

1893
1893

Serving The Lowell Area for over 100 Years

SPRINGPORT BOOK BINDERY
HOAG & SONS
SPRINGPORT, MICH. 49204

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 7

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 18, 1996

Music Makers

Lowell High School's jazz, concert and symphonic bands struck up the sounds of the holidays at the annual LHS Christmas concert. In all, 12 pieces of music were performed, ranging from Glenn Miller's "Pennsylvania 6-5000" to Marshall Wright's "Silver Bells." Troy Ballard, right, was a featured tenor sax player. Flutists, pictured below, left to right, are: Crystal Waldron, Liz Krebill, Jenny Schmidt, Jill Rozman and Candice Skiffington.



Scout cabin vandalized; county detective says there are no leads

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Break-ins and malicious destruction to the scout cabin at the north end of Washington Street continue.

It has been a lingering problem that frankly makes Dirk Ritzema "sick."

The vandalistic acts have been occurring off and on for 30 years.

"I don't know why people have to break-in and destroy other people's property," Ritzema said. "Maybe it is a game to them, but I think it's

time for it to stop."

The most recent break-in occurred the weekend of Dec. 7-8.

Kent County Sheriff Department detective/sergeant Chet Bush said the case is in limbo. "We don't have anything to go on at this point. There were some footprints taken at the site, but we don't have any suspects."

Bush said the case has been turned over to the Family Services Division. "With what was done and taken, I believe juveniles were in-

involved," Bush said.

The fire extinguisher was sprayed onto the tables and floor; sugar was thrown onto the floor; scout awards dating back to the 40s and 50s were defaced with paint; windows were broken; doorcasings were cut up with a hatchet; and popcorn, used for a fundraiser, was stolen.

The contents of the building were not covered by insurance.

"Some of the awards we will never be able to replace."

Break-ins, cont'd. pg. 8

Future road work includes improved safety precautions at dangerous Alden Nash/Cascade Road intersection

By Marc Popielek
Contributing Writer

Lowell Charter Township officials are preparing next year's wish list for the Kent County Road Commission and part of that is improving the intersection of Alden Nash and Cascade Road.

The township estimates its 1997 budget for local road construction at \$40,000.

That includes work being performed on two sections of Timpson Avenue and a section of Pratt Lake Avenue.

A new project added to the list is a section of 36th Street, east of Segwun to Montcalm Avenue.

These projects are part of the township plan for next year, but when construction work will actually occur is uncertain.

"We haven't gotten any road construction in three years," said township supervisor John Timpson. "They (Kent County Road Commission) have too much ahead of them and not enough money."

The township also hopes to improve an entrance to it yet undeveloped township park and apply two applications of dust layering.

When meeting with county officials, the board will ask for improved "signage" at the corner of Alden Nash and Cascade because serious accidents continue to occur at the intersection.

The board tried to get a traffic light installed, but county officials denied the request because the road doesn't carry enough traffic, and grade of the hill is not considered out of line.

"Only those people who

live here know to slow down," said trustee Alyn Fletcher, in regards to the lack of motorists' awareness at the flashing yellow light currently in place. "Otherwise people sail right through there."

Township officials want the size of the signs to increase and someday hope a four-way traffic stop sign, or some other method of stopping device, can be installed.

"This is a good first move. If it doesn't work, we'll keep after them until something does," said Timpson.

The township's 1997 list isn't required to be submitted until Jan. 17 and Timpson said other projects may be added if the board deems it necessary.

Parts Plus Autostore collecting toys for tots thru Dec. 21

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

For nearly 50 years, the Toys for Tots program has been collecting toys for distribution to needy children.

Parts Plus Autostore in Lowell (1450 W. Main), owned by Hugh Cosgrove, has been a dropoff center for the U.S. Marine Corps' program for the past two years.

Parts Plus Autostore in Lowell, in cooperation with other independently owned stores, makes the huge toy collection effort possible in many small communities across the country.

Area residents can bring a smile to the face of an underprivileged and needy child this Christmas season by dropping off a new unwrapped toy. The deadline is Dec. 21.

Many of the toy barrel sites will stop collecting toys after Dec. 19. However, contributions after that can be made at major collection sites.

