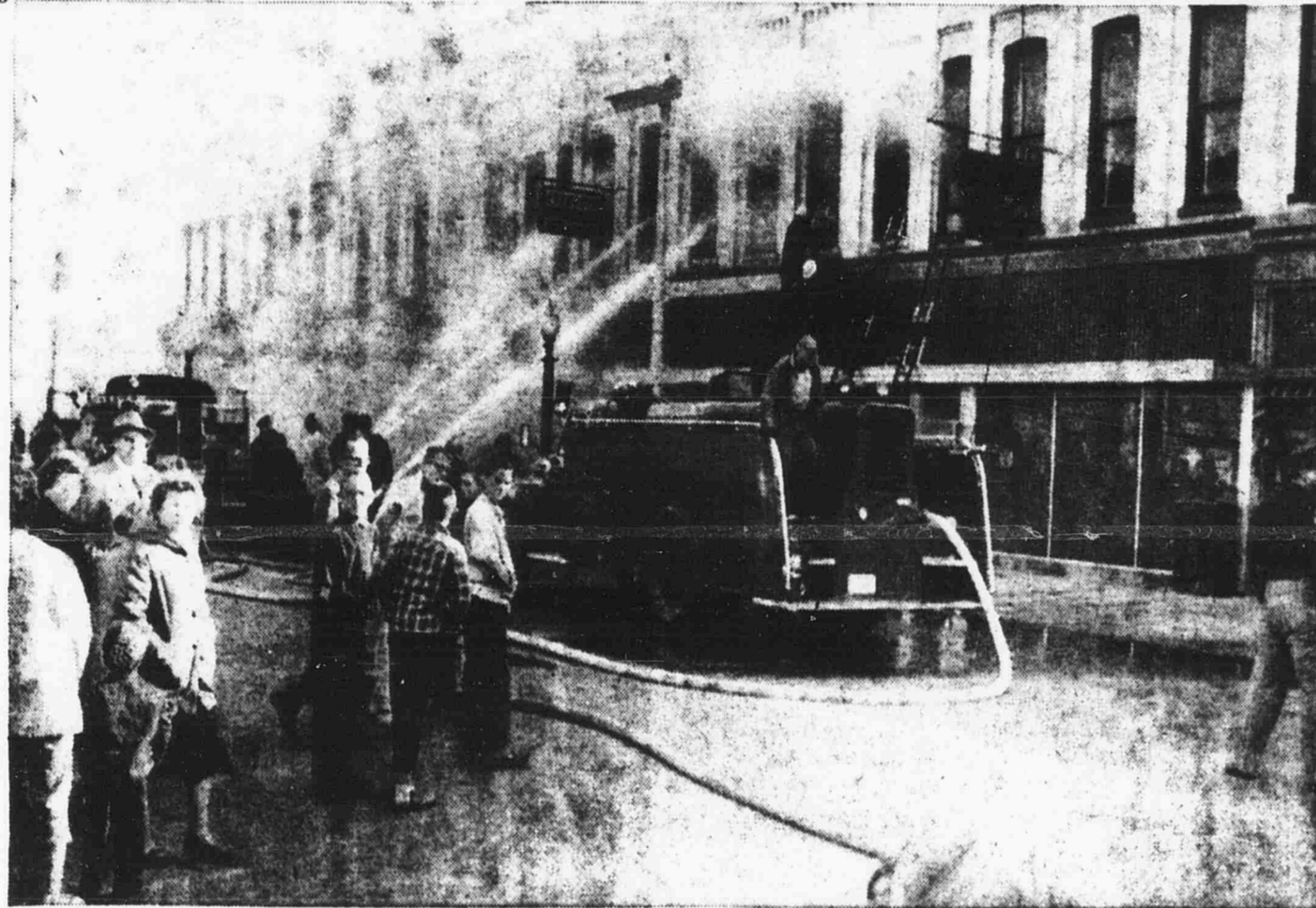
If you've noticed a certain flurry of activity around the Lowell Ledger office since we returned from our vacation, it isn't because we have more energy after our rest, it is the newly-purchased Goss Comet roll-fed 8-page printing press which we recently purchased from the Columbia City Post and Commercial Mail, Columbia City, Indiana. The old Mable flat-bed 4-page press on which your Ledger has been printed since 1950,

is being relieved of the job of bringing the local news to you, Columbia City estimates our "new" press, which was built in 1922, printed nearly 4,000 papers daily for them, for more than 300 days each year—or over 36 million papers. The dismantled Goss arrived in Lowell Monday morning, July 8, in numerous crates, and for over a week workmen have been putting the "puzzle" together, and this week's paper is the end result.



# Lowell Has 2nd Main St. Fire, Damage May Run \$200,000

Nov. 27, 1958



Firemen, trucks, hoses, police cars and ambulances filled Lowell's Main Street for the second time this year when a fire broke out at 11 a.m. Sunday morning in the Ralph Townsend Store. The fire was not discovered until minutes before the glass in the front windows burst into the street. Frank Baker, Fire Chief, reported that the fire started in the rear of the east unit of the three stores, near a oil burning heating unit. Besides

the near destruction of the Townsend Store, the C. H. Runciman building on the east was damaged by water and smoke, also supplies of the Sortex Division valued at near \$10,000. The Roth Furniture Store was filled with smoke and the entire stock will be sold to clear the store for redecorating. Hills Shoe Store also suffered some smoke damage.

1953 1962

May 7, 1959

# Payless Paydays May Come to Lowell School

Walter Gumsier, superintendent of Lowell Schools, at the school board meeting on Monday night announced to the board that unless payments come from the state in the next two weeks, payless paydays may come to Lowell schools. After the May 15 payroll the school will have a balance in operating funds of only \$702.88. During the next few weeks some \$102,057 in state funds should come in. If this is not made available the May 30 payday for the teachers may be a payless one. Superintendent Gumsier says that he is

confident all money will be forthcoming, but there may be a delay.

### Bond Held Up

The superintendent announced that the State Finance Commission who must pass on all bond issues before bids can be taken, has quit processing applications because of lack of funds. Nothing can be done until the bonds are processed. Until something is done in Lansing, Lowell will be forced to get along with the facilities now available. It may force some half-day sessions next fall. There is little hope now to have the addition voted in February ready before December.

1958

# Council-Manager Type Government Selected For New City of Lowell

Lowell City Charter Commission in their first four meetings have made several important decisions regarding Lowell's government under its proposed city charter. Its first decision was that they favored a council-manager type organization, that the council be either 5 or 7 members. This is still undecided. They would be elected from the entire city. Two year terms was agreed best with a majority being elected each year, lowest vote getter to only have a one-year term.

the council and justice of peace with no primary, nominating petitions with at least 25 but not more than 50 signatures being required, members must be residents of the city for at least a year.

Discussion of salary for the governing body was finally decided that if a 7 man council is used, it would be \$60 for members and \$100 for mayor; if a 5 member council, it was to be \$100 for members, \$150 for mayor.

How other village officers would be named is being discussed at the next meeting. Donald M. Oakes has been employed by the commission to act as consultant to the group. He is a former city manager of Grand Rapids and will be in attendance at meetings when his advice will be needed.

Sept. 3, 1959

# Lowell Votes to Become City

In a fine summer turn-out of voters Monday the citizens of Lowell and the area to the west and south voted to become a home rule city. 551 voters approved the incorporation of Lowell as a city by 296 Yes and 260 No, a majority of 26 votes. The area of the city includes all the former village plus the area south of a line running along Foreman Road to Nash Ave., then south to Grand River. The

south boundary of the city is the area north of Grand River to the M-91 bridge then the territory lying south of Grand River to the Grand Trunk Railroad right of way to the point where the east boundary of the village would intersect. This will add about 40 percent to the total area of the village.

### Tabulation of Vote

Total Yes No Spoiled  
Pre. No. 1 269 145 122 2

July 10, 1958

# Nixon Receives 500,000th Lowell Showboat Ticket



Lowell, Michigan—Vice President Richard Nixon is presented the 500,000th ticket to the Lowell Showboat to be held July 21 through July 26. The ticket, which Nixon is

holding, was hand engraved on solid silver. It was presented by Congressman Gerald R. Ford, honorary Admiral of the Lowell Showboat.

commissioner is unable to fulfill his office he may resign and the remaining members may choose a successor.

The nine members elected Monday are as follows: E. C. Foreman, 331; Herbert Elzinga, 325; Dr. Orval McKay, 313; Wesley Roth, 287; William Jones, 284; Peter Speerstra, 259; David Coons, 250; Dr. Robert Regan, 228; Richard L. Court, 209.

Other candidates for the commission received votes as follows: Elmer Schaefer, 195; Charles Hill, 190; Stephen Nesbit, 190; Walter Gumsier, 173; Harold Jefferies, 161; George Dey, sr., 137; Frank Mc-

Mahon, 131; Earl Evans, 127; John Abraham, 123; and Donald MacNaughton, 118.

The newly elected charter commission members will hold regular meetings during the next three months while they frame a charter. The commission is empowered to fix the election date on the new charter and do the necessary things connected with the nominations and holdings of elections for the first elective officers. Before submitting the proposed charter to the electors of the city the charter commission shall transmit the charter to the Governor of the state for his approval.

# Bernard C. Olson Named Lowell City Manager



The Lowell City council this week announced that Bernard C. Olson has been named Lowell's first city manager. Olson, 36, is presently city manager of Rockford where he has served since 1958; before coming to that city he was administrative assistant in Escanaba and Sturgis.

Bernard Olson, whom Rockford

calls, "its friendly city manager" was born in Gladstone, Michigan, September 24, 1924, living in that upper peninsula city until graduating from high school in 1942. He worked briefly in Detroit before entering the Army in April of 1943. While serving in Europe in World War II he lost his right leg.

He returned to his job in Detroit after being discharged from the army and married Christine Diotte in June of 1947. He entered Kalamazoo College in 1958, graduating with a bachelors degree in education. After completing his formal education in public management he served as assistant to the city manager in Escanaba and Sturgis.

1960

Donald G. Gerard, M. D. Begins Medical Practice



Donald Gordon Gerard, M. D., entered the general practice of medicine last Friday with Dr. Orval McKay at 311 E. Main Street. Dr. Gerard was born in Hart, Michigan, on July 26, 1930, and has lived in Grand Rapids since 1937.

He attended South high school, Grand Rapids Junior College, and the University of Michigan before enlisting in the U. S. Army during the Korean War in 1951.

While with the armed forces he attended the Infantry Officers Candidate School and served as company Commander in the 101st Airborne Division.

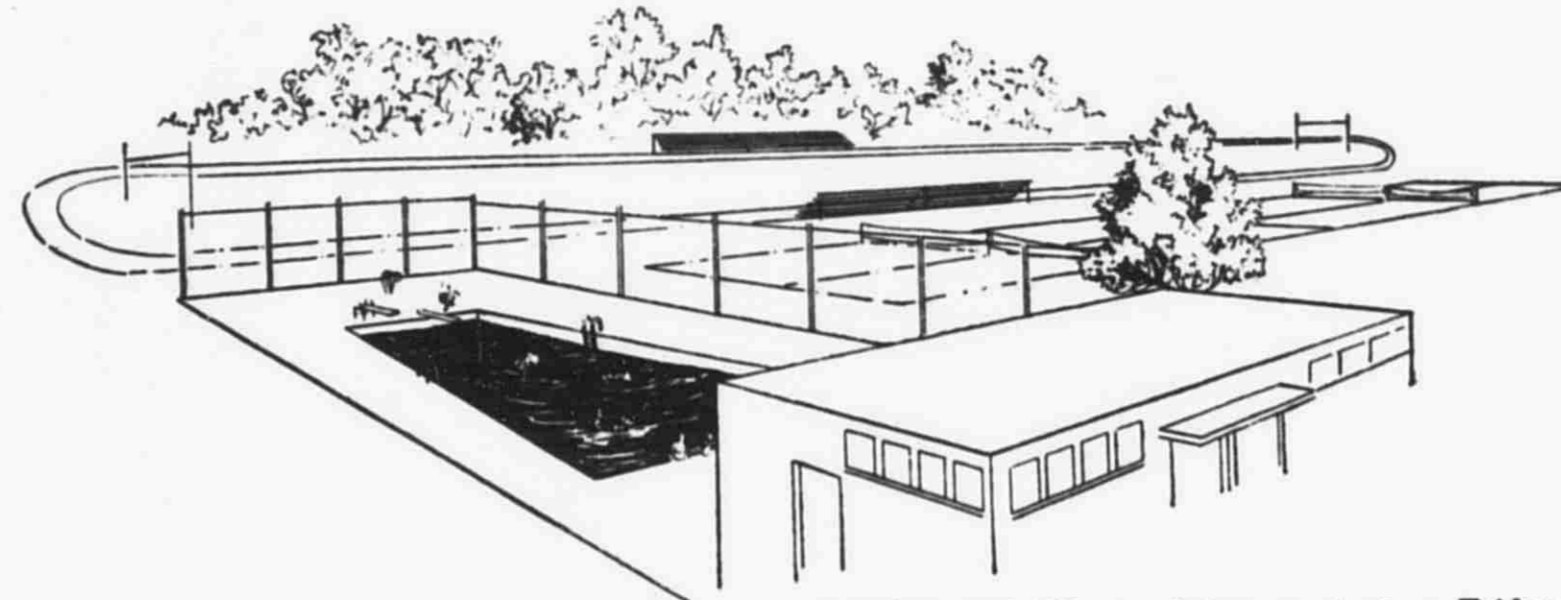
Following his discharge as a 1st Lieutenant in 1953, Dr. Gerard attended Calvin College and then the Wayne State University College of Medicine, from which he graduated with the class of 1959.

Dr. Gerard was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, an honorary medical fraternity, and to Sigma Xi, an honorary science society. He completed his internship with Butterworth hospital on Thursday, June 30.

He was married in 1955 to the former Donna Mae Walters of Grand Rapids. The Gerard's have three children: Philip, 4; Rebecca, 1 1/2; and John, born last January.

The Gerard's recently moved to their new home on Grindle Drive. Their phone number will be TW 7-9363.

# Plans Set for Swimming Pool, Field and Pool House



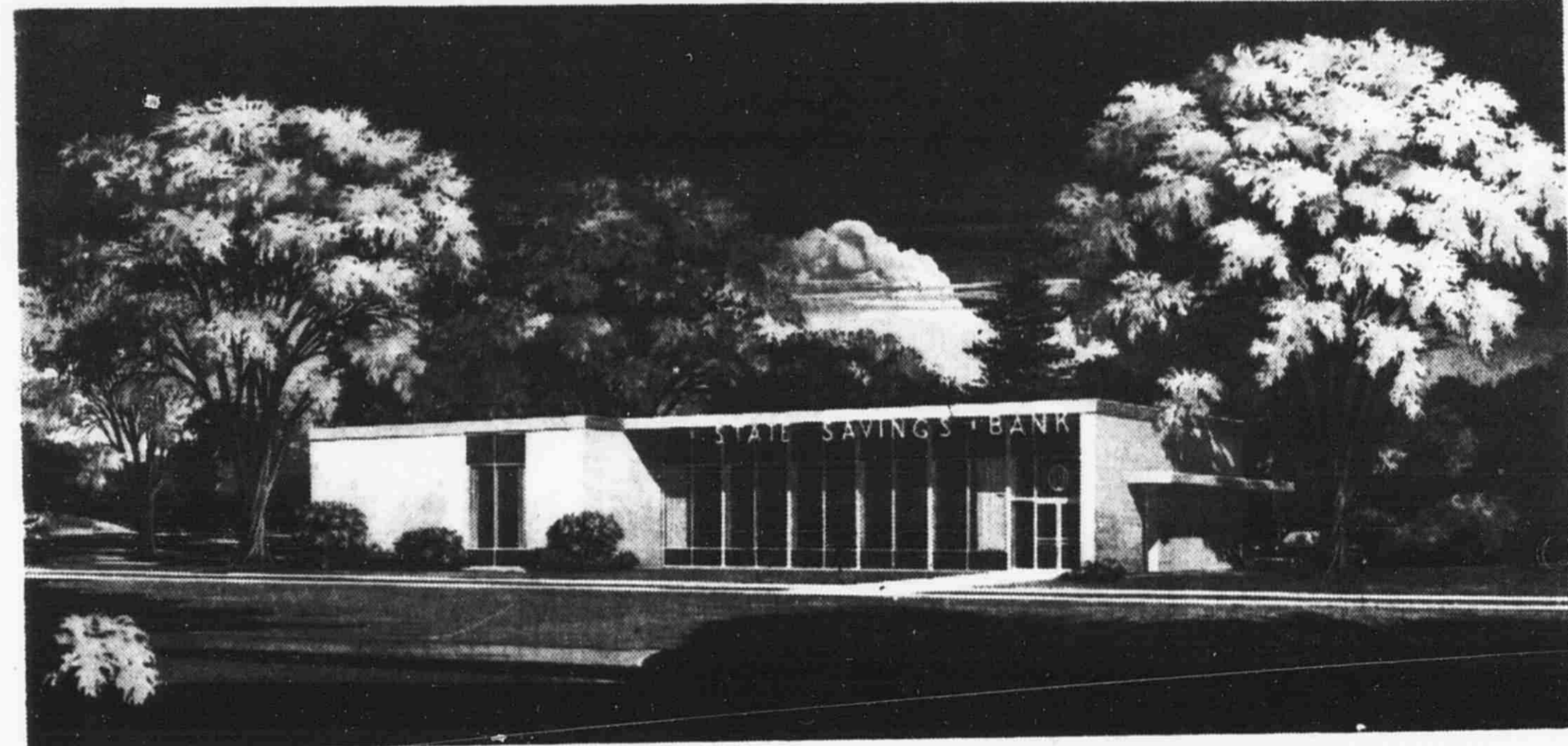
July 16, 1956

Plans are complete and bids are being received on Friday of this week at the architects, of Lowell's long awaited swimming pool sponsored by the Lowell Lions Club. The pool, to be built as shown in artist's view above, at the northwest side of the football field, north of the tennis courts and extending across what is now the track. The field and pool house will be built on the west side of the track just north of the 4-H exhibition building. The pool will be of a spreading design to give more room at the shallow end for children and beginning swimmers. The diving end of the pool with three boards will be 30 feet wide, the shallow end of the pool will be 30 feet wide, the pool will be 82 1/2 feet long, allowing five competitive lanes for contests and exhibitions. A modern structure 62 x 74 is being built for a combination field and pool house. This building will house dressing rooms, showers, rest rooms and maintenance quarters for operating the swimming pool during June, July and August. The building during the remainder of the year will be used for high school football, cross-country, wrestling, baseball and track. These quarters will provide a long recognized need for dressing rooms at the field. Part of the expansion program will be the construction next spring of a quarter mile cinder track around the football field. The Lions Club have committees that will be calling on business, industry and citizens of the community to obtain donations to help construct the swimming pool. A total of nearly \$75,000 must be raised for the entire project.

1953 1962

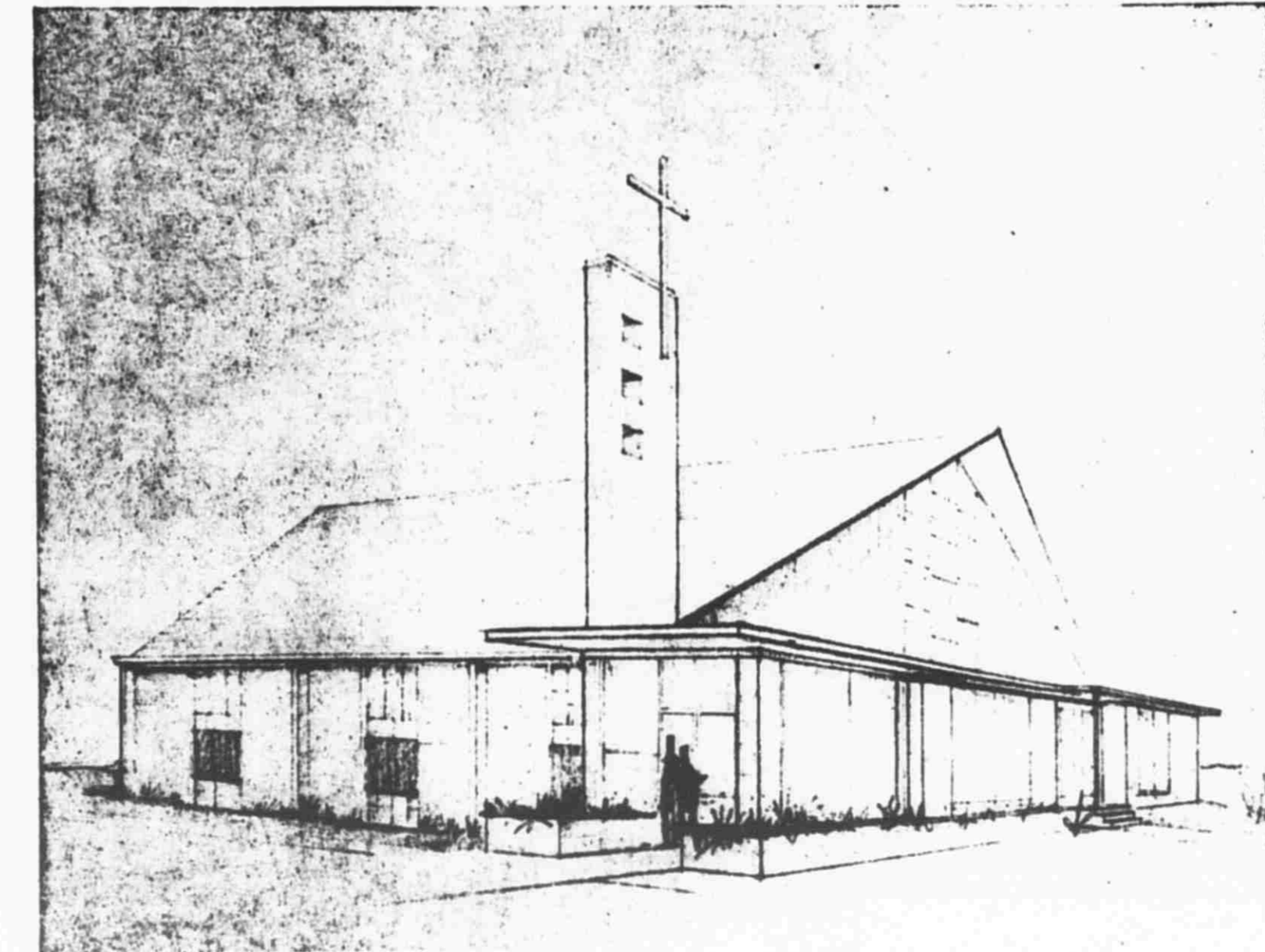
Nov. 26, 1959

# Plans Approved for New State Savings Bank Building on East Main Street



Directors of the State Savings Bank have approved the plans for the new banking building to be constructed on East Main St., Harry Day, Executive Vice-President and Cashier announced this week. The new bank building will be started as soon as possible this spring and will be completed by September. It will feature white brick, granite and aluminum and glass in a modern styling. The building is 110 x 53 and will be the long way to the street on the 132 foot building frontage.

# Break Ground for New Church, Saturday, in Lowell



1959

Ground breaking ceremonies for the new Lowell Gospel Chapel will take place this Saturday afternoon, August 29 at 4 o'clock. The traditional first shovel of dirt will be dug and appropriate remarks will be made. Lowell Gospel Chapel is sponsored by the Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids. Evangelist Henry Bulkema serves as pastor of this group which at present meets in the City Hall at 10:00 a. m. every Sunday. The new chapel will be erected on the 3-acre plot of ground purchased last January from Geo. R. Lundberg just west of the village limits on M-21. The new chapel will be contemporary in design. The exterior will be of brick with redwood trim. The first floor will consist

of an auditorium seating 160, the narthex, a pastor's study and wash rooms. The auditorium will have multi-colored glass windows. The greatest length will be 60 feet and the width across the front will be 56 feet. The auditorium width will be 36 feet and the length 42 feet. The interior will be of open beam design with oak trim. The basement will consist of an assembly room which can be divided into 4 class rooms, plus 4 regular class rooms, full kitchen and boiler room. Mr. Harvey Weemhof is the architect. Mr. Dan Vos is the builder. All are welcome to the ground breaking ceremonies for Lowell's newest church.

April 12, 1960

1993 Special Centennial Issue — Page 58

1953 1962

### Asks Reorganization of Showboat; Says It Has Outgrown Original Board

The City Council in a resolution passed Monday night at the regular meeting asked that Lowell Showboat Inc. reorganize to give a broader representation of the city on the board. In the discussion William Jones, Mayor of Lowell, pointed out that Showboat had outgrown its original beginning and that now the operation was divided among all the organizations in the community and they should all

share in the management. The city council voted unanimously on the resolution. There was a meeting on Friday evening with members of the board of Lowell Showboat Inc. and the City Council at which time there was some discussion. Members of the board from the American Legion objected to sharing control with the council or other organizations in the community.

The entire discussion came about when the directors representing the Lowell Board of Trade and the American Legion disagreed on the distribution of Showboat funds. A general meeting of Lowell Showboat Inc. may be called soon to act on the council resolution. All members of the American Legion and Lowell Board of Trade make up the stock holders of the corporation and it will be on their vote that changes could be made in the by-laws of the organization.

Feb. 18, 1960

## Million Dollar Industry Wants to Locate in Lowell

Atwood Brass Works of Grand Rapids announced this week that they would like to locate a new million dollar plant in Lowell, if the site they have selected can be made available. The company manufactures marine hardware and would have in excess of 250 employees in their proposed Lowell plant with gross payroll of over a million dollars a year. Their coming to this community depends upon the willingness of the citizens to change the zoning on a few acres of farm land from residential to industrial.

The company engineer, Edward Ward, who is in charge of the relocation of the plant said that the officers of the organization had looked over many sites in a d around Lowell but the property known as the Boyenga farm at the north village limits lying between the river and the cemetery was the only one the company would consider. This river bottom land has been used for farming and was rejected

ed as suitable residential building sites by F. H. A. recently. The land floods during high water and before a factory could be located here it would have to be filled.

The council on Monday night asked the Zoning Board to rezone the area from residential to industrial; this action was taken by the zoning board on Tuesday, a public hearing will be held on Thursday evening, March 10.

If this site is not available the company will not locate in this community but will have to look elsewhere, their spokesman said. The Boyenga property it was revealed has all the requirements they are looking for; inside the city, water and sewer available, located on a body of water where they can build a marina to display their marine hardware on boats.

The company's production is all of small brass and aluminum fittings that can be shipped out with

a few trucks. Traffic to and from the plant can be routed away from the school to eliminate that problem. There is no smoke or fumes from the factory or any heavy machinery that would disturb the neighborhood.

