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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 22, Issue 34

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, July 3, 1996

Lowell Rotary Club - the latest in a list of spirited library contributions

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The Lowell Library Fund committee finds itself in an enviable position - it is indebted to the great amounts of generosity displayed by community organizations and individuals.

"The local support has just been great," said Chuck Myers, Lowell Library committee chairman. "The wall of the foyer inside the new library doors will display a list of all the organizations who have come forward with

donations."

To date, the committee has collected approximately \$900,000 in donations. The total is a collection of monies from the major benefactor (Harold and Mildred Englehardt) foundation grants as well as individual and organization donations.

What all of this means is the payback on the debt retirement will be completed faster than originally thought. Myers said it would take place within five years.

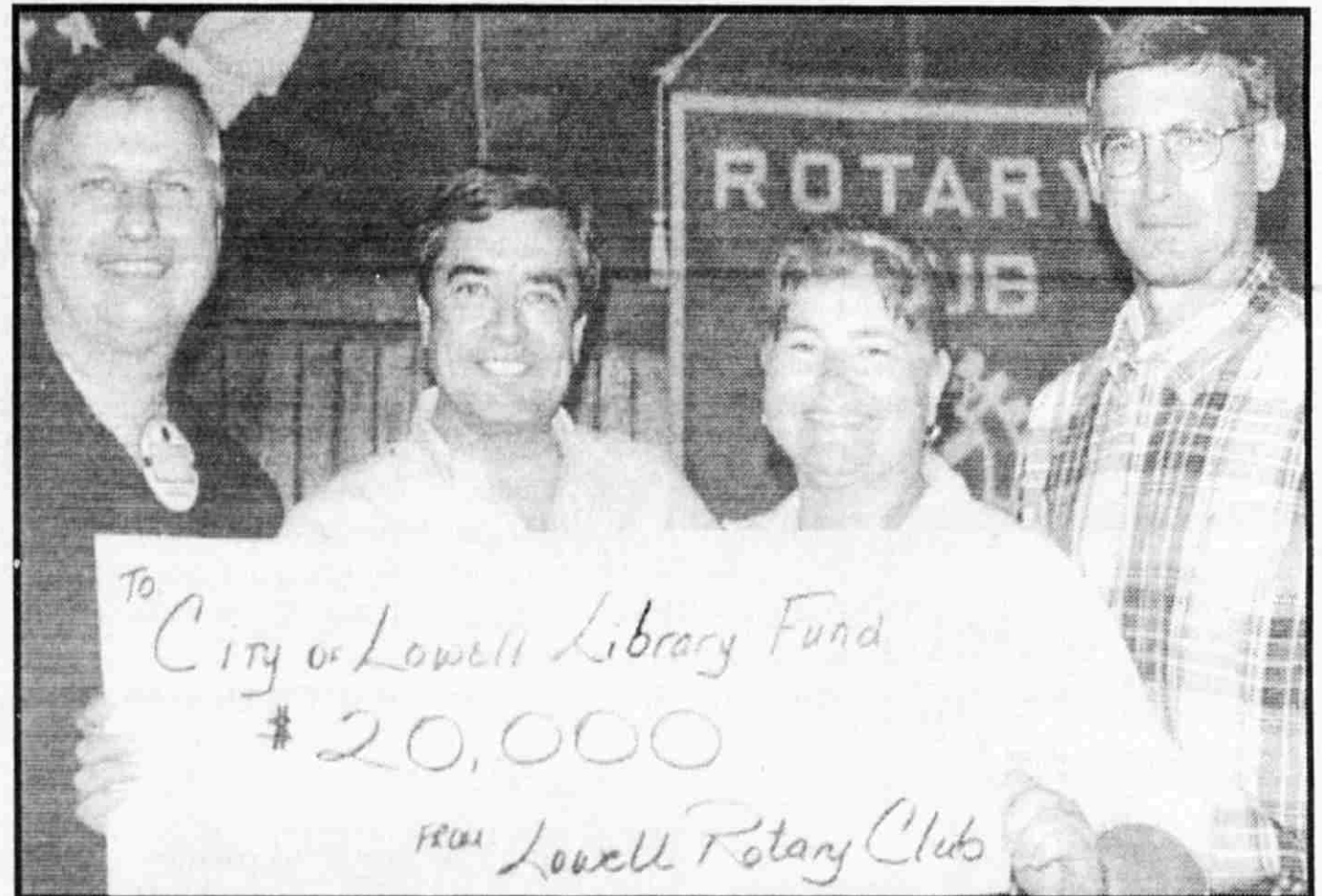
The cost of the new li-

brary is projected at \$1.2 million. With the exception of approximately \$300,000, the rest has been accounted for.

Myers points out that the committee has not yet approached local businesses for donations, the final piece to the library fund puzzle.

The library committee's most recent donation was a pledge from the Lowell Rotary Club in the amount of \$20,000. The funds will be designated for the children's reading area.

The Lowell Rotarians plan



The Lowell Rotary Club announced it would be donating \$20,000 toward the new library over the next three years. Pictured from left to right, are: city manager Dave Pasquale, Library fund chairman, Chuck Myers, out-going president Sylvia Taylor, and newly appointed president Jim Bosserd.

to make good on their pledge by sponsoring "Auction Nights" over the next three years.

Myers, a Rotarian, said it would be a community-wide auction.

"The support in the community has been so strong the organizations have committed to equal amounts of their budget," Myers said. "The spirit of the donations has been equal, the dollar amounts have been different because of the different sizes of the budgets."

Organizations which have come forward over the last couple of months with donations are the Lowell Education Association, Lowell Lions Club, Lowell Women's

Library, cont'd. pg. 8

Determining deed holder to Lee's Landing building raises puzzling questions

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

A second condemnation process was started by the city of Lowell on the property at 109 W. Main, formerly Lee's Landing, with the idea of forcing either an upgrade or tearing down of the structure.

What is unclear in the proceedings is who will be doing the tearing down or upgrading. This quandary has developed because there also seems to be confusion as to who is the deed owner.

Terri Nye, assistant vice president Equivest Financial, said the firm hasn't claimed the title to the property. "Unless there is sufficient value, we don't claim the title," she said. "Often ownership interest is attached to us by fault since we're the lean buyer."

The Kent County Register of Deeds office shows that the title is in Equivest Financial's name. It states the title was quick claimed over to the firm in 1994.

Scott Bohnet, an independent contractor, said a quick claim deed doesn't have a whole lot of meaning. "What it means is someone didn't ask and someone didn't take," he said.