Monetary contributions can be sent to Marine Toys For Tots Foundation, PO Box 1947, Quantico, VA 22134.

Toys For Tots, cont'd., pg. 8



Lowell Parts Plus Autostore, in cooperation with the Toys For Tots program and the approximately 105 other independently owned Parts Plus Autostores in Michigan, is once again collecting toys this holiday season for underprivileged and needy children. Hugh Cosgrove (above), owner of Lowell's Parts Plus Autostore, will be collecting toys at his store (1450 W. Main) through Dec. 21.

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Budget - Deficit or Balanced?
Page 19

Basketball Team Wins Home
Opener, Page 20

OBITUARIES

BEAMAN - Sharon K. Beaman, 58, of St. Johns, formerly of Orleans, passed away December 11, 1996. Surviving are five daughters: Kelley (Tom) DeGraaf of Ionia, Kristy Beaman of St. Johns, Kathy Beaman of Lowell, Karen Beaman of Belding and Kandace (Chuck) Labron of South Carolina; four grandchildren: her companion Garrie Falor of St. Johns; many aunts, uncles and cousins. Funeral services were held December 14 with burial in South Bingham Cemetery. Arrangements by Osgood Funeral Home.

BOSMA - Mary Ann Bosma, aged 53, of Cascade, passed away Wednesday, December 11, 1996. She was preceded in death by her son, Clair W. and mother Lorraine DeZwaan. She is survived by her husband of 23 years, Clair; children Virginia (Jim) McCowan of Dutton, David (Judy) Bosma of Grand Rapids, Michael Bosma of Alanson, MI, Howard (Cathy) Miller of Walker, Barbara (Thad) Burger of Hastings, and Jennifer Bosma of Ada; her father, Wilbur DeZwaan of Ada; brothers Robert (Pat) DeZwaan of Kentwood and Edward (Linda) DeZwaan of Gulfport, FL; 11 grandchil-

ELLISTON - Donald Elliston, 56, of New Mexico, formerly a longtime resident of Ionia, passed away December 5, 1996. Surviving are wife Jean; sons Donald J. (Karla) Elliston of Lansing, Troy A. (Star) Elliston of Lansing; stepsons Richard D. Baker of Lowell, Robert D. (Vicky) Baker of Nevada, Randall D. (Debbie) Baker of Nashville; stepdaughters Joyce E. (Joe) McClintock of Ionia and Janice E. (Edd) Dickstein of Washington; sister Alice (Chuck) Ely; 28 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held December 9 with burial in Balcom Cemetery. Arrangements by Lake Funeral Home in Ionia.

ELLIS - Geraldine A. (Lovell) Ellis, of Grand Rapids, born on July 9, 1925 in Coral, MI, passed away at Hospice Care, December 15, 1996, aged 71 years. Surviving are her five sons Bud (Theresa) Ellis of Addison, John (Jan) Ellis of Middleville, Stephen (Debra) Ellis of Fennville, Brian (Deborah) Swan-Ellis of Lowell, Robert Ellis of Sharpsburg, GA; seven grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. She was dearly loved by all. Preceded in death by her husband, John and worked at the Women's City Club and lived most of her life in Grand Rapids. Funeral Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Metcalf & Jonkhoff Chapel, Interment Coral Cemetery at Coral, MI. In lieu of flowers memorials to Hospice Care Center at Ferguson or the Leukemia Society of America.

FASE - Henry Fase, aged 78, of Saranac, passed away at his residence December 15, 1996. He was born in Byron Center October 10, 1918 to the parents of Henry (Etta Doan) Fase. He served during WWII. He was married to Kathryn Fase who preceded him in death September, 1981. He is survived by three brothers Leonard of Ada, Donald (Terry) of Rockford and Milford of Delton; three sisters Beatrice Kuiper of Lowell, Winifred (Harvey) Spoelstra of Grand Rapids and Ardith (Burling) Schroeder of Ada; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two sisters Ethel and Viola and one brother Arlie. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday, December 18, 1996 at 1 p.m. at the Lake Funeral Home in Saranac with Rev. Kendall Harger officiating. Interment, Saranac Cemetery. Anyone wishing may make contributions to the charity of their choice.