Investigation by the Village officers and Lowell Board of Trade have established that this is an ideal light industry for the community, it has steady year around operation. The employees are skilled, highly-paid workers who would come with the plant from Grand Rapids. There would be no big impact on the town as the move to this community is anticipated

to take some three years, workers from the city are expected to gradually be assimilated into the surrounding area. This is the first industrial plant to show a positive interest in Lowell in many years and every citizen of the town will benefit if the location is made here. The company will bring a fine addition to our tax basis that will enable the town to operate with

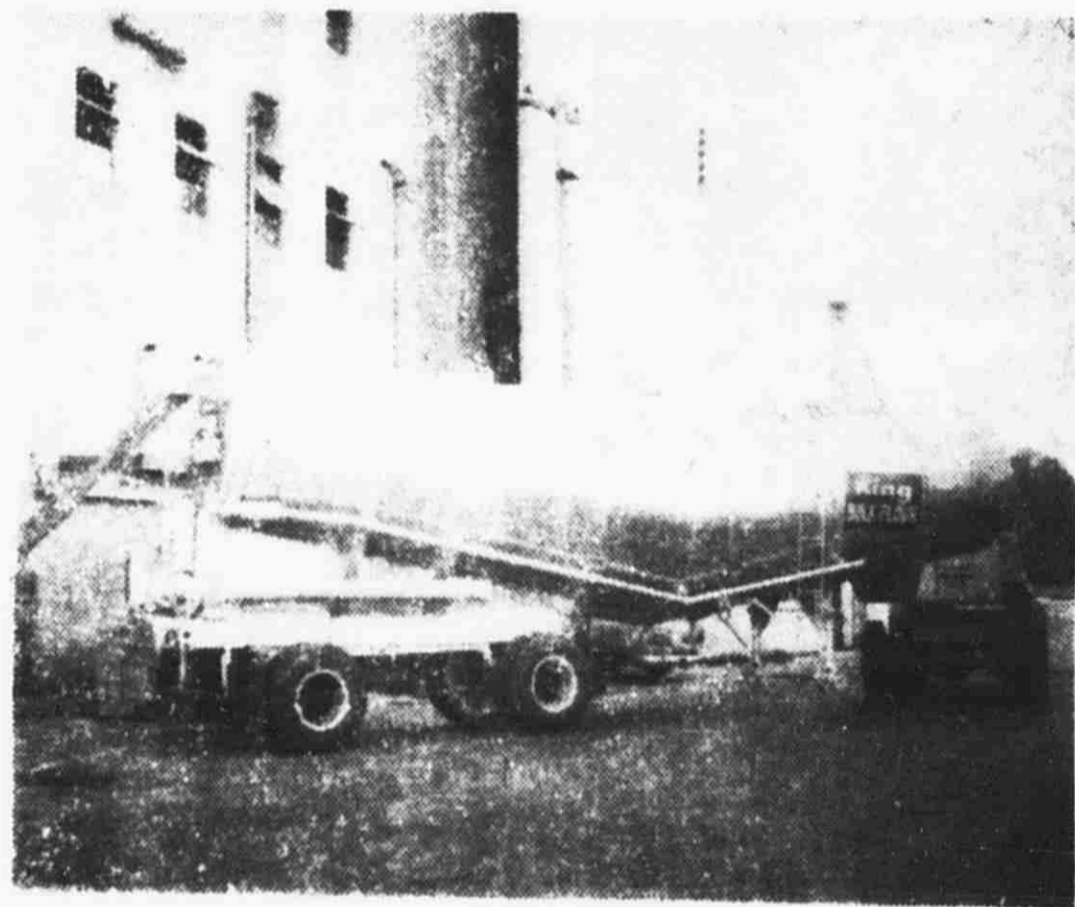
a smaller tax bite on the individual citizen; will provide a market for the services of the town utilities thus enable them to be expanded at little cost to the householder.

A new industry coming to Lowell will increase real estate values in the area just from the demand for dwellings for the employees who will want to move to the community. At the present time homes and businesses are very difficult to sell, many homes in the town have been listed for several years with no buyer appearing.

Businessmen of Lowell feel a real need for new industrial employment in the town. The many citizens who now work outside have little or no loyalty to the merchants of the city, many of their purchases are made outside the area. Community loyalty is what is needed now! Let's all speak up and invite this new industry into the community; it depends up on the citizens of Lowell.

1961

### King Mill's New Flour Blower Is First Of Its Kind in Michigan



A new piece of flour transporting and disbursing equipment was put into trial operation last Thursday by the King Milling Company of Lowell. Looking like a giant hot-dog sagging in the middle, the 40-foot aluminum trailer transported 10 tons of pastry flour from the local mill to the Hekman Biscuit Co. in Grand Rapids and blew the entire load into the Hekman storage silos in a little more than 10 minutes.

1960

### Before and After Pictures of Lowell's New Street Lights



When Frank J. McMahon threw the switch last Friday night, in a brief ceremony, Lowell's business district became one of the brightest anywhere. Above is a before and after picture taken by the Ledger. The picture inset in the upper left corner is one taken early Thursday night with a 3 second exposure that only shows lights of approaching cars. The other picture is one taken just after the lights were turned on at 1/10 of a second exposure, 170 times faster yet, everything on the street is brightly lighted. The citizens who got up early, or in late, had a preview of the new street lights when some unauthorized person turned them on about midnight Thursday.

### Frances Jefferies Succumbs After Long Illness; Former Ledger Publisher

A former publisher of the Lowell Ledger, Mrs. Frances D. Jefferies, passed away at her home on 504 Lincoln Lake Avenue Friday morning, August 18, following a prolonged illness. She was 70 years old. Frances Della Peer was born on July 18, 1891, at the Livingston County farm home of her parents, Jacob and Catherine Peer. She was the youngest in a family of two boys and three girls. Her schooling was obtained in county schools, the South Lyons High School, and the Jackson



Business School. In 1920 she graduated as a registered nurse from the Foote Memorial School of Nursing in Jackson. In 1926 she was married to Remick G. Jefferies and lived in Lansing until coming to Lowell in 1930, at which time her husband purchased the Lowell Ledger. At the death of Mr. Jefferies in 1952, Mrs. Jefferies became the publisher of the Ledger until her retirement in 1957. Along with her assistance on the newspaper, Mrs. Jefferies served as President of the Lowell Women's Club from 1939 until 1941 and also as President of the Gar-

den Lore Club. Her greatest interest and enjoyment, however, was in her affiliation with the Order of the Eastern Star, which she originally joined in East Lansing. On moving to Lowell she transferred her membership to the Cyclaman Chapter No. 94, which she served as Worthy Matron from 1936 to 1937.

She was President of the Kent County Association from 1953 to 1954, and she was an officer in the Grand Chapter of the Michigan Eastern Star from 1954 to 1955.

Mrs. Jefferies was also a member of the Lowell Congregational Church. Surviving are one son, Harold, and two grandsons, Kirk and Scot, all of Lowell, and one sister, Mrs. Edward Chase of Jackson.

Services for Mrs. Jefferies were held Monday afternoon at the Roth Funeral Home in Lowell, with the Rev. David Debbink officiating. Interment was made in Oakwood cemetery.

1962

### Deny Precious Beer License

The city council at its regular meeting Monday evening voted 5-0 to deny the request of Lawrence Precious for a SDM, beer and wine take-out license for his grocery store on North St.

The action was taken, the council stated, because of the traffic and enforcement problem in a residential neighborhood; and on the basis of a petition signed by 48 residents in the immediate area. Mr. Precious presented a petition signed by several hundred stating they had no objection to granting the permit, but the council held that the view of the neighbors carried more weight.

Commend Street Dept. The council passed a motion of commendation for the fine work the street department has done in keeping the city streets in passable condition during the ice and snow storms.

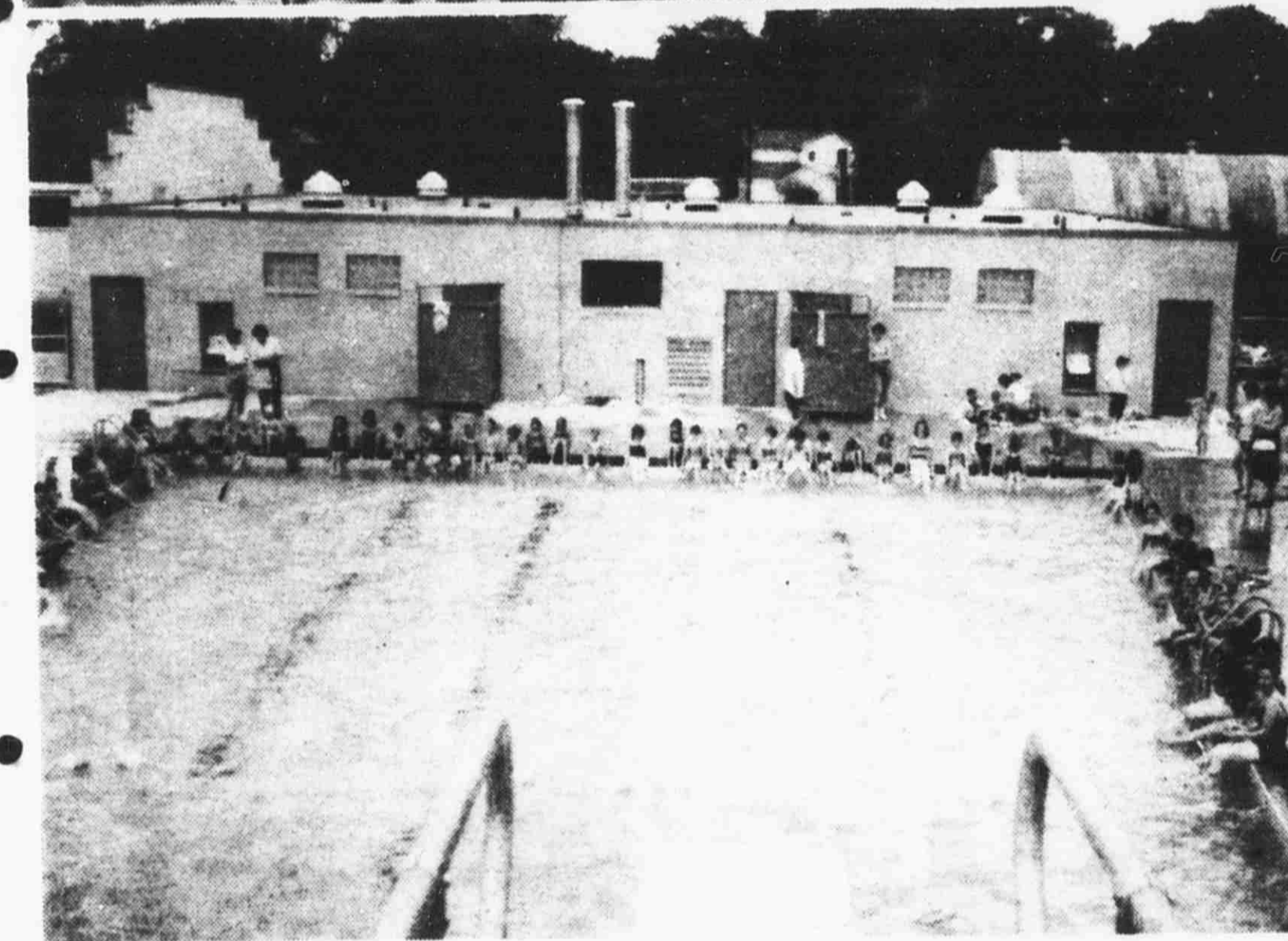
It was reported to the council that the city has already used more salt this year in keeping the streets free of ice than in all of the 1960-61 winter season.

Set Dates for Board of Review. The city council set March 6 and 7 as the dates for holding the City Board of Review meetings. Members of the board are Harold Englehardt, Wesley Roth and Theron Richmond.

1953 1962

## Weather Cooperates for Brilliant Swimming Pool Opening

The long awaited day when the Frank Twining King Memorial pool opened last Thursday to the public with the weather breaking to give us 90 degree temperatures, over 300 were on hand for the first open free swim. The crowd was so great that the swimming period was divided to give everyone a chance. The pool opened Monday for its 12 week season and the hot weather brought overflow crowds to the open swim. On Tuesday with a free morning open swim, afternoon swim period and family swim at night along with the classes the pool had 583 admissions. Wednesday, the cooler weather is expected to cut down the attendance, but with busses bring in outside groups, a large number is expected. Some changes are being made in the pool schedule, but the pool staff and the Y group are well satisfied with the handling of the large groups during the opening days.



A record vote was cast in this area Tuesday with percentages running from 80% to over 90% turning out in this biggest election ever. In the nation Senator John Kennedy won by a large electoral vote but his total popular vote was only about 2% more than Vice-President Nixon's.

## L & P Pioneer, Frank McMahon, Passes

All Lowell was saddened to hear of the death Friday in St. Mary's hospital of Frank J. McMahon, 88, former superintendent of the Lowell Light & Power plant and community leader.

Frank McMahon was born in Vergennes Twp., attended school at Parnell and came to Lowell as a boy. In 1891 he was operating a grocery store on Main Street and while at this job became interested in the Lowell Light & Power plant which was established by the village in 1896. In 1902 Frank was made superintendent of the Power plant.

Service in those days work was executed via bicycles, horse and rig, cutters and by foot. The original ownership of the municipal power plant here over private ownership was fought on "lights on Sunday and after midnight" which the private owners refused to provide. The people of Lowell voted a bond issue to \$23,000 to build the first hydro-electric plant.

Frank McMahon in his many stories of those days, said "We worked day and night, the staff included one other man and we did everything, checking meters, collecting bills, trouble calls, digging of post holes and running lines."

When Frank took over management of the plant there were only 100 customers, the plant grew to nearly 2,000 customers during his operation. The original plant consisted of an arc machine for street and store lighting and a 75-kilowatt generator for power. Its output today would not carry any one of the factories in Lowell.

Frank managed the plant during times of adversity, dams washed out, and demand for power grew, making constant expansion necessary. Lowell pioneered the use of electric water heaters and ranges long before the large utilities would even consider promoting them.

In 1952 Frank retired as superintendent of the plant, but during the last ten years he has been active in community affairs.

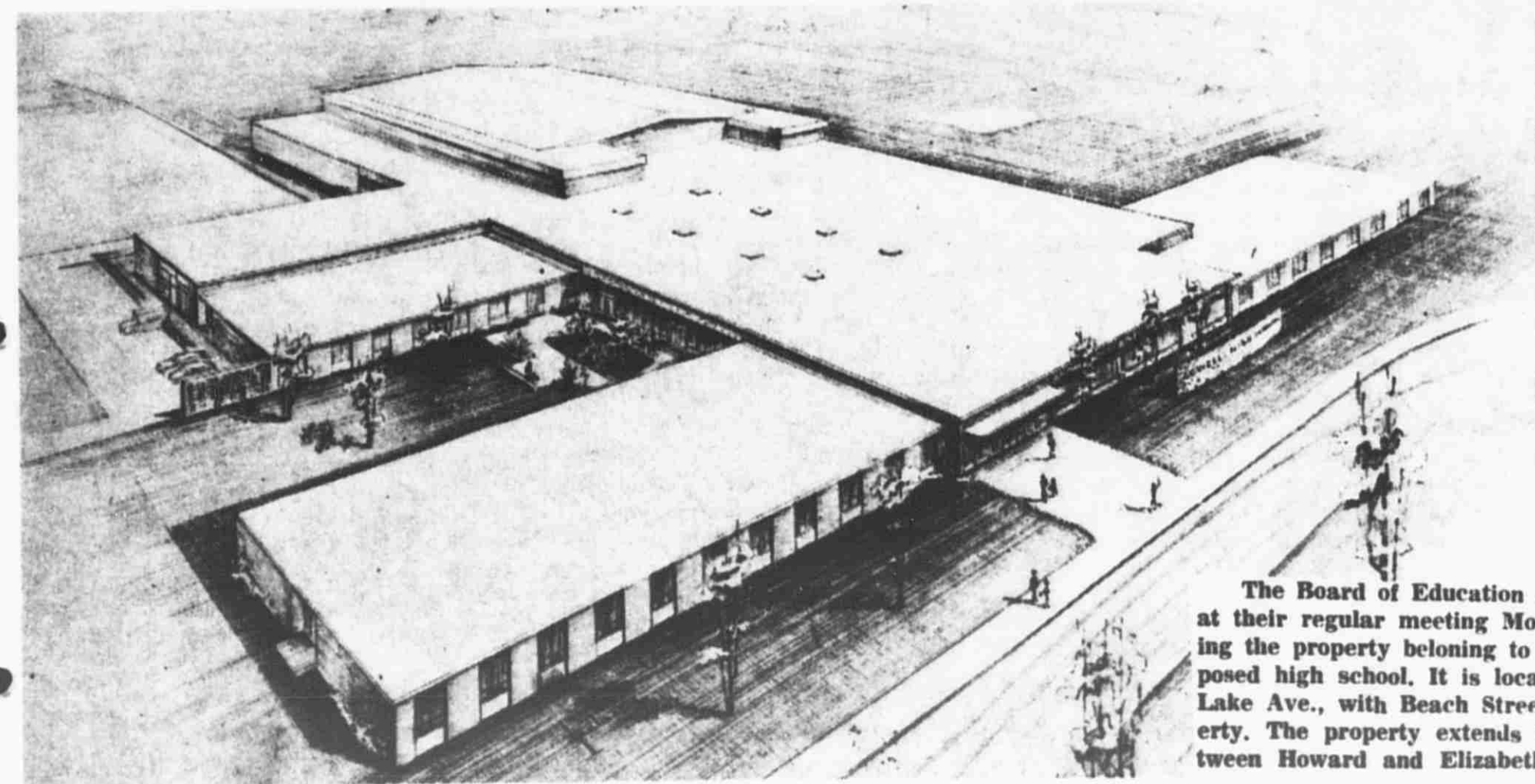
Great Humanitarian Frank McMahon was a booster for Lowell and a man every citizen could call on in time of need for help of any kind. Day or night he put the needs and demands of his community ahead of his own welfare.



His devotion to his church and family was an outstanding example for the town, his fellow citizens all held a deep friendship for him.

Park Named In His Honor On September 30, 1959, a testimonial dinner was given Frank McMahon with Congressman Gerald R. Ford as the principal speaker.

## Select Site for New High School



The Board of Education of the Lowell Area Schools announced at their regular meeting Monday evening their intent of purchasing the property belonging to Mr. Al Blaser as the site of the proposed high school. It is located on Foreman St., just off Lincoln Lake Ave., with Beach Street coming to a dead end on the property. The property extends to the south to the line of trees between Howard and Elizabeth Streets.

1953 1962











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Ernest Foreman, Poultry Expert, Dies at 75

### Community Mourns Loss of Civic Leader

Lowell-area residents today mourned the loss of Ernest C. (Ernie) Foreman, a highly-esteemed and longtime citizen of the community who passed away suddenly at his home on Gee Drive last Saturday at age 75.

Mr. Foreman was born June 5, 1894 in Collingwood, Ontario, attended elementary and secondary schools in that community, and later graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, Ont.

He taught at Guelph, after which he became superintendent of the O.A.C. Poultry Plant. In 1915, he came to Michigan to assume duties as manager of the Michigan Poultry Farm in Lansing. In 1916, he became Poultry Extension Specialist with Michigan Agricultural College.

Granted a leave of absence in 1919 to complete studies for a degree, he graduated in 1921 from the Ontario Agriculture College, and later obtained a B.S.A. degree from Toronto University.

Mr. Foreman returned to Michigan State University as an instructor in 1922-23, after which he was made Professor of Poultry Husbandry, and given charge of the Poultry department.

It was at this time that he met and induced John Hannah to enroll in Michigan State. The rise of John Hannah, of course, to the presidency of Michigan State, was a source of considerable pride to Mr. Foreman.

In his work in the field of poultry, Mr. Foreman developed a method called "Head Culling" and was largely responsible for the selective breeding methods which developed a high strain of laying hens. He also developed a new type of poultry house which was called the Foreman Poultry House and brought out new feed formulae for laying hens.

It was through his work in feed formulae with Charles and William Doyle of the

King Milling Co., that brought him to Lowell.

Mr. Foreman started a small hatchery in Lowell in 1925 on East Main. Later he moved to the west end of town in order to enlarge his poultry farm. Using his own discoveries in breeding and bird selections, his poultry business was an instant success.

He not only developed his own large flock but worked out a cooperative program with farmers in the surrounding area.

In a few years he made the Foreman Poultry Farm one of the best known in the United States and Europe. Foreman-produced hens won prizes in nearly every state, including many first-place rankings for his contest birds. He won hundreds of trophies, awards and cash prizes from colleges and the feed industry.



ERNEST C. FOREMAN

The appointment of Leonard Sinke of Marlette as the new Superintendent of Lowell Area Schools, has been announced by the Lowell Board of Education.

Sinke's appointment fills a vacancy caused by the untimely death of Superintendent Carl Hagen, last November. Until now, the school's superintendency has been temporarily filled by Donald Kelly.

The new school chief will assume his duties at Lowell Area Schools on February 1. His moving plans to the Lowell area are indefinite at the present time, and will depend on the availability of housing.

Mr. Sinke has served the last three years as Superintendent of the Ubyly Community Schools, located in the thumb area of the state, about ten miles south of Bad Axe. Ubyly has a population of approximately 950.

Prior to his work at Ubyly, he served principalships at Leslie Intermediate School (1963-1965), Leslie High School (1965-1966) and Marlette High School (1966-1968). He has 16 years of experience in education; seven as an administrator.

His educational background includes three degrees from Michigan State University. His undergraduate work for a Bachelor of Arts' degree was in History and English, his Master's degree in History, and his Educational Specialist's degree in Educational Administration.

Mr. Sinke's family includes his wife, Evelyn, a Remedial Reading teacher; two daughters, Diane, a registered nurse, and Suzanne, a sixth grade student; and one son, Jan, a chemist for the Goodyear Rubber Company.

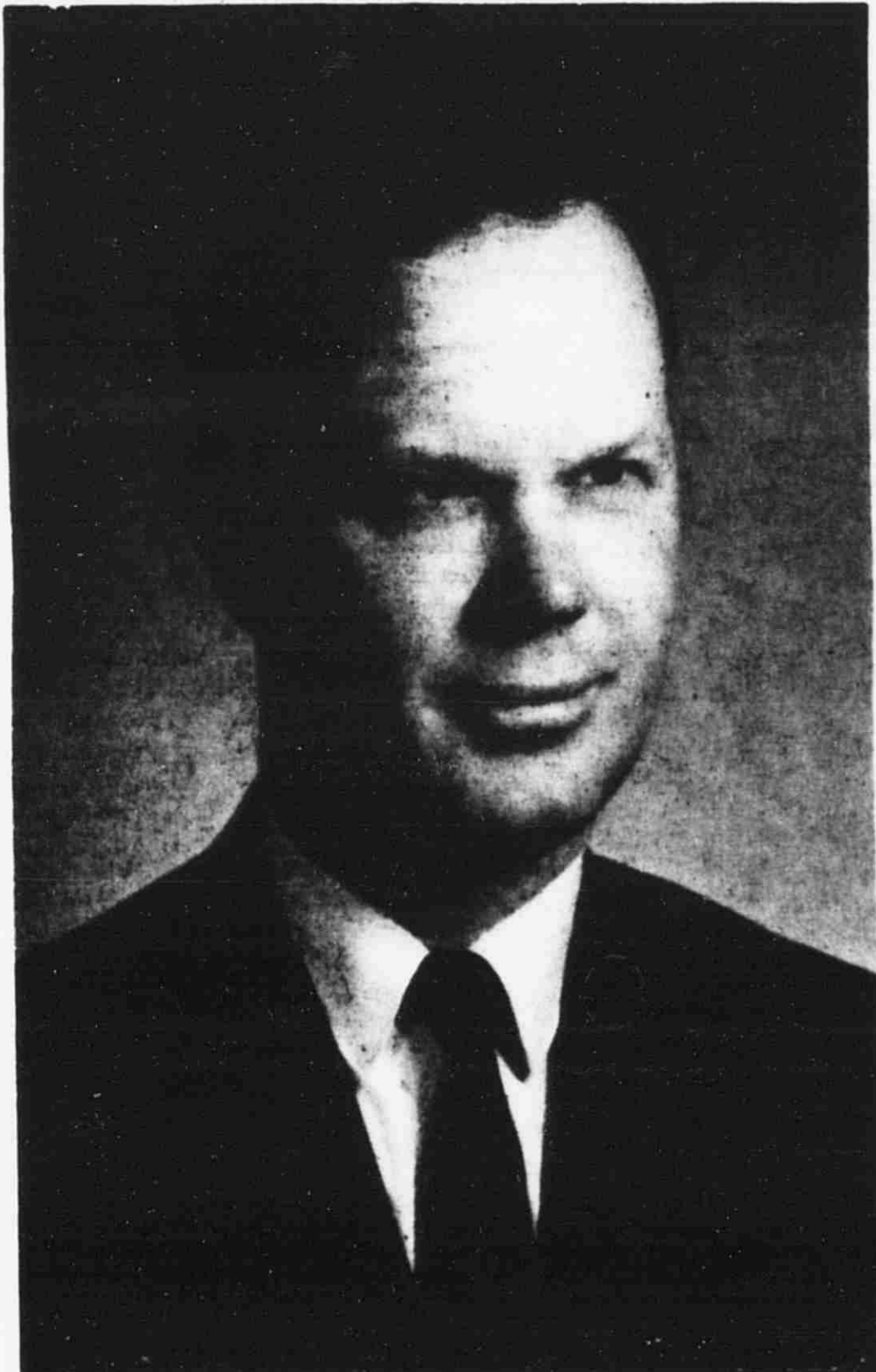
Sinke was born and raised in the Grand Rapids area. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sinke of Moline.

Before entering the educational field, Mr. Sinke spent three years in the Navy; serving most of this time in the South Pacific.

During the past few years, he has been active in community service organizations. He has been a member of both the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs.

His vast specialized experiences in the educational field will be a credit to the area's school system. The School Board will officially greet him at their next meeting scheduled for February 8th.

## Takes Over February 1st New Superintendent Named



## HURTS SCHOOL

# State Aid Payment Cut By 40%

School Districts in Kent County have been handed a hard blow to their budgets by the State — a blow that has forced some systems into deficit spending and a possible cutback in educational services.

The proposed two percent state aid reduction, on the heels of the recent Supreme Court Decision on textbooks and materials, has caused some area school administrators to speak out against the plan.

Lowell School Superintendent Leonard Sinke said the new ruling would cost the school system here between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

The State Aid payment, reduced by 40 percent for the month of February was the main topic of discussion at Monday night's school board meeting. One hundred nineteen thousand and ten dollars was received in state aid assistance, whereas the regular amount would have been \$198,350, Sinke revealed.

It is unpredictable at the present time, until a further study has been made, just what an effect this cutback will have on

the school's current obligations.

### Future Needs Discussed

A discussion on future school needs was made by the Board Monday night. Enrollment projections for the years 1971-1973 were studied and the present building usage and future building needs were looked into during the two-hour long session.

There was also an explanation made concerning the Michigan School Bond Loan Program and how it could help with the financing of future building. This program is designed to provide property tax relief for districts like Lowell. Under this program, the state would provide the major portion of monies needed to finance new buildings in the Lowell district.

Board member, Dr. R. Siegle made a motion to make application for an approval by the state for a school bond issued, which was seconded by Dr. D. Gerard. The motion was passed unanimously.

In other decisive action, the Board's president, Dr. Robert Reagan presented a request received from the Grand Rapids Art Museum for the Lowell Area Schools system to participate

in the support of their program. The request calls for payment of 5 cents per student, or \$135, which the Board agreed upon.

The program consists of art talks accompanied by visual materials covering a variety of art appreciation subjects, such as basic design, design in everyday objects, African Art, American Art and landscape. These phases of the program are geared for children in grades two through sixth.

### Approves Transfer

The Board also approved a transfer of property, assessed at \$4,000 from the Lowell District to the Forest Hills Public School District. The property is on the Lowell side of the boundary, and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hooker and Mrs. Henry Stevens, co-owners.

Attendance at the Kent Intermediate Board Hearing this Thursday, February 11, will be made by the Board's secretary, Harold Metternick, and the school's superintendent, Mr. Sinke.

Plans were also formulated by the Board for the visit which will be made to the school system on February 23, 24 and 25 by the North Central Evaluation committee.

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## Gerst Purchases Roth Mortuary

David Gerst, owner of O'Brien-Gerst Funeral Home on Cascade Road, S.E., announced acquisition of Roth Funeral Home at 305 N. Hudson Street in Lowell.

"The mortuary will be renamed Roth-Gerst Funeral Home under the new management," Gerst said.

A native of Traverse City, Gerst graduated from Wayne State University in 1954, and had been associated with the Harper-Mulligan Funeral Home in Detroit for the past 10 years.

The 40-year-old Gerst served in the Marines during the Korean War and attained the rank of sergeant. He and his wife, Joyce, and four children, Susan, David, Mark and Pamela, reside in the Forest Hills area.

### Named Manager

Herbert M. Reynolds has been named by Gerst as Managing Director of the Funeral Home.