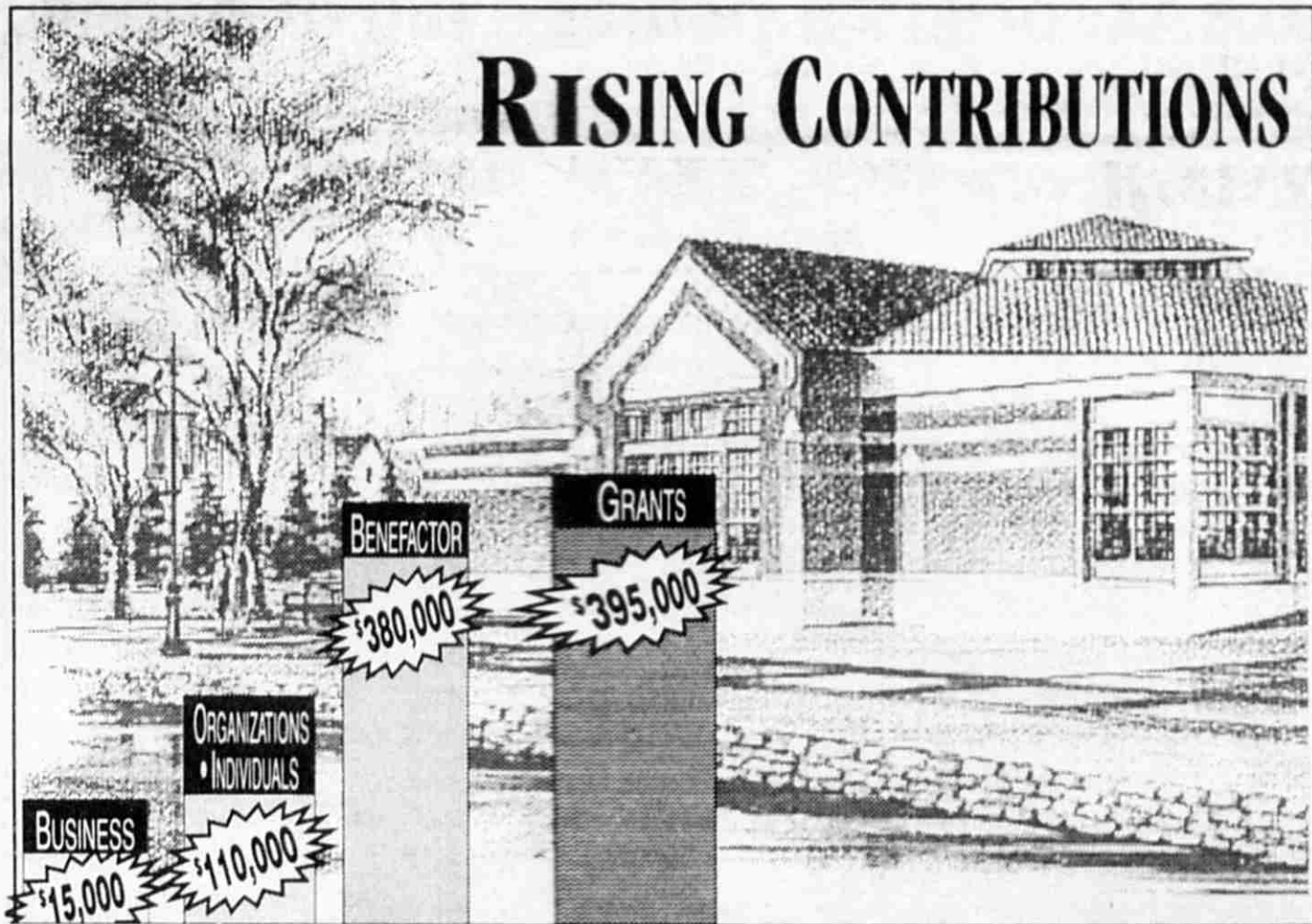
Bohnet added that as of Monday no condemnation papers had been received by Equivest Financial.

"I'm not really sure why the city of Lowell is paying attorney fees to start condemnation," Bohnet said. "The city could purchase the property for less than what it's going to spend in attorney fees."

Dave Pasquale, city manager, said Equivest paid the back taxes for just one year. "The city hasn't been reimbursed for all the back taxes. The cost may be more than what Scott realizes."

Bohnet said he was not sure of what Equivest Financial would do when it receives the condemnation papers. "I don't

Deed, cont'd. pg. 8



We Can Do Better!

.... That was the general feeling of charter school supporters at an informational meeting on Thursday. Whether or not Grattan Academy opens in the fall will be contingent upon enrollment reaching a minimum of 150 students.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Grattan Academy became the 44th charter school to receive authorization in the state of Michigan on June 17.

Charter schools became a viable option in the state of Michigan in 1993 when they were authorized by the Michigan legislature to provide more educational choices to families across Michigan.

In 1995-96 44 charter schools opened its school doors in Michigan.

Valerie Von Frank, director of communications for the Michigan Partnership for New Education said they expect that number to grow to approximately 75 in 1996-97.

"1995-96 was the first school year that charter schools had an impact," Von Frank said. The average student enrollment size of a charter school in 1995-96 was 129. The average public school size is 460.

Grattan Academy will be housed at 12047 Old Belding Rd. off M-44 in Grattan Township at the old Grattan Elementary School facility.

Bob Wittmann, the Grattan Academy project coordinator, said the start-up of the academy is in response to the need for a quality educational alternative expressed by families encompassing the communities of Grattan, Belding, Greenville, Rockford, Cedar Springs, Lowell, Ada, Saranac and Ionia.

The academy will be managed by the Michigan Partnership for New Education under contract with the board. The Michigan Partnership for New Education was formed in 1989. It promotes fundamental change in public education at the state and local levels.

The Partnership will focus on the governance, management and leadership of the school.

- In the leadership role, the Partnership will:
- Provide the marketing, development and management necessary to create high-quality charter schools.
 - Coordinate resources which currently provide services to charter schools.
 - Review, evaluate and report on the charter school initiative.

Academy, continued pg. 8

INSIDE THE LEDGER

It's Going To Be a Circus,
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New Floor Covering
Store, pg. 24

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FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 5 THRU JULY 11

Bob Costas (pictured) is looking forward to raising some hot issues, like the Marge Schott controversy and baseball's labor strife, when he anchors NBC's coverage of the All-Star Game on Tuesday, July 9. He'll be joined by Bob Uecker, Joe Morgan, Johnny Bench and Jim Gray.

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DAYTIME AFTERNOON 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30

FRIDAY EVENING JULY 5, 1996 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 5, 1996 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30

SATURDAY MORNING JULY 6, 1996 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30

SATURDAY AFTERNOON JULY 6, 1996 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30

SATURDAY EVENING JULY 6, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

SATURDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 6, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

SUNDAY MORNING JULY 7, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON JULY 7, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

SUNDAY EVENING JULY 7, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

SUNDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 7, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

MONDAY EVENING JULY 8, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

MONDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 8, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

TUESDAY EVENING JULY 9, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 9, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

WEDNESDAY EVENING JULY 10, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

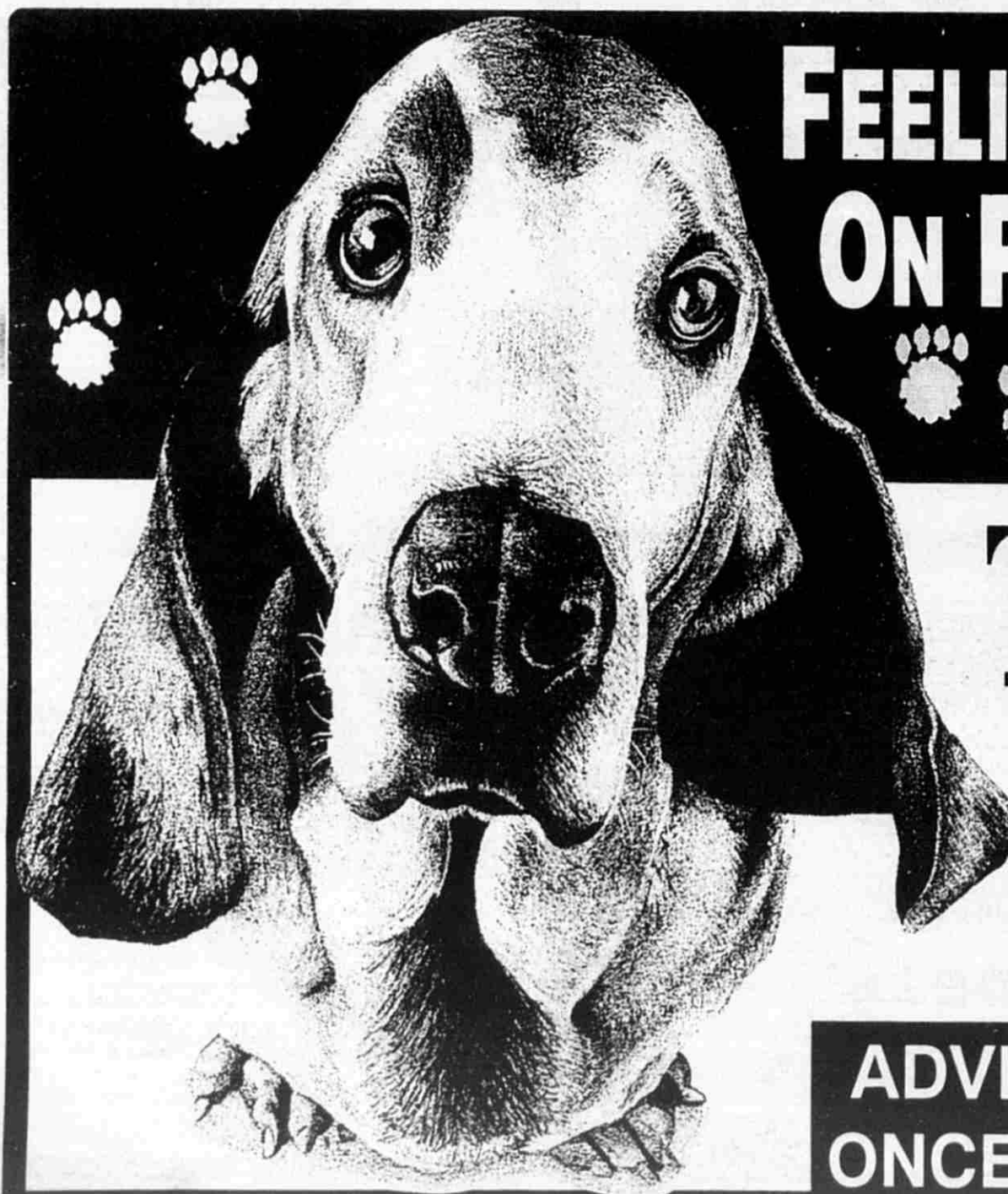
WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 10, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