GALBREATH - Helen Lenz Galbreath, aged 59, of Lowell, passed away December 14, 1996. She was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Lenz. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Stanley; children Lee Ann (Robert) Hafey, Pamela (Wayne) Bertran, all of Ada, David (Debbie) Galbreath of Lowell; grandchildren Stefanie and Matthew Hafey, Nathan and Kyle Galbreath;

brothers Donald (Patricia) Lenz, Jerry (Kathy) Lenz, all of Hastings, Larry (Laura) Lenz of Freeport; sister Phyllis (Michael) Kelly of Hastings; also many nieces and nephews. Helen was a 1955 graduate of Freeport High School. The Funeral Service will be held Wednesday, 1 p.m. at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, Rev. Lyle Dye of Battle Creek Baptist Temple officiating. Interment Graceland Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids. Arrangements by Roth-Gerst, Lowell.

HYDER - Anna May Hyder died December 11, 1996, in Arcadia, CA, following emergency heart surgery. She was born May 25, 1905, in Lowell, the daughter of Frank and Anna (Reusser) Ryder. She attended Bailey School #8 through eighth grade and Lowell School. She lived on the family farm on Bailey Road until the age of 13, then in Lowell, where she went to eighth grade twice and the first part of ninth grade. At age 16 she went to Omaha to live with her sister, returned to Michigan, and in February 1924, not yet 19, went to Los Angeles, where she lived until 1939. In 1928 she married Robert C. Hyder, who became a dentist in 1933 upon graduation from the University of Southern California. In 1940, they moved to East Los Angeles, in 1947 to Arcadia, in 1957 to Temple City. She was a telephone operator from 1926 to 1935, belonged to Eastern Star from 1927 to 1959, and Rotary Anns from 1943 to 1975. In 1959, she became a born-again Christian at Arcadia Union Church, served as deaconess, and was active in many other posts there through 1992. She was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Temple City since 1943 to 1995. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert C. Hyder in 1975. She is survived by her children Joy Bernuy of North Hills, California, Darrell Hyder of North Brookfield, Mass., and Roberta (Bobi) Hancock of Oklahoma City; six grandchildren, sisters Louise Winks and

Cora Stormzand, both of Lowell, and numerous nieces and nephews. Burial was in Whittier California.

HIESHETTER - Donald Gerald Hieshetter, aged 70, died at his home this past week. Don was a lifelong resident of Grand Rapids. He graduated from Catholic Central in 1944 and attended Aquinas College. While serving in the U.S. Air Force, stationed in Texas, he received an honorable discharge. He was a lover of Detroit Lions football, automobiles, auto racing, animals and the outdoors. Don was known to have an enthusiasm unmatched by others. He is survived by his six children Ann Koning (Mrs. Ken), Jon (Marta), Kurt, Janet (Eric), Susan Frank (Mrs. Jay) and Bob; his sister Fran McGee (Mrs. Tom) and his brother William; seven grandchildren and six grand dogs. The family requests, in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to Paws with a Cause. The Memorial Mass was held at St. Alphonsus Church Friday, December 13, 1996. Arrangements by Memorial Alternatives, Grand Rapids.

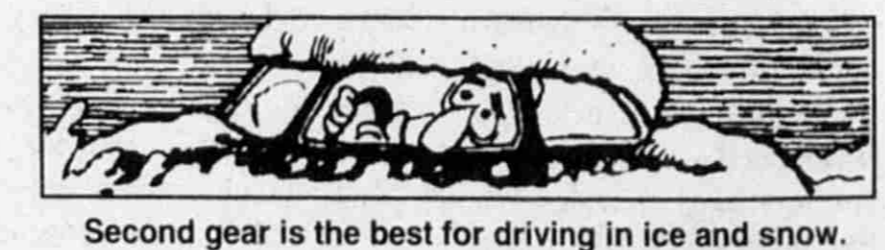
JESSUP - Etheldra Jessup, aged 89, of Ada, passed away December 9, 1996. Surviving are three grandchildren Lisa Pitsch of Ada, Kevin (Linda) Pitsch of Saranac, Kirk Pitsch of Ada; four great-grandchildren Sarah, Amanda, Jacob and Joshua; good friend Evelyn Briggs of Lowell. Cremation has taken place. Memorial service was held December 16. Arrangements by Lake Funeral Home in Saranac.