Reynolds, a native of Lowell, graduated from Lowell High School and attended the University of Minnesota where he graduated from the School of Mortuary Science.

After a 5-year tour in the Army, Reynolds purchased and directed his own Funeral Home for seventeen years in Columbiaville, Michigan.

Reynolds and his family reside on North Hudson Street, Lowell.



HERB REYNOLDS

Reynolds returned to Lowell and joined the Roth firm in 1963. Since that time, he has been active in civic affairs. He has been a member of the city Council, and is a member of the Lowell Methodist Church.

The funeral home was purchased from the J. Jerald Roth family following his untimely death in July of this year.



Roth-Gerst Funeral Home at 305 N. Hudson Street, Lowell.

May, 1972

## Attwood Corporation Names New General Manager

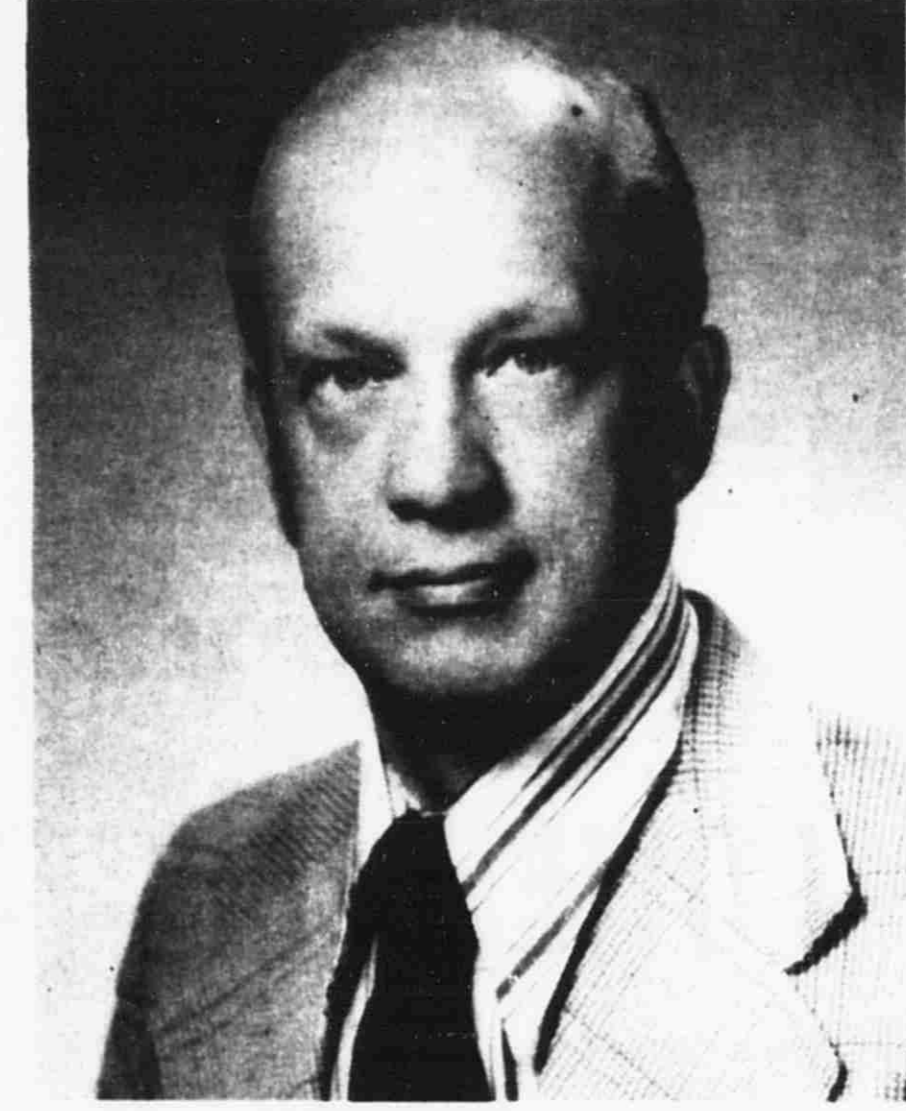
Donald Rocheleau has been named vice president and general manager of Attwood Corporation, a Steelcase subsidiary. The appointment was announced Friday by David D. Hunting, Jr., president of the Lowell based firm.

Rocheleau succeeds Hunting as general manager. Hunting will continue as Attwood president while serving Steelcase as senior vice president-subsidiaires, a new position.

Associated with Attwood since 1966, Rocheleau has been manager of marine sales since 1968. Prior to that, he was merchandising manager. He resides at 821 Grand River Drive, Ada.

Rocheleau is a native of Detroit and was associated with the Kroger Company in Grand Rapids and Atlanta, Georgia, as advertising and sales promotion manager before joining Attwood.

A Steelcase subsidiary since 1964, Attwood manufactures marine hardware and die cast parts for the appliance and automotive industries.



ROCHELEAU

1972



David carries on tradition.

## Lowell's Oldest Retail Business

Coon's Clothing, the oldest retail business in Lowell continuously owned by one family, is celebrating its 80th anniversary this fall.

In 1892 Alexander Lewis Coons and his son, Harvey, then 22, opened a men's clothing store, in spite of their inexperience and the fact that there were already six other such stores along Main Street. The building in which they started their enterprise had previously been occupied by a branch of the J. L. Hudson chain of dry goods stores.

Another son, Frank, who had been a railway mail clerk, came into the business about 1920, the year of his father's death, and Frank's son, David, the present owner, joined the firm in 1946.

The Coons store also houses the office of an even older business entity, the Lowell Savings and Loan, which was organized in 1888 and has been in its present location at least since 1928, when Harvey Coons was secretary. Frank Coons was elected to this position upon his brother's death in 1931, and David succeeded him when he retired in 1954.

1972

## Lowell Has New Mayor

Carlen Anderson, 705 North Monroe Street, will be the new Mayor for the City of Lowell.

Anderson's installation, as head of the City's governing unit, took place Monday night at the re-organizational and first meeting of the New Year for the City Council.

Taking their new seats on the Council, also, were the two new Council members elected during the August election... James Hall and Vince McCambridge.



Mayor Anderson

A Lowell resident for eighteen years, Anderson is employed as an engineer with the Kent County Road Commission. He replaces the current Mayor Harold F. Jefferies, who will still serve as a council member.

In 1953, Anderson graduated from Lowell High School, and attended Wayne State University. He is married to the former Beverly Be dell of Lowell. Anderson made a few comments on his new position before ordering the meeting into session, getting down to his first line of business as the new Mayor.

Dr. Herbert R. Mueller, local optometrist, was elected as mayor pro tem. He has resided in the City for the past 14 years at 216 Riverside Drive.

### OPEN LETTER from

DAVID GERST



Dear Friends,

We are occasionally asked if we welcome families of all religious sects to use our funeral home. The answer is definitely, yes. We have provided our service to members of all the various faiths in our community and we have the cooperation of all of our good clergymen in honoring this tradition.

Respectfully,

David Gerst

ROTH-GERST FUNERAL HOME

LOWELL, MICHIGAN

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1973

Help The Nation!

## Cut Your Energy Bill

You can help your Nation's energy conservation efforts, live comfortably, and save money too.

Each of us can help accomplish these worthwhile ends—on a daily basis in our own homes, and where we work. All we need do is practice conservation habits that help save energy.

As our country continues to grow, we must face up to the fact that energy of many kinds is in short supply. It's time to tighten our fuel belt and stop wasting electricity and heat. This in turn saves oil, gas and coal. Save energy, and you save money.

America now consumes about 29 percent of its energy in industry, 25 percent in transportation, including getting back and forth to work, 21 percent for residential and commercial purposes, and 25 percent for utilities. But the Nation can keep warm, get to work, and keep industry humming with much less energy than is now being used.

An OEP energy conservation study shows that there are many ways you can help conserve fuel and electric energy at home, on the road, and on the job. Here are some:

Weatherstrip and caulk around windows and doors. Properly applied, this can keep out cold air and seal in warm air so effectively that your family's heating bill can be cut 15 to 30 percent. It's easy and inexpensive to install weatherstripping at movable joints and to caulk the frames of all windows and doors.

Install storm windows or insulated glass to cut in half the heat that is needlessly lost through the windows in your house.

Increase insulation in your attics and walls when possible. You cannot afford to have less than the equivalent of six inches of good thermal insulation over your ceiling.

Install wood sash windows whenever possible. Wood is a poor conductor of heat and moisture and therefore an excellent natural insulator. In comparative tests with other sash and frame materials, wood rated a much better insulator than metal. In tests with an outdoor temperature of 20 degrees, interior wood sash registered a warm 59 degrees; metal, a chilly 32 degrees. A costly 22 percent more heat was lost through metal windows with an 80 percent glass area than through wood sash windows of the same size. Also, weatherstripped wood windows with insulating glass stayed free of condensation in outdoor temperatures of 30 degrees below zero, while moisture formed on metal sash windows in temperatures of 20 degrees above.

Keep your heating and air conditioning equipment in top operating efficiency. Vacuum dust and lint from air intake registers. Replace your furnace air filters every two to four months or when they become loaded with dust or lint. Have the heat exchange surfaces of your heating plant cleaned when needed and have the combustion air adjustment checked or improved by service professionals.

In homes and apartments without storm windows, close draperies at night. This results in some deflection of drafts and more comfort.

Regardless of where you live and work, turn off electric lights, TV, radio and other electric utilities when they are not needed. Every kilowatt-hour saved is a benefit to you and your country. Try to avoid prolonged use of major appliances during "peak-use" times—in the early morning and during late afternoon and early evening.



## Progress Almost On Schedule

Work on the City's waste water collection system and street improvement program is progressing almost on schedule.

Lowell City Manager Blaine BAcon reports that the wet weather slowed progress on the curbs and gutters, but that work has continued on other phases.

By co-ordinating the entire program of the present construction and the future expansion of the treatment plant, the City is saving money on fill. All "acceptable material"—fill that does not contain pieces of blacktop, concrete or large rocks, is being sent to the treatment plant site for use in the plant expansion.

This type of fill is expensive and a substantial amount is being saved. Material that cannot be used by the City is the property of the contractor.

Restoration of property is an important part of any engineering project. The requirements for the City stipulate that all lawn areas removed will be seeded. Fertilizer will be added and the areas watered once. In addition, any shrubs and plants that are removed will be replaced.

According to the specifications, paved driveway ap-

Nov. 1, 1973

### No Christmas Lights

# ENERGY CRISIS HITS LOWELL LIGHT AND POWER

In an open letter to the customers and owners (the people of Lowell) of the Lowell Light and Power Company, released Monday, the seriousness of the world's fuel oil shortage was pointed out, with more specific emphasis being placed on the energy crisis that has hit Lowell.

According to Light and Power officials, on September 1, Consumers Power Company informed them, that they would "not" be able to supply the power company with fuel gas from that date through March 30, 1974.

Therefore, the Light and Power Company is entirely dependent upon fuel oil to run the generators which

supply this community with electricity.

Fuel oil sources, already swamped with supply requests, offer no guarantee that they can furnish the power company with all the oil necessary.

Thus, the power company points out, it is vital that every customer economize his use of electricity to the best of his ability.

In their economizing plea, the company has asked all Lowell-served customers, plus the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce to eliminate all outside Christmas lighting this year as an important step in saving fuel.

1893 - 1993

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Aug. 7, 1975

## Rock Concert Ends In Riot

Riot control procedures were used to quell disturbances created by a hundred or so persons at the close of last Saturday's Rock Concert at the Showboat Amphitheatre.

The rock fans, who had sat through an all-day drizzle, allegedly felt cheated; they hadn't heard what they had paid \$6 a ticket to hear.

Recordings were reportedly played during the first half of the concert, when the performers were reluctant to go on stage with electronic equipment during the rain.

A canvas canopy erected over the stage the previous night was blown down in Saturday's early morning storm.

Four groups had been scheduled to play at the concert, which drew well over the anticipated crowd and who began arriving before noon. An estimated 5,000 persons attended.

It was 6:30 p.m. before any live music was played. The refusal of the Blue Oyster Cult to take to the stage, following a shortened performance by the REO Speedwagon, further angered the already unhappy crowd of spectators.

It was at this point that rocks, bottles and chairs began to fly and it was reported the group threatened to burn the stage and the Showboat.

Threats of greater violence forced Lowell Police Chief, Barry Emmons, to request additional help from the Kent County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police. Twelve State troopers responded from Rockford, Grand Haven and Lakeview and twelve more County deputies were sent to aid Lowell's fourteen police and reserve officers. Eight County units were already standing by in the area.

Police moved in amid the flying glass, bottles, rocks and chairs and were able to persuade about half to leave peacefully. The remaining 30 to 40, eventually

moved outside the amphitheatre, regrouped, and advanced toward the Lowell Police Department, demanding their money back and making various threats to those within ear-shot.

However, it was found that earlier reports of vandalism were found to have been somewhat exaggerated. A ride through the City about 12:30 a.m. found, on the surface at least, calm and quiet prevailing. Only the clink of glass being swept up by volunteer citizens broke the stillness of the night at the litter-strewn scene on the east bank of the "Flat."

Chief Emmons had received the cooperation of bar owners to close their establishments at 11 p.m.

About 12 arrests were made for disorderly conduct and one person was arrested for an attempted breaking and entering at Lippert's Pharmacy: The driver of a truck reportedly belonging to the REO Speed wagon group was arrested for leaving the scene of a personal injury accident.

Chuck Lippert, president of Showboat Corporation, and on the scene during the rock and bottle throwing period, reached for comment Monday, said he "was just glad it was over," and (speaking for the other members of the board of directors) said, "we don't plan to get involved, ever again, with a rock group." Lippert said they all felt very fortunate to have come out of it as well as they did.

Showboat Corporation was responsible for the renting of the Amphitheatre to Brass Ring Productions, promoters of the rock groups.

Reactions by the local citizenry to the reported rock-related incidents ranged from mild criticism to downright anger to one near-the-scene resident who didn't think the litter "was much worse than after a Showboat crowd, and added she didn't think it would have hurt a few more of the townspeople to have "gotten out with a shovel and broom—after all, we are a community, aren't we?"

# SHOWBOAT TO BUILD NEW AMPHITHEATRE

Nearly 200 enthusiastic boosters attended the Lowell Showboat Corporation's Kick-off dinner at Deer Run Golf Club last Saturday night, to see the proposed plans for a new \$60,000 amphitheatre unveiled.

The new facility, which will include a permanent stage area, will be erected just north of the current site. Two thousand of the new seats in the amphitheatre will have backs on them, and the new section of seats purchased by the Corporation in 1973 will be incorporated into the plans.

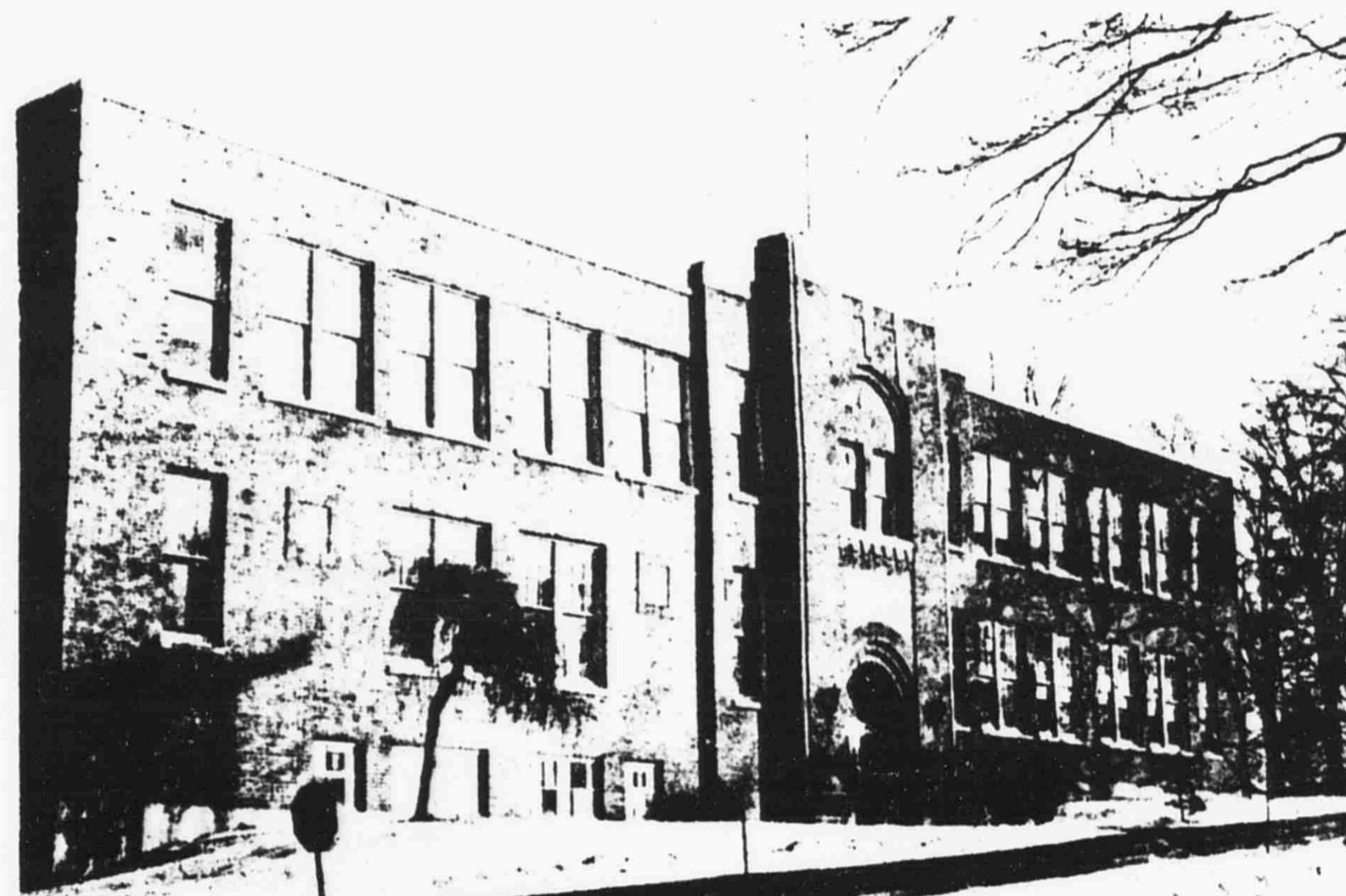
Groundbreaking ceremonies are expected to be held sometime in April, with the completion date set for July 15, just three days shy of the opening of the 1974 show, which this year will star comedian, impressionist, singer and dancer, George Kirby, July 18-20, and a vocal group, The New Christy Minstrels, July 25-27.

Master of ceremonies for the kick-off dinner, Showboat Chairman Charles Lippert, revealed anticipated plans for a fund-raising drive to finance the cost of the project, urging everyone to step out of their spectator status and become a participant in a very real way—by making a contribution to the Showboat amphitheatre.

At this point, Donald Rocheleau, president and general manager at Attwood Corporation announced that a donation of \$5,000 to the Showboat will be made by Attwood Corporation and Steelcase, Inc. Also joining in the contributing segment was past Showboat president, Norm Borgerson, who pledged \$2,000 and Mrs. Ruth Richmond, who pledged \$1,000 in memory of her husband, Theron.

Jan. 10, 1974

## The Past Buried In Rubble



Memories were evoked in the minds of many as they passed the site of the old Lowell High School and watched the walls come tumbling down. Whether they were happy memories or otherwise, they are now but a part of the past, buried in the rubble of brick and mortar.

At exactly 1:35 p.m. on December 28, 1973, the old school bell rang for the last time, tolling its own death knell like the last gasp of a dying man reluctant to leave his earthly home.



1973 1982

# UNEXPECTED STORM HURLS HIGH WINDS OVER LOWELL

The sun came out Saturday, briefly, but it did little to lighten the spirits of Lowell area residents as they were cleaning up the aftermath of a tornadic-like storm that hit this area shortly after mid-night Friday.

While most area residents slept, or were gathered before the boob-tube engrossing themselves in the late movie featuring Elvis Presley in "Jailhouse Rock," the outside temperatures rose to an all-time record high of 57, and winds estimated to be gusting at 60 miles per hour, or more, swept the southern part of Michigan. Some January thaw!

According to the National Weather Bureau Service, the disastrous happening was the side effects of a major storm centered over Lake Superior that hurled high winds to the east and heavy snow and blizzard conditions to the west.

During the storm's rampage, buildings were demolished or heavily damaged, mobile homes overturned, trees uprooted, and utility poles were snapped, leaving many homes without heat or lights.

No major injuries were recorded here, where the area was deemed the hardest hit in the Kent County radius. About one-third of the City was immobilized from 12:24 a.m. until 6 p.m. when the electrical current was completely restored.

Many businesses on the West side of the City found themselves closed for business Saturday as the Lowell Light and Power crews worked diligently to replace the downed power lines, re-enforce power poles, and remove trees hindering the electrical travel-ways.

Citizens left without power congregated at the high school or spent the day with friends who were fortunate enough not to be affected by the storm.

Just Jestin' . . .

Considerable damage was done to the roof and chimney at the George Dey residence on Lincoln Lake Avenue when an uprooted tree hit the residence.

Teenagers watching the late show, heard what sounded as though the chimney was falling in. One of them remarked, in jest, "Oh, it's probably a tree falling!" not knowing how right she was. One occupant of the

household is said to have slept through all the excitement.

Night owls and early morning risers were surprised to find streets blocked and the west side of town in darkness when they returned home or planned to do their grocery shopping.

Saturday, those whose day is started with breakfast at Keiser's Kitchen, found there was to be no 'hot' coffee or the sizzle of bacon and eggs.

Out-Of-Order? . . .

One Lowell resident, Dave Carter, kept turning up his electric blanket during the night, wondering why he wasn't getting any heat and learned the cause as he shivered and stumbled out of bed in the morning.

Those attending the fish fry at the Lowell Masonic Lodge Saturday evening dined by candlelight until power was restored.

One plus result of the storm was the wind-fall of wood garnered by the felled trees for fire places or wood-burning stoves. A nice savings at today's prices for a cord of wood, but only if the tree that provided the wood did not cave in your roof.

Bundled up in heavy winter attire, the crew at the Lowell Post Office sorted the mail with the aid of four gasoline lanterns, ensuring the day's deliveries.

Many residents reported uprooted trees, on both sides of town, fences were lifted from their stationary spots and windows were shattered.

A barn at the Groen farm on Bowes Road was leveled when the walls collapsed and the roof fell down on the foundation. Several cars parked at the Nelson Storm-zand residence on Main Street were heavily damaged when a tree made its thundering landing.

One of the homes hardest hit in the rural Lowell area was on 36th Street, owned by William Eggleston, where the winds twisted a mobile home off its setting, tipping it over. A major part of the porch was torn off the Eggleston home, and debris of all kinds sidelined 36th Street as the storm moved on.

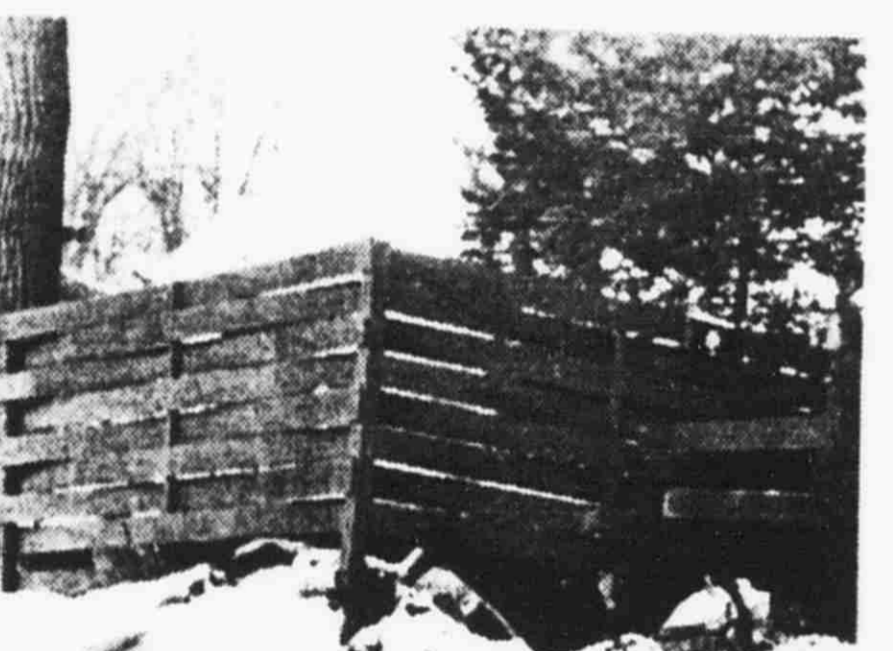
The Franciscan Sisters reported the loss of their barn on Downs Road, north of Lowell.



Debris from demolished mobile home is scattered along roadside and across fields, carried by the heavy winds which hit the Lowell area early Saturday morning.



Saturday's storm caused inconvenience and a lot of clean-up work, but, thankfully, no tragedies.



A fence and sidewalk heave from the force of an uprooted tree.



Several cars were damaged by fallen trees but, fortunately, there were no reported personal injuries.



A bird house rests precariously but survived its ride earthward.

Serving the Community 100 Years 1993

1973 1982

# Ledger Has New Editor



This week, editorship of the "Ledger" changes as Carol Sebastian, who has served the paper in several capacities for many years turns the reins of editor and publisher over to Roger K. Brown of Saranac. As you have probably noticed, the paper's name has been changed to "The Grand Valley Ledger". This has been done due to the fact that from now on news coverage and circulation

will be extended into the Saranac area and rather than isolate the name to any one community, Mr. Brown feels it would be better to generalize the name. Mr. Brown comes to the "Ledger" well qualified, having spent his entire life in the family publishing business. He graduated from Saranac High School in 1968 and attended a course in Printing Technology at Ferris State College for one year. In 1970 he enlisted in the U. S.

Army and served overseas with 1 Corps in Korea. He is married to the former Terese Powell, also a graduate of Saranac High School. Mrs. Brown attended Central Michigan University for two years, specializing in business. The couple have two children, a girl, Angela, 2, and an infant son Casey. They currently reside at 393 S. Bridge Street, Saranac.

Nov. 20, 1975

# Borgerson's Death Shocks Community

Prominent Lowell businessman and leader, Norman E. Borgerson of 219 North Washington Street, passed away Friday, November 14, very unexpectedly at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids at the age of 79.

A native of Suttons Bay, he was a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and a member of the Michigan State Constabulary, the forerunner of the Michigan State Police.

After Army service during World War I, he came to Lowell as a school teacher. He became postmaster and served from 1923 to 1935 when he went to Lansing with the Michigan Department of Public Instruction.

Borgerson was appointed the director of the first high school teacher's driving training institute, held in Lansing in 1938, and directed 24 of the institutes during the next 15 years. At one

time, it was estimated that the program which Borgerson had started resulted in the training of nearly 500,000 driver education students in the State of Michigan.

Borgerson was also a key figure in the establishment of the 1955 Michigan legislation which required that all persons under 18 years of age complete an accredited driver training course before obtaining a driver's license.

Under President Dwight Eisenhower, Borgerson was a member of the White House Commission on Safety and was a member of the National Safety Council for many years.

He retired from the State scene in February of 1960 as deputy state superintendent of Public Instruction and entered the antique business with his wife, Leona, which was originally started in 1939.

They operated the Cranberry Urn Shop on Lowell's East Main Street and maintained a wholesale antique outlet in the building formerly occupied by the First Baptist Church of Lowell.

Together, they traveled worldwide collecting and selling antiques until her death in January of 1973. After that time, he was very active in the business until his untimely death.

In 1932, "Norm" was among the group of directors of the Lowell Board of Trade considering the advisability of putting on a Showboat Minstrel show on the Flat River. As momentum grew, the first show went on stage in August of that year. In 1933 at a joint meeting of the village government, Lowell Board of Trade and the American Legion, it was voted unanimously to make Showboat a yearly event and Norm was elected as the show's general

manager, a position he maintained until the 1960's.