THURSDAY EVENING JULY 11, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 11, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

THURSDAY EVENING JULY 11, 1996. Table listing TV programs by station and time slot (7:00 to 11:30).

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT JULY 11, 1996. Table listing TV programs by station and time slot (12:00 to 4:30).



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City and Ball give Weenum assurances and understanding

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

With assurances that land would be returned and that something would be done to prevent erosion, David Weenum said he would be receptive to the grading of his bank to accommodate a house move.

At the June 17 meeting, the Lowell City Council granted Harold Ball approval to move his house located on East Main to Division north of High Street, allowing him to cut back on

the southeast corner of the intersection. Approval was granted contingent upon concurrence by the affected property owner at 708 High Street (Weenum).

Weenum, in attendance at Monday night's meeting, said he was concerned about the amount of land being moved and erosion that may take place following the removal.

Weenum said he would like all of the land put back the way it was.

However, the Lowell resident did concede with Mayor Bill Thompson's suggestion that it be tapered a little so that

there's a better view for traffic stopped at the corner.

"The city is concerned with how the move affect's the property owner, but we're also concerned about having a safe intersection," Thompson said. "It is also in the city's best interest to keep the bank from eroding."

Ball said he would put back the sumac, lilacs and reseed the bank after his house is moved on Aug. 5.

"Harold has been involved in a lot of house projects within the city of Lowell and he's always done what he's said and he's done a good job," Thompson said.

Local scholarships an enriching way to help with college costs

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Each year many Lowell High School seniors find fortunes in aid through a multitude of local scholarships.

The funds for these scholarships come from different sources including families and civic minded persons in the Lowell area who have established award programs.

"Lowell is indeed very lucky to have so many local scholarships," Lowell High School counselor Barb Pierce said. "Lowell is a very close - knit community. Many have ties to education and use scholarships as a way to honor their

father and/or mother."

The Carol (Chris) Burch Scholarship was presented to a Lowell senior for the seventh straight year.

Burch was a well respected and well-liked football coach and citizen in the Lowell community.

"He was always out to help children do their best," said his daughter Carole Kerr. "Our family takes a great deal of pride in presenting the scholarship each year. I think it represents my father's willingness to help kids."

Scholarships are a wonderful way to leave a memorial, according to Pierce. "People can do that by contacting the high

school office or the superintendent's office," she said.

Scott Smith was the ninth Lowell High School senior to receive a Jeff Reinke Scholarship.

"We hope the scholarship helps seniors realize that respect, pride and education are most important," Sally Reinke said. "Jeff was so respectful. I hope kids of today realize the importance of thanking their parents, taking pride in themselves and showing respect to ward the community."

The choice to start a scholarship named after their son was

Scholarships, cont'd. pg. 20

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King Royal Bros. circus comes to Lowell July 10

Fifteen feet from ground to crown is the height of "High Pockets George," the 19-month-old baby giraffe that will be on exhibit for the first time in America along with over 100 other rare and exotic animals when the King Royal Bros. Three-Ring Circus brings the big show to Lowell Fairgrounds on Wednesday, July 10 at 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. under the sponsorship of Lowell Lions Club.

Giraffes, heretofore thought to be untrainable animals, have been excluded from the ranks of performing animals. George, in contrast, is certainly the wonder of man's gentle association with beasts. In the 200 years of the American circus, not one single giraffe has ever performed in a solo (or any type of) routine. Defying all odds, the animal husbandry department of King Royal has absolutely achieved the impossible by gently teaching George to perform a multitude of separate and distinct tricks in an unbelievable display with his trainer using only the most skeptical of the world of zoological science.

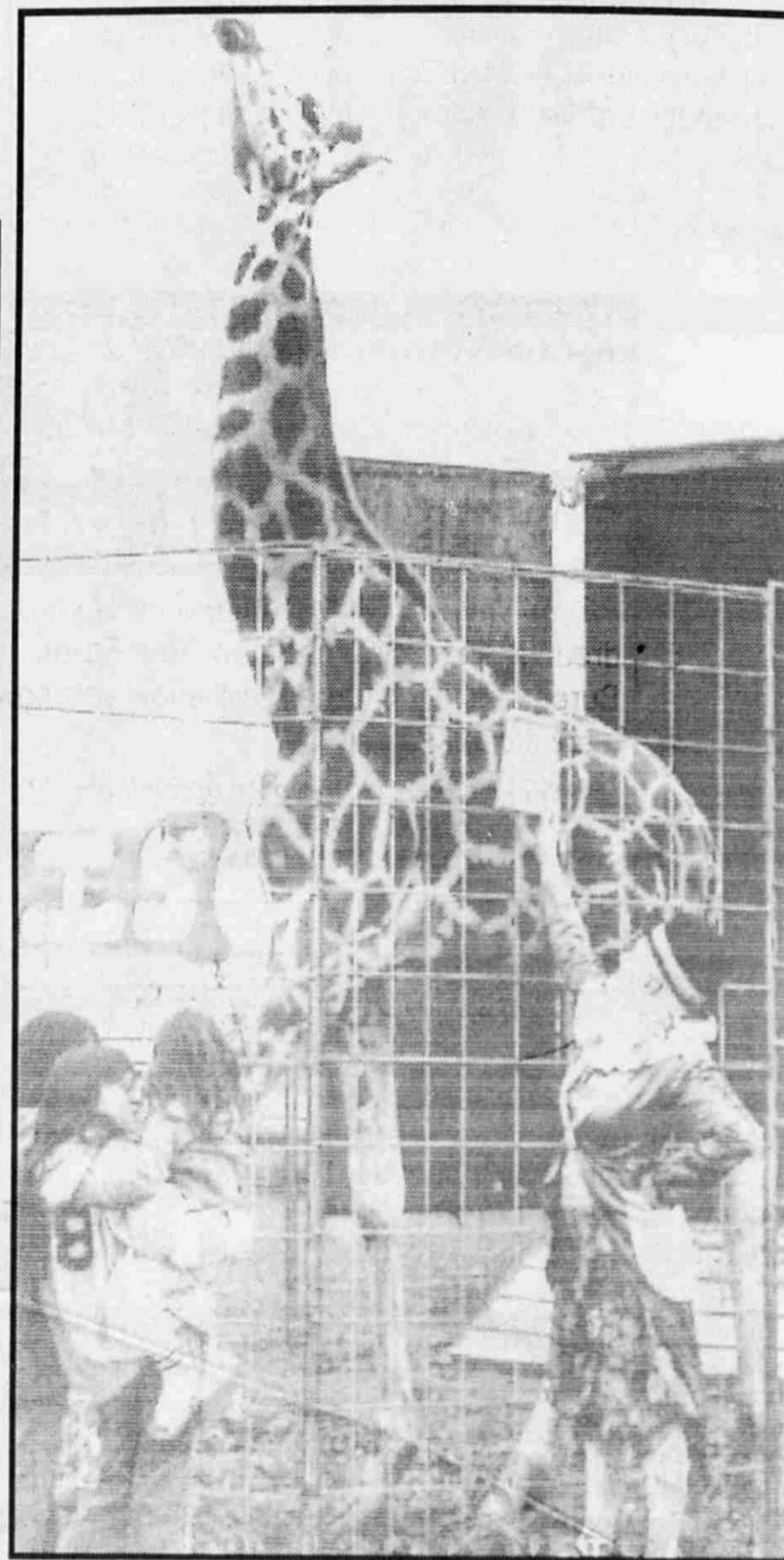
Along with the elite of the circus world will be scores of acrobats, clowns, jugglers and aerialists - all forming a myriad

of spectacular costuming and beauty personified; with a combination of thrills and artistry the King Royal Bros. Circus proves to be the outstanding attraction of the year.