MURRAY - Alexander C. Murray, aged 87, of Lowell, died Thursday, December 12, 1996. He is survived by his children Mrs. Arthur (Marjorie) Snyder of CA, Mrs. Raymond (Marian)

Green of Paraguay, Mrs. Gladys Baldwin of Grand Rapids, Mrs. Lester (Lois) Bauschke of IN; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral Services were held Monday at Riverview Cemetery in South Bend, IN. Memorial contributions may be made to Forest Hills Bible Chapel, 4637 Ada Dr., S.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Arrangements by Roth-Gerst, Lowell.

ROSENBERGER - Lucille A. Rosenberger, aged 78, of Alto, passed away Wednesday, December 11, 1996. Surviving are her husband, Alwyn; one son, Robert (Lila) Rosenberger; two daughters JoAnn Faunce and Bonnie Lou Kidder, all of Freeport; five grandchildren and six step-grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and 13 step-great-grandchildren; three sisters Arlene (Donald) Cecil of Sebring, FL, Abbi (Barry) Bement of Grand Rapids, Falice Ann (Donald) Bradley of Gowen; one brother Howard Tefft of Altona. Funeral Services were held Saturday at the Clarksville Bible Church, Rev. Greg Freed and Rev. Calvin Kidder officiating. Interment Clarksville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Elmdale Nazarene Church. Arrangements by Kooops Funeral Chapel, Clarksville.

TAYLOR - Agnes Katherine Taylor, aged 92, of Saranac, passed away December 5, 1996. Surviving are two sons Donald (Linnie) Taylor of Georgia and Burton (Kay) Taylor of Ionia; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; half sister Ellen Nummer of Lowell. Funeral Services were held December 9 with burial in Balcom Cemetery. Arrangements by Kooops Funeral Home in Lake Odessa.



Second gear is the best for driving in ice and snow.

The Lowell Ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$12⁰⁰ a year in Kent County, \$17⁰⁰ a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

Roger K. Brown Publisher
Thad Kraus Editor
(616) 897-9261

Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI.
Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
P. O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

Want a furnace that saves money plus energy?

The Plus Series features Bryant's most energy-efficient furnaces. This includes our Plus 90i, the world's most totally efficient gas furnace, as well as the Plus 80 Variable Speed and Plus 80 furnaces. Their energy savings mean money savings for you.

6 months no payments - no interest
FREE ESTIMATES
Call Bryant to the rescue

Arctic, Inc.
1301 Bows Rd., Lowell • 897-4123
Open Daily 8 - 5 PM • Licensed & Insured

Eastside of Grand Rapids

ADA-LOWELL 5

Fulton Ave. (M-21) 5 minutes east of Amway HQ • 897-1351

The area's BEST priced first-run hit movies!

Bargain Matinees \$3.50 before 6 pm & all day Tues.
Mon., Wed., Thur. evenings \$4.75
Free drink refills, 25¢ popcorn refills, all screens' stereo, every seat a luxurious rocking chair, cup holder armrests, real buttered popcorn

NOW SHOWING

JERRY MAGUIRE (R)***
Daily 4:40, 7:10, 9:35
Tues. 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35
THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES (PG)
Daily 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
Tues. 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
101 DALMATIANS (G)***
Daily 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
Tues. 11:40, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
JINGLE ALL THE WAY (PG)
Daily 4:20, 7:30, 9:20
Tues. 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 7:30, 9:20
SPACE JAM (PG)
Tues. 12:10
RANSOM (R)
Daily 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
Tues. 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40

*** Sorry, no passes, FMGs, or Tuesday discounts for this feature.

TOWN TALK

The Ledger asked its Town Talk participants to share a Christmas memory.



Monica Jaarsma
Years ago, we had a foal born on Christmas Eve. We named it "Eve."

Howard Thurtell
I was in the service. I was stationed in Macon, GA, for flight training. The weather was so lousy we couldn't get out to Christmas shop. The tactical officers wife went out and shopped for us. She bought my wife a nice set of pearls.

Judy Stewart
I just love the family getting together. I love decorating the house, and making homemade gifts.