Also, the year 1932, saw Norm head the Lowell Centennial program, plus he headed almost every Lowell organization including the Board of Trade and the American Legion.

Besides his many Showboat activities, Norm was very active in the Lowell Rotary Club, being a charter member, and served the organization in almost every office.

Norm is survived by one son, Dr. Norman E. Borgerson, DDS, of Ann Arbor; two brothers, Raymond of Lowell and Harold of Higgins Lake; three

sisters, Mrs. Evelyn Elko of Lowell, Miss Florence Borgerson and Mrs. Hazel Axford, both of Greenbush, Michigan, and three grandchildren.

If one searched for a lifetime, they'd never be able to find the adequate words that would give full credit to all of the accomplishments Norm Borgerson made to the community of Lowell.

A great man of many talents, he paved the road for many projects and organizations. He filled many shoes, which will be hard to fill, and he will be greatly missed by everyone in every walk of life.

June 3, 1976

# Intriguing Memories Hidden Behind The Walls of The Strand

"Stately stands the trees we pass every day . . . never missed until taken away."

Three years before the Village of Lowell celebrated its centennial year, Harvey J. Callier built a structure in Lowell that, when completed, was heralded all over the state as "Michigan's Most Beautiful Small Theatre."

Today, the structure still stands on Lowell's West Main Street, partially filled with memories of a by-gone era when a night at the movie house was the only form of exciting entertainment.

Since that time, much has

been altered in the way of things to do, but the Strand continues its role in the community . . . and today is the only remaining small town indoor theatre in Kent County, outside of the metropolitan Grand Rapids area.

Callier who visualized the need for such a facility in a growing area, had originally planned to build the Strand in Saranac. The basement was laid, on the site which now houses the post office, but technical snags were met, forcing its removal to Lowell.

When Callier's "Strand" officially opened on June 12, 1928, it housed 514 opera chairs, a domed ceiling, shutter-sound

controlled organ loft, a stage curtain detailed with local advertising, and four dressing rooms in the basement.

One "star's" dressing room was installed at stage level, and another above stage level had an arched ceiling and a small window over-looking the stage and parts of the auditorium.

The back portion of the building four stories high, held the fly loft, and a unique system of controls, ropes and sand bags, for the scenery and curtain drops.

Found in the second story above the main lobby area were several offices; one for a lawyer, a beauty salon, and the management.

The pages of history tell us the first "grand opening" showing was: pictures, illustrated news, comedy and a newspaper drama "Telling the World," introducing scenes of Chinese riots. The entertainment concluded with a vaudeville act put on by a quartet of dancing girls.

One year later, in 1929, the Strand became known as the "Home of Vitaphone talking Pictures."

The flavor of New York style premiers blended into this small village as Mrs. Bill Haysmer fought the heat of the organ loft to produce the music for soloists such as Orrin Sterken, who pre-empted for the stage action.

All grandeur broke loose when celebrities made personal appearances, such as Laurel and Hardy, Daisy and Violet Hilton, the famous Siamese twins, joined at the hip, and, a little later the WLS Barn Dance from Chicago.

It was during the early 1930's that action on the screen began to overpower the live stage entertainment . . . people began to become more enthralled with the quick action of stars like Conrad Nagel, Douglas Fairbanks, Gloria Swanson, Eddie Cantor, Wallace Beery, Jackie Cooper, etc.

George Roberts, now assistant Lowell Postmaster, who

once had the fever of theatre life in his veins, worked for Callier, and recalls that there were four changes of shows a week; Sunday-Monday, Tuesday-Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday-Saturday.

"Tony Kropf, Bud Myers, Clark Morse and myself kept things moving along, working at the theatre. It was a good experience."

Two years before the adorable Shirley Temple began to charm the audiences, Lowell High School's Class of 1935 held their graduation exercises in the Strand; the only class to do so.

The Strand stage was also used for high school plays, when the village hall was being used by other groups.

The dressing room walls, today, still are etched with such names as Bill Doyle 1935, Ann Rodgers, Margaret Niles, Herb Reynolds 1935, Bob Henry 1939, Joe Heil, Pauline Christoff, Judy Hank, Bud Myers, Kay, Marion and Maxine.

In 1940, the thermostatically controlled organ was returned to the Page Co. and the last of the live stage shows were held.

The depression years saw the introduction of "Screeno" and "Bank Night," games similar to today's bingo, which drew standing room only crowds; some staying only long enough to try for the jackpot prize which could range anywhere from \$25 to \$200 dollars.



The Strand Theatre as it is today.

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# Bonds Are Signed For Water Treatment Plant

Representatives from the State and Federal governments joined Lowell city officials Wednesday, June 30, in the completion of the financial arrangements for the new municipal water treatment plant.

The \$1,390,000 project is financed with local funds on hand and a low-interest Farmers Home Administration loan in the amount of \$1,310,000. Mayor Robert Christiansen signed the bonds prior to the loan closing.

The new plant is the major part of the three-step project to provide Lowell residents with what city officials describe as "water as soft as Lake Michi-

gan." City Manager Ray Quada explained that the water in the big lake is of very good quality and is frequently used as the standard for Michigan communities.

The new plant will have a capacity of 1.75 million gallons per day, and is estimated to be sufficient to service the city until the year 1995.

In addition to the plant, the total project includes the development of three new, high volume wells, some additional water mains and a new storage tank to assure an adequate flow in case of an emergency such as a major fire.

According to Quada, the project is scheduled for completion next summer.

### New Mains

Quada also announced that construction on the new mains would begin Thursday. The pipe will be installed on the north side of Boves Road from the plant site to the Schneider Manor, through the apartment complex to the intersection of Grand and Brook Streets.

Construction will continue on Brook and Amity Streets between Grand and Main. The last installation will be a 12" main from Jefferson Street up to the elevated storage tank.

Feb. 10, 1977

### Lowell City Council

## City To Help Fund Senior Neighbors, Inc.

The February 7 meeting of the Lowell City Council was a long one that covered no less than 18 agenda items.

Item number four, which was a request from Sr. Neighbors, Inc. for financial help from the city, was debated for roughly 45 minutes. A representative of Senior Neighbors, Inc. said that \$8,000 was needed for operations over the next eight months.

According to the representative, \$6,000 had been raised from a local fund, and the city was requested to put up the other \$2,000. The shortage of operating funds has come about because of the county not providing adequate monies for this year's operations.

The representative said that she was quite sure that this budget deficit would be remedied at the county level for next year's operations.

After looking over the Center's budget Councilman Harold Jefferies noted that about \$2,000 would cover the annual rent and utilities for the center. It was also brought out that other out-county cities such as Grandville and South Kent were furnishing a building and utilities for their Senior Neighbors operations, with the rest of the operating funds for these centers coming from the county.

Jefferies questioned the fact that with \$6,000 coming from this unnamed local fund and \$2,000 from the city, Lowell's center would not be aided at all by the county.

City Manager Ray Quada suggested that the city fund \$250 per month for a period of sixty days and in that time he would check into the matter and provide more details to the council. This was made a motion and approved by the council.

A public hearing was held concerning the city's application for 1977 community block grant funds. Quada stated that the city planned to apply for funds for; city parking lot improvement, land purchases west of Valley Vista for a Gee Dr. to Main St. connector road, community center improvement, and recreational park improvements. There were no comments from the audience and the hearing was closed.

Quada reviewed his suggestions for proposed changes in the city's traffic ordinance. A permit system for persons who must park on city streets from 2 a.m. thru 6 a.m. is one of the major items in the ordinance change. A public hearing on the matter is scheduled for February 21, 1977.

The Planning Commission proposed to the City Council that city property on Gee Dr. be designated as a park. The council tabled action on this until it is determined if any of the property will be used on the proposed Gee Dr. to Main St. connector road. This will save the problem of having to rezone the property if it is needed.

Jackson Motor Sales, as the low bidder, was awarded the contract of a new police cruiser. The council approved installation of air conditioning in the new cruiser.

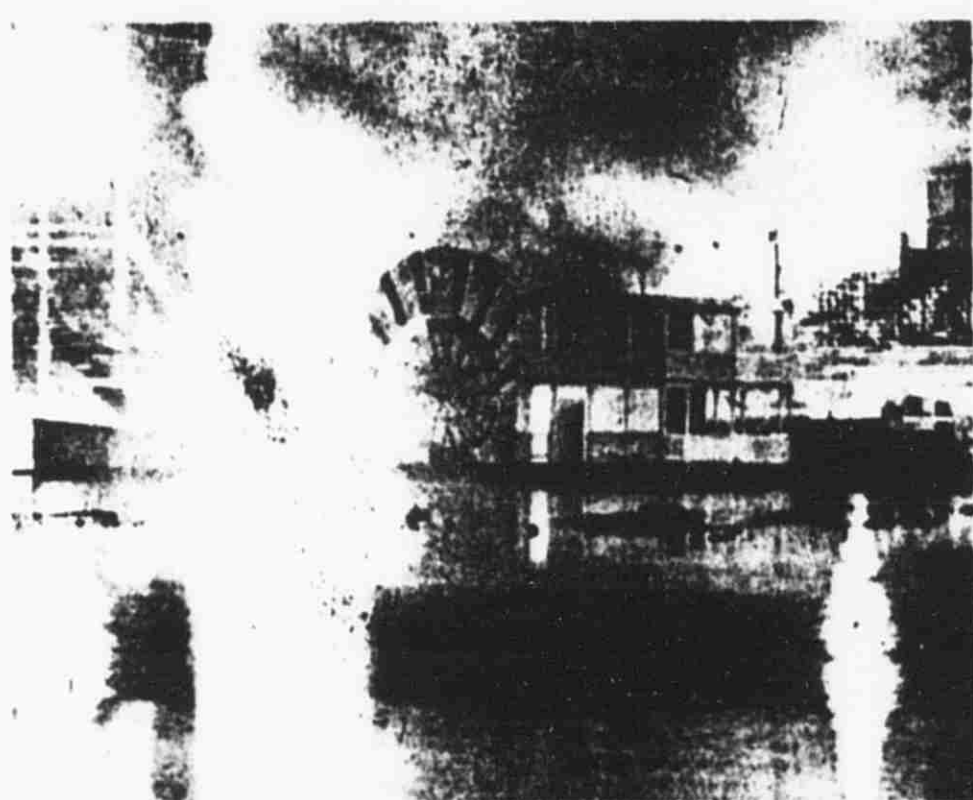
The council approved a resolution setting March 7 as a date for a public hearing concerning a request from Attwood Corp. for industrial facilities exemption.

In the city manager's report, Quada stated that the D.P.W. had finally de-thawed all of the frozen water lines in the city. Quada also said that the city's new radio system was ready to be shipped and that Motorola was waiting to hear from the F.C.C. for approval of Lowell's request for a frequency.

### Three Arsonists Arrested

Nov. 6, 1977

## Halloween Far From Quiet In Lowell



The Lowell Showboat, which houses the "minstrel show under the stars," each summer, was the target of arsonists early Sunday morning. The camera of amateur photographer Paul Miller of Riverside Drive recorded the fire, just after it broke out.

Things were far from quiet Saturday night and early Sunday morning (Halloween) in Lowell, as a small group of youths from the city and surrounding areas showed all their finer points of upbringing when they staged a display of destruction.

Lowell officers have arrested

one adult and two juveniles on arson charges stemming from fires set within the City limits.

About 12:30 a.m. (October 31) a fire broke out in the lower section of the Lowell Showboat, docked on the Flat River, adjacent to the Riverside School on North Monroe Street.

Lowell firemen were quick to respond, but Showboat officials predict that this act of arson has caused well over \$3,000 in damages.

A second fire, set by the arsonists, was discovered in the Dairy Barn at the Lowell 4-H Fairgrounds on South Hudson Street, where 10 large boats were in winter storage.

Damage to the structure and contents may go as high as \$65,000.

The State Fire Marshall, and confessions by those arrested, confirmed earlier suspicions by officers that the fires were set with flammables.

"Release of the names of those persons involved is pending further investigation, and the possibility of more arrests," Police Chief Barry Emmons said.

While the little kids were out trick or treating, as usual, seemingly unconcerned about the miserable rain and cold, the Lowell Police were kept busy squelching minor incidents, and investigating destructive acts of major concern.

1893 - 1993

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# Looking Back.. through the years 1973-1982

by Marc Popiolek  
Contributing Writer

The seventies brought the end to the war in Vietnam and the beginning of cable TV, an energy crisis and the Gus Macker Tournament.

The Gus Macker of today was started in the driveway of Scott McNeal in 1973. The tournament would not get much press coverage until 1976, but would grow to such

large numbers it would have to move to a new site by the end of this decade.

The energy crisis would grip not only the country but also the Lowell area. The Ledger was filled with articles and ads explaining the best way to save energy and why it is needed. The crisis included rationing electricity and gasoline. Lines would form at many local gas stations because of the shortage.

The showboat made news several times. Vandalism played a big part in the history of the showboat. On Halloween night 1976 the showboat was damaged severely due to a fire. Also at this time a new amphitheater was constructed.

The weather was not kind to citizens with major storms hitting the area in the summer as well as the winter. The centuries worst blizzard crippled the city in 1978.

Cable TV was introduced in the late 70's and by 1982 Lowell's Light and Power Company was given the right to operate the Lowell's Cable system.

The Ledger went through some major changes, first a new editor, Roger Brown was named and then the Ledger scaled down in size. In the following decade it would change its name back to the Lowell Ledger instead of the Grand Valley Ledger.

Aug. 26, 1976

## Wire Processing Company Sets Up Operation Here

Michigan Wire Processing Company, Incorporated, specialists in the storage and processing of hot rolled bar coil stock, announced recently that it was establishing its new manufacturing operation in a 15,000 sq. ft. facility in Lowell, 138 Water Street.

coating of bar coil stock are among the present services offered by the new company.

In the near future, Deitrick expects to add annealing and phosphate coating of bar coil stock to his list of customer services.

The announcement was made by the company president, Donald J. Deitrick, who said his firm will begin operations with six employees. He expects that number to increase to 12 within four months, and to 20 within 14 months, depending on sales.

Michigan Wire Processing was incorporated on May 28, 1976, to service the cold-heading industries. Pickling and lime

service operation. We service Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Deitrick cited several factors that were instrumental in his firm's decision to locate in the Grand Rapids region.

"First", he said, "the Grand Rapids area offers us a good geographical base for our operations."

Second, the Lowell site gives us a suitable existing building and the assurance of sufficient utilities to meet our current and future requirements.

Third, the Grand Rapids area has an excellent labor climate and good workers.

"We are in a position to receive and store hot rolled bar coil stock," he said, "and then process it to the customer's requirements. This service greatly reduces the inventory and handling costs of our customers because they no longer will need the large amount of inside storage space previously required."

"We are basically a customer

Fourth, we are assured of adequate housing for ourselves and our future employees.

And finally, the cooperation by local officials, and especially the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce played a major role in our decision. Bill Doyle and Tony Jarrett were always ready with the right information when we needed it, and they helped us every step of the way."

William Doyle is vice president of Union Bank and Trust Co. and serves on the Chamber Board. He is also chairman of the Chamber's Metropolitan Area Economic Committee and a past chairman of the Chamber's Business Development Committee.

Anthony Jarrett is director of economic development for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

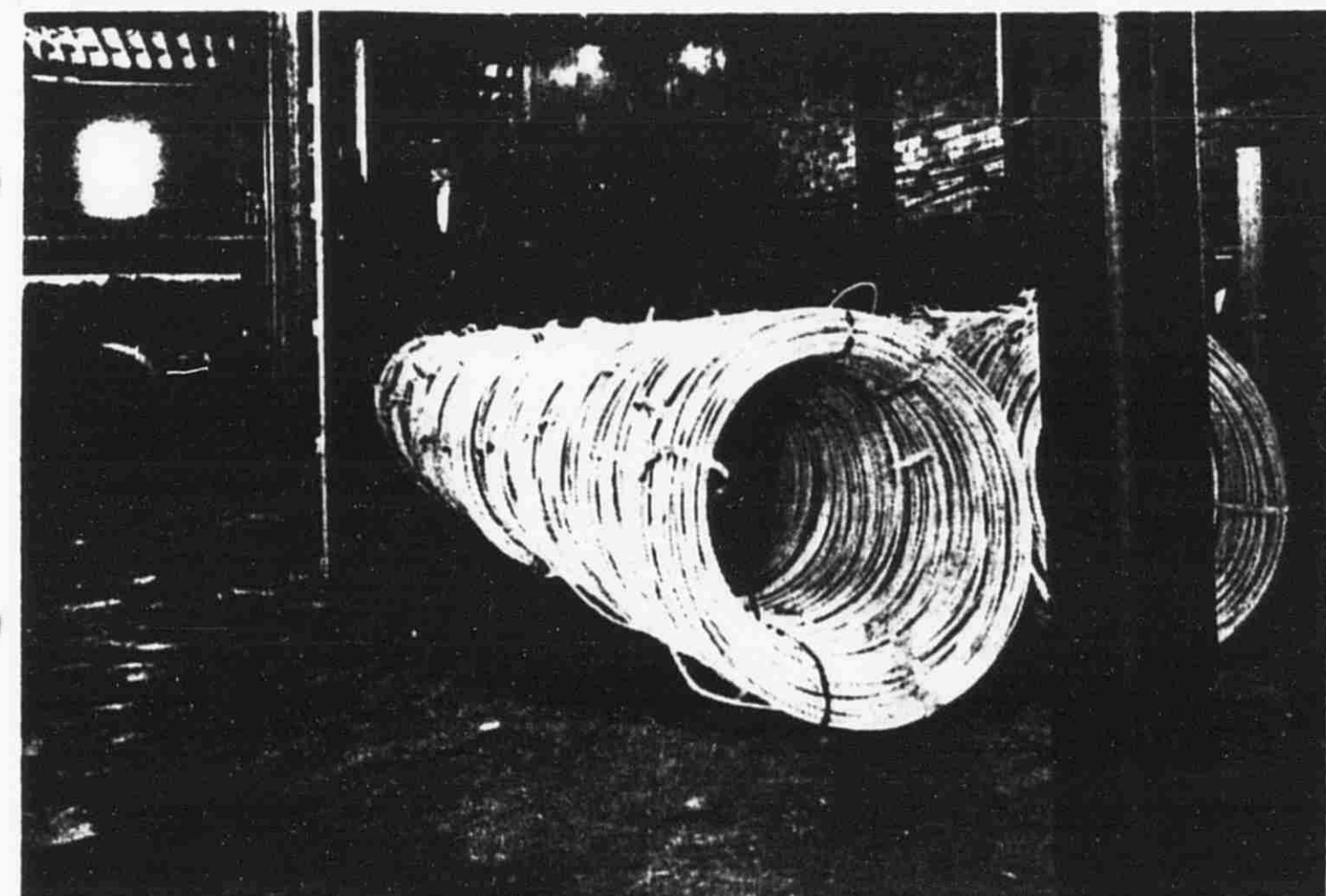
The Chamber's first contact with Michigan Wire was in April, 1976, the firm looked at several sites before selecting Lowell.

"We wanted to set up operations as quickly as possible," Deitrick said, "and that required an existing building."

The plant occupies 15,000 sq. ft., with 100,000 sq. ft. of outside storage area surrounding it.

Principals in the new firm and their credentials are: Donald J. Deitrick: President, Bachelor of Chemical Engineering Degree, University of Detroit; Master of Science in Metallurgical Engineering, University of Michigan; 7 years experience as Plant Metallurgist, 21 years Manager of a large Commercial Heat Treating operation which included facilities for annealing, pickling, lime coating and phosphate coating of bar coil stock.

Donald R. Fizer: Vice President and Plant Manager, 8 years experience as Superintendent of Cold Extrusion operation, including coating line, 6 years Manager of a phosphate coating and plating plant.



## Former Ledger Editor Harold Jefferies Dies

Funeral services are being scheduled to be held this Thursday afternoon, July 14, at the First Congregational Church of Lowell, at 2 p.m. for Harold Francis Jefferies, former editor and publisher of the Lowell Ledger for 20 years, and Lowell City Councilman.

Mr. Jefferies, 60, of 504 Lincoln Lake Avenue, Lowell, died suddenly Sunday afternoon, July 10, enroute to a Traverse City Hospital, after suffering an apparent heart attack at his cottage on Torch Lake, where he was vacationing with his family.

Dr. Richard Greenwood of the First Congregational Church of Lowell will officiate at the services, and interment will follow in Lowell's Oakwood Cemetery.

The son of Newton and Frances (Peer) Beech, he was born August 24, 1916, in Jackson, Michigan. He came to Lowell in 1930, when his father, Remmick Jefferies, bought the Lowell Ledger. He graduated from Lowell High School in 1934.

He studied journalism at Grand Rapids Junior College and served with the Army Press Corps in Japan in 1945, as a correspondent for the "Stars and Stripes."

He became managing editor of the Ledger in 1948, and took over the ownership of the business upon the death of Mr. Jefferies in 1953.

When he sold the newspaper in 1968, he became a right-of-

way buyer for the Kent County Road Commission, a position he held for seven years. For the past year, he has worked part-time for the Department of Public Works as a right-of-way buyer.

Besides his work, Jeff served his community in many capacities. He served on the Lowell

City Council from 1968 to 1977; serving a one year term (1970-71) as mayor. He was the council's representative on the Lowell City Planning Commission from 1970 to 1975.

Besides being on the Board of Directors of the Lowell Savings and Loan Association, he was a member of the First Congregational Church of Lowell, having served as a trustee for six years and a deacon for seven years.

He was a former member of the Lowell Board of Trade, serving as its president in 1955, and was a past member of the Lowell Rotary Club, Lowell Moose Lodge, the Michigan Press Association, and the Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152 of Lowell.

For many years, he was publicity chairman and secretary of the Board for the Lowell Showboat.

He is survived by his wife, the former Florence Kidder whom he married on June 20, 1963; and two sons, Kirk of Portsmouth, Virginia and Scot, of Kalamazoo.

1893 - 1993

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Happy 100th Birthday!

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# Storm Rips Through Lowell

At precisely 4:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 19, a tornado, or at the very least, an incredibly strong wind struck at the very heart of Lowell. As the sun rose, residents stared in disbelief at their beloved Showboat which lay in splinters atop its own dock and stage. The huge steeple that has graced the Methodist Church for over one hundred years lay in the church yard. Everywhere lay mammoth shade trees, limbs, electrical wires, and debris of every description.

Miraculously... thankfully... virtually no injuries were reported, the only exception known to the Ledger were minor cuts and bruises suffered by the occupants of a mobile home which was tipped over by the storm. Everywhere were close calls, if this tree had tipped that way, or if the steeple had toppled the other way or if they hadn't gotten up to close the windows. Nearly everyone in the section of the city battered worst by the storm begins their recount of the ordeal with "thank God..."

The people of Lowell may have been lucky, but the property did not fare so well. The single most expensive bit of destruction dealt out by the storm was of course the famous Lowell Showboat. According to boat maintenance chairman Jim Hall, the boat must have been lifted to a considerable height (15-20 feet) and then flipped upside-down to rest on the concrete stage. Needless to say, the Showboat is in splinters and if replaced, will have to be done so board-by-board. Initial cost estimates a new Showboat range from fifty to sixty thousand dollars. The Showboat is not insured because the cost of insurance is far too great to be practical.

But already, many steps are being taken for the replacement of the Showboat. A workday is scheduled for this Saturday, August 26 at 8 a.m. City trucks have been lined up to haul away the debris and anyone able to, is urged to come and help. Please bring crowbar, hammer, broom, gloves, etc.

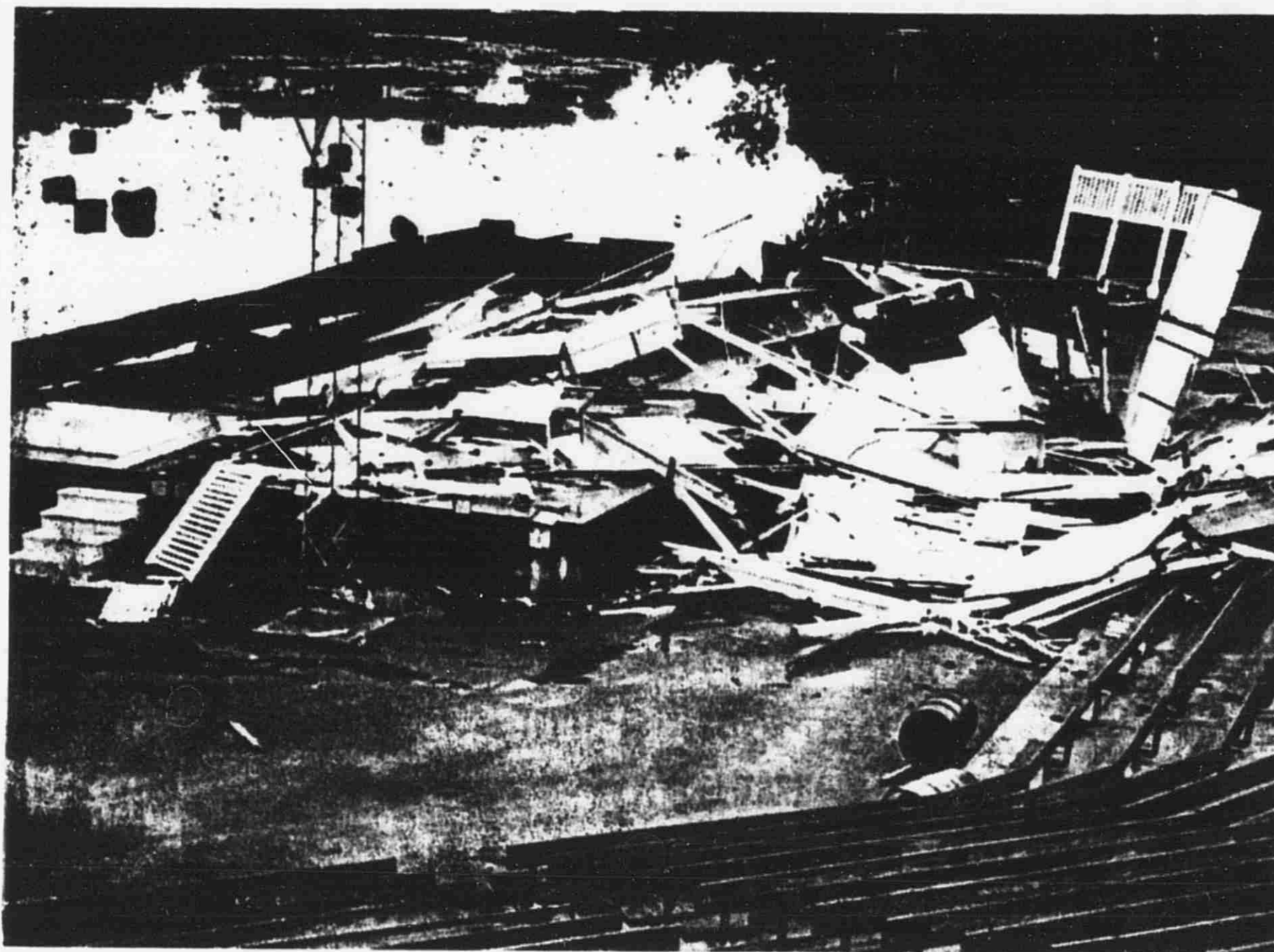
Don Rocheleau, president of Attwood Corporation announced on Monday, that Attwood will be donating \$2,000 toward replacing the Showboat. Rocheleau accepted chairmanship of a committee to seek donations from area manufacturers and other businesses, also to be used for replacing the historic boat.

Other fund raising campaigns are already being planned and news of some of these will appear in future Ledgers.

Many Showboat board members however, are not so optimistic, knowing from past experience how difficult it is to raise such large sums of money. Several Showboat supporters doubt if a new boat can be financed and built in time for next year's program.