Advance, reduced price tickets are now on sale, children, \$4 and adults, \$6. Tickets can be picked up at Dr. David Durkee's office, The Lowell ledger office and from local Lions Club members.

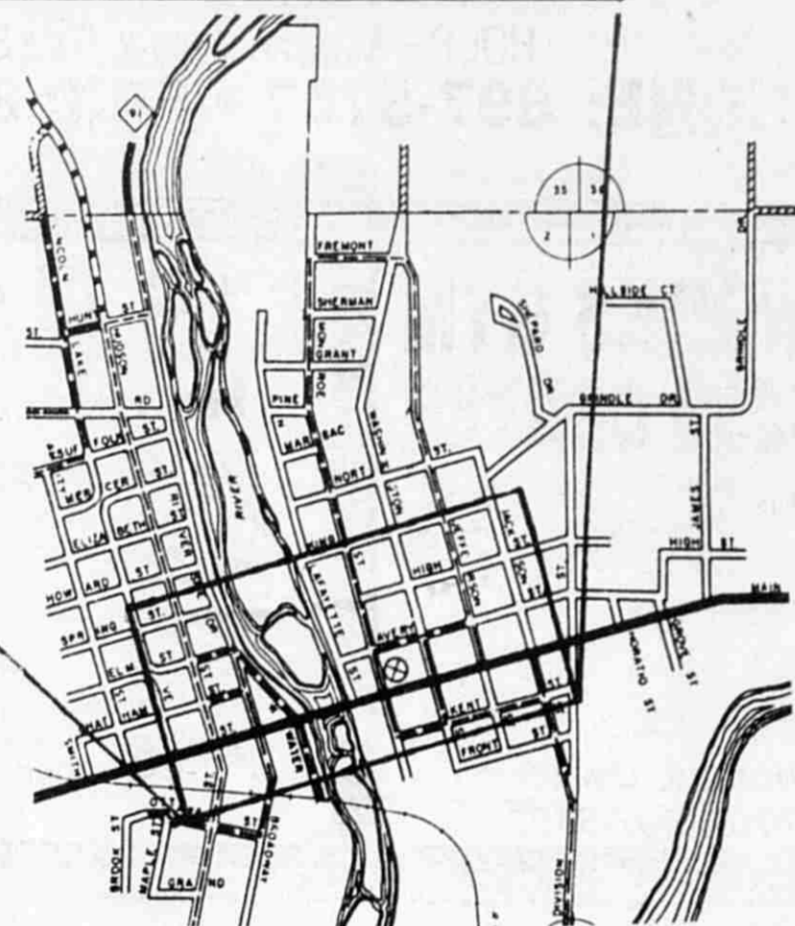
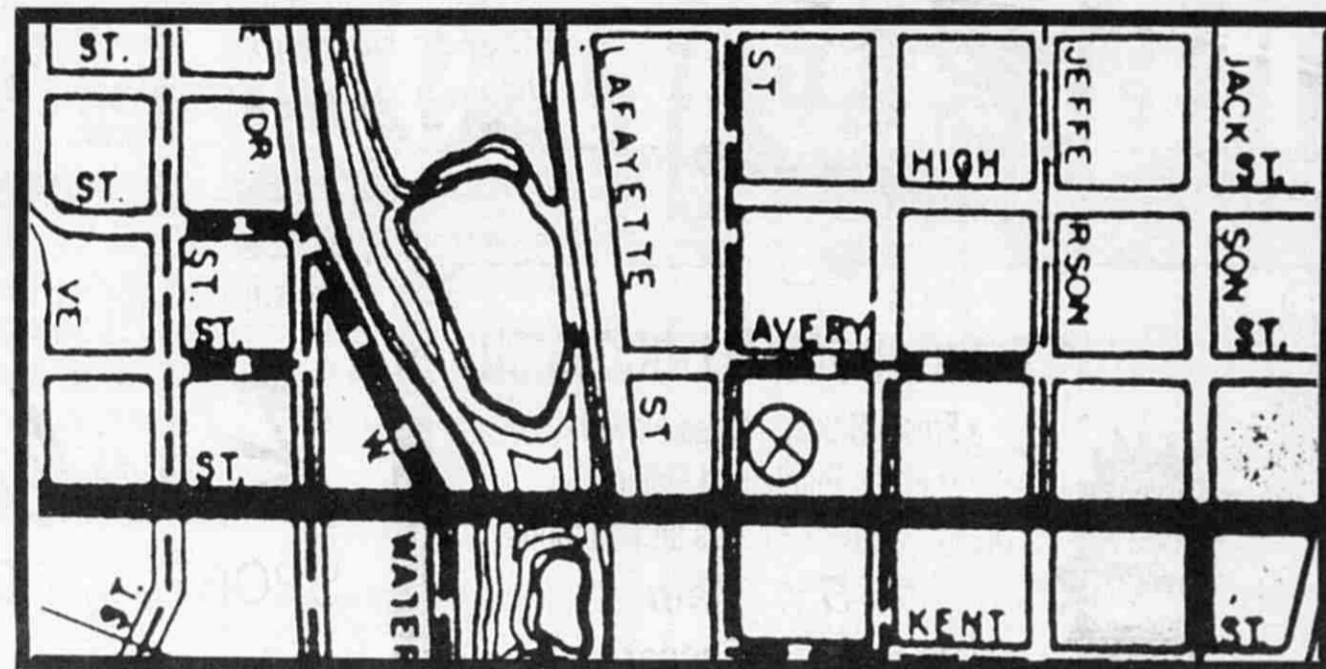
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Circus attraction "High Pockets George" (giraffe) will be in Lowell on July 10.

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Gas companies slug it out in race to provide Lowell Township with natural gas

By Marc Popielek
Contributing Writer

In the continuing saga of dueling utility companies, representatives of MichCon Consolidated Gas Company have informed Lowell Charter Township officials that they are ready and willing to

serve all of the townships natural gas needs.

However, before MichCon can actually lay the pipe to serve customers they must be granted a franchise by township officials.

In a presentation to the board MichCon officials painted a picture of Lowell

township residents receiving natural gas as soon as it's economically feasible.

The only thing standing in their way is the franchise agreement and Consumers Power.

In order for MichCon to provide natural gas to Lowell Township residents it must

receive the approval from the Michigan Public Services Commission (MPSC) and Consumers Powers.

According to state law, when one utility company is located in an area, any other company must receive permission from that company in an Act 69 agreement.

The Act 69 certifies the convenience and necessity of two utility companies in one area and insures that there is no duplication of service or unnecessary cost to the consumer by having two companies in one area.

"Consumers Power has the upper hand because they were the first one here," said Doug Koessel, a representative of Consumers Power. "But, by granting us a franchise the township will get gas one way or the other."

According to Koessel, Consumers Power has the

right to deny MichCon any project, but in doing so must commit to doing the project themselves.

Koessel said the MPSC would listen to Consumer's reasons for denial, but could turn down their denial if the project is considered to costly for them to pursue.

The cost situation plays into MichCon's hands because they already have lines established on the Cascade/Lowell border.

Currently MichCon is seeking to put gas lines in on Snow Avenue.