Anne Wood
I lived in Nebraska. My entire family from Lowell came to visit. They rode in a motorhome to be with us in Nebraska on Christmas Day. They were caroling at our door at 8 a.m.

Mail scams affect all in latest postal inspectors' study

By Marc Popielek
Contributing Writer

You've heard the old adage "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." Postal inspectors are warning people that the old saying remains true to this day.

In a nationwide study, the postal inspection service reported that it has tallied 416,216 complaints about mail scams this year and warns people that all areas can be affected.

Postal officials say elderly people are prime targets for the scams that offer everything from quick get-rich schemes to free trips that turn out not to be free after all.

With the assistance of the Associated Press, postal inspectors have revealed "the five biggest lies told to consumers."

In no particular order, the list includes "you are a guaranteed winner" of a valuable prize.

However, in order to win,

winners are asked to pay for chemically inert vitamins, expensive home security systems or water purifiers, or contribute to fake charities. When done, the prize turns out to be less than grand.

Another popular scheme is the "legal" chain letter, said postal officials.

The cost of copying and mailing letters is one of life's biggest losers, according to postal inspectors, and any chain letter asking for money is illegal when sent through the mail.

The third most popular scam is the "stuff envelopes at home and earn big money" careers.

In the end, victims are asked to send money for a "plan," which is: Send out letters asking people to send money for a plan.

A scam that was previously targeted for business is quickly making its way into individual homes.

It states that "your humble

assistance is highly solicited in transferring millions of dollars, available from the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, to share with your good self. All we need is your bank account number." It can be a costly scam to unsuspecting individuals.

The scam gets advance money from the victim, but that money quickly disappears.

And, finally, perhaps the most popular scheme.

"You've been selected to receive a fabulous vacation."

All individuals have to do is pay a one-time membership fee or handling charge and the trip is theirs.

Inspectors say many times the vacation can turn into a nightmare of problems.

One of the biggest prob-

lems law authorities and postal inspectors face is people admitting they have been duped.

"Many people are embarrassed and don't say anything," said Lowell postmaster Sylvia Taylor.

Taylor said people who have been a victim of these scams or other potential scams should write a letter to their postmaster explaining in detail what happened and their letter will be forwarded to the proper officials.

"We'll process the letter to the inspectors and in some cases the police," she said.

So the next time that letter announces you as the next grand winner, remember that if it seems too good, it just may be.



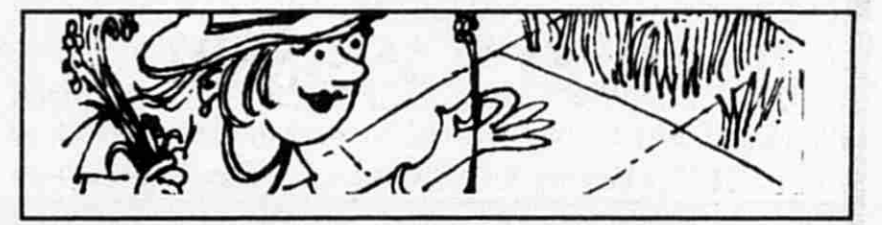
Marj Harding
I remember the Christmas there were four bikes under the tree for me and my brothers and sister. It was a real sacrifice for my parents because they couldn't afford it. I just remember the amazement on our faces when we saw the bikes.

Al Roth
It was 1945 and I was on a freighter coming back from Manila. The trip should have taken 18 days and it took 30. The reason was there were two typhoons in the south China Sea. We were supposed to be back for Christmas - we didn't return until January. We put on a program down in the hole on Christmas day.



Jack Misner
Our family home burned down in 1966. Our family was separated for a week. On Christmas Day, we all got together at my aunts.

Pam Murray
I remember the Christmas with my father. I miss those. He died nine years ago. The family used to go up to Manistee to be with him on Christmas Day.



If you are setting aside space to grow your own herbs for your family, figure two square feet for each variety you plan to grow.

Time for a Change

Right now! Let our professionals get your car ready for cold weather with a tune-up and maintenance check. Bring this coupon in during the month of December for big savings.