The Lowell United Methodist Church was also hard-hit as its landmark steeple was toppled by the storm. With many volunteer hands working all day Saturday, the gaping hole in the church tower was sealed off and the church was readied for a 5 p.m. wedding ceremony. Normal services were also held on Sunday.

To try to list any more of the damage specifically would be futile as the destruction was so extensive. A rough description of the storm's path would show it moving west to east and angling slightly to the south with the worst damage commencing west of Richard's Park, then across the Flat River to the Showboat then intersecting Main Street in the vicinity of Lipperts, then following Main



The Lowell Showboat which less than a month ago was steaming around Cattal Bend in all her glory, was reduced to the above pictured mass of rubble by the windstorm. The light towers at either end of the stage incredibly escaped being damaged and must have been missed only by inches when the debris from the Showboat was hurled past. A volunteer work day is scheduled for Saturday, August 26, to clean up the mess.

More Storm Photos  
On Back Page

(M-21) east out of town for at least a mile causing severe damage to either side of the road. The swath of destruction left by the storm ranged from one to two city blocks wide in most places.

There is considerable controversy as to whether the storm was in fact a tornado or merely a terrific straight line wind. One would be hard pressed to find a Lowell resident who would call it anything but a tornado while chief meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Grand Rapids insists that it was straight wind.

Whatever it was, the damage was done and repair and clean-up operations began around the city even before dawn. Lowell's police, fire, D.P.W. and scores of volunteers put in a long weekend clearing the streets of trees, power lines, debris and the curious onlookers. Volunteers from other municipalities also aided in the clean-up operation. The Ledger is aware of at least these: the Kent Co. Road Commission, Kent Co. Sheriff's Dept., Muir Fire Dept., Bowne Twp. Fire Dept., and the Michigan State Police.

The curious who had swarmed into town from all over the state, became such a problem that at about noon, City Manager, Ray Quada shut off M-21 from Montcalm Avenue to Hudson Street. All M-21 traffic was routed north to Fallsburg and then south again with no one allowed into the heavily damaged area.

At the time the storm hit, electrical power was lost to about 90 percent of the city. On the west side where damage was slight, power was restored in about an hour. The east side of the city was a much different story, many businesses and residences did not have their power restored until Sunday.

The Lowell Cut-Rate (Gary's Quality Meats) had the Ada Beef Company haul away all of their perishable meat so that it wouldn't spoil. Many other businesses on Main Street simply

did not open Saturday—or at least closed early.

The storm seemed to bring out the best of most residents as everywhere were people helping however they could. There were reports of a couple from Detroit who are avid Showboat support-

ers, driving all the way to Lowell to do whatever they could to help. It was reported to the Ledger that Lucchesi's Pizza House cooked and donated food to the volunteer clean-up crews. And Lowell sounded like a lumber camp with chain saws

buzzing everywhere as neighbor helped neighbor with clearing the brush, limbs and trees.

As bad as it was, the whole ordeal was probably best summed up by Paul Erickson, owner of Paul's Showboat Restaurant, when he said, "we were lucky."

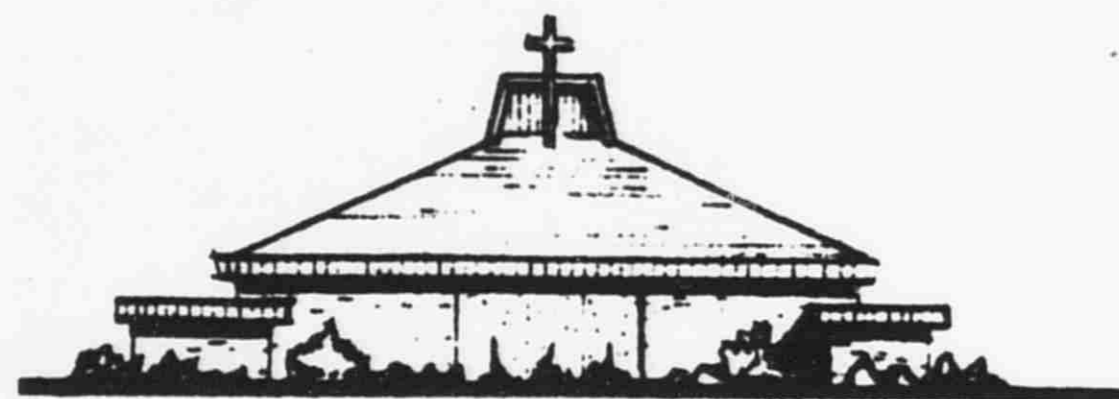


Ripping the steeple off from the First United Methodist Church of Lowell was one of the most sensational bits of destruction that the wind dealt out. The belfry portion of the steeple is more than 100 years old, but the very top section of the structure was erected in 1967.

# Will Break Ground In Spring



SOUTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

St. Mary's Catholic Church of Lowell will break ground in the spring for their new church which will be situated at Amity and Howard Streets. The East Elevation shown here will face Amity and the South Elevation will face St. Mary's elementary school. The latter includes plans for the rectory at the left of the South Elevation drawing. The low central portion is the main entrance to the large church vestibule. Entry to the church and chapel is made through the vestibule as well as entry to the offices, rectory and eventually to a parish hall, to be constructed in the future.

Jan. 30, 1980

# Ledger changes size, heads, price

If you haven't noticed some changes in your Ledger this week, there's something wrong with your eyesight.

The most notable change of course, is the size. We have gone from a broadsheet format to what is called a tabloid or tab format. There are many advantages to this from our standpoint, one being that the tab size is easier to work with and gives the paper twice as many pages, allowing for more flexibility. An example would be that in the past we have always had to combine society notes (weddings and such) with the church news. Now each can have their own page in most cases.

From the advertiser's point of view, the tab size is advantageous because the page size is smaller and an ad is not as apt to get "lost". Also, because there are more pages, we will be less forced

to put two restaurant ads or two automobile ads on the same page.

We feel that most readers will appreciate the tabloid format also. The smaller size makes the paper easier to read whether you are holding it or spreading it out on a table or desk.

If there are so many advantages to the tabloid size, why then haven't we gone to it before this? Well, mostly tradition. The Ledger has been in existence since 1893 and has always been a broadsheet paper, and that's a long time to get into the habit of being a broadsheet.

You may have noticed that we have changed the type

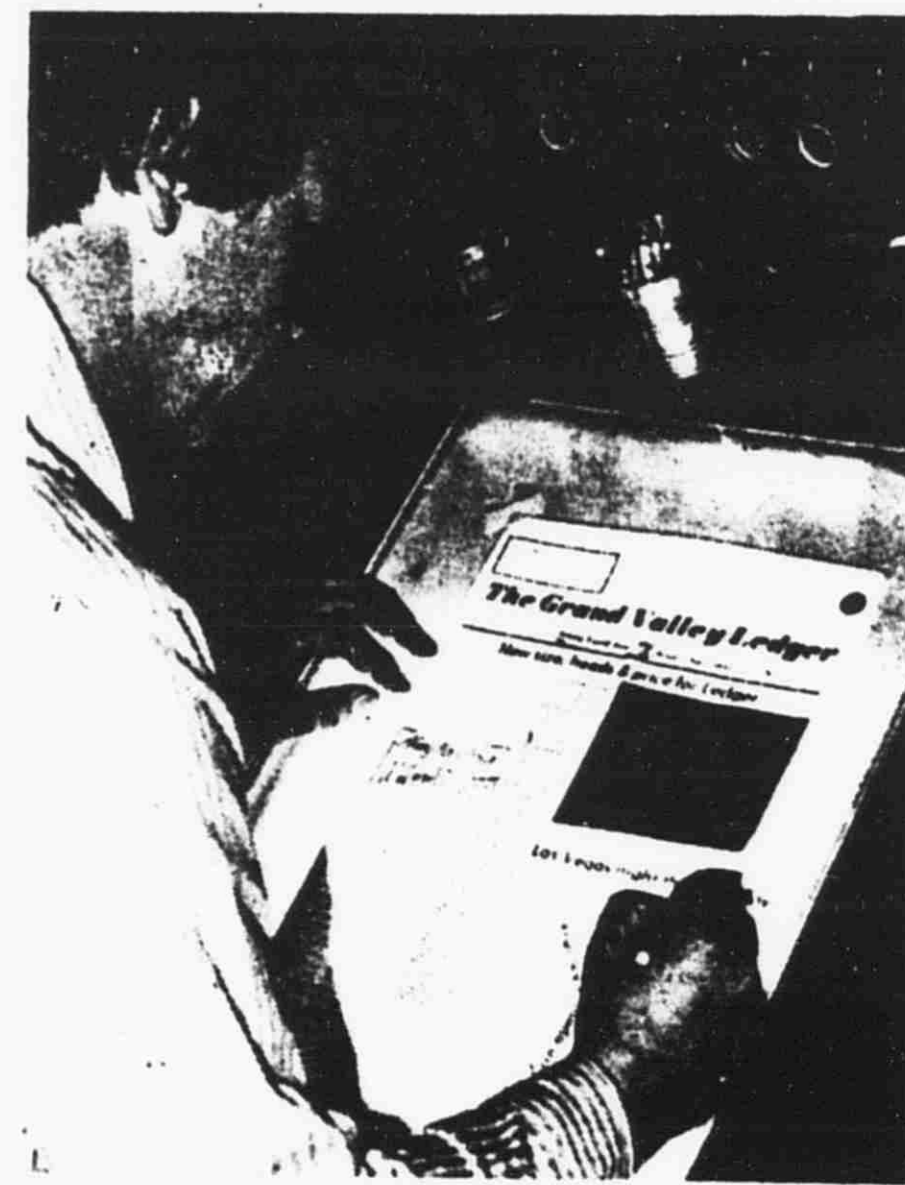
face used in our headlines and that we have gone to a "down style" head. Down style simply means that only the first word in a head and proper nouns are capitalized. Our old format was upper

and lower with the first letter in every word being capitalized in our headlines. We feel that the down style heads are easier to read and make for a cleaner looking paper. You may also notice that the heads are centered instead of being flush left.

As long as we were changing things, we also decided that it was time to change the price of the Ledger. We have raised the newsstand price from fifteen to twenty cents and the in-county subscription rate from \$5.00 to \$6.00. Out of county subscription rates have also gone up, raising from \$6.50 to \$8.00.

Now before you get excited about the price increase, let us tell you when these prices were last raised. On July 4, 1974, the Ledger went from ten to fifteen cents on the newsstand and from \$4.00 to \$5.00 for an in-county subscription. We all know what has happened to other prices since then.

We hope you enjoy your new Ledger. We're certainly excited about it and are looking forward to working with the new format.



Ledger Editor, Roger Brown begins work on the front page of the paper's first tabloid size issue. Much work has gone into the changeover from broadsheet to tab size.

# Work begins on island park

April 9, 1980

Some of Lowell's old-timers may remember when the island in the Flat River below the Main St. dam was cleared off and used as a park. But, for most of us, the island will be a new and interesting park.

The city has applied for and obtained a four person crew with 100% funding through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act. (C.E.T.A.) for the purpose of clearing off the island and finishing the riverbank rehabilitation along the east side of the river. The project was scheduled to begin Tuesday morning following final approval by the City Council on Monday night. The C.E.T.A. employees are slated to work on the project for a full eight months.

Transportation to the island is a problem that has not

yet been resolved. When the island was cleared before, a catwalk was constructed along the railroad trestle which crosses it with steps leading down onto the island. This is again a possibility. A bridge across the short distance from the east bank to the island has been proposed. Because of the heavy flooding in the spring, such a bridge would have to be either removable, or built so soundly that the cost would almost certainly be prohibitive.

A small, hand-operated ferry tethered on a cable from the shore to the island, is another possibility being looked into.

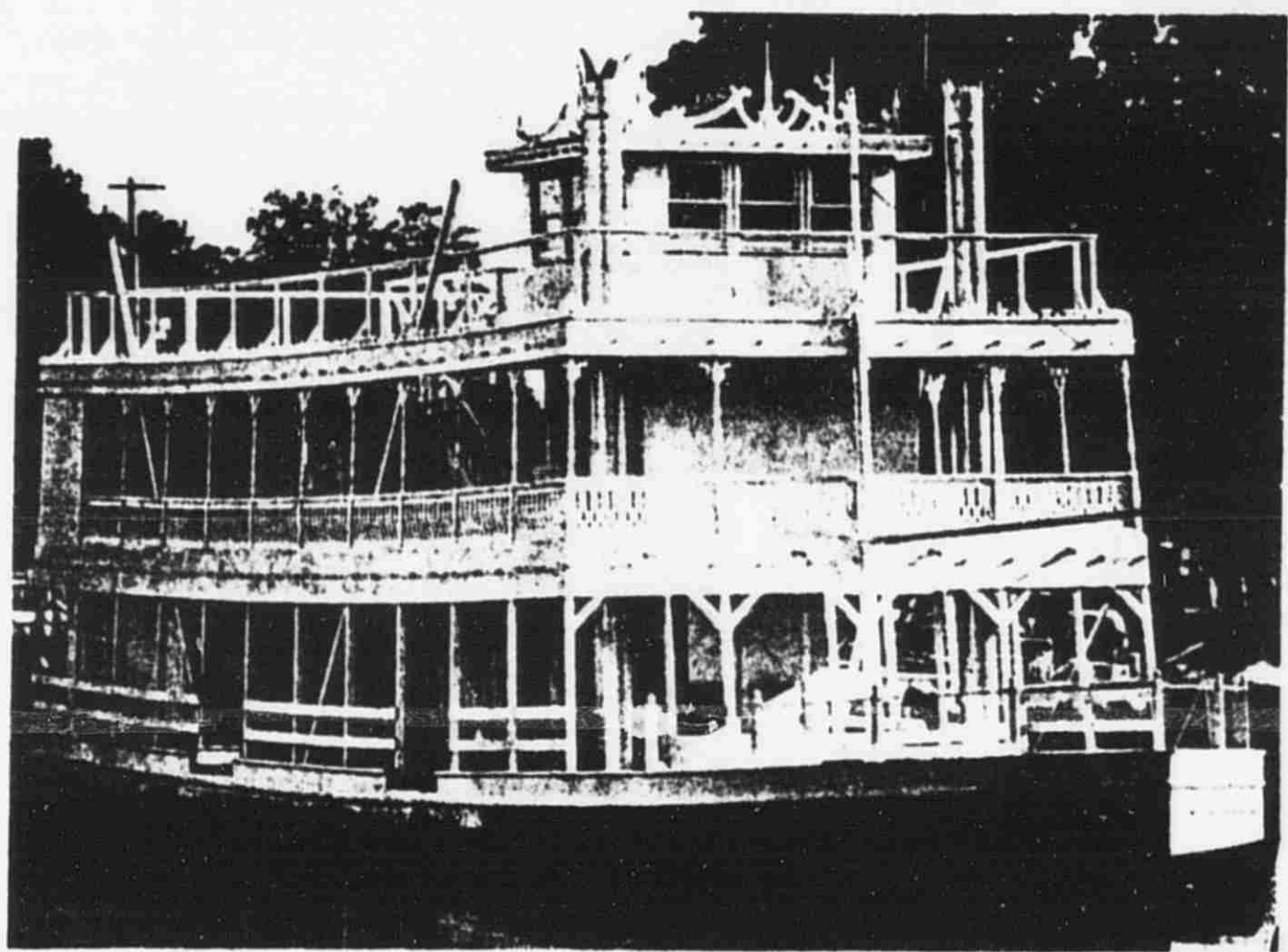
Because of the spring flooding, any permanent development of the island will be limited. For now the city's plans for it are pretty well

confined to clearing it, planting grass, and hauling some picnic tables out there.

There are actually two islands involved, the northernmost being the smaller measuring about 100' x 175'. About 30' downstream is the larger island which measures nearly 1,000' in length and varies from 60' to 230' in width. There are other islands farther downstream, but there are no immediate plans for their development.



# Progress Report



Paint, paint, and more paint is the order of the day at the new Lowell Showboat these days. Ivan Blough and his crew have just about completed their work on the boat with the exception of finishing the interior of the star's dressing room which now has the green light. Because of the donation of a \$1,000 credit memo at Erb Lumber and the donation of drapes and carpeting by two Grand Rapids firms, the Showboat Board of Directors has decided to expend the \$500 needed for labor on the project. Painting the boat between now and Showboat time is still the biggest hurdle. The two coats of white are nearing completion and the volunteer painting crew is getting ready to start applying the various colors. The electricians on the job are nearing completion of their work and are scheduling a test of all the circuits sometime this week.

First Time In Lowell System Sept. 4, 1978

## Teachers Strike!



Lowell Education Association's negotiating team proclaims their availability to negotiate with this huge sign. Looks like they will have to wait for a State mediator to arrive before the Board will agree to any further talks. Pictured are, L-R: Gall Lycos, Lillian Stoner, Gary Rivers, Gwen Eskes, Margaret Hoats and Tim Hawkins.

"might" snow, it "might" rain, it "might" be sunny and mild and/or all of the above.

It's certain that February has been the coldest month in many a year. The Associated Press reports that four of the five Great Lakes are frozen over for the first time on record. Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie went solid across the top over the weekend. The Flat and Grand Rivers are solid as well. Area enforcement agencies caution that walking on the ice, however, could be dangerous since it is frozen at uneven depths.

Warmer temperatures are predicted this week but area residents are unsure whether their outdoor thermometers will register the change. They may be permanently bent at 20 below!

### SPECTACULAR

One of nature's most spectacular events—a solar eclipse—will be visible from nearly all of North America including Michigan on Monday, Feb. 26.

1973  
1982

July 10, 1979

## Showboat Is Officially "Re-Floated"

"It was like opening night of Showboat. The color, thrills and excitement were everywhere!"

This was the impression of a veteran Showboat worker as he watched the new Robert E. Lee, decked out in red-white-and-blue bunting, cruise the Flat River on her official Maiden Voyage last Friday evening.

As the Mississippi River style paddle wheeler churned the Flat River, music supplied by the Showboat Orchestra on board filled the air. The banks were lined with well wishers from Lowell and nearby communities. They, too, were proud, pleased and excited that what seemed so impossible nearly a year ago was steaming graciously up the Flat.

As 166 passengers walked the decks and leaned over the rails, friends exchanged greetings and "posed" for those on the river side with their cameras flashing. Nearly 200 of those on the banks during the first run hurried to Riverside Amphitheatre to climb aboard for the second journey, and those aboard took their places on the banks with their cameras.

On the first run, the brand new Robert E. Lee ran amuck on one of the small weedy islands that dot the river while 12 press and TV members recorded the first voyage and its minor misadventures. It took a shifting of passengers from one side to the other, a pull from the Kent County Sheriff Department's patrol boat and a little leverage from the crew with planks to get the boat back on course. The delay was only 10 minutes but it brought chuckles from the passengers.

There was added excitement on the second voyage when the 93 foot boat came too close to the bank and hit ground. It damaged one of the front boards but officials said the damage was slight and would be fixed immediately.

When both of the 40 minute runs were completed, Showboat officials proclaimed the craft ready for the 1979 edition of Showboat. This year's star is standout vocalist and popular TV personality and vocalist Leslie Uggams. She will headline a heavy cast of entertainers for Showboat Week, July 23-28.

"We were pleased and thrilled about the new Robert E. Lee.

The test cruises were nearly perfect and there is no major work left to be done on her. She's ready for Showboat Week at last," explained Jim Hall, one of the designers of the \$67,000 stern wheeler.

The Maiden Voyage provided several firsts for many area Showboat workers. It marked the first cruise ever for Ed Kiel who has served in many capacities on the Showboat committee for over 25 years. It was also the first trip ever on the Showboat for Gerry Buck, wife of veteran endman Forrest Buck.

"This trip was much smoother than the one in 1932. It was like floating on glass," said Lowell's Marion Cary when he stepped off the boat after its first run. Cary was aboard the shakedown run of the first Showboat in 1932 and his family surprised him Friday night with a ticket to get him on board again. "I thought we were just coming over here to watch and along comes my daughter with a ticket," said Cary with a wide smile.

For hundreds of people who witnessed the Friday unveiling it was a night to remember. The picture of the devastation caused by a heavy wind storm last August 14 contrasted sharply with the stately riverboat. For a while last summer it appeared that the 45 year Showboat tradition was scuttled but community pride salvaged at least the spirit of the shattered Robert E. Lee. The community made the commitment to rebuild the boat, only bigger and better.

Thanks to the hard work and many community projects, more than \$60,000 was raised to build the Robert E. Lee. The revenue taken in on Friday was deposited in the Re-float the Showboat campaign fund.

As the new Robert E. Lee was cruising the river, memories of chicken dinners, raffle tickets, Vegas Night, planning sessions, painting sessions and all the hours of hard work of countless people were foremost in the passenger's minds. And as the riverboat docked, Lowell area residents looked forward with pride to the greatest Showboat Week ever.

1973  
1982

## Retiring after 15 years with Ledger



Marguerite MacNaughton

This Friday will mark the end of over fifteen years that Maggie MacNaughton has worked at the Ledger. Maggie will be joining her husband Don "Mag" MacNaughton in retirement and is no doubt looking forward to life at a bit slower pace than a newspaper office.

Maggie has been the Ledger's principle typesetter during her years here with her experience dating back to keypunching ticker tape to be fed into the old Linotype's teletype system. From there she became the principle typesetter on the Ledger's IBM composing equipment when the paper went offset in 1968 and in 1975 Maggie

was trained on and has since operated the business' Computergraphic computerized typesetting equipment. Some of Maggie's other duties have included secretarial work, bookkeeping and being a receptionist. To say she is going to be missed here is putting it mildly.

The Ledger will be hosting an Open House in Maggie's honor from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and it is hoped that her many friends and acquaintances from over the years will stop by.

Optometrist opens practice here



Dr. David G. Durkee

Herbert Mueller, O.D. has announced his association with David G. Durkee, O.D.

Dr. Durkee, formerly from Fremont, MI, attended Michigan State University as an undergraduate studying medical technology before attending professional school. He graduated with high honors from the Ferris State College of Optometry in May of 1981, after four years of extensive classroom and clinical instruction.

Dr. Durkee's internship at Ferris State lasted one and one-half years before his senior externship to Detroit where he examined patients and conducted research. His

research with lasers and the human eye was cited for one of thirteen awards given nationally for outstanding optometric research in 1981.

While attending Ferris Dr. Durkee was involved in many professional student organizations, including Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honorary leadership society.

Dr. Durkee is pleased at the opportunity to be in Lowell, an area he feels he knows well. His father, Gordon Durkee, is formerly of Ionia and Lake Odessa and his mother, the former Shirline Tucker, is a native of Saranac. He has many relatives in the Lowell area.

Besides practicing here, he also instructs senior optometry students from Ferris State at Jackson State Prison one day a week. Dr. Durkee specializes in General Optometry, Pediatrics, Contact Lenses, and some work with the partially sighted. He is also available to speak on a variety of vision care topics to any church or community group upon request.

Examinations are by appointment only, and can be made by calling 897-7780.

Lowell City Council Jan. 21, 1981

## Bridge closer to a reality

A new bridge over the Grand River at Division Street in Lowell came one step closer to reality Monday night at a public hearing to assess the type of bridge to be built and the environmental impact of such a bridge. Several people were in attendance at the hearing held during the Lowell City Council's regular meeting of January 19. Those voicing opinions were unanimously in favor of the proposal from the City's engineering firm recommending the demolition of the old bridge and the construction of a new structure on the same site.

Most of the preliminary paperwork required by the state and federal governments for funding have been completed and a tentative

schedule calls for wrapping things up by March 10 of this year and opening bids on April 21. If no serious delays are incurred, demolition of the old bridge could begin in May, construction of the new bridge could start in early summer with completion coming by early December of this year.

The bridge proposed for construction by R.S. Scott Associates of Alpena calls for a structure consisting of four 90 foot spans fabricated from pre-stressed concrete slabs. The spans will be supported by five pylons, each sunk four feet below the river bottom. The bridge will be 33 feet wide consisting of two twelve foot traffic lanes, two six foot walkways, and an-

other two feet to accommodate the railings. The railings will be concrete with an aluminum upper rail allowing motorists to view the river. The total span of 360 feet is longer than the existing structure to allow for free passage of river even during flood stage, a Department of Natural Resources requirement. The south end of the bridge will be about five feet higher than present, to allow for free water passage during the river's flood stages, and the north end will be located slightly east of the present location to allow a better view of traffic approaching from the north.

Total construction cost of the new bridge is estimated at \$974,000, including ap-

proach work. The City's share in this is, all of the engineering costs plus ten percent of construction costs estimated to add up to \$65,000 to \$70,000.

Although it seems like a long time since the bridge was closed in March of 1979, especially to those who used the bridge regularly, the procurement of funding has progressed much more quickly than most other municipalities needing new bridges are experiencing.

City Manager Ray Quada gives credit to the City's engineering firm, Fishbeck, Thompson, Huber and Carr for their efforts in speeding this project through the state and federal bureaucracies.

Aug. 21, 1981

## Still no agreement reached in school/union negotiations

There is still no formal agreement between negotiators for the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education and its teachers, leaving the district's schoolchildren somewhat in limbo.

According to Superintendent Don Kelly, negotiators met last Monday, Aug. 17, without coming to final agreement. There have been no formal negotiations since but a meeting is set for this Friday, Aug. 28.

Unless something drastic happens this weekend, school is scheduled to open on Monday, Aug. 31. Adjusted starting and dismissal times for each school are as follows: Alto, 9:00-2:30; Bushnell, 8:50-2:20; Runciman/Riverside, 8:50-2:20; Middle School, 9:00-2:35; High School, 8:55-2:30.

According to Ledger

sources, financial matters were nearing settlement at the negotiations table. Thorny issues to be resolved are items such as layoff and recall language, notification of layoff, class size language and transfer language. Several of these items are regarded by the board as purely management rights, thus the disagreement.

Last week's issue of the Ledger contains full school opening information, including bus routes. The information is also contained in the Lowell Area Schools Newsletter which should reach all district homes this week.

Unless there is public notification to the contrary, via radio and television, the buses will roll on Monday morning for the beginning of the 1981-82 school year.