If Consumers denied the project it would have to commit to putting in gas lines, but that could prove to be difficult because they currently don't have lines in the area.

"It's a win, win situation, a lot of communities are granting dual franchises in the state," Koessel said. "Com-

petition is good. There is less talk and more construction when you have two utility companies looking at the same area."

Two weeks ago Consumers Power asked the township to deny MichCon's request due to a project they intend to start in 1997.

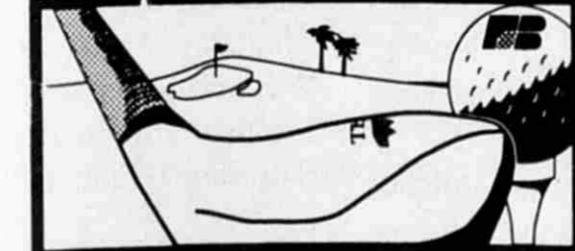
The board didn't deny MichCon request, but were optimistic natural gas would be coming to Lowell via Consumers Power.

Now township officials are confident residents will get natural gas even if they grant MichCon a franchise.

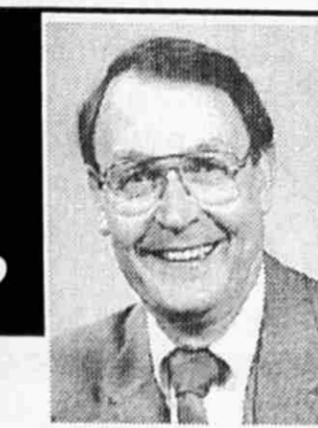
"It's important to me to bring gas to my constituents the best way possible," said Township supervisor John Timpson.

The board is scheduled to make a decision at its July 15 meeting.

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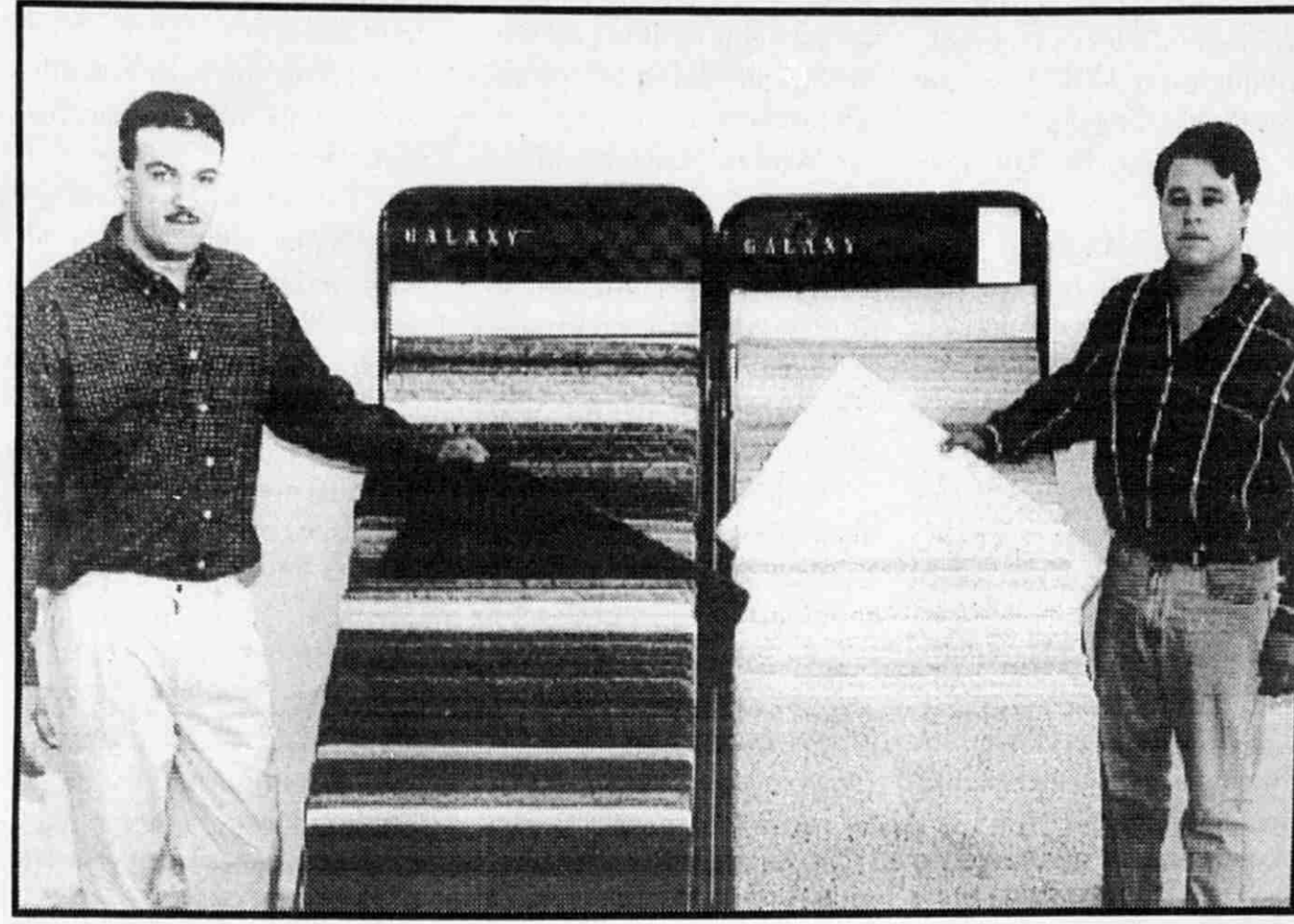
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Lowell graduate focuses on filling customers' needs with opening of Shaffer Floor Covering



Don Shaffer Jr., left, and Pat Harkness, right, display a small bit of the carpet available to customers at Shaffer Floor Covering, 1335 W. Main.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Same product better prices is a motto most businesses use to assure success. Don Shaffer Jr., owner of Shaffer Floor Covering, says products and prices are im-

portant, but the key to being a successful floor covering store is installation. "Having professionals do your installation is the key," Shaffer said. "Our installers will be certified and experienced." he said. "If the install-

ers do a bad job, you'll be shutdown in six months." Shaffer a 1990 Lowell High School graduate, has six years experience in carpet installation. He learned the craft from his father (Don Shaffer) who's been in the business

for 30 years. Pat Harkness will help Shaffer with his new business venture. "We want to give customers something (the best deal possible) so they look forward to coming back," Shaffer said.

Shaffer Floor Covering, 1335 W. Main (Suite 104), will be working with three-four different mills which will help enable them to compete with stores in Grand Rapids. "We will carry the same products, but our prices will beat the estimates customers

get from Grand Rapids." Shaffer wants his new Lowell business to become a one-stop deal for customers. "I want customers to be able to do their whole new house with just one stop," he said. Name recognition will serve as Shaffer's ally. The Shaffer name is a familiar one in the West Michigan area. Shaffer starts the new business with established contacts. "I'm just looking for the business to build and get bigger," he said.

The Lowell resident admits the business venture is a big step, but is anxious to see it succeed. Shaffer Floor Covering will offer a little bit of everything: 12 to 15 foot rolls of living room carpet, a wide range of Berbers, outdoor carpet, and a large selection of ceramic tile, wood and vinyl (Armstrong and Congoleum) flooring. Shaffer's summer hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Greenridge Realty announced that Joice Smith received Realtor of the Month in June. This award recognizes Smith for her outstanding success and achievements.



Joice Smith



The real name of the Hunchback of Notre Dame was Quasimodo.