VALUABLE COUPON - TUNE-UP SPECIAL
Includes: set engine timing, new spark plugs, adjust carburetor
\$49⁹⁹
6 cyl. \$59.99 8 cyl. \$69.99

VALUABLE COUPON - OIL CHANGE
\$20⁹⁵ (17" more for light trucks)
GREASE LUBE, OIL FILTER, INCLUDING PARTS & OIL
Chrysler Corp. Cars Only

Cash or check only. Excludes Foreign & Dealer. Present coupon when order is written. Price other coupons. December 31, 1996. Coupon cannot be used with any other coupon specials or the service. Customer is responsible for sales tax.

VENNEN
101 LOWELL • 830 WEST MAIN STREET • 897-9281
OPEN MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 10 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. • THURSDAY & FRIDAY 10 A.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Put Safety in Your Stocking

During this season of celebration, be sure that electrical safety is on your "wish list."

When stringing lights outside, make sure you use lights labeled for outdoor use. Keep lights away from water and clear of other holiday decorations. Check that cords are well-insulated, and be careful not to overload electrical outlets. Turn off lights and decorations before going out or to bed.

Put these safety rules in your stocking and keep your holidays accident-free.

Presented by your local, consumer-owned electric utility.

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER

"Owned by the People of Lowell"
127 N. Broadway, Lowell, Michigan

Homespun Devotions

By Pauline Spray

...take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with...cares of this life...(Luke 21:34).

"Slow down and live. That's what I need to do," my friend Erma said, as she walked through the kitchen and glanced at my bulletin board above the sink.

My bulletin board wasn't too attractive, but it was convenient, nonetheless. It was such a handy place to tack recipes, pin up bills and notices, and post the latest addresses. Right in the middle was the popular slogan which read, "Slow down and live." I had glued it there as a gentle reminder that there is always another day; what I fail to accomplish today will wait until tomorrow. Life is too short to rush about madly. We need to slow down - "slow down and live."

It is legitimate for the Christian to desire to improve his standard of living; and, it is permissible for him to endeavor to do so providing he gives God the pre-eminence in all things. Spiritual attainment is more important than material abundance or accomplishment. Therefore, we need to take heed that we do not become overburdened with the demands of this temporal life. We often need to be reminded to "slow down and live."

Prayer: O God, I want Thee to have pre-eminence in my life. Let me never become so busy that I neglect Thee. Remind me often to "slow down and live." Amen.

Give of your best to the Master;
Give Him first place in your heart;
Give Him first place in your service;
Consecrate every part.

H.B.G.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEC. 20 - Ed Mohr.
DEC. 21 - Al Smith, Brooke Page.
DEC. 22 - Jason Seeley.
DEC. 23 - Norma Stevens, Marie Doyle.
DEC. 24 - Jeffrey Pfaller.
DEC. 25 - Chris Woolfenden, Scott Shindorf, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser.



Misty and Mark Anderson

Anderson and McClure exchange November wedding vows

Misty McClure and Mark Anderson exchanged wedding vows on November 9, 1996 at the First United Methodist Church of Lowell.

Parents of the couple are Greg and Marilyn McClure and Bernard and Laura Anderson, all of Lowell. Maid of honor was the bride's sister, April McClure. Bridesmaids were Kristin Morentsen, Page Lombardo-Elmore, the bride's cousin, Julie Idema, Stacy Martin and Toni Anderson.

