

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 22, Issue 44

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, September 4, 1996



Phil Christensen, Lowell High School assistant principal, announced he would be leaving the district after 19 years of service to take the position of principal at McBain High School.

Christensen accepts new role as principal at McBain High School

••• North country and support from his wife Karen help ease the decision.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
 Lowell Ledger Editor

When Lowell hired Phil Christensen away from the Constantine School District some 19 years ago, its high school principal told then Lowell High School principal Gary Kemp that Christensen wasn't their best teacher anyway.

Kemp replied, "He's not?"

The Constantine administrator answered, "No, he's the second best... his wife Karen is the best."

On Thursday, Christensen announced that he would be leaving Lowell to accept the principal position at McBain High School.

This time, though, there were no tongue-in-cheek comments about what kind of administrator he is. His 19 years of service to the Lowell district speak glowingly of that.

"Phil came to Lowell one year after I did," said Lowell High School principal Scott Vashaw. "He is a near and dear friend. Phil will do whatever it takes to get the job done. He will do a great job at McBain."

The playing out of Christensen's career played out like hurricane winds. It was just that fast.

"I did not go seeking the job," Christensen said. "They called me and asked if I'd come interview."

He did, and eight days later he was offered the position and accepted.

Three things weighed heavily on Christensen's decision: His wife Karen's support, their love for the north country, and the generosity of the McBain community.

"It's a gut feeling that this is the right decision," Christensen said. "I'm leaving a great community and school district," he said.

McBain gave Christensen a semester to tie things up at Lowell before beginning his new job.

Christensen hopes to be at his new office by the end of September. From an emotional standpoint, the Lowell assistant principal does not think sticking around to the end of the semester would be a good idea.

Vashaw said as principal, it is his responsibility to make sure at no time the high school is not doing what's in the best interest of the kids. "We will work out a smooth transition," he stated.

Christensen said he was thankful to Vashaw and Bert Bleke's trust in allowing him to have the assistant principal position.

"I have had some good mentors since coming here," Christensen said. "I am thankful to Gary Kemp, Dick Korb, Jim DeWeerd and Scott Vashaw. I've learned from some good people."

Assistant superintendent Dick Korb said of Christensen. "He is highly ethical and has always had the kids' best interest at heart."

For Christensen, the difficulty in making the decision to leave ranked right up there with resigning as Lowell's head football coach last year.

"Lowell is my hometown. It is where my loyalties are," Christensen said. "I have many good friends here; leaving will be tough."

would like to help in Hospice and Home Health placements. Currently there is a homebound woman in the Lowell area who would like a friendly visitor.

The volunteer should be a good listener and have available two hours a week. Call Sue Popma or Elaine Word at 774-2702 or 1-800-774-2702.

LOWELL RIVERWALK FESTIVAL & DUCK RACE

The festival and duck race will be shown at the following times on Lowell Cable Television: Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 2 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 5 at 4 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. and Saturday Sept. 7 at noon.

Main St., cont'd, pg. 8

Fall welcomed by Alto residents with annual festival

By Marc Popiolek
 Contributing Writer

The weather may be warm, but fall is just around the corner and what better way to celebrate its arrival than with the annual Alto Fall Festival.

This year's celebration begins with breakfast at the Alto fire barn from 7-9 a.m. on Sept. 7 in downtown Alto.

Once breakfast is served, the festival gets into full gear with an antique tractor show, book sale, volleyball tournament, pie and watermelon eating contest and the judging of the Miss Alto contest.

One of the day's biggest attractions will be the dunk tank which features groups from around the area trying to avoid a wet afternoon.

"Fifty percent of all the proceeds go to the groups which are scheduled to appear," said Bob Sterzick, an organizer of the festival.

The dunk tank schedule begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 5 p.m.

Groups which will be featured include the Alto United Methodist Camp kids, 4-H groups, neighborhood watch organizers, scoot-n-riders and the Alto Fire Department.

Only two events will break up the water routine and what a break.

The parade takes center stage at 12:15 p.m. and is followed by the tug of war from 2-3 p.m.

Live entertainment includes a performance by Grand Rapids' own *Solid Country*.

A talent show, turtle race and frog jump contest and the crowning of Miss Alto also highlight the day's events.

Cruisin critters, an auto show, and appearances by Kristi the clown are sure to delight the young at heart.

Those who enjoy a good bet can toss down some funds, for a good cause of course, and participate in the cow chip bingo contest beginning at 3:30 p.m. and ending whenever that lucky chip is dropped.

"The main point we try to make is that the festival is a good time for everyone," said Sterzick.

Gypsy moth surveys available for township residents

By Marc Popiolek
 Contributing Writer

Residents in Lowell Charter and Vergennes townships who believe gypsy moths may be hurting their trees can now receive help.