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IN HEREBY GIVEN that on July 10, 1996 at 7:30 p.m., the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing at the Grattan Township Museum Building, 11663 Old Belding Road, within the Township, concerning the application of Robert Bowers for a special land uses for (1) proposed private road to serve 12 or more parcels of land; (2) the authorization for one or more parcels of land to exceed the maximum lot width to depth ratio as specified in the Township Zoning Ordinance; (3) authorization for one or more parcels of land to have less width of frontage on a street cul-de-sac than other wise required by the Zoning Ordinance. The public hearing will also include consideration and review of a proposed site plan for residential development covering 12 or more parcels of land. The special land uses and the site plan review cover the following described lands:

Part of Government Lots 2 and 4 described as commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said section; thence South 89°56'35" West 774.75 feet along the south line of said section to the Southerly extension of the centerline of Dunn Avenue to the point of beginning; thence South 89°56'35" West 1271.88 feet along said South line; thence North 17°17'54" West 316 feet more or less to the water's edge of Big Crooked Lake; thence Easterly and Northerly along said water's edge 300 feet more or less to a line bearing North 70°33'51" West from Reference Point "A" which is North 01°07'30" West 358.62 feet along the centerline of said Dunn Avenue and South 88°52'30" West 420.15 feet and North 00°03'25" West 30.91 feet and South 89°56'35" West 232.89 feet from the point of beginning; thence South 70°33'51" East 383 feet more or less to a point which is North 70°33'51" West 175.39 feet from said Reference Point "A", thence North 26°00'0" East 50.00 feet; thence Northeasterly 202.32 feet on a 441.40 foot radius curve to the right, the chord of which bears North 33°07'53" East 200.55 feet; thence North 68°03'24" West 139.34 feet; thence North 27°55'13" West 407.40 feet; thence North 62°48'40" West 267 feet more or less to the water's edge of said Big Crooked Lake; thence meandering Northwesterly, Northeasterly, Southeasterly, Northeasterly and Northerly 17 feet more or less to a line bearing South 88°52'30" West from a point which is North 01°07'30" West 1561.83 feet from the point of beginning; thence North 88°52'30" East 33.00 feet; thence South 01°07'30" East 1561.85 feet along said centerline and its Southerly extension to the point of beginning, Section 21, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment upon the requested special land use. Written comments may be submitted to the Township office, 11676 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan 48809, within the Township, prior to the public hearing.

Dated June 21, 1996

Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

County of Kent, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 10, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing at the Grattan Township Museum Building, 11663 Old Belding Road, within the Township, concerning the application of Gordon Beuker for a special land use for a proposed private road to serve two parcels. The special land use covers the lands located at 5540 and 5570 Dunn Avenue and legally described as follows:

Part of Government Lot 2, commencing at the South 1/4 corner, thence South 89°56'35" West along the South section line 774.75 feet to the centerline of Dunn Avenue extending South, thence North 1°07'30" West along said centerline 1660.26 feet, thence Northwesterly 264.37 feet along said centerline on a 975.94 foot radius curve to the left, the long chord of which bears North 8°53'07" West 263.56 feet, thence North 16°38'45" West along said centerline 242.86 feet, thence Northwesterly 272.44 feet along said centerline on a 1021.2 foot radius curve to the left, the long chord of which bears North 24°17'20" West 271.63 feet, thence North 89°52'15" East 1308.44 feet to beginning of this description, thence South 89°52'15" West 1308.44 feet to the centerline of said avenue, thence Southeasterly 272.44 feet along said centerline on a 1021.2 foot radius curve to the right, the long chord of which bears South 24°17'20" East 271.63 feet; thence South 16°38'45" East 57.75 feet, thence North 89°52'15" East 898.29 feet; thence South 59°25' East 309 feet, more or less, to the water's edge of Round Lake, thence Northeasterly along said water's edge to a line bearing South 59°25' East from beginning, thence North 59°25' West 222 feet more or less, to the point of beginning, Section 21, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan.

And also, that part of Government Lot 2, commencing at the south 1/4 corner, thence South 89°56'35" West along the South section line 774.75 feet to the centerline of Dunn Avenue extending South, thence North 1°07'30" West along said centerline 1660.26 feet, thence Northwesterly 264.37 feet along said centerline on a 975.94 foot radius curve to the left, the long chord of which bears North 8°53'07" West 263.56 feet, thence North 16°38'45" West 185.11 feet, thence North 89°52'15" East 898.29 feet to the beginning of this description, thence South 89°52'15" West 898.29 feet to the centerline of said avenue, thence South 16°38'45" East 185.11 feet, thence Southeasterly 264.37 feet along said centerline on a 975.94 foot radius curve to the right, the long chord of which bears South 8°53'07" East 263.56 feet, thence South 1°07'30" East 98.41 feet, thence North 89°03' West 344.03 feet, thence North 89°52'15" East 257.4 feet, thence South 59°25' East 230 feet, more or less, to the water's edge of Round Lake, thence Northeasterly along said water's edge to a line bearing South 59°25' East from beginning, thence North 59°25' West 309 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning Section 21, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment upon the requested special land use. Written comments may be submitted to the Township office, 11676 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan 48809, within the Township, prior to the public hearing.

Dated: June 21, 1996

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

Extending west side sanitary sewer may bring greater growth to M-21

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The city of Lowell has proposed using deferred assessments to help recoup costs of extending sanitary sewer on the west side. The city, through its sewer fund, would pay the proposed \$216,368.34 for the construction costs plus contingencies and inspections for the project. Because much of the project goes through significant amounts of vacant land, a deferred system would be set up so everybody pays an equitable share.

The design for the extension of the west side sanitary sewer would extend on Sibley, at Ridgeview, directly west to the city limits. By locating the sewer north of West Main, lift station would not be needed. A minor upgrade to the Sibley lift station would, however, be needed.

Upon development, whether residential or commercial, the city would calculate a percent of interest onto the deferred payment to cover the cost of living increase. Payback of the deferred payment would take place over a maximum of five years.

City manager Dave Pasquale stated that Michigan Wire and Ionia County National Bank wish to utilize the sewer immediately. The proposed Mill Estate, 62 resident subdivision, would also use the sewer. That development is currently being delayed due to a wetland issue.

In extending the sanitary sewer, any residential or commercial structure within 200 feet would have to hook into the system.

Michigan Wire's Dean Lonick said not having the utility in place prevented the company from expanding last year. "When the next stage of development comes along a representation of that expansion will be done. The business climate is

not the same as it was a year ago," he said. Pasquale said he believes the extension of the west side sanitary sewer will encourage development, encourage Michigan Wire to expand, and would encourage more commercial properties.

It would also bring greater growth opportunity to M-21 on the west end. "Having commercial and industry hook onto the sewer would bring more opportunity," Pasquale said.

Lowell's city manager said there are things that need to be done assure development. That would include sharing costs and estimating what can be expected in growth along the way. The next step for the proposed project would include final allocation of cost, gaining easements across the six properties so that they can be served and then bring it back to the council for a vote.

TOWN TALK

How do you deal with the stress in your life?



Karen Kennedy
I pray.



Pete Leeman
I have a bite to eat.



Chuck Lundy
I complain a little, I find work to do and I don't talk to people.



Joi LeGrow
I listen to alternative music, swim and take showers.



Jaimi Smith
I listen to music and play basketball.



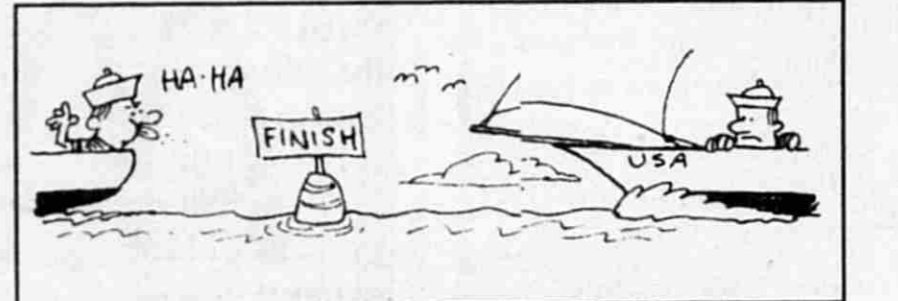
Cheryl Haines
I pray.



Delores Curtis
I read romance books and listen to country music.



Lisa Wernet
I eat Country fresh chocolate cream.



In 1983, after holding the America's Cup for 125 years, the New York Yacht Club lost it to Australia's Royal Perth Yacht Club.