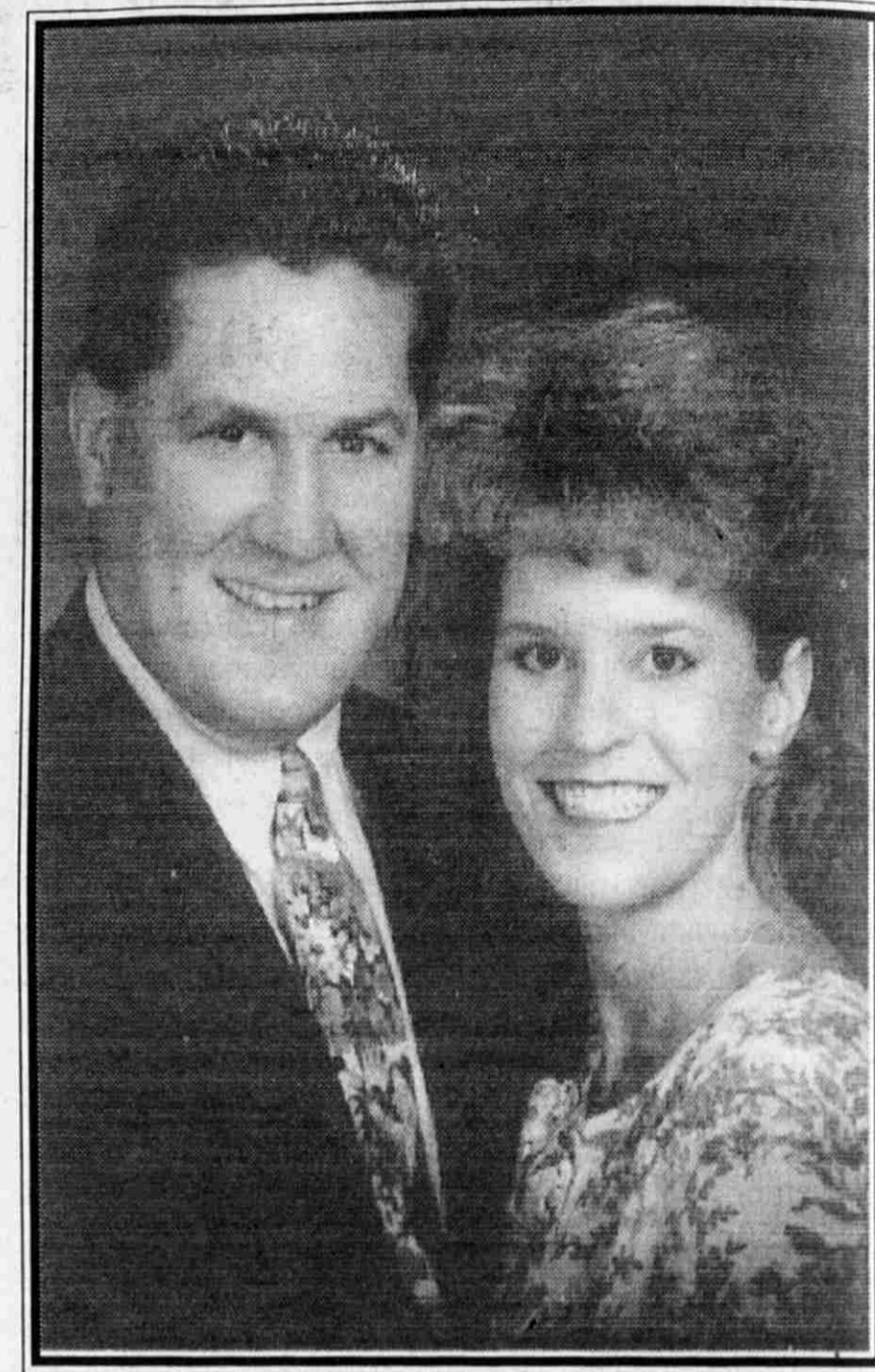
The best man was W.J. Price. Groomsmen were Donald and Bernie Anderson, brothers of the groom, Brian Orangenk, Brian Fox and Richie Anderson.

Ushers were Rick Sauber, Wayne Romantic and Andy Wielenga. Ringbearer was Carson Witt and flowergirl was Kacy Anderson.

Master and mistress of ceremonies were Tom and Nan Price, mistresses of ceremonies were Shirley Yeiter and Sharon VanAmburgh.

The couple now resides in Lowell.

Mitchell and VanManen set wedding plans



Bradley Jon VanManen and Mimi Lynn Mitchell

Joseph and Kathy Mitchell Jr., of Alto are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Mimi Lynn to Bradley Jon VanManen, son of Gerald H. and Dorothy VanManen, of Grand Rapids.

The future bride is a graduate of Lowell High School and Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Nursing (BSN). She is employed at Blodgett Memorial Medical Center in the cardiac care unit as a registered nurse.

The future groom is a graduate of Calvin Christian High School and Western Michigan University with a B.S. in Petroleum Marketing. After graduation, he joined their family business, VanManen Oil and Propane of Grand Rapids.

The couple is planning a February 1, 1997 wedding.

AREA BIRTHS