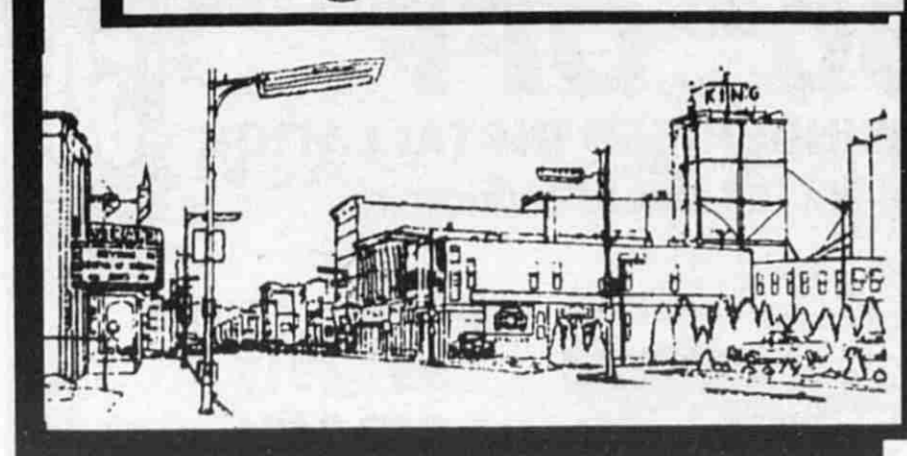
The Kent County gypsy moth suppression program is now accepting survey requests for the 1997 spray program.

Last year, more than 40 acres of woods were treated in Vergennes Township and more than 100 acres in Lowell Charter Township.

In the past, citizens have picked up the cost of spraying for the critters which have been known to decimate an entire forest in less than one year.

Survey forms can be obtained through the county's gypsy Gypsy., cont'd, pg. 8

Along Main Street



VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

Visiting Nurse and Hospice is in need of volunteers that

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Sports Supplement,
 Pages 21-28

Neubecker retires,
 Page 9



IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME

Well, here it is, that much dreaded time of the year for our young people—back to school time. I'm sure that your family has been just as busy as Pam and I have been over the last couple of weeks: finishing up the school shopping, squeezing in those last few days of vacation, and getting acclimated to the hectic school-year schedule once again. It's also an exciting time. As parents, we know that late August and early September mean the beginning of one more year of opportunities, challenges and preparation for our children.

An added excitement for my Senate colleagues and me is that we get to see the full implementation of some of the programs we've put in place to help Michigan teachers continue to prepare our students for the future. In the spring, we showed our commitment to our children's education once again by increasing the Basic Foundation Allowance given to schools statewide to \$5,308. That's an increase of \$155 for

every student. By doing so, we've set the per-student allocation for Caledonia schools at \$6,657 and Lowell schools at \$5,291 for next year.

Probably the most exciting change we've made in education was giving school districts the opportunity to offer "schools of choice" within intermediate school districts. Under this program, families have the freedom to decide which school, within their intermediate school district, is best suited for their students' needs.

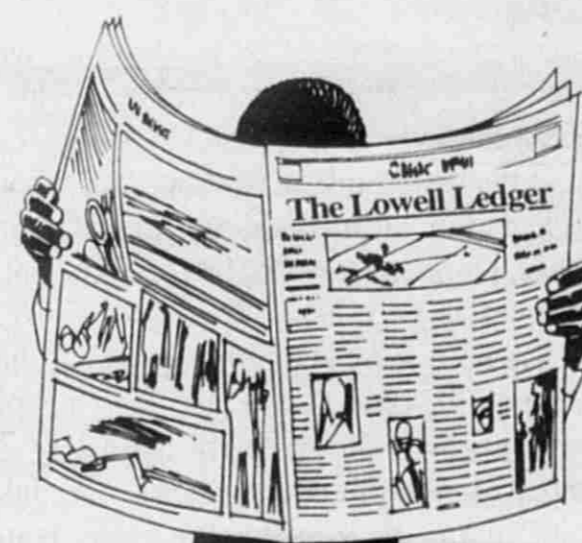
Because this legislation was enacted late in the session, districts only had a few weeks to design and implement their choice program. Despite such a short notice, we've had an outstanding response. This year more than two thirds of our 556 school districts are participating in some sort of school of choice program. Overall, 372 districts are opening their doors to students from outside of the district.

According to the Michigan Association of School Boards, of the 182 school districts that are not participating in schools of choice, nearly 100 have reported that they are taking this year to develop a school of choice plan for the 1997-98 school year. Another 57 schools who aren't participating in this program declined because they were at or near capacity.

Those schools who are taking part in this program have entered into a win-win situation for themselves and their students. By giving students and their families the freedom to choose the school that best fits their needs, they are opening doors of opportunity that were, for the most part, closed. And by injecting an element of competition into our public school system, we're encouraging our schools to be proactive in

ensuring that they are offering the best possible education to our children. Since we're given the freedom to choose which doctor we prefer to visit or which mechanic we prefer to use in repairing our car, doesn't it make sense that we should also be able to choose which school best fits the needs of our children?

Michigan's school of choice program is a step forward for the students and teachers of our state. I've said many times, our future is dependent on the education of our children. The best way to ensure their success is to thoroughly prepare them for the challenges of the future. As we move forward into the next century, let's continue to work together as parents, teachers, administrators and legislators. Together, let's strive to give our children the best possible education.



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QVC showcases Superior Furniture products before its 56 million viewers

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

QVC, the home shopping network, lets viewers in on a unique and outstanding product manufactured in Lowell.

QVC's "Quest for America's Best: The Discovery Tour," is a series of live television programs from locations across the country. It showcases the newest products and services from both established businesses and individual entrepreneurs in a select number of states.