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

County of Kent, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 10, 1996 at 7:30 p.m., the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing at the Grattan Township Museum Building, 11663 Old Belding Road, within the Township, concerning the application of Harold Bailey for a special land use for a proposed inground swimming pool to be located in the front yard on a parcel of land in the Lake Residential District. The special land use covers the lands located at 8361 Bay Drive, and legally described as follows:

Lot 51 of Cowan Lake Plat No. 2, a recorded plat, Section 6, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment upon the requested special land use. Written comments may be submitted to the Grattan Township office, 11676 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan 48809, within the Township, prior to the public hearing.

Dated: June 25, 1996

Planning Commission of The Township of Grattan

Sewer problem shouldn't delay asphalt of Broadway/Riverside parking lot

A problem with the sewer line in the Broadway/Riverside parking lot will need some fixing before asphalt can be laid, according to Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale.

Officials said the flow isn't what it should be. The source of the problem is believed to be a collapsed line. Pasquale said it is not known whether just a portion or all of the line is collapsed.

The estimated cost to repair the sewer line is \$4,500.



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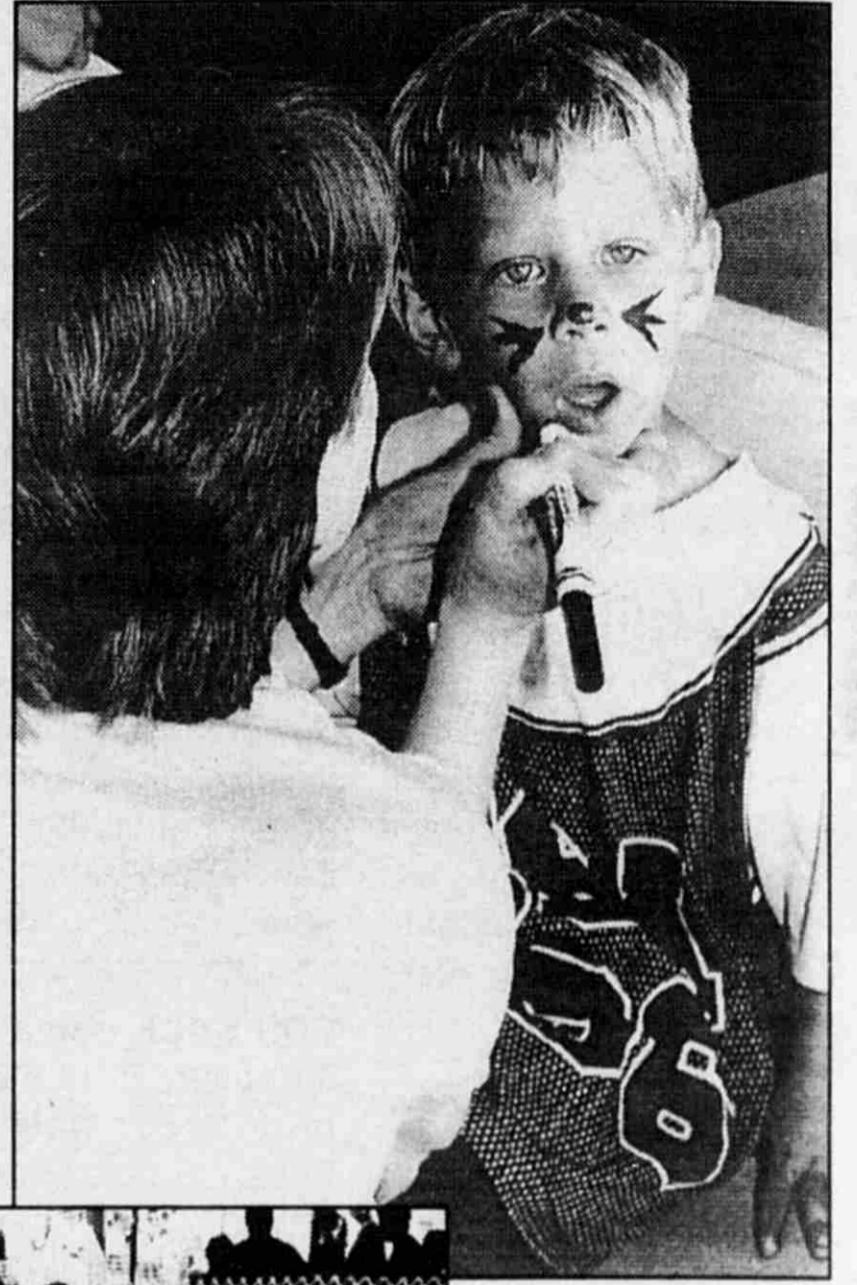
St. Pat's "swinging" festival



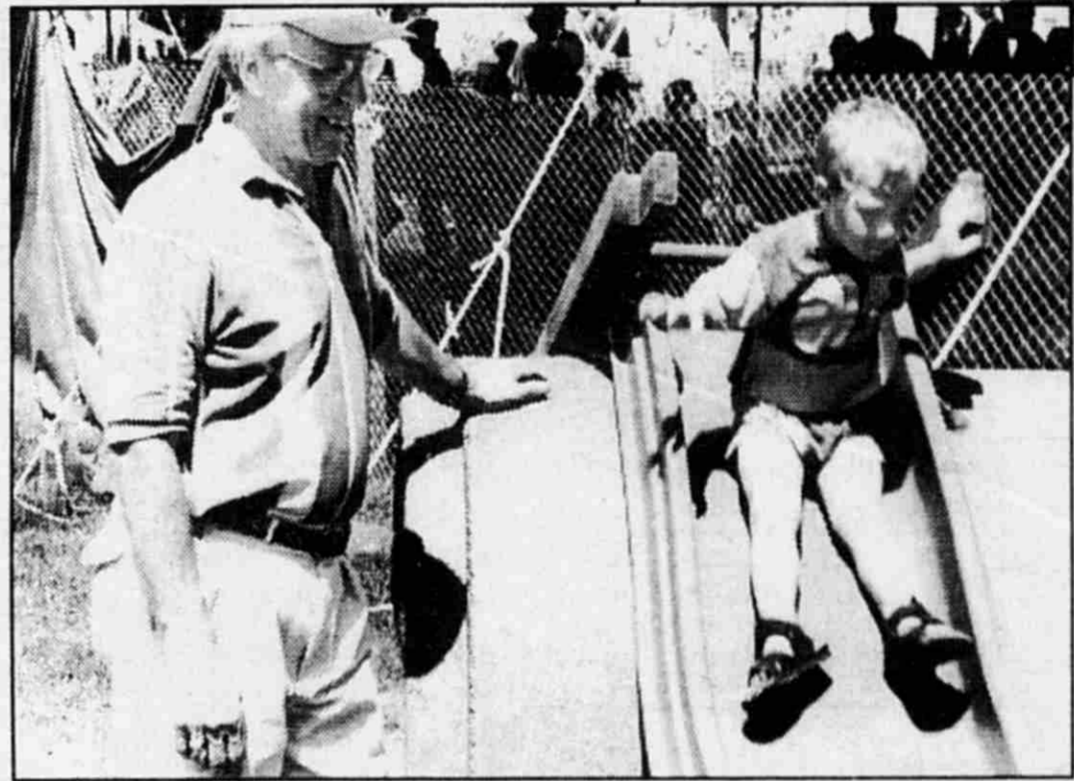
Casey Heffron, standing, and Paige Ringer enjoy the tire swing.



Lindsay Yarch, 11, spends a moment with "Lightning."