### MIGHTIE MONTH

March could well be called Michigan's "mightie" month. It



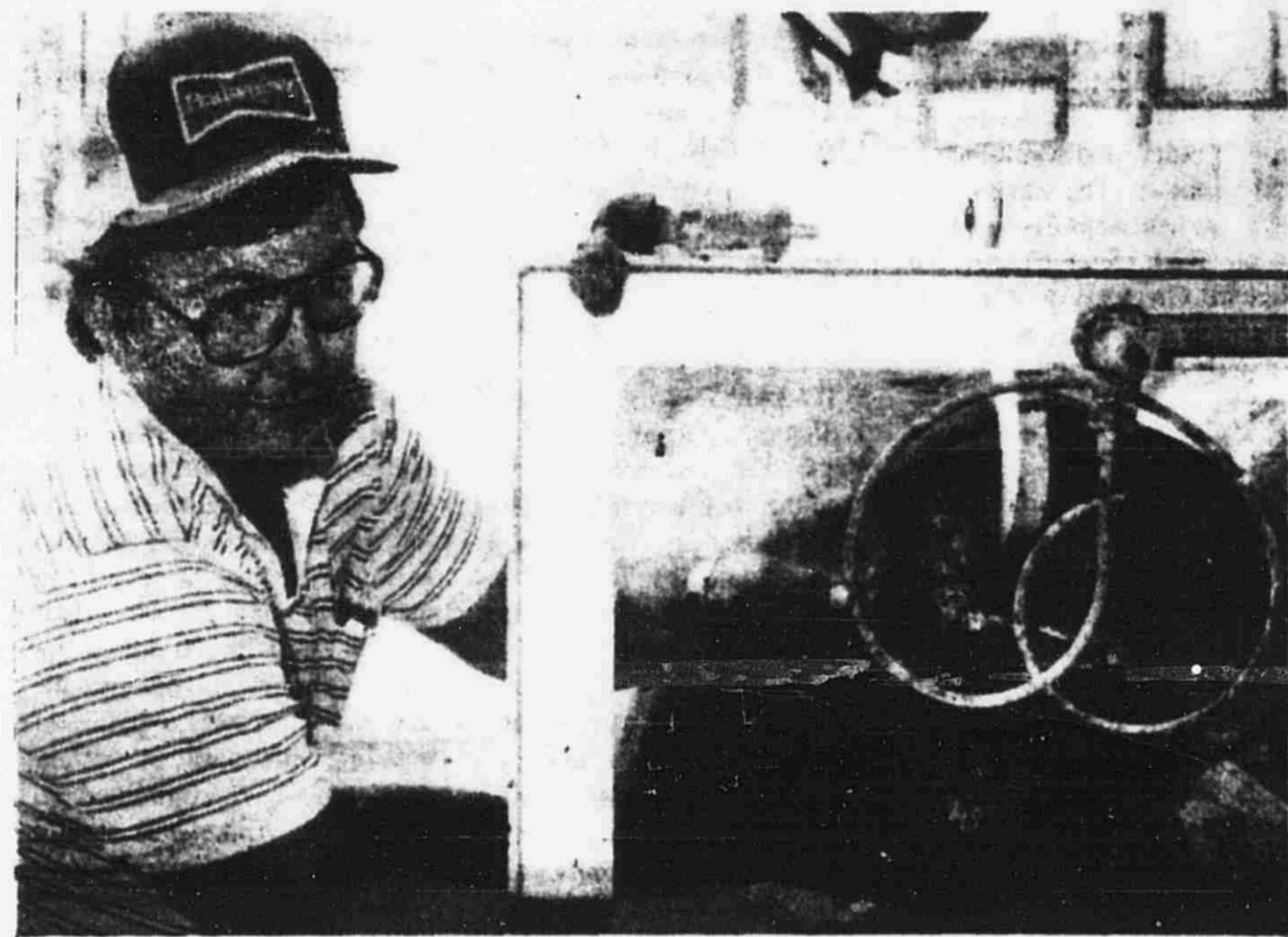
1983 1992

# 1,000 residents evacuated by chlorine gas leak

that the deadly chlorine gas was drifting off to northeast and called for an evacuation of the city's east side. The sewage treatment plant is located about two blocks south of Main Street on the west bank of the Flat River. About sixty volunteer firemen, regular and reserve police, and emergency medical personnel began blocking streets, and alerting residents by going door to door and by using the public address systems on city vehicles.

People evacuating their homes were told to drive to the high school or middle school parking lots and wait for an "all clear". East-west traffic through the city was re-routed to the north, and all streets in the endangered area were blocked. The "all clear" came shortly after 10:00 A.M., and the city returned to normal, with the only exception being the sewage treatment plant.

Martin estimated that about 400 pounds of the chlorine gas leaked from the corroded soft copper line leading from one of four 1,000 pound tanks located in the facility. The chlorine is used as a disinfectant in the sewage treatment process, but when it contacts metals it is highly corrosive. The chlorine gas impregnated everything in the facility.



Lowell sewage treatment plant operator Frank Martin holds the culprit piece of soft copper tubing that corroded through the caused the leak. The 1,000 pound tank that the tube was attached to contained only an estimated 400 pounds of chlorine gas when the leak developed. The tank was empty by the time the mishap was discovered.

About 1,000 Lowellites were rudely awakened Sunday morning and forced to evacuate their homes. Lowell sewage treatment plant operator Frank Martin was making a routine inspection and lab analysis of the city's sewage treatment plant at about 8:00 A.M. Sunday when he discovered a chlorine gas leak at the facility. Martin said, "I saw a green cloud drifting near the ground on the northeast end of the building as I drove up". "I knew right away what it was, and sounded the alarm". Martin is

also the city fire chief, and within minutes two volunteer firemen wearing breathing apparatus were inside the building and immediately shut off the leading to the leaking copper line.

In the meantime police and fire officials, along with city manager Ray Quada determined

Dec. 7, 1983

# Six businesses closed or closing this month

A rash of merchants located in the west end of Lowell's central business district have either closed, or have announced their closing in the near future. Bif's Ranch House on Riverside Drive just north of Main Street will close as of Saturday, December 10 and The Video Wizard will close on Friday, December 9. B

& M Furniture located at 221 closed last week, and next door, Riverside Fireplace Shoppe has not been open for nearly three weeks. The House of Townsend has been in the process of going out of business for some time, and has recently been operating in conjunction with Larry the Liquidator. Larry has announced that the going out of business sale will last just seven more days, and a big auction will be held on the premises on December 16, 17 and 18. Following the auction the Townsends will close the doors on the business at

216 West Main that they have operated for 53 years. And just two blocks to the west, the Lowell Sunoco gas station has closed.

The closing of these six businesses combined with the already vacant Hill's Shoe Store, Dick and Owen's Barber Shop and the vacant building on the corner of Broadway and Main bring the total of closed or soon to be closed businesses in this section of the city to nine.

Owners of these businesses cite various reasons for closing, but all obviously boil down to the bottom line: no profits. Mel Byington, owner of B & M Furniture said, "There's a lot of traffic in this town, but nobody stops to buy". Byington says he hopes to reopen his store in another community in the spring. Stanlee Johnson, owner of Riverside Fireplace Shoppe, Inc. says that he is closed "temporarily", but can't comment any further about

the future of his business. Bif Tickler, who owns and operates Bif's Ranch House says that her only alternative to closing was to open evenings, but she decided that there were too many hours for too little profit to attempt that. Tickler also noted that there is tremendous competition in the restaurant business in Lowell, and "we all have the same things". The building and equipment is owned by her father, and they are looking for someone to lease the business.

We were unable to contact anyone regarding the Sunoco station, and do not know exactly when it closed, and if there are any plans to reopen it.

In talking with the owners of most of these businesses the age old problems of parking, proximity to the malls, and the recent sluggish economy seemed to top the list of their reasons for closing. In many cases there also seemed to be an apprehension

about the proposed mall, and the increased competition that it might bring. In an effort to update the status of a west end mall we found that things are pretty much in a holding pattern.

The property just west of the new apartment buildings near Valley Vista that was rezoned for commercial use as a proposed site for a mall earlier this year, has been sold. The East Lansing Realty and Development Co., owned the property and saw it through the rezoning process while proposing the construction of a 55, 800 square foot mall. Once the property was rezoned, East Lansing Realty sold it, or at least sold an option on it, and that it is now under the control of Family Foods, a Grand Rapids based grocery chain. A spokesman for Family Foods said that the purchase of the property was merely speculative, and that they

had no immediate plans for it. Anthoer 27 acre parcel further west on Main Street, and owned by developer William Shurlow of Caledonia is also a possibility for a new mall. Shurlow and a partner, William Hitchcock own a 66,000 square foot mall in Caledonia. Hitchcock says that they are actively pursuing a mall on their Lowell Property, but they are not going to make any announcements until they are actually ready to begin construction. As Hitchcock said, "There is no way of knowing when that might be, it could be this coming year, or much further down the road." Lowell City Manager Ray Quada says he expects most of the recently vacated buildings will reopen housing new businesses that will be able to make a go of it.

1983 1992

# Cumberland Manor announces major expansion

Feb. 15, 1984



This is an artist's conception of how Cumberland Manor will look in a few years. The view is the perspective of looking westward along M-21. When complete, the "retirement village" will offer efficiency housing for those in their early retirement years, and extended care facilities older, more dependant residents.

Arin Maas, owner of Cumberland Manor, a 74 room, retirement home, unveiled an ambitious plan calling for the addition of 232 rooms over the next several years. Maas addressed members of the Lowell Township Planning Commission their meeting of Monday, Feb-

ruary 13 and outlined his expansion plans. Maas' proposal calls for the construction of seven new buildings, giving the Cumberland Manor acreage at 11535 E. Fulton the appearance of a small college campus in the architect's rendering of the completed project. When complete, the phased

complex will offer housing for persons newly retired through extended care in older age.

As explained by Maas, the project will be phased over the coming years, with the construction of a 20 room facility to begin this April. The first addition will be located just off the southeast corner of the existing building, being long and narrow with its length running north and south. The second addition will be

nearly identical to the first, and will be located off the northeast corner of the existing building. Next to be constructed will be two professional buildings, probably doctors' offices, that will be located directly east of the two new 20 room buildings. The last part of the complex will be the construction of two large buildings, each four stories high and containing 96 rooms. These structures will be located at the foot of the hill, north of the present building. Finally, a com-

munity building will be built more or less in the center of all the buildings. It will house a store, restaurant, recreation facilities, etc. All buildings will eventually be connected by covered walkways.

The site plan calls for a curb cut toward the eastern edge of the property, and a drive will run to the north between the two 20 room buildings and the professional buildings. The present drive will be extended to service the larger units.

Though not detailed in this proposal, Maas envisions duplex and quadplex housing nestled in the hills, rounding out the retirement village concept. Maas' architect, Dick Wiggins, even mentioned the idea of a few golf holes on the site.

The township re-zoned the property about nine months ago so that it complies with such a facility, but asked that they be allowed to review plans prior to construction.

Following the presentation by Maas and Wiggins, the planning commission voted to issue a letter of approval pending a review of the final construction draw-

Cumberland Manor is currently hooked to Lowell's sewer system, but city water is not yet available there. Wiggins said that the future additions will likely tap into the city sewer, and hopefully city water will someday be available.

# 60 M.P.H. plus winds topple hundreds of trees



Garages appeared to be a popular target for the huge trees as they were toppled by wind gusts of 60 miles per hour and more on Monday. This garage is located at the William Mercer residence at 931 North Monroe.



Monday's high winds placed a huge tree squarely on top of David Harding's garage at 804 N. Monroe.



This big willow tree was uprooted in the backyard of the Dennis Anchors residence at 1027 Lincoln Lake Ave. and it placed neatly on next door neighbor Jerry Persha's basket weave fence.

Congratulations to  
**1893 - 1993**  
 The Lowell Ledger

**Happy 100th Birthday!**

**LOWELL CABLE CO.**  
 127 N. Broadway, Lowell  
**897-8405**  
 Serving the Area Since 1982

Congratulations to  
**1893 - 1993**  
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**MODERN** **897-5606**  
 PHOTOGRAPHICS  
 104 W. Main • Lowell  
 18 YEARS - SAME LOCATION - MIDDLE OF TOWN  
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**1893 - 1993**  
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**Happy 100th Birthday!**

**Keiser's** "A Family Tradition Since 1945"  
 Kitchen  
 Ph. 897-8455  
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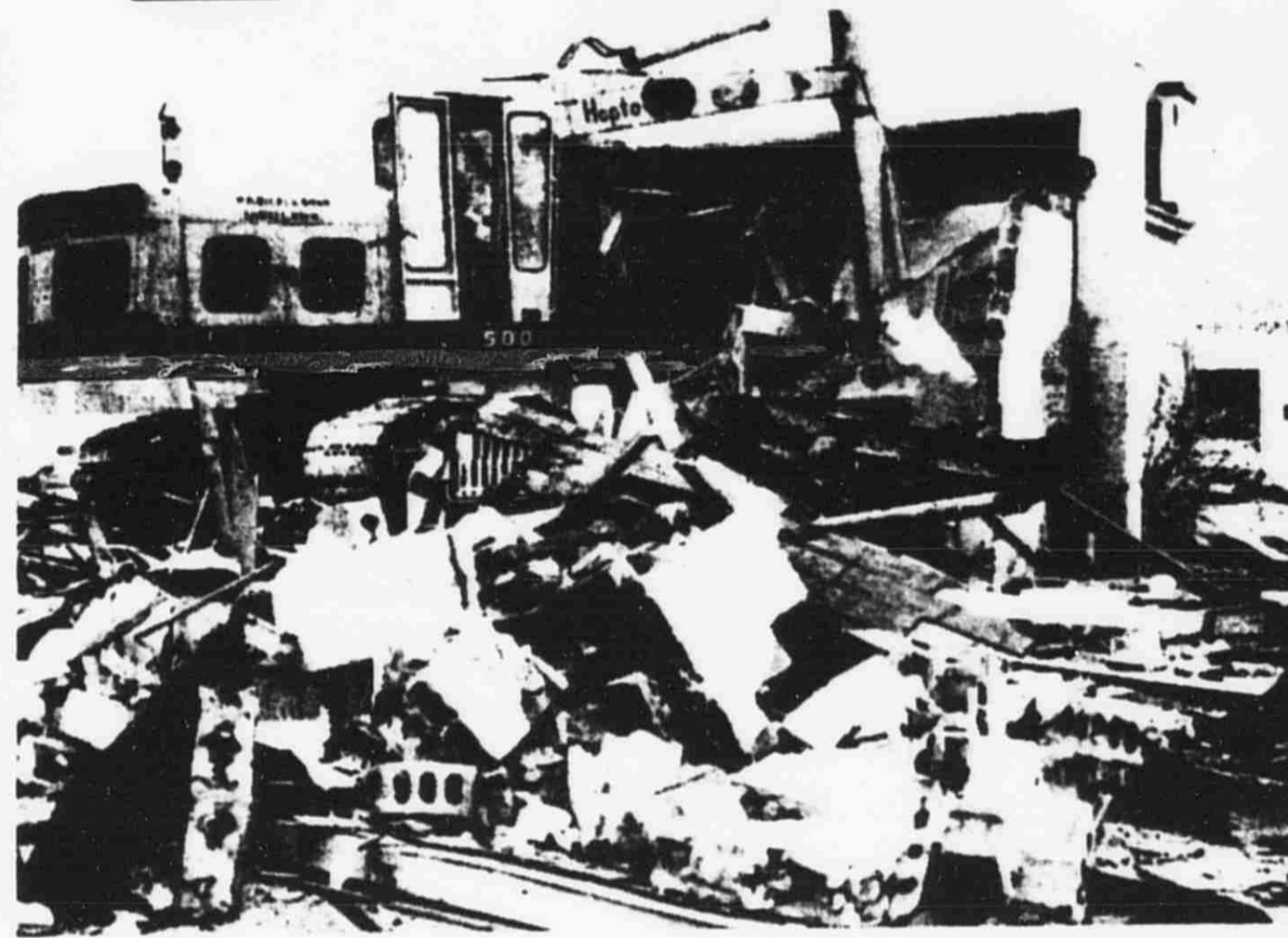


1983  
1992

### "Rosie's" makes way for 7-11

A Lowell landmark was leveled by the heavy equipment of O.E. Bieri & Sons Construction last Wednesday. The Rosie-Drive Inn was razed to make way for a new 7-11 convenience store. The property was recently sold to Garb-Ko, Inc., the area's franchise representative for 7-11. Construction is expected to

begin soon. The former car dealership was converted into a restaurant by Mac and Rosie Fonger in 1967. Rosie operated it for fourteen years until she sold it in 1981. The restaurant was then named J.R.'s Family Restaurant and later named the "In" Place when it was re-sold in 1983.



1986

### New plant will employ 15

"One man's trash is another man's treasure," is an old quip that has found new meaning for Don Fizer, President of Michigan Wire Processing. The ten year old Lowell based company has found a way to recycle one of their primary wastes, and also produce a marketable by-product.

Sulfuric acid is the primary chemical used in the company's process of cleaning and treating huge coils of steel for various steel manufacturers. Fizer explained that as the steel is processed the acid retains iron particles until it reaches a point where the acid is too saturated to be used further. The used acid is hauled away by a disposal firm, reduced to a sludge and buried in a landfill. This process is neither efficient nor environmentally sound, according to Fizer.

Beginning in early October, Fizer hopes to change all this when a new reclamation plant goes into operation on Michigan

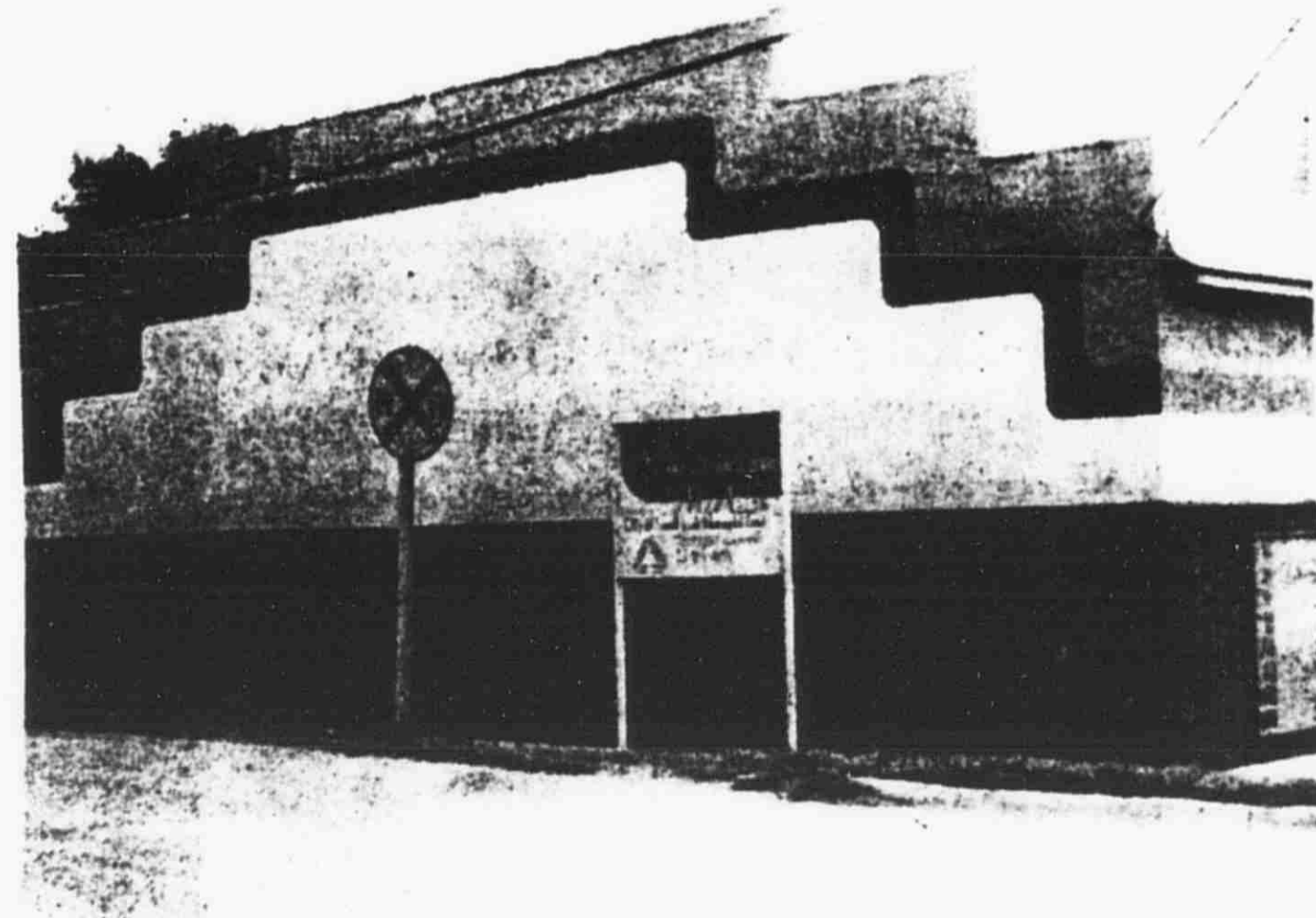
Wire property on West Main Street. A huge 68' x 100' building is now under construction and special equipment is due to arrive next week. Fizer says setting the equipment is not a major task. "We just have to plumb it in and put it to work," Fizer said.

Costs for the project are expected to total \$640,000. The Lowell City Council approved Public Act 198 tax relief for the project which allows for a 50% break in property taxes over a twelve year period. Such tax relief is tied to the creation of new jobs, and Fizer claims he will hire fifteen people to run the plant in a year's time and also

add about four more truck drivers to his trucking firm. The new plant will remove the iron crystals from the used acid. The acid can then be re-used for wire processing, and the iron residue can be sold to fertilizer companies to be used as an ingredient in their products.

1985

### Formal Opening of LAAC Center



The west end of the old Sortex building has been diligently remodeled and re-painted by members of the Lowell Area Arts Council. The building, the use of which is donated by the King Milling Company, is now the home of the LAAC. It will be used for art shows, classes, performances and as an office for the Arts Council.

# THE STEAK-OUT

2186 W. Main, Lowell Phone: 897-6757

**BREAKFAST HOURS:**  
8am-11:30am, Saturday  
9am-11:30am, Sunday

**DINNER HOURS:**  
5pm-7:30pm, Mon.-Thurs.  
5pm-9pm, Fri. & Sat.

**LUNCH HOURS:**  
11:30am - 2pm, Mon. - Fri.  
12noon - 3pm Sunday Dinner

**INTRODUCING...  
Gourmet Sunday Buffet**  
9:00am - 4:00pm

Some Of Our Buffet Items Are...  
 • French Toast  
 • Scrambled Eggs  
 • Sausage  
 • Ham  
 • Cheese Cake  
 • Pork Dressing  
 • Barbecue Pork Ribs  
 • Barbecue Beef Ribs  
 • Burgundy Beef Tips over noodles  
 • Roast Beef  
 • Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
 • Chicken Cordon Bleu  
 • Chicken Kiev  
 • Porketta Roast

Reg. Price Adults \$5.95  
Reg. Children Under-10 \$3.95  
*Special Introductory Price*  
\$3.95  
 Children Under 10 - \$2.95

**ALL YOU CAN EAT**

**MONDAY - THURSDAY DINNER SPECIALS**  
 Dinner Served 5:00pm - 7:30pm  
 All Entrees Include baked potato or rice pilaf, loaf or bread  
 Salad Bar \$1.00 Extra

*Your Choice...*  
\$2.99

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS**

**10 oz. Prime Rib... \$6.95**  
**16 oz. Prime Rib... \$8.95**

INCLUDES: Baked Potato or Rice Pilaf, Salad Bar, Loaf of Bread

**NEW NON-ALCOHOLIC FREE DRINK MENU**  
 to compliment your dining experience

*featuring...*

- FRESH STRAWBERRY DAIQUIRI  
Everyone's Favorite!
- MAI TAI                      • SPANISH MOCHA  
Colorful & Sweet!      Rich & Festive!
- ISLAND CAFE  
Cool, Creamy Chocolate!

*and many more blends, all made from all natural ingredients and extracts!*

**ALSO OTHER SPECIALS • STOP IN & SEE US**

1983  
1992

## Grapplers win Regional Title; Rivers is Coach of the Year

The 1985-86 Wrestling team continued their spectacular season winning the Class B Regional held at Hudsonville High School last Saturday. Lead by three individual champions and one runner-up, the Arrows compiled 77 1/2 points to win their first Regional Championship since the 1964 season. Taking a close second was OK White rival, Northview, with 60 1/2 points, followed by Big Rapids with 54 1/2 points, Catholic Central with 52, and Belding with 48 points.

Lowell's three individual champs were Jim Johnson at heavyweight, Carl Pratt at 105, and Tony Huver at 138. Taking second was Brett Kirby at 155.

Johnson won his final match by a 2 - 1 decision over Caledonia's Matt Burns. Huver won by a 4 - 3 decision to Mark Meidzielec of West Catholic. Kirby was defeated by a score of 10 - 2 to Sparta's Doug Doelder.

These four Arrows will go on to the State Championships next Friday and Saturday at Charlotte High School. Wrestling begins at 11:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. The admission is \$2.00 for each session, \$3.00 for the finals on Saturday, and \$9.00 for an all session ticket. Good Luck Arrows!!

Congratulations to Coach Rivers on being selected Michigan Regional Coach of the year. Good Job Coach!!



Lowell Wrestling Coach Gary Rivers displays his team's Regional Tournament trophy and the Regional "Coach of the Year" award which was presented to Rivers at Saturday's tournament. The veteran coach won the same award in 1964.

June 17, 1987

## Macker dumps Lowell for site in Belding

After nearly two hours of heated debate in a sweltering Runciman gymnasium, Ivan Blough of Lowell put a point blank question to Gus Macker representative Mitch McNeal. "Is there a glimmer of hope for a Gus Macker Tournament in Lowell for 1987?" Blough asked. McNeal's reply was a simple, "No". At that, the approximately 200 people who attended Monday's Lowell City Council meeting began to file out.

Earlier in the day, tournament founder Scott McNeal, alias Gus Macker, held a press conference on the front steps of Belding City Hall to announce plans to move the fourteen-year-old tournament there. McNeal said the 75 to 80 courts will be set up along Congress St. and some adjoining streets near the city's centrally located shopping mall. McNeal made note of the tree lined streets and grassy lawns as being reminiscent of the tournament's neighborhood beginnings.

According to McNeal, sixteen communities contacted him with offers to host the tournament since last Thursday's announcement of a possible move. The Belding City Council met at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, and approved the plan to host the July 3, 4 and 5 tournament. According to McNeal, Belding offered to host the tournament last year when a neighbor filed a lawsuit seeking to cancel the tournament. McNeal says Belding offered to host 1,500 team tournament with open arms. "They have a Labor Day festival that attracts 15,000 people, so they are used to dealing with large crowds. They've offered police protection, help with set-up and clean-up. They've even volunteered to

bring in some portable bleachers for the spectators" McNeal said. Belding City Manager John Niemela is elated with Macker's decision. "This isn't a new event, so we know what to expect and give for it" Niemela told reporters. "We simply accept the costs as part of doing business. The cost for us is nothing in terms of the gains". McNeal said everyone he's talked to in Belding is thoroughly elated about the move.

The reaction in Lowell was just the opposite. The huge crowd at Monday's City Council meeting wanted to know what went wrong. Lowell Mayor James Maatman opened the meeting with a statement outlining the city's side of the dispute. "I regret Macker's decision to leave Lowell, and I feel it's a gross injustice to their supporters" Maatman began. "Year after year the city has supported Macker. We were co-defendants in a lawsuit and we took the lead in obtaining the necessary permits for their planned move to Main St.," Maatman said, as he

ticked off the positive things the city has done for the Macker. Maatman also noted the considerable effort the city had put into helping organize this year's tournament. According to Maatman, Macker formally requested the move to Main Street on January 19, and the city has been working with the State Highway Department and Kent County Road Commission since. "We had the permit on May 5, and even got a state requirement for insurance on all participants waived" Maatman said. Maatman said Macker officials were made aware from the beginning that detour signs and barricades

would be their responsibility. He also said no attempt was made by Macker officials to discuss the permit fee with the City Council.

Maatman asked "Why did Macker wait until the last minute to get their permit every year? Why did Macker promise to

make contributions to the city, then not deliver?" In summation he said "Macker left Lowell, Lowell didn't leave the Macker!" His comments were greeted with a round of applause, sprinkled with a few boos and catcalls. Mary Ann Gwatkin said, "I'm alarmed and frightened about the way you five and one half men are governing our city".



The picture tells it all. Scott McNeal, alias Gus Macker, takes questions from TV news crews on the steps of Belding City Hall. McNeal announced Monday that the fourteenth annual Gus Macker basketball tournament will be held in Belding, an Ionia County community about 15 miles north of Lowell.

1983 1992

# Closes up his shop after 40 years

For over forty years Clark Plumbing and Heating has been the business to call if you had a leaky faucet, plugged drain or inoperable furnace. Not so, anymore. Dave Clark, Jr., owner of the business since 1961, closed the doors at the end of February. Clark and his wife, Betty Lou, are looking forward to their retirement years, and left Tuesday morning for a trip to Florida. The Clarks are heading for Orlando where they will attend a reunion of Dave's shipmates on the WWII aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Franklin. "I've never attended one of these reunions," Clark said, and added "Betty Lou and I are looking forward to doing a lot of things like this that there just wasn't time for when we were running the business."



Dave Clark, Jr. displays one of the construction site signs he saved as a memento of the business that was his livelihood for nearly 41 years. Dave Clark Plumbing and Heating, Inc. was closed on February 28, 1987.

The business once belonged to Charles W. Cook. When Cook died sometime in the thirties, Dave Clark, Sr. went to work for his widow. In 1945 he purchased the business and changed the name to Clark Plumbing and Heating Co.