QVC merchandisers and programmers spend several weeks in each state identifying at least 50 new products. "We chose businesses which offer consumers something unique," said QVC's Jennifer Volansky.

The state of Michigan was selected to be one of eight

states QVC will feature as part of its tour.

Superior Furniture was chosen as one of more than 50 businesses featured during the Michigan tour.

"We were delighted to be chosen as one of the 11 scenic backdrops for the 'Michigan week,'" said Bill Lee, Superior Furniture's vice president of sales. "It was an unprecedented opportunity for Superior Furniture to market some of its products to over 56 million cable households."

The idea and implementation of the tour came about through establishing relationships with state governments.

QVC, based out of West Chester, Pennsylvania, has two crews of 20-30 people who visit approximately 70 companies a week. "We take their outstanding products and



Bill Lee, Superior Furniture, left, talks with QVC producer Bob Anderson, right, prior to Thursday's one-hour telecast.

present them to our audience from across the country," said the show's producer, Rob Anderson.

This is the second year QVC has undertaken the tour

in quest for America's best. "We'll spend about two weeks in each of the eight states that we will feature," Anderson said. "Our next stop will be Maine."

Superior Furniture was one of three West Michigan businesses selected to have a live broadcast from its facility.

A show was aired on Thursday from 7 until 8 p.m. from the second floor of the Superior Furniture company.

It was produced via the QVC "local" - the world's only self-contained mobile television studio fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology including two satellite dishes, eight cameras, a 44 input audio console and 60 video monitors.

"This opportunity al-

QVC, cont'd. pg. 9

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Red Arrow girls' rally falls short in 47-44 defeat to Wyoming Rogers

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Torrid shooting by Lisa Murphy and Jenni Borg nearly brought the Red Arrows girls' basketball team back from an eight-point halftime deficit in their season-opening 47-44 loss to Wyoming Rogers.

"The girls battled back, but the game was lost in the first half," said Lowell coach Ken Akers. "We had an opportunity to win the game because we shot better. That doesn't mean the girls played well."

Lowell's basketball coach was disappointed in the Red Arrows' rebounding and transition defense.

"I think we were being outbounded 22-9 at halftime," Akers continued. "We worked hard to get a good shot, but then because our transition defense was poor, we gave up many 'dog' (easy) shots."

The Golden Hawks led 21-13 at halftime. They opened a 28-15 lead over the first two-and-a-half minutes of the third quarter.

Following a time out, Akers had his club press. Rogers had success breaking the press in the first half with a pass into the middle of the press.

In the second half, Low-

ell took that pass away and it fueled a 14-0 run over a three-minute span. The final three points came on a Borg three-point shot. It gave Lowell its only lead of the game at 29-28.

"I told the girls Lowell would tighten its press in the second half," Rogers' first-year coach Pat Cain said. "I just kept telling them in time outs not to panic and to keep their poise."

Both Murphy and Borg netted a team-high 17 points. The seniors connected on five three-point shots apiece.

"I thought we played fairly good defense," Cain said. "Borg and Murphy were just hitting the threes."

After falling behind 29-28, Rogers responded with an 8-0 run to take a 36-29 advantage. Lowell was able to get within two points at 43-41 with two minutes to play, but then went scoreless until Borg netted a trey in the final seconds.

Rogers was led by its outstanding sophomore Sue Peterson. She had a game-high 18 points.

"Peterson is a nice ballplayer. She has a chance to play at a Division I level," Akers said. "She's smooth, handles the ball like a guard, and can shoot the jumper or

drive to the basket."

Lowell will host Ionia at home on Thursday.

The Red Arrow freshman (40-24) and junior varsity (41-40) teams were both victorious.