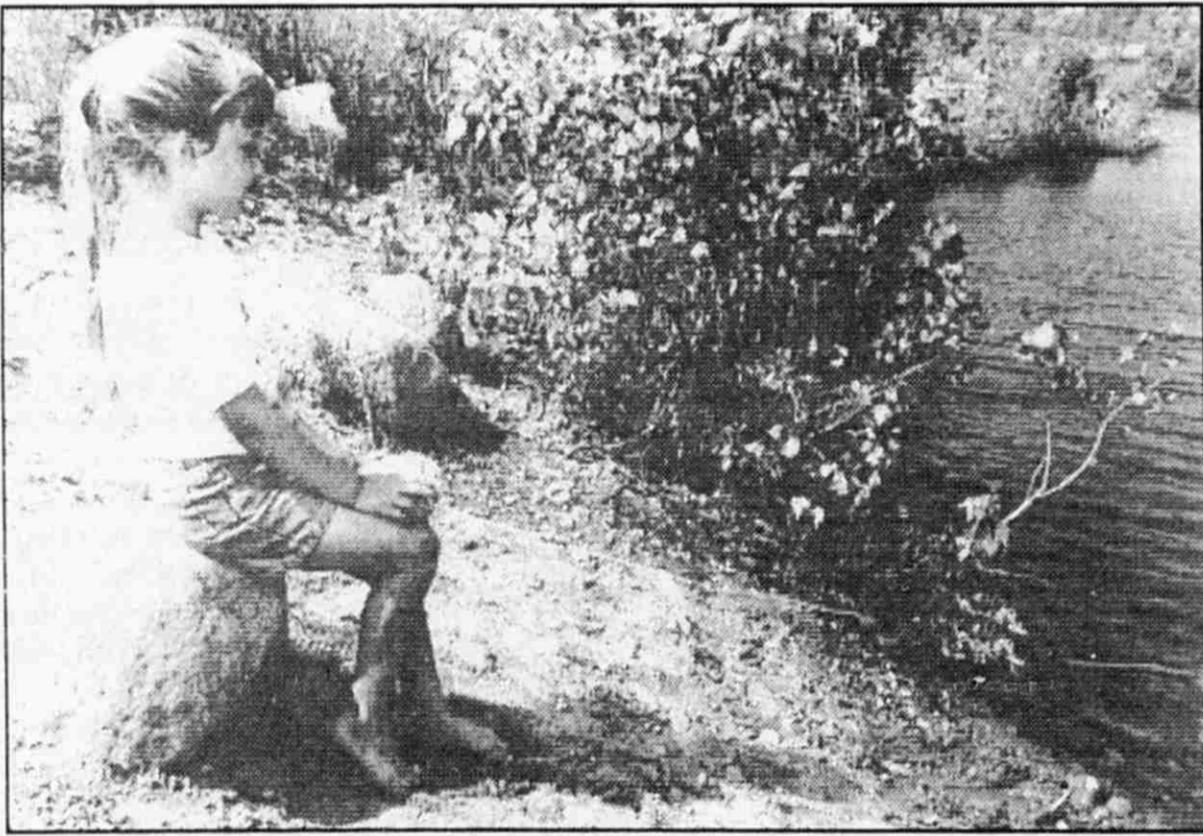


Joshua Smith of Sand Lake.



Bob Buffham watches as his grandson starts down the slide.

Gone fishin'



Cassie DeCator waits for that elusive fish.

There were approximately 30 kids who participated in the event which lasted from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday.

"The kids have fun and the workers just have a ball," said derby chairman Roger Miller. "Just being here and hearing the kids talk, makes it worth it."

Miller noted that while some think of a tavern when they hear the name Moose, the Lodge does a lot for children.

"The Moose is involved in Make a Wish, Paws for a Cause, and the making and distribution of Easter and Christmas baskets," Miller said. "The Moose really stands for family involve-

ment and doing things for children."

Winning a Shakespeare rod and reel for catching the most fish was Joe Mull.

Cory Jones placed second and received a Zebco rod and reel.

Tiffanie Venneman placed fourth and earned a Zebco rod and reel.

Kevin Jones (seventh), Jason Roth (eighth) and An-

drew Fredricks (ninth) all received tackle boxes.

The last names of the following winners were not available. Winning Zebcorod and reels were Lisa W. (third); and Corey (fifth).

A tackle box was handed out to Libby R. (sixth).

The remaining participants all received grab bags.

"Every kid received a prize," Miller said.

The annual Kids' Fishing Derby sponsored by the Lowell Moose Lodge speck-

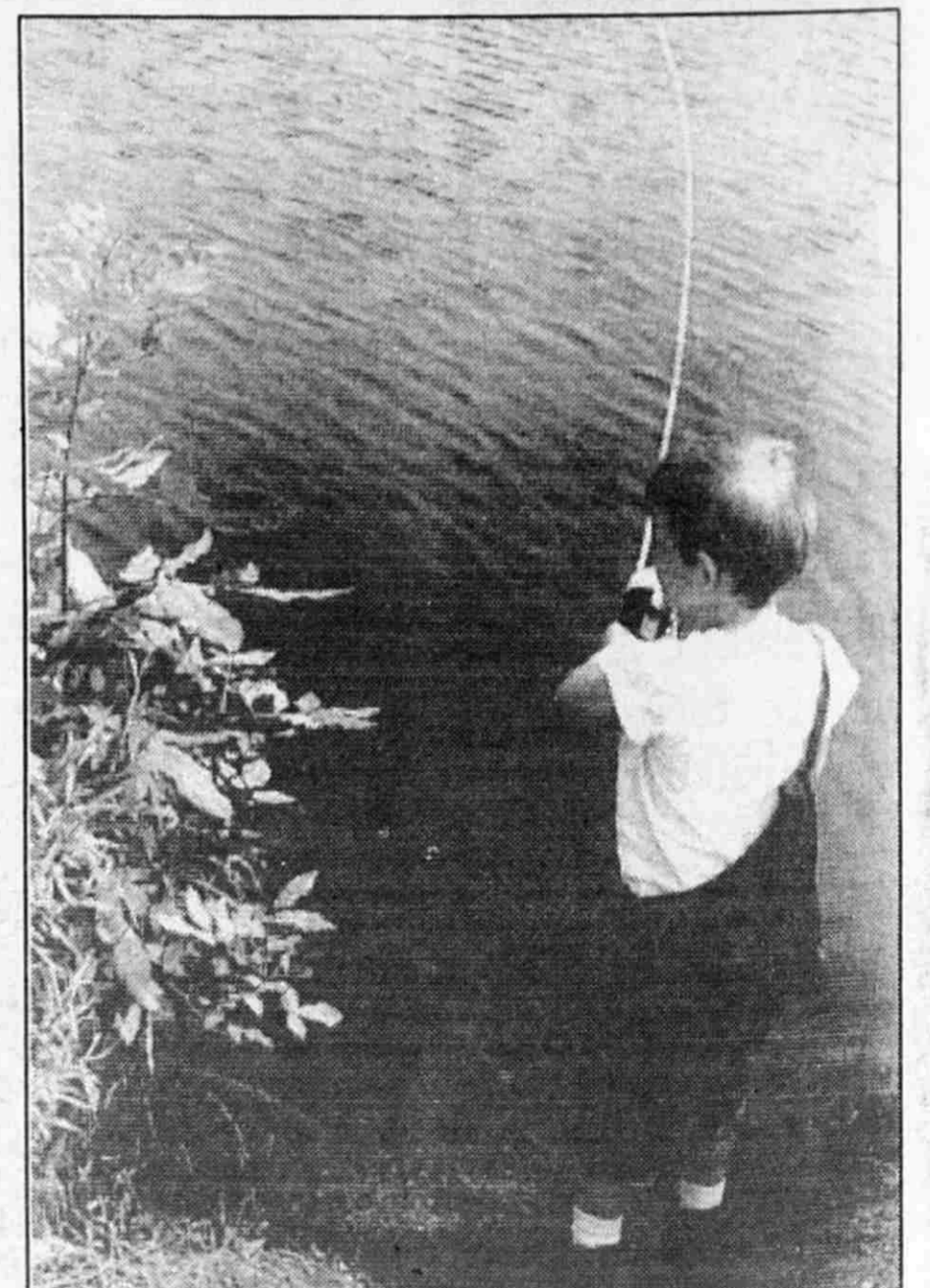
led the shorelines at Stony-Lakeside park with young fishing men and women.



Tiffanie Venneman, eight-years-old, proudly holds her sucker fish at arm's length.



Nathan McCaul gets his big catch measured.



Nathan Baker and Nicole Baker fish along the shores of Stony-Lakeside.