Dave Clark, Jr. graduated from Lowell High School in June of 1943, and was enlisted in the U.S. Navy in less than two weeks. His wartime service as an air/sea rescue specialist aboard the Franklin included thirteen major engagements in the Pacific. The ship was badly damaged by Japanese dive bombers on March 19, 1945, as the Franklin was positioned off the coast of Japan during raids on a Japanese airfield. The ship listed 22 degrees and had to be abandoned. She was towed back for repairs, but the crew was sent on to new duty assignments. Clark was then stationed aboard the new aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He helped train the ship's air/sea rescue personnel, then accompanied the ship on its shake down cruise to Buenos Aires. By this time the war had ended, and

Clark had enough points to come home.

He arrived in Lowell on March 26, 1946, and went to work in his father's plumbing business just three days later. "If I'd stuck it out to the end of March, I'd have had 41 years in the business, and that's long enough for anybody," Clark said. Clark will be 62 in April, and the decision to close the business was directly related to Social Security laws. Clark said he made his final decision to liquidate the business at the beginning of February, and an acquaintance scoffed at his plans to liquidate the corporation by the end of the month. "At 9:15 on Saturday, February 28 the last truckload of stuff pulled out, the building was vacant, and the business was closed," Clark said.

Over the years the business has served the community well.

The Newell Manufacturing plant, Foreman's chicken hatcheries, King Milling's boilers, Schneider Manor, the Lowell Bowling Alley, State Savings Bank and the Lowell Veterinary Clinic are just a few of the major plumbing and heating projects the company completed. When Dave Clark, Jr. bought the business from his father in 1961 the company was installing all the plumbing and heating for the community swimming pool and fieldhouse. Clark remembers that the seven men crew on that job was about the largest number of employees the company ever had.

Clark has been a master plumber since 1962 and also holds an unlimited mechanical license for heating and cooling, as well as a Class G Boiler license. Over the years Clark says he kept current with the

trade by attending engineering courses at Michigan State, solar energy courses at Jordan College and numerous other schools. He said four years of drafting and mechanical drawing in high school were also very helpful throughout his career.

Not only was Clark a busy tradesman and businessman, he was also very active in many civic activities. He was Commander of the Clark/Ellis American Legion Post 152 for eight years. He was the Post Adjutant for 13 years prior to that. Clark has been a member of the Post for over 40 years. He was a Showboat Board member for 14 years and served on the Lowell Housing Commission as Vice President for many years.

Sept. 2, 1987  
City approves concept for new lake park

City Councilman Charlie Doyle said, "It's a nice plan, but I don't think it'll ever be completed in my lifetime." Doyle may be right, but the Lowell City Council took the first step in developing the 40 acre park area purchased from Reith-Riley last year. The site is located on Bowes Rd. and also fronts on the Grand River. The unique aspect of the parcel is that it also encompasses a 22 acre lake.

Working with a \$7,000 grant from the Look Memorial Committee, the Lowell Parks and Recreation Committee has been hard at work developing a plan for development of the site. The plan approved for inclusion into the city's master plan, is merely a concept that is meant to serve as a foundation when applying for state and federal grants. It is important to note that the council did not approve anything beyond

# Historic St. Mary's Church is demolished



Going . . .

Going . . .

The former St. Mary's Church building located at the corner of Lincoln Lake and Chatham

Streets, is just a fond memory now as it was torn down last Wednesday to make way for new

plans of the present landowners, Phillip D. Johnson and Lyle Johnson. Some of the lighting

fixtures, flooring and windows were reserved and sold to antique dealers.



GONE !!!

The landmark structure was used for worship until April of 1980 when the people of St. Mary's Church dedicated their new building to the Blessed Virgin. Many precious memories were held of the sanctuary where parishioners had worshipped since 1879, in the recently demolished structure. In June 1879, the date inscribed on the cornerstone, the congregation which "numbered about 200" was happy to see a fine church building dedicated. The building cost \$3,300.00. Before 1927 St. Mary's was a mission church when the Reverend Father Robert Bogg was made pastor at Lowell, and that same year the former John Arhart residence was purchased for a rectory.

1983 1992

# Ledger purchases Buyers Guide

Lowell Ledger Publisher Roger Brown has announced the purchase of the Lowell Buyers Guide, Inc., a 16,000 circulation shopper published in Lowell for more than 30 years. Brown signed the deal with Buyers Guide owner Elva Ayres on October 30, and took immediate possession.

Brown says that with only a few exceptions, the Buyers Guide will continue to be published as always, using the same staff, phone number, etc. The competing East Kent Shopper's Guide, started by Brown in May of this year, will be discontinued. Brown stressed that many of the combination advertising rates offered through the East Kent Shopper's Guide will still be available in the Buyers Guide.

For instance, display ads placed in both the Buyers Guide and the neighboring Ionia County Shopper's Guide will be substantially discounted. Likewise, display ads from the Buyers Guide can be inserted in the Lowell Ledger at \$1.15 per column inch, a full \$1.00 off the open rate. A discount rate is also available for display advertise-

ments placed in both the Buyers Guide and the south edition of the Buyline, a 15,000 circulation shopper published by the Greenville Daily News. The south edition covers the Belding and Greenville area, and fits together nicely with the Buyers Guide's northern boundary.

The Buyers Guide will continue to operate out of its offices at 202 West Main St. However, the real estate was not included in the deal, and Brown hopes to move the entire operation into the Ledger offices at 105 N. Broadway by the end of November. Some remodeling will be required before the move can be completed.

Publication dates for both the Buyers Guide and Lowell Ledger will remain the same. The copy deadline for the Buyers Guide is noon on Fridays. The publication goes to press Friday evening, is mailed Saturday morning and should find its way into most mail boxes on Monday morning. The Ledger's news deadline is Mondays at 5:00 p.m. and the advertising deadline will remain at noon on Tues-

days. The Ledger goes to press Tuesday evenings, and is mailed Wednesday morning for delivery in Lowell on Wednesday and in outlying areas on Thursdays.

One change that will be noticed in the Buyers Guide is the discontinuance of the "Community Page". Brown explained that the decision was made in an effort to keep costs in line so as to hold advertising rates at their present levels. Thad Kraus, editor of the "Community Page" has been employed by the Ledger, and will work full time covering area news.

The Ledger has been in continuous publication since June of 1893. It was founded by F.M. Johnson and sold to R.G. Jefferies in 1930. The Jefferies family published the Ledger until it was sold to Francis Smith in 1968. In 1971 ownership of the Ledger reverted back to Harold Jefferies. Carol Sebastian published the paper for Jefferies until it was sold to Brown in 1975.

The Buyers Guide was founded by Kenneth Ayres in August of 1954. Ayres died in May of 1986, and the paper has since

been published by his wife, Elva Ayres and his son Gary. The Buyers Guide has grown over the years to include complete coverage of Lowell, Ada, Alto and Saranac with coverage of various rural routes out of Belding, Cascade, Caledonia and Clarksville.

The Ledger also operates the largest commercial printing business in the area. The plant now boasts three full-time pressmen with complete offset, letterpress, typesetting and bindery departments.

Brown feels the three businesses are very compatible, and share much in equipment needs, personnel skills and technology. "The acquisition of the Buyers Guide puts our entire operation in a position to grow with the

community", Brown said. "Don't look for sweeping changes, because we're dealing with businesses that have been around a long, long time. But, I think Buyers Guide and Ledger readers will see steady improvements over the coming months and years", Brown concluded.

1986  
Forrest "Bucky" Buck passes at 79

Forrest Buck passed away Monday at age 79. Affectionately known as "Bucky", it is difficult to think of him without also thinking about the Lowell Showboat. From nearly the very first production in 1932 Bucky was a big part of the Lowell Showboat. He served in several capacities. He was a member of the chorus, an endman, the interlocutor, a board member and historian for the famed Showboat. His collection of memorabilia includes autographed photos of nearly every star to appear on the Showboat. Bucky shared the stage with the likes of Louis Armstrong, Dina Shore, Milton Berle, Pearl Bailey and Tammy Wynette, to name only a few.

A tireless promoter of Showboat, Bucky gave slide presentations and lectured at various functions in the area. He wrote a weekly newspaper column for the Ledger entitled "Whistle Toots" and appeared in a documentary about Showboat produced by TV personality Buck Matthews.

Bucky was named Honorary Captain of the Showboat in 1978, the first year the new boat was used. Bucky's birthday was always celebrated in a gala affair complete with a cake presented during a performance each year. Because of Bucky's enthusiasm, his wife, children and even his grandchildren became involved in Showboat. His son, Terry, even appeared as an endman with his father for several years.

Lowell Showboat President Ray Quada said of Bucky, "He offered a thread of continuity for all of us who have worked on the Showboat." Showboat Interlocutor Gordon Gould termed Bucky's contribution to Showboat as, "Immeasurable." Gould said, "Bucky had a fantastic memory for things involving Showboat, and his wealth of knowledge was a tremendous benefit to me as I became the Interlocutor. Bucky always had the best interest of Lowell and the Showboat at heart during all the years I knew him." Joe Vezino, who appeared as an endman with Bucky for 14 years said, "He was a total inspiration to all the endmen. He was full of vim, vigor and vitality and lived for Showboat."

Besides his interest in the Lowell Showboat, Bucky was also a member of the Lowell Masonic Lodge No. 90 F&AM. He was also an active barbershop quartet signer over the years, and appeared with several different groups. He was also an avid rockhound, and the half of his basement that isn't full of Showboat memorabilia is full of rocks collected over the years.

Oct. 21, 1987

# Showboat to make a comeback in June

Board President Ray Quada and the rest of the Lowell Showboat Board of Directors tell us the famed Lowell Showboat will steam around "Cattail Bend" at least three evenings in late June of 1988. Quada made the announcement at a press conference held last Wednesday at Pickett's Night Club in Grand Rapids. Quada told the members of the local media that the Showboat would make a gala return on June 23, 24 and 25. Quada guaranteed those in attendance that the headliner would be a top notch talent, but a contract had not yet been finalized. "We're working with a couple of different groups right now, but we're not quite to the point in the negotiations where we can commit ourselves to a formal an-

ouncement", Quada told the reporters. Quada hopes to be able to announce the headliner at a fundraiser slated for Saturday.

A "Kick Off Fundraiser Dinner" is slated for this Saturday, October 24 at Pickett's Night Club. The celebration will begin at 5:00 p.m., and tickets are just

\$20.00 per person. The evening includes a roast beef dinner and entertainment by "Alive and Well". Make reservations by calling Pickett's at 957-5179, Heritage Meat Market at 897-7049 or No Sweat Exercise Salon at 676-3138. All tickets will be paid at the door. Mark your calendar now, you can enjoy fine food, great entertainment and support Showboat all at the same time. The Showboat Board plans to

bring the famed summertime event back with all the trimmings that made it so popular in the past. Planners intend to bring back endmen, a chorus, dixieland band, a headline act and the famous Robert E. Lee sternwheeler. "We're not limiting ourselves in any way", Quada said. "By that, I mean we intend to draw from the entire area, including some top notch talent available in Grand Rapids to fill the endman, chorus and other positions in the production. We want to make the Lowell Showboat the best entertainment of its kind anywhere".

The Lowell Showboat ran aground in 1982 when interest on a staggering \$45,000.00 debt kept the production from operat-

ing in the black. The Board of Directors opted to cancel the annual production until fundraising events could eliminate the debt. After five years of car raffles, Memorial Day celebrations, donations, etc. the Lowell Showboat is finally out of debt. It owns such major assets as a 4,500 seat amphitheatre and the boat itself, free and clear. Directors now feel that the annual production can again become a profitable venture, and at the same time restore the glimmering "Showboat City" image to Lowell.

Of course the effort needs the support of the entire community, and anyone willing to serve in any capacity should contact a board member or write to Showboat Corporation, P.O. Box 213, Lowell, Michigan 49331.

April 6, 1988

# Heritage Meat Market will become a "West Side Deli"



Chris Collins, tri-owner and operator of Heritage Meat Market, announced that beginning May 4, Heritage will switch its name to Westside Deli. Collins said that Heritage has recognized a shift in trends from meat markets to prepared foods.

Heritage Meat Market will undergo a face change beginning April 17, and will re-open on May 4 as Westside Deli.

The meat market which has been servicing the community with fresh cut meats for five years, will change over to Westside Deli, a prepared food franchise.

"Over the last couple of years the trend has changed from fresh meats to prepared food," Heritage tri-owner and operator Chris Collins said. "We'd like to think that we have some foresight. Westside Deli will be a fast-food alternative to burgers."

As a carry-over from Herit-

age, Collins says that Westside will also sell the popular ribs and broasted chicken. "Westside brings with it a reputation for its deep pan pizza and submarine sandwiches," he says. "Along with free delivery, Westside Deli will also sell slices of pizza."

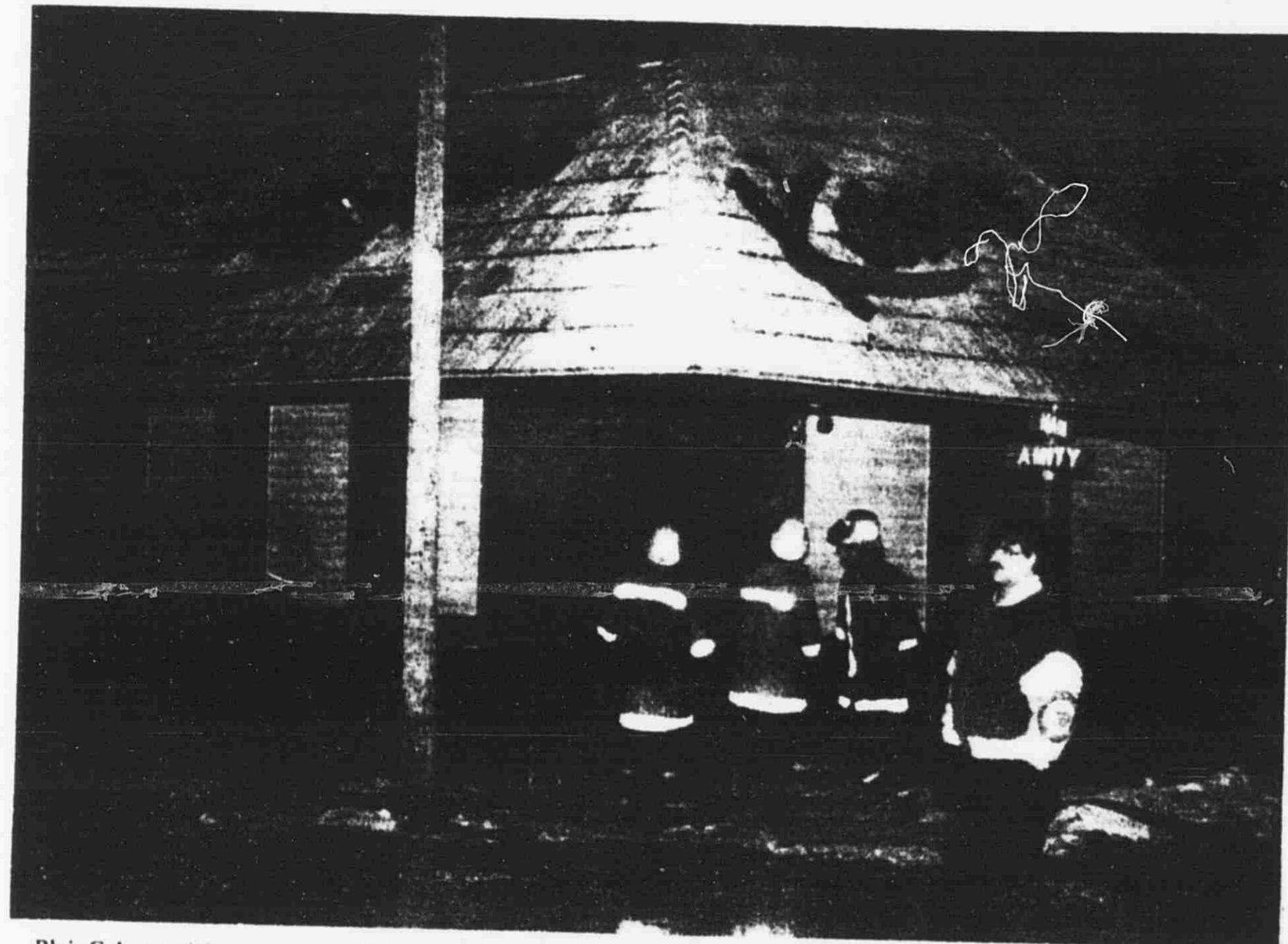
The May 4 opening will mark

the 20th Westside Deli franchise to open up in Michigan. "Most of them are on the east side of the state. There are two in Grand Rapids with a third expected to open up about the same time we will," Collins said.

Westside Deli originated in 1973, with its first store opening in Mesa.

1983 1992

# Fire destroys historic Keiser's Kitchen



Blair Cahoon, right, co-owner of Keiser's Kitchen, watches in disbelief as local firefighters work to put out a fire at the family restaurant that left 40 people without work.

Keiser's Kitchen, which started out as a truck stop in 1945, and turned into Lowell's venerable eating establishment and oldest retailer, was destroyed by a fire Friday, Jan. 8.

Blair Cahoon, co-owner, said that the state fire marshal said the cause of the fire was electrical. He adds that the state fire marshal suspects the fire started in the electrical closet.

"We haven't put an amount on the damages, but to rebuild will cost \$500,000," Cahoon said.

"We hope to rebuild just as soon as possible."

The building was not fully insured because coverage was too expensive. "Few companies are willing to insure a wood-framed building," Cahoon adds.

Cahoon estimated that Keiser's had 1/3 to 1/2 of what it needs in insurance protection.

Firefighters from Lowell, Ada and Alto battled the blaze in the bitter cold from 1:35 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.

"When we got here the fire was already through the roof," Lowell fire chief Frank Martin said. "The roof collapsed into the 165-seat family restaurant."

The fire leaves 40 of Keiser's Kitchen employees, without work, including three of owner, Darlene Westcott's children and their families. There has been three generations of families working at Keiser's.

The freezing temperatures and water left a thick coating of ice on the sidewalk outside of the family restaurant.

"While we were battling the fire, the cold was not too bad, but now that the fire is out, the wet and the cold starts to penetrate through you," Martin said shortly after the fire was extinguished.

Martin suggested that there were 40 firefighters that battled the fire. "And one firefighter was treated for frostbite on his toes," he said.

Frank Keiser built the main building of the restaurant in 1945 next to their home on the corner of M-21 and Amity Street during World War II, with the idea that a truck stop was needed between Flint and Grand Rapids.

In the beginning, the stop was just an extension of Keiser's home. It was a very popular stop for many years, with just a counter, eight stools, and a few tables and chairs for seating, but with success came expansion.

The first addition was in 1956. The kitchen size and seating capacity was enlarged.

In 1962, Keiser's added onto the front. In 1975, the side, and in 1985, the upper hall was opened up and seating was added.



The morning after, showed the aftermath, of a fire that destroyed the building of Lowell's oldest merchant. The state fire marshal report stated that the cause of the blaze at Keiser's Kitchen was electrical.

## Gould will take Showboat helm



Gordon Gould takes the helm of the Lowell Showboat as President of the Showboat Board, after over 20 years of involvement starting as an endman in 1966.

## Caldwell is C.E.O.



Mr. Keith Caldwell

Mr. David M. Ondersma, President and Chief Executive Officer is pleased to announce the appointment of Keith L. Caldwell to the position of Chief Executive Officer of FMB-State Savings Bank in Lowell, Michigan. Caldwell was appointed President in 1980 and now will assume additional responsibilities of the daily operations. Caldwell succeeds Harold Englehardt as Chief Executive Officer, but Englehardt will remain as Chairman of the Board.

Caldwell joined the FMB family in 1967. Prior to joining FMB, Caldwell worked with the Financial Institution Bureau as an examiner. Caldwell attended Albion College, and is a member of First United Methodist Church of Lowell.

FMB-State Savings Bank is an affiliate of First Michigan Bank Corporation. The other affiliate banks include: FMB-First Michigan Bank in Zeeland; FMB-First Michigan Bank-Grand Rapids, n.a.; FMB-Lumberman's in Muskegon; FMB-Oceana Bank in Hart; FMB-Community Bank in Dowagiac; and FMB-Reed City Bank.

1983 1992

# The Wait is Over!

## Senior Neighbor Center finds coziness in Hale home

Good things come to those who wait!

It was a long wait, but the Lowell's Senior Neighbors Center will put behind it a 13-1/2 year concern over space or a lack of it, later this month (February), when a 10-year lease (renewal clause included) agreement with Schneider Manor is signed for the use of the George Hale house.

Space constraints have limited the number and type of activities the Center has been able to offer. With this lease agreement, Marj Snyder, Director of Lowell Senior Neighbors, said a craft

class could be started, the exercise class could be reinstated and with the yard space available at the Hale house, outdoor activities could be planned for the summer.

Roughly \$10,000 in necessary renovations are needed before the Senior Neighbors can make its move into the Hale house, according to Margaret Dean, Senior Neighbors Executive Director of the central office. The work would include installing barrier-free restrooms; moving the entrance on existing bathroom because it opens into the kitchen; building an outside

ramp; electric wiring so overhead light can be provided and ceiling fans can be used. Currently there is only one room with overhead lighting - that being the kitchen; and gravel needs to be put down for a parking area.

Monies to cover the cost of renovation will come from memorial funds and donations. The Center has forwarded \$1,500 of its own money plus \$1,000 in memorial funds to the central office. Recently the Senior Neighbors learned that the Lowell Rotary Club will contribute \$2,000 toward the work

needed to be done at the Hale house. The Rebekah Lodge organization will also donate \$1,000, which will be used toward renovation needs.

Dean added that it will apply for \$5,500 from the Helen Daley LOOK Fund.

The Senior Neighbors' need for a new location surfaced nearly nine months ago. It was then that the Center was forced to move from its 214 E. Main St. location, in May of 1988, following the sale of the Rebekah Lodge organization owned building, to Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe owner, Helen Schaeffer.

In need of a place to meet and time to look for a permanent spot, the Center used the Lowell First Congregational Church for a two-month period. During this time, the Center worked a plan out with the school administration to use the graphic arts room at the Lowell Middle School.

During this time, the Center also considered the George Hale house. However, it was determined that a minimum of \$25,000 in renovations would be needed, money the Senior Neighbors didn't have.

"Schneider Manor had not yet completed the deal to buy the house," Lowell Senior Neighbor Director Marj Snyder said. After the deal was completed the Center and Schneider Manor started talking again. An arrangement was worked out shortly after the first of the year.

The lease will call for the Senior Neighbors Center to pay \$200 a month in rent, plus all of the utilities. The plowing and mowing and any outside work will be done by Schneider Manor. The Center will be responsible for the upkeep of the inside. Other than for storage, the upstairs will not be used by the Senior Neighbors.

"The Hale house is layed out so that if there is a small group meeting, it can meet in a small cozy place," Snyder said. "If there's a big group, the rooms kind of flow together so no one will feel isolated. Everyone will be together."

An unexpected plan for the Hale house was the announcement by Schneider Manor.

Oct. 4, 1989

## Great Lakes Bancorp closing, Oct. 27

### S & L repercussions felt by Lowell employees

The effects of the mismanagement of Savings and Loan institutions that occurred in Texas within the last year, have stretched well beyond the "Lone Star" state.

In fact, far enough north, that the repercussions are now being felt locally.

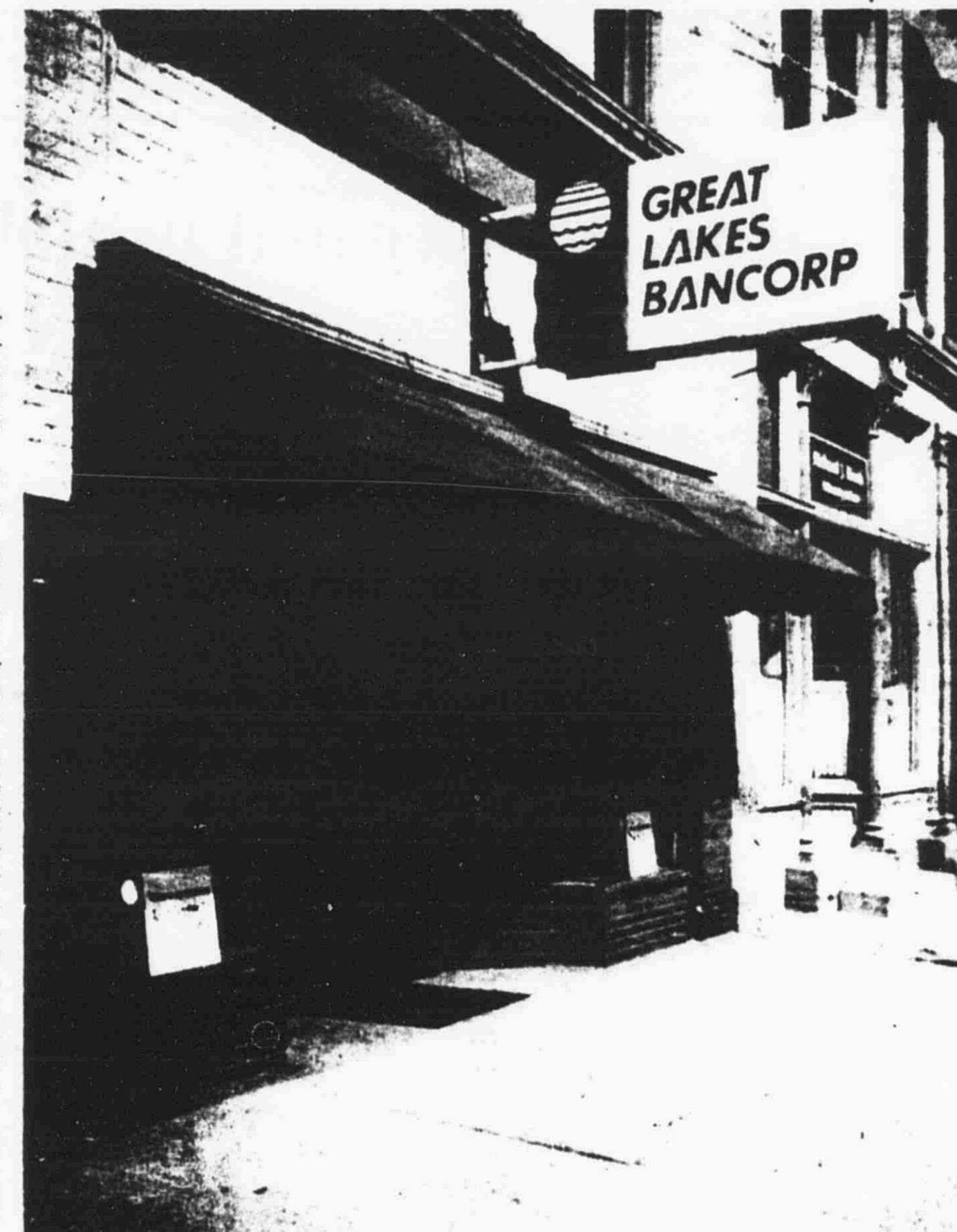
Norene Martin, the Lowell Branch Manager for Great Lakes Bancorp - A Federal Savings Bank, learned Monday (Sept. 25), from Grand Rapids' Regional Manager, Sam VanBoven that the decision to close the Lowell branch had been made.

The decision was influenced by the national legislation of FIRREA, a financial institution reform and recovery enforcement act. The act reviews the financial industry and its products, services and delivery systems. "A sounder industry requires an increasing capital," VanBoven said. He added that it would not be cost beneficial for the financial institution (Great Lakes Bancorp) to add the products and services to the Lowell branch.

"For several years the Lowell branch has not grown to the satisfaction of top management. It has remained in a static position," Van Boven said.

Other reasons for the closure decision included the current parking problem and the discussion of removing parking from in front of the bank.