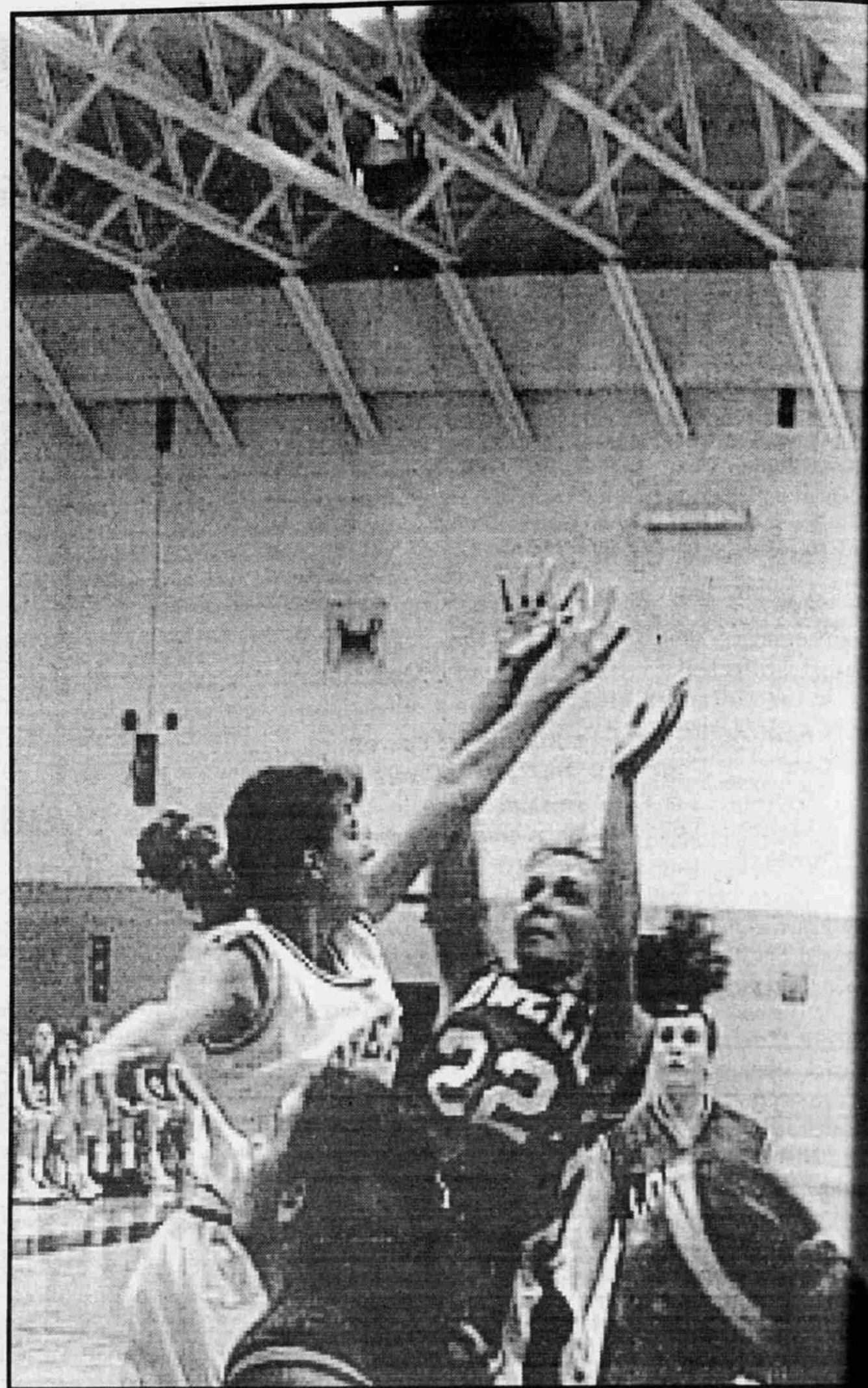
Tennis, cont'd.... From Page 11

Northview Invitational.

The Red Arrows scored 10 points.

Creston won the tournament with 20 points followed by Catholic Central 19; Greenville and Northview 13; Kenowa Hills 11; Lowell 10; Sparta 9; and Grand Rapids Central 0.

Lowell's first doubles (Nicole Linkfield and Liz Lonick) and second doubles (Colleen Mandie and Amy Meiste) teams won two of their three matches to lead the way.



Emily Dunn (#22) puts up a shot with a Rogers' defender providing tight defense.

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1996.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Thompson and the Deputy City Clerk called the Roll.

Present: Councilmembers Green, Hodges, Myers, Shores and Mayor Thompson.
Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, Deputy City Clerk Betty Morlock, Chief of Police James Valentine, Director of Public Works Art Gall and Streets and Parks Supervisor Daniel DesJarden.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by MYERS that the minutes of the August 5, 1996 meeting be approved as submitted.

YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by GREEN that the bills and accounts payable be allowed and the warrants issued.

YEA: Councilmembers Green, Hodges, Myers, Shores and Mayor Thompson.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (08/19/96)

GENERAL FUND	\$ 105,015.25
LEE FUND	53.93
WASTEWATER FUND	3,288.65
MAJOR STREET	504.56
AIRPORT FUND	160.66
DATA PROCESSING FUND	748.90
WATER FUND	47,811.79
EQUIPMENT FUND	1,996.05

LOCAL STREET	669.60
DDA FUND	5,995.24
CURRENT TAX	803,160.84
BUILDING & SITE FUND	144,179.33

Item #1. GRINDLE DRIVE - ASPHALTING BIDS. As directed at the August 5 City Council meeting, bids were sought for the resurfacing of Grindle Drive from James to approximately 1280 feet east. The following bids were received:

Rieth-Riley Construction Co. (Ada)	\$9,665.00
Wolverine Paving Co. (Middleville)	\$9,976.00

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by GREEN to award contract to the low bid of \$9,665.009 from Rieth-Riley Construction Co. for the asphaltting of Grindle Street from James to approximately 1280 feet east to be allocated from the Local Street Fund.

YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

Item #2. BIDS FOR SALE OF 1991 CHEVROLET CAPRICE. With the first purchase of two 1996 Caprices as police cruisers, the City advertised for bid a 1991 Caprice. This was the first of two older police vehicles that will be sold to offset the price of the new vehicles. The following bids were received:

John R. Cross	\$5,103.09
Jerry Depres	4,000.00
Marea Borg	2,700.00
Robert Bohn	2,156.00

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by GREEN to accept the bid from John Cross of \$5,103.09 for the purchase of the 1991 Chevrolet Caprice.

YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

Item #3. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS A. 140 N. PLEASANT - TOM REHWOLDT - VARIANCE TO ALLOW REPLACEMENT MOBILE HOME - REGARDING BUFFER REQUIREMENT AT LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK - SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE

(9/3). Tom Rehwoldt, owner of the Lowell Mobile Home Park (140 N. Pleasant), requested a variance to install a replacement mobile home allowing an intrusion of the ten foot buffer strip as regulated in the new zoning ordinance. The variance petition involved only one site, but other current homes in the park are in non conforming status.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by THOMPSON to establish a public hearing for September 3, 1996 to consider a variance request from Tom Rehwoldt to install a replacement mobile home allowing an intrusion of the ten foot buffer strip as regulated in the new zoning ordinance at 140 N. Pleasant (Lowell Mobile Home Park).

YEA: 5.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

Item #4. PRESENTATION OF THE AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT PLAN FROM FMB FOR CITY UTILITIES. Marj Harding of the FMB Bank - Lowell Branch, and Judy Rigsby of the FMB Corporate office in Zeeland, gave a presentation regarding Automatic Bill Payment Plan for utility payments. This plan would allow customers of the City utilities (water, sewer, electric and Cable TV) to have their payment directly withdrawn from their bank accounts. There would be a one time fee to the City of \$250 for computer software, as well as a \$25 monthly charge for each utility and a 12¢ fee per transaction.

Councilmember Green stated that the automatic bill payment was beneficial to the City and the customers, but felt that other banks should have the opportunity to take part in the bidding process for this service.

The consensus of the Council was to have the staff review this concept and provide a recommendation to the Council.

Item #5. RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM NORTH DIVISION STREET PROPERTY OWNERS REGARDING THE WIDENING AT THE HIGH AND DIVISION INTERSECTION. The City received a letter from North Division Street property owners requesting that the southeast corner of High and North Division intersection be left widened when Harold Ball moves his house through the