While thousands of S&L's are strong, according to VanBoven they are having to pick up the



Great Lakes Bancorp of Lowell announced it will be closing its doors effective Oct. 27.

slack for the 40-50 that have been mismanaged. "We're having to readjust because of them," Martin interjects.

Martin added that the lease on the building is up Nov. 1. "Great

Lakes Bancorp does not want to continue in this building. It does not project the right image. A drive-up teller is also not possible at the current location," VanBoven said the decision to

terminate the Lowell branch has been known for 30 days.

March 22, 1989

## Fire Station

### City Council gives project unanimous approval

Plans for a new fire station received unanimous approval from the Lowell City Council at Monday's regular meeting. The new fire and emergency vehicle building will be located south of the Department of Public Works garage on South Hudson. The building site will require extensive fill, but was selected over other sites because of its proximity to the city's major thoroughfares.

Dan Durkee of the architectural firm Robert Lee Wold and

Associates was on hand to review initial drawings of the proposed building. The station will feature five drive-thru bays with 14 ft. high doors. Also included are restrooms, and a locker room, meeting room, hose drying tower, a small kitchen, a small sleeping area for ambulance personnel, an office for the fire chief and storage areas.

Building costs are \$438,300, site costs \$101,900 and soft costs (architectural fee, survey, bor-

ings, testing, etc.) \$40,000. Total cost is \$580,200. The building is to be paid off over a five year period using an elaborate formula which includes the City of Lowell, Lowell Township, Vergennes Township, the Look Fund and the Steelcase Foundation.

The formula breaks down as follows: City (over 5 years)-\$199,425, Look Fund (matching city dollars) \$199,400, Vergennes

Twp. (over 5 years) - \$40,000, Lowell Twp (over 5 years) - \$66,375 and the Steelcase Foundation (thru Lowell Ambulance and still under consideration - \$35,000). The Look Fund has already approved expending \$40,000 for the soft costs.

Durkee told the council that his firm should have final drawings and bid specifications ready by June 1, 1989. Pasquale estimated that the bid could be awarded by July 1, and with luck, the building could be completed by the end of the year.

The building will be constructed of split concrete block and metal. The appearance will be similar to that of the D.P.W. garage.



1983 1992

# 10,000 gallon sewage spill discovered in Alto

spot of Hawk's corn field." Kent County Department of Public Works' utility worker James Welmarink said.

He adds that no streams, lakes or water tables were affected by the spill. "It (10,000 gallons) sounds worse than it is. It is probably no worse than a farmer dumping manure on the ground."

Hawk is not quite as comfortable with that summation. "I just want an answer from somebody knowledgeable." He adds, "I called the DNR Emergency Spillage Service in Detroit and was told that something would be done."

Ernie Jousma, an Environmental Quality Analyst from the Department of Natural Resources adds, "Ordinarily if we can recover what's spilled we do, but from my understanding, this is not recoverable."

He continues, "The spill is well isolated from homes and there is no threat of exposure in terms of the ground water."



A sewage spill that was reported on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 64th and Bancroft Avenue in Alto, according to officials was caused due to frost on the pipe. The spillage drained into a low spot of Denny Hawk's cornfield. The spill took 4-6 hours to clean up. However, some of the spillage that was labeled unrecoverable, remains.

Kent County Department of Public Works' officials said frost was responsible for pulling a pipe out of its joint, causing a sewage spill into Denny Hawk's cornfield at 64th and Bancroft Avenue.

The 10,000-gallon sewage spill which was reported on Wednesday, Feb. 17, took 4-6 hours to clean up Thursday, Feb. 18.

"The pipe separated at the mechanical joint causing the spill, which drained into a low

Feb. 24, 1988

May 10, 1989

## Keiser's will rebuild at East Main location



Keiser's, coming as soon as the renovation work on the inside is completed.

The Lowell City Council approved a variance submitted by Keiser's Kitchen allowing the 20-by-60 expansion of the building previously occupied by Paul's Showboat Restaurant.

The property, located at the southeast corner of S. Division and E. Main, is zoned R-3 (residential and apartments).

Keiser's requested the variance to expand the building up to 2,000 square feet, allowing for extensive renovation. Their eventual intent is to petition for rezoning the property to commercial.

"Logically, this is the right move. We have three acres and should never have to worry about parking," Chris West said. Blair

Cahoon adds that being on the quieter end of town, their shouldn't be the in-and-out of traffic problems that occurred at the corner of Amity and W. Main.

"We've already gutted the inside and are down to four walls, and ready to rebuild," West said.

Keiser's deal with Paul Erickson, former owner of Paul's Showboat Restaurant, was finalized on Friday, Feb. 5. Renovation was then started on Feb. 9, with May 1, the target date for Keiser's opening.

"We have a year's lease on the building we're currently in (109, Riverside Dr.). If we can generate enough money to keep it open and pay for the lease while works being done on the new location, we will," Blair Cahoon said.

## Hockey delegated to club status

Board votes 4-1 to discontinue hockey as interscholastic sport

Before Lowell's May board meeting, seven of the O-K league's 32 schools offered hockey. That number is now at six, following the board's 4-1 vote to discontinue ice hockey as an interscholastic sport beginning with the 1989-90 school year, and change it to a club-status sport, should sufficient interest prevail among students and parents.

"By reducing it to a club sport the board is basically killing ice hockey at Lowell," hockey supporter, Rich Simkins said. "We teach our kids not to take the easy way out. By reducing hockey to club status the board is taking the easy way out." Simkins and many of the hockey supporters on hand asked the board to do the hard thing, to cooperate and work together and make the hockey program work.

Clark Vredenburg, DDS, who has been associated with Lowell hockey for 12 years, said with the problems we read about kids having today, it's ironic that Lowell kills a program that offers an alternative.

"There's no doubt the last few years we have had difficulty with the skill level," Vredenburg said. "But for the exception of maybe one or two teams, no school has

a high level of talent. It only takes 2-3 kids with an above average level of talent for a team to excel."

Vredenburg, Simkins and members of the 25 hockey families all pointed to the high interest level at the Middle School. "Many of these kids are involved in GRAHA. (a hockey feeder system in Grand Rapids)."

Tom Stahr, Lowell Assistant Athletic Director, who along with Dick Korb, LHS Principal and Bob Perry, LHS Athletic Director, wrote the report and recommendation to the board, said that a year ago the hockey program said there were roughly 14

students at the Middle School level interested in hockey, but only three additional players were out for hockey in 1988-89.

The memorandum on hockey stated six basic reasons for its decision.

1. It would bring ratio of male /female winter scholastic sports closer to being balanced.

2. It was felt Lowell was being out-classed and out-spent when it comes to the above schools and that its resources would be better utilized supporting Lowell's other 32 athletic activities.

3. Lowell was at a distinct disadvantage because it did not have a feeder system. Stahr said only 2-3 of the current hockey roster participated in GRAHA. Simkins commented that it takes longer than a year to build a feeder system.

4. The hockey team finished the season with 17 boys on the roster. However, in reality, only 12-15 players ever competed at any time. Vredenburg said that was because only 15 uniforms were available to the team.

5. Currently no local ice facility exists for practices or contests. Lowell continues to rely on Kentwood, Belknap and Jolly Rogers for games and practice time. Stahr said if the city ever provides an outdoor skating facility (a facility for skating in the winter and a picnic area in the summer is scheduled for construction this summer), it is unknown what limitations they would place on its availability.

6. Hockey is the only varsity sport Lowell offers where the contestants range from freshman to seniors (14 to 19-year old). Because of their lack of skill and size there was a sincere concern for their health, safety and welfare.

Simkins brought to the board's attention that there have been less serious injuries in hockey than many of the other sports. He also questioned the concern raised in the memo about the kid's health and safety at the interscholastic level, but it was alright for these players to compete at the club level.

Hockey supporters and its players were left with two options, to compete as a club and play other club teams in the Western Michigan area (there are roughly 3-4 teams available at the club level since it is illegal for a club to play a varsity team). Or it was suggested that individually, those interested in hockey could join one of the traveling teams in the area. The school would have no association or control over such individual activity.

Stahr pointed out that of the seven schools, Lowell between the boosters and the school, spent \$6,000 a year on hockey. Northview, the next closest team spent \$9,000.

Vredenburg said that nothing positive was done by the athletic program over the past year to help better the hockey situation. "The hockey family did not enjoy this, and it hurt the prog-

# HAIL! KING MILLING

## King Milling under the leadership of King Doyle has enjoyed 45 years of continued growth and prosperity!

1983 1992

Doyle's 45 years as President of King Milling has brought continual growth and prosperity.

Under the direction of King and his brother, Mike, the company has grown from 600 sacks of 100 weight of white flour in a 24-hour day with storage of 80,000 bushels, to its 1990 capacity of 5,400 100 weight sacks of flour with storage capacity of 2.8 million bushels.

While King Milling has prospered over this period of time, the number of mills in Michigan dropped from 28 in 1958 to six flour mills in 1990.

Doyle points to the reinvestment of money into the business as the key reason for success. "Reinvesting the money is not only good for the mill and the employees, but the community as well," he says. "King Milling has always tried to succeed in taking care of its customers and the community."

A few of the community beneficiaries from King Milling's growth include the Lowell Area Arts Council and St. Mary's School. Doyle, who puts a big value on education, started the St. Mary's Educational Foundation. The income from the principal invested is used to

pay tuition. There is currently a value of \$80,000 on the foundation.

Raised two blocks from his home on Amity Street, Doyle graduated as Valedictorian of his 1940 Class. "I enjoyed school and I took it seriously," he says. The 5-10,

160 pound Red Arrow played end on both sides of the football. "I wasn't particularly good in football, basketball or baseball, but I did manage to letter in three sports."

Doyle started out at the mill working summers while in high school. "I packed flour and swept the floors," he remembers. This year marked the 45th year he has served as the company's president. "I'd like to stay on as president for 50 years," Doyle says.

The senior Doyle has taken on a lighter load at the Mill since his open heart surgery in 1985. "I've had to cut back on just about everything," Doyle explains. "Doyle does however continue to have a say in policy-making decisions.

A decision that Doyle and his brother, Mike have remained loyal to, is recognizing what's modern and then

keeping up with it. Such a stand has always kept King Milling on the leading edge of technology. A prime example of this is the computer automation system currently being used at the Lowell company.

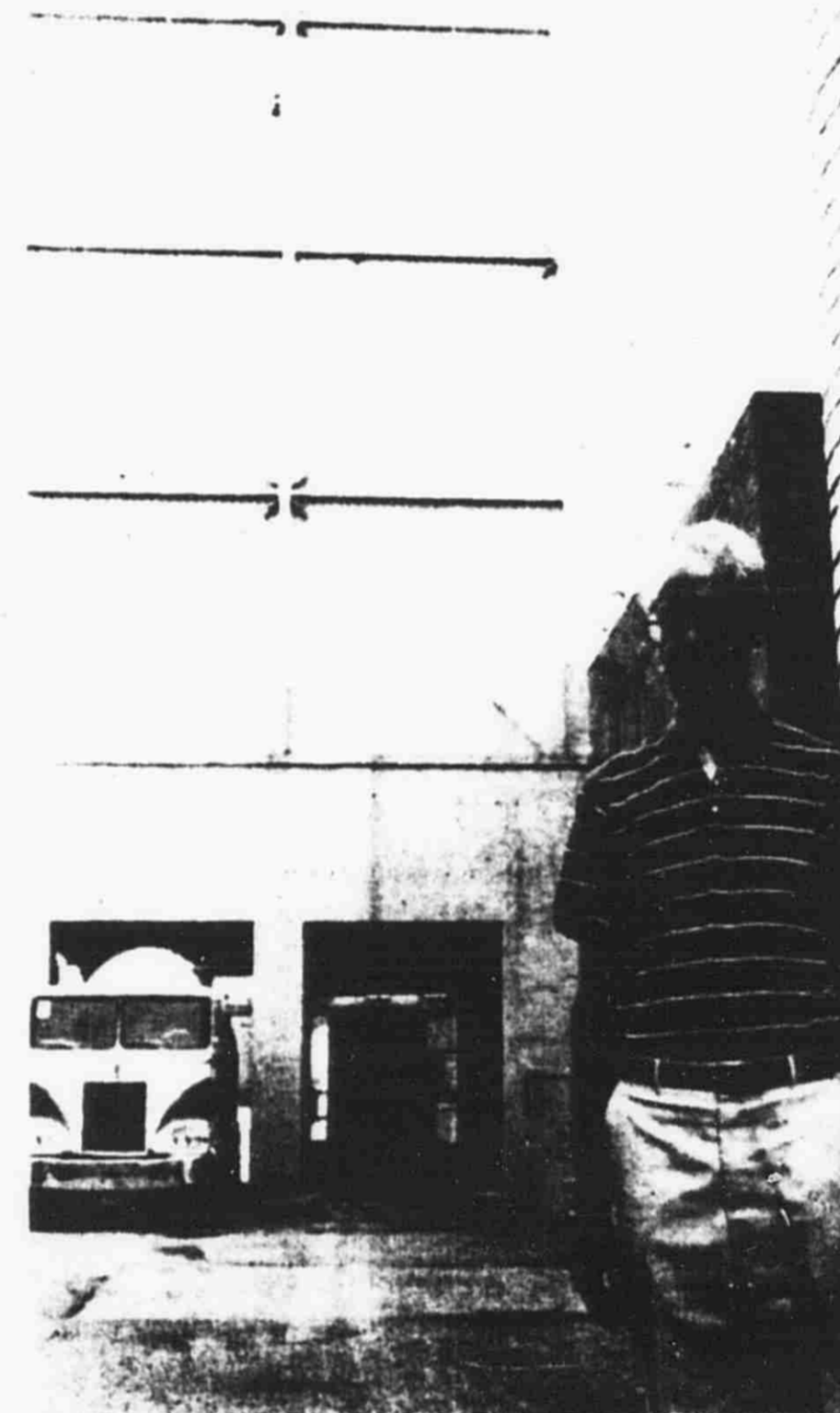
This policy will be continued by the fourth generation of Doyles - Brian, Vice President and General Manager; Jim, Vice President; Stephen, Director of Project Development; and Paula, a graphic designer.

Doyle believes people will

see King Milling diversify into other Milling areas such as batter mixes.

He credits his parents for instilling honesty and hard working ethics in him. It should come as no surprise to hear that it was his father who persevered until a new monolithic concrete mill was erected following the fire which burned the Superior Mill to the ground in March of 1943.

It was his loyalty, conviction and determination that helped him through those tough times, those same traits have helped make King Doyle and the King Milling Company an example for all.



Over the years, the name and words of King Doyle have stood as tall as the "King" sign.



The rolls have withstood the test of time. King Doyle has been directly responsible for many of the changes over the past 45 years. He too, has weathered the test of time very well.

1893 - 1993

Congratulations to The Lowell Ledger

Happy 100th Birthday!

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# Tourists reaction - "IMPRESSIVE"

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and ended at 5 p.m.  
The new high school site, still under construction, was framed by the hue array of fall colors and the ever pleasing temperatures.  
Craig Willison, Owen Ames and Kimball said the new high school site will be the future center of Lowell community activities. "This is much more than just a school project. This is a community project."

For Beth Hoag, a seventh grader in the first tour group on Sunday, it will be her high school home for four years. Her class (1997-1998) will be the first four-year graduating class from the new school.  
Ruby Leeman's granddaughter Bethany will be a member of the second class to graduate after the new school opens. That's significant in that

Leeman's son, Bob, was a member of the first class to graduate from the current high school on Foreman Street. Ruby is a 1931 graduate from Lowell. "Things have changed a little since then," she smiles.  
Reinhart made note that her brothers, Tim and Jerry, were some of the hired excavators for the new high school project.

"The most pleasing thing that I can see, is the school has land in case of the need for future growth. It's been well thought out for future expansion," Reinhart said. "In Caledonia, thought wasn't given to future expansion and now it needs another new building."  
Lowell Area Arts Council member Chris Hodges anticipates the numerous possibilities for the new 725 seat auditorium.

Oct. 28, 1992



Approximately 306 people came out on Sunday to tour the new high school site.

The early reviews on the new Lowell High School site are in, and the 306 school district residents who participated in the "Walking Tour" on Sunday all agree.

"It's very impressive," said Lowell's Nancy Reinhart. "Other communities will take notice."  
"The planning that we did into it was very efficient," said Lowell's Ruby Leeman.  
"I was impressed with the school officials planning around the environment and took it into consideration," said Lowell's Hercules Andrus.  
Dick Korb, tour coordinator, along with administration, board members, and WBLA and Owen Ames and Kimball officials, guided 16 groups of 8-38 residents per group through the tour. Each tour took a little over an hour. The tours began at noon

## The City of Lowell has it "its way" Burger King making its way to town

The Lowell Planning Commission established a public hearing for the June 22 City Council Meeting for the purpose of rezoning two lots that set east of Greenridge Realty Inc. for the construction of a Burger King Restaurant.  
Lowell City Manager Dave Pasquale said the request on the part of the Lowell Planning Commission for the public hearing is for the protection of public interest.  
Commissioner Brian Brown thought that it was important for the City to listen to the response of the area neighbors in regards to the projected drives leading into and out of Burger King.  
However, there is no mention in the ordinance that a special hearing is necessary.  
Commissioner Jim Phillips said that if it is alright for Burger King to put in the drive,

than residents shouldn't have a say or the option to override the decision of legality.  
Pasquale said that he and the City attorney see no problem with it.  
Larry Christiansen, general contractor for the project, of LDC Incorporated, said that Lowell Burger King is a 1992 project and provided there are no delays should be up no later than mid-November.  
He said there are currently five to six Burger King projects underway. All of them are at roughly the same stage. The restaurants that are cleared for construction first will be completed first.  
The Planning Commission and the city manager made it clear that the City does not want to mess up Burger King's project time frame.  
The typical Burger King is 3-3,500 square feet, Christiansen explained.

Burger King may need a variance on its parking. It is asking for the approval of 96 parking spaces and the transitional zoning ordinance calls for 65. The parking may have to be rezoned.  
The restaurant will have a dining room that will seat from 100-120 people. It will have front seating.  
The building will be 42 feet wide and 100 feet deep. It will have a painted brick with timberline shingles.  
Christiansen said Burger King is very much community oriented. "Burger King trains local people with existing management," he said.  
He added, Burger King serves breakfast starting at around 6:30 or 7 a.m. and anticipates it will remain open until 10 p.m. Christiansen said that would depend a lot on business.

## Lowell Chamber of Commerce receives City Council's approval on DDA resolution

Revenues to be sought through tax increment financing

Monday night, some ambitious and energetic Lowell Chamber of Commerce members went before the City Council asking that a resolution of intent be adopted for a downtown development authority, designating the boundaries of the downtown district, calling a public hearing on the proposed boundaries, and on the ordinance incorporating the authority. The Council passed the resolution unanimously.  
The process will involve public hearings, public notification of hearings, and adopting an ordinance notifying the Secretary of State and establishing boundaries. Lowell Chamber of Commerce President Jim Reagan said a DDA would help halt property value deterioration, increase property tax valuation where possible in the business district of the City, would eliminate the cause of deterioration, and would promote economic growth.

"Our downtown needs help. A DDA is something that could benefit our downtown. If we work together we can accomplish more than individually," Reagan said. "The DDA cannot work miracles. It can only be as strong and viable as its board members. The Chamber believes there are talented, energetic and ambitious individuals who live and work in Lowell who could make the DDA successful."  
Reagan said one request downtown businessmen made was that DDA revenue be created through tax increment financing and not increased millage.  
Tax increment financing is a way for cities, villages, and townships in Michigan, which have established a DDA or local development finance authority, to finance development projects. Money needed to finance development in this manner comes from local property taxes and is used for public improvements such as buying land, constructing and improving streets, sidewalks, lighting, or perhaps parking lots or the public mall of a shopping district.  
The money is raised from the tax dollars that are generated by proposed new private property developments and improvements.

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## Water system will service new school and Eastgate

The City of Lowell and Lowell Charter Township each met Monday evening to approve a water supply agreement between the two governmental bodies. A general

outline of the agreement was approved last summer.  
Lowell City Manager Dave Pasquale says the city and township have been discussing this project for several years, but the need for a water supply to the new high school being constructed on Vergennes Ave. accelerated the project. The new school is slated to open in the fall of 1994. Pasquale hopes to see construction begin on the new water project next summer.  
The estimated cost for the city's share is \$1,353,440.00, while the township is expected to spend another \$1.7 million

on water mains and a 500,000 gallon storage tank. The project will be funded entirely by the sale of bonds to be repaid by revenues from water sales. \$500,000 of the construction cost of the new high school is earmarked to pay Lowell Township for water service.  
The agreement outlines the respective responsibilities of each party, rules of the system and water rate methodology. A joint water advisory committee is to be established for communication and to provide advice on the eventual expansion

of the water treatment plant.  
The proposed water service area will be bounded roughly by Vergennes Ave., Parnell Ave., Fulton St. and Alden Nash Ave. (see map). Besides the new high school, the Eastgate in the Wood subdivision will be serviced by the new system.  
Water rates to the township have been set at \$2.10 per thousand gallons and will go in place as of June 30, 1994. The rates will then be reviewed and adjusted annually. If there is a dispute over rates, an arb-

trator will establish rates using the methodology in the agreement.  
Following their vote to accept the agreement, the City Council approved \$47,950 to fund preliminary services for their portion of the project.  
These services include, surveying, soil borings, routing of the water main, site and floor plans, assistance in special assessments, meetings with the Michigan Department of Health and preparation of construction cost estimates.

## School administration closes on land; brings elementary and middle school projects within budget

While it has been considered a done deal for quite some time now, Lowell Schools officially closed on the 185 acres of land on which the new high school will sit.  
The formality of signing all the papers was completed. Lowell Schools paid Steve Wittenbach \$455,243.87 for its 180 acres. It also purchased five adjacent acres belonging to Adrian Hayes for \$20,000. The total purchase price was \$475,243.87. That came in under the \$500,000 budgeted for the purchase of land.  
"We are hopeful of beginning construction by June," Lowell Superintendent Fritz Esch said. "Drawings have not yet been completed on the site plan."  
The most significant roadblock now remains the availability of water and sewer. Talks continue between the governing bodies.  
Because of the distance the school will have to run pipe to get water/sewer utilities to the land, the approximately \$1.6 million budgeted will fall substantially short of the mark. Esch agreed the school's cost to run the lines could run up to \$2.5 million.  
In an effort to make up for the added costs in providing

water and sewer, to the new high school, Esch said some items have had to be put out as ad alternates.  
Because of the anticipated increased cost for water and sewer, four items will be put out to bid as ad alternates. What this means is, if the bids come in low enough so the items can be completed and still remain within budget, the work will be done. If not, the work would have to be delayed until a later date.  
Items that will be bid out as ad alternates include all asphalt paving of parking lots, press box building, and concession building.  
These reductions would total \$340,000.  
"We're trying to cut and delay projects within the bond issue that we feel we can complete at a later date," Esch said.  
Project one, the three elementary buildings, reductions of \$187,000 had to be made to bring the project within budget.  
Project two, the new Middle School, reductions of \$108,000 will be made to bring the project within budget, according to Lowell School's director of instruction, Jim White.

Another road block that faces the Lowell School system as well as every other school system in the state, is the decreasing amount of state funding.  
The State is now charging schools the amount of FICA tax on salaries which it previously paid. The Governor's Proposal calls for the schools to pay the charge and the State would then pay them back the following year.  
Esch said schools are looking at a six-seven percent cost increase in doing business, while the best schools can hope for from the state is an eight-tenths of one percent raise in state funds.  
"It will be worse in 1993-94," Esch claims. "There will be another five to six percent increase in the cost of doing business and probably a negative two-tenths of one percent decrease in state funding."  
Leaving schools to ponder the inequities of financing for public education. The real imbalance is the state is increasing the amount of programs and requirements it requires of schools.  
"It forces local districts to increase taxes to survive and to maintain status quo," Esch said.

## Friendly face of the Ledger reflects on 39 years

By Thad Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

He was three-quarters of the way through a book entitled "Fast Copy," written by Dan Jenkins, when he had to put the book, written about newspapers, aside to talk about a newspaper he spent 39 years printing.  
Donald MacNaughton describes himself as a man who loves to see results.  
Thus, the newspaper and printing business, which evolves around results was a perfect fit. Deadlines demanded results.  
"The deadlines sometimes made it backbreaking to get the work done, but the work always allowed for creativity," MacNaughton said.  
From the fall of 1930 until August of 1969, MacNaughton had a hand in the printing of everything, from a weekly newspaper, to Showboat programs. "I loved the printing business, thus it never seemed like hard work to me."  
In the fall of 1930 a young junior in high school was hired by R.G. Jefferies to come in the morning and empty the ashes from the coal stoves and to swept the floor. Then, in the afternoon, the young

man returned to set type by hand and work on headlines.  
Before long he was pulling proofs for copy reading and making the corrections in the galleys (oblong trays that held single column sets of type). "After they were corrected they were ready to be tagged and made up into page forms," MacNaughton said. "We use to feed the paper (pages) into the Gordon Presses by hand - one in, one out, one in..."  
MacNaughton was also one of three men that used to spend a portion of Thursday afternoon folding the 1,600-1,800 newspapers.  
Those days, the Ledger office was where the Moose Club now resides. "Then the Moose Club was upstairs," recalls MacNaughton. "I believe it was in 1951, when Harold Jefferies decided to have the current Ledger building built, and then the office was moved," MacNaughton said.  
The veteran Ledger printer said the move into the new building and changing from the old hand press to the automatic in the early 60's, were probably the two biggest changes that occurred during his 39 years.  
"The Heidelberg (the auto-

matic press) helped out a lot. It made a big difference - it helped to speed things up," MacNaughton said.  
MacNaughton worked for three of the five Ledger publishers over the last 100 years, R.G. Jefferies, Harold Jefferies and Fran Smith.  
"R.G. was a hell of a nice old guy. He knew the newspaper business and was well liked," MacNaughton said. "Harold was more on the ball. He kept a closer watch over things. He modernized things."  
MacNaughton worked two years for Smith. "He came from Detroit. He modernized the look of the Ledger, but he wasn't a businessman," MacNaughton said. "When R.G. was publisher we had 'Country Correspondents,' who used to report on family and community happenings. If a paper did that today, people would laugh at them. I will tell you one thing, it sold a lot of subscriptions."  
The retired printer also points out, years ago everything went on the front page. The rest of the paper was filled with feature items.  
One constant that has endured over the years with the Ledger is people complaining about what's in the paper. "Today you can't turn around

without readers yelling. It wasn't as bad years ago, but people yelled then when they were unhappy with something."



Throughout much of the Ledger's existence, the "man behind the scenes" was Don MacNaughton, who was on job at the Lowell Ledger for 39 years... he lived with major stories of the area by bringing them into print for Ledger readers.

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VOL. I.      LOWELL, KENT COUNTY, MICH., SEPTEMBER 23, 1893.      NO. 13.

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INDEPENDENT—NOT NEUTRAL.

VOL. XI, NO. 9

LOWELL, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AUGUST 20, 1903

FIVE CENTS.

In the Local Option battle now on we are engaged in the greatest reform since the days of '61 to '65. We were loyal then. Let's be loyal now. The saloon must go.

## THE LOWELL LEDGER.

The one unassailable, unalterable fact is that the saloon business is utterly and everlasting-ly wrong and it can't be fixed. All arguments are futile. The saloon must go.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us continue the fight we are in."

VOL. XVII

LOWELL, MICHIGAN, FEBRUARY 3, 1910

NO. 93

# THE LOWELL LEDGER

and ALTO SOLO

# THE LOWELL LEDGER

Established June, 1893



Number 47

LOWELL, MICH., THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1962

## Lowell Ledger

Vol. 74—No. 43

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1968

Newsstand Copy: 8c

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VOL. 76 NO. 35

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1969

NEWSSTAND PRICE 10c

VOL. 15 NO. 36

## The Grand Valley Ledger

Volume 4, Issue 15

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Readers Since 1893

February 21, 1979

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 17, Issue 35

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Wednesday, July 14, 1993