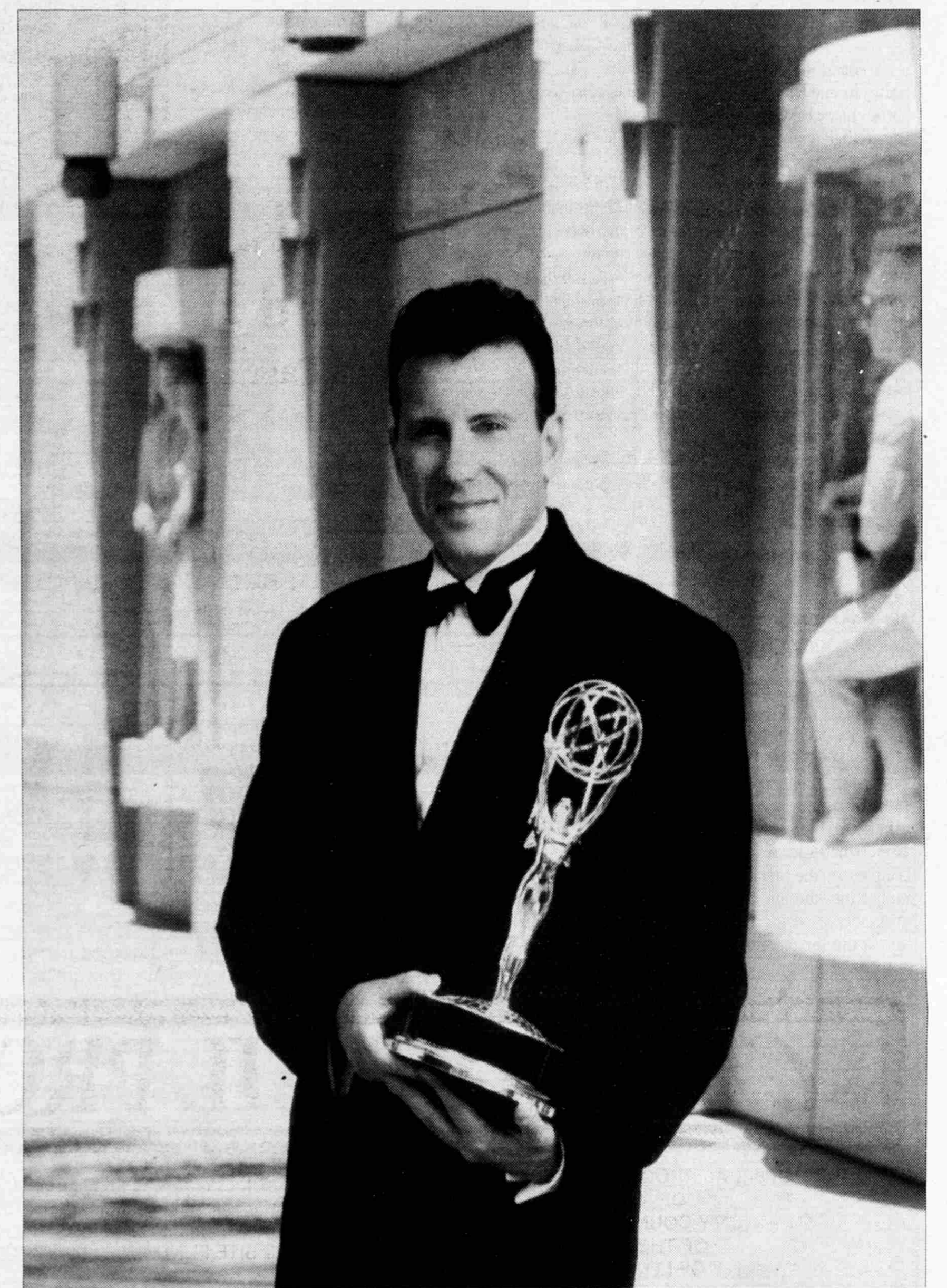
The Lowell Ledger's

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8	WOOD-8
9	WLNS-6
10	WILX-10
11	WTLJ-54
12	WKAR-23
13	WZZM-13
14	DISNEY**
15	WSYM-47
16	HBO**
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18	C-MAX**
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20	FX
21	M-TV
22	LOCAL
23	USA
24	DISCOVERY
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34	EWTN
35	TNN
36	TRAVEL
37	LEARNING
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39	VH-1

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FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6 THRU SEPTEMBER 12

Twenty-eight Emmy statuettes will be handed out during the three-hour *Emmy Awards* broadcast Sunday on ABC. Paul Reiser (pictured), star of *Mad About You*, is host, with help from Oprah Winfrey and Michael J. Fox. Scheduled presenters include David Letterman and Jay Leno.

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DAYTIME MORNING

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM) and cable stations (TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, A&E, NICK, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI).

DAYTIME AFTERNOON

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM) and cable stations (TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI).

FRIDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 6, 1996

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM) and cable stations (TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI).

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 6, 1996

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM) and cable stations (TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI).

SATURDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 7, 1996

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM) and cable stations (TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI).

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 7, 1996

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WLNS, WILX, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM) and cable stations (TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, PASS, TNT, NASH, SCIFI).

SATURDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 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.

SATURDAY LATE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 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.

SUNDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 8, 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 SEPTEMBER 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, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30) and rows for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations.

SUNDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 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.

SUNDAY LATE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 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.

MONDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 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.

MONDAY LATE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 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.

TUESDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 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.

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 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.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 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.

WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 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 SEPTEMBER 12, 1996. Table listing broadcast stations (7:00-11:30), cable stations, and premium stations with program details.

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 12, 1996. Table listing broadcast stations (12:00-4:30), cable stations, and premium stations with program details.

Advertisement for Lowell Cable TV Department. Includes HBO movie listings for 'Ace Ventura' and 'Braveheart' with promotional text and contact information.

Large graphic advertisement for '1996 Fall Sports' featuring a basketball player and a football player. The word 'SPORTS' is written vertically in large letters.

Girl harrier numbers up; boys up for run at O-K White championship

....I think Hudsonville, East Grand Rapids and Forest Hills Central are the girl teams to beat and Hastings has a good lead runner.

**Tom Harper
Lowell Girls' Cross
Country Coach**

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The numbers and attitude of this year's girls' cross country team are strong.

Now hard work and learning to run are all that is left to return Lowell to the upper echelon of the O-K White.

Red Arrow coach Tom Harper has 13 girls on this year's team, which nearly doubles the participation level of '95.

Setting the example for the young Lowell team will be senior Annie Oesch. The Red Arrow is a three-time state qualifier and is coming off her best year.

"Annie's in good shape. Last year she came and won every race she ran in September, but had a difficult time improving on that, which was disappointing. This year Annie will look to steady improvement throughout the year," Harper said.

Oesch will also look to qualify for the state tournament for a fourth straight year.

Behind Oesch are second-year sophomore runners, Andrea Baker, Beth Larabee, Stacy Anderson and Angie Johnson.

Baker finished the '95 season with times at or close to 24 minutes. Harper is hopeful by the end of the cross country season her times will

dip below the 23-minute marker.

"Andrea starts the season in pretty good shape," Harper said. The coach believes her conditioning will continue to improve throughout September. "I've always looked at September as a conditioning month for my teams," he says.

Larabee and Johnson are expected to be around 23 minutes by year's end. Johnson was a slow starter last year but finished strongly. Larabee was consistent.

Anderson is much improved, according to Harper. "She ran some in the off season and will pick up where she left off last year," Harper said.

Ann Townsend who has suffered through injuries dur-

ing her first three years is hoping for a non-injury senior year. "Ann will provide us with leadership. Barring injuries I think she will show improvement."

Other members of this year's squad who will be looked to for contributions are Tammy Eteo, senior; Celena Risner, sophomore; Trisha Fick, sophomore; Shannon Finnegan, sophomore; Jenni Dean, freshman; Melissa Miller, freshman; and Angie Houtman, freshman.

"We're looking to finish in the middle of the pack," Harper said. "I think Hudsonville, East Grand Rapids and Forest Hills Central are the girl teams to beat and Hastings has a good lead runner."

White conference champion.

....We think our chances are pretty good. But the O-K White is tough. We've been second in the regional the last two years but haven't finished first in the conference.

**Tom Harper
Lowell Boys' Cross
Country Coach**

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell's boys cross country team has finished second in the O-K White two years running.

Red Arrow coach Tom Harper, in his 14th year, and his Lowell harriers will get a third opportunity to knock off the five-time defending O-K White conference champion.

Zeeland, in 1996. Harper concedes this team's chances of doing that are better than the previous two.

"We think our chances are pretty good," Harper said. "But the O-K White is tough. We've been second in the regional the last two years but haven't finished first in the conference."

The Red Arrow boys also qualified for the state tournament in both of the last two seasons.

"Wyoming Park will be right there with the best 1-2 punch, and Hudsonville will run well, but until someone puts Zeeland down, they are the favorite," Harper said.

The conference competition will be more crowded at

Red Arrow Cross Country

Members of the Lowell cross country team are front row, (sitting), left to right: Angie Houtman, Derrick Harmon, Angie Johnson, Beth Larabee, Middle row, (kneeling), left to right: Andrea Baker, Austin Krieg, Celina Risner, John Mull, Patrick Rockwall, Stacy Anderson, Annie Oesch. Back row (standing), left to right: Coach Tom Harper, Melissa Miller, Tammy Eteo, John Wojciakowski, Ryan Wittenbach, Scott Hayes, Casey Harper, Shannon Finnegan. Missing from the picture are Jenni Dean, Jon Dean, Tricia Fick, Dan Rottier, Mike Suman, Ann Townsend, Frank Kirsch.



Red Arrow basketball team will look to build on a most gratifying '95 season

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Coming off a most rewarding 1995 season, Lowell girls' varsity basketball coach Ken Akers knows the challenges that lie ahead in '96 will be tougher.

The challenges include:

- An O-K White upper echelon that is packed solid with strong teams.
- Inexperience at the guard position.
- A squad that is smaller and not as quick.

What it does have is Akers as its coach. Akers is respected by his coaching peers because his teams are always well prepared and well schooled in doing the little things well.

On and off the court, Lowell will look to its senior forward Emily Dunn for leadership.

Dunn was the third leading rebounder in the conference last year and was the Red Arrows' top rebounder.

She was an all-conference honorable mention player. Akers is quick to point out that Dunn deserved all conference honors.

"Emily passes as well as she shoots. She's an unselfish player," Akers said.

The Lowell coach said she will have to shed some of that unselfishness in her senior year.

"It's going to be tougher for Emily because she will be a marked player this year," Akers said.

In the post area, Shannon Laux will be needed for some strong, smart play. "She isn't that tall but I think her strength and ability to get good position will enable her to play most of the centers in the league," Akers said.

While the graduation of Tammy Stauffer left a void in the backcourt, Akers has some untested talent ready to fill in. He also has two guards with varsity experience.

"Both Murphy (Lisa) and Borg (Jenni) are good perimeter shooters. However, they both must improve on their defense and learn to take care of the basketball," Akers said. "Lisa can

For this team to be successful we must play smart (we're not quick or tall), rebound and keep the turnovers down.

**Ken Akers
Lowell Girls' Basketball Coach**

penetrate and Jenni is a smart player who anticipates well."

Junior guards who will need to play key roles in the success of Lowell's season are Lisa Posthumus, Angie Young, and Melissa Sobie.

Posthumus is a quick, talented guard who is a "can't miss" contribution in '96.

"All Lisa has to do is learn to play under control and to stay within the team concept," Akers said. "She's talented and quick enough to help us."

Young has the talent, according to Akers, to be a solid varsity player. "Angie needs to gain some confidence in her offensive play and just realize how good she can be," he said.

Sobie is described as a good, hard worker on defense who has some quickness.

Sophomore Rachael Fredline stands 5 feet 2 inches tall; her coach says the young point guard plays like she's 6-2.

"Rachael is quick, has an adequate shot, intelligent and knows and understands the game," Akers explains. "All she's missing is varsity experience and time to adjust to its speed and tempo."

Missy Luyk provides good defensive skills and works as hard as anyone on the team.

Nikki Arnett and Liz Rooker should provide muscle up front for the Red Arrows.

Rooker is a space eater in the middle and can block shots. "She too needs experience, confidence and to get stronger," Akers said.

Arnett will also play at center. Lowell's coach said she has all the talent in the world and should contribute.

"Nikki has the tools to be outstanding. She just needs to keep improving."

Senior Heidi Noskey will play at a small forward position. Akers said the senior works hard and could contribute.

"For this team to be successful we must play smart (we're not quick or tall), rebound and keep the turnovers down," Akers said.

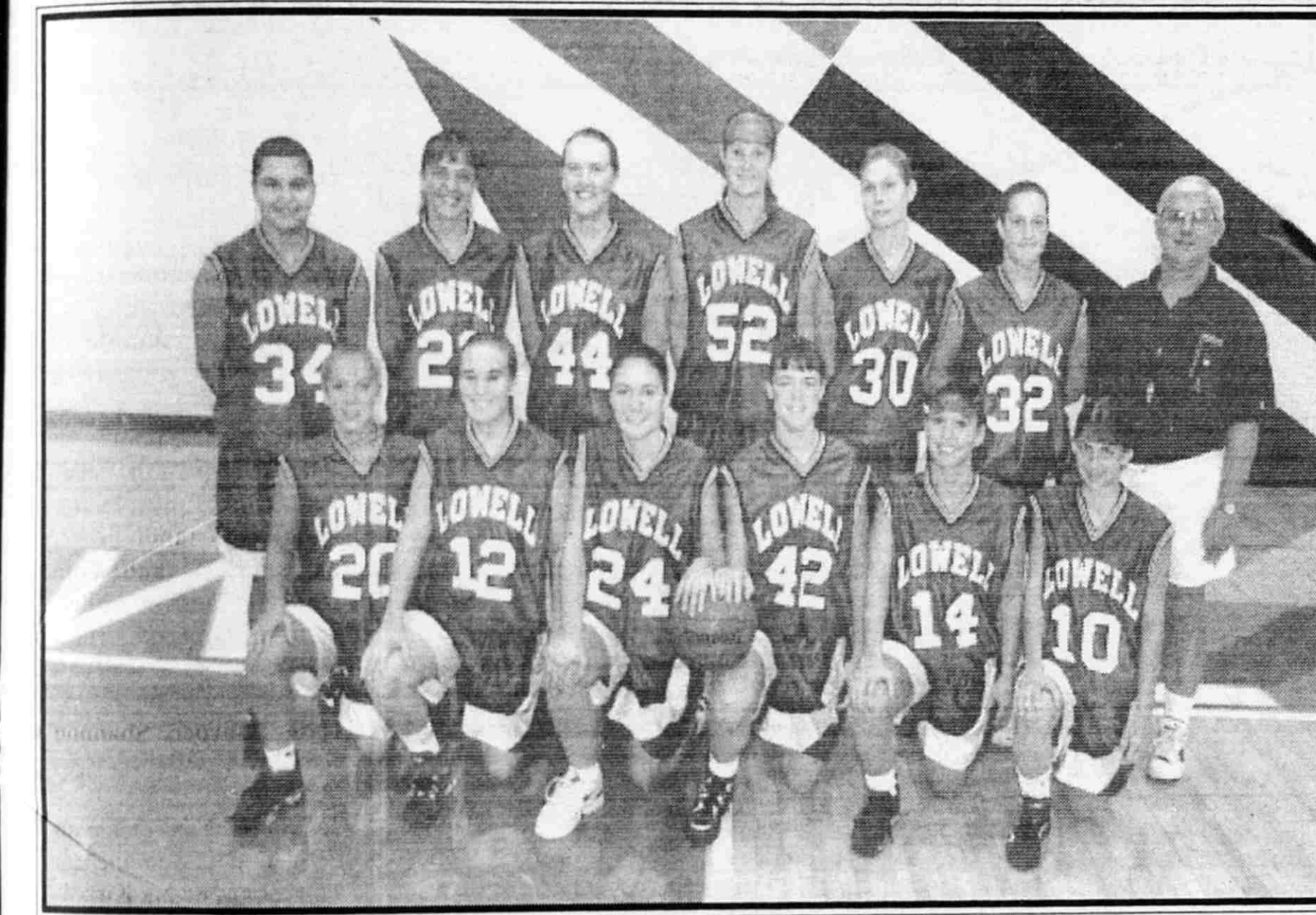
The top four teams in the O-K White may be as strong a nucleus as the conference has had in a number of years.

Park is the defending champion. Zeeland returns everybody from a year ago. Northview returns most of their '95 team plus a division I freshman. Hastings returns all five of its starting sophomores from last season.

"Park has to be the favorite, it is the defending champion," Akers said.

Lowell Varsity Basketball

Members of the Lowell varsity basketball team are, front row, left to right: Melissa Sobie, Lisa Murphy, Jenny Borg, Angie Young, Lisa Posthumus, Rachael Fredline. Back row, left to right: Heidi Noskey, Emily Dunn, Nikki Arnette, Elizabeth Rooker, Missy Luyk, Shannon Laux, Coach Ken Akers.



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Breakfast at the Alto Fire Barn.....	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Alto's Favorite Antique Tractor (vote at Alto Garage).....	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Alto Library Book Sale.....	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Volleyball Tournament (at school).....	9:30 a.m.
Cruisin' Critters Mobile Zoo (On Depot St.).....	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Auto Show Along Depot St. (pre-register before Sept. 5).....	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Food Booths.....	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Arts & Crafts.....	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Flea Market.....	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Orbitron (ride all day).....	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Basketball Shoot Contest.....	10 a.m.
Kristi the Clown.....	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Horseshoe Tournament at Alto Bar (register at 10 a.m.).....	11:30 a.m.
Alto Jail (By stage).....	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Cow Chip Bingo.....	3:30 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT (BY STAGE)

Pie & Watermelon Eating Contest.....	9 - 9:30 a.m.
Miss Alto Judging.....	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Talent Show.....	10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Parade.....	12:15 p.m.
Turtle Races & Frog Jumping Contests.....	2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Tug of War (weigh-in 1 - 2 p.m.).....	2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Solid Ground.....	3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Crowning of Miss Alto.....	5 p.m.

DUNK TANK SCHEDULE

Alto United Methodist Camp Kids.....	10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
South Kent 4-H.....	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Break for Parade	
Alto Neighborhood Watch.....	1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Break for Tug of War	
Boot Scoot-N-Riders.....	2:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Alto Fire Department.....	3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

50% of the proceeds goes to each organization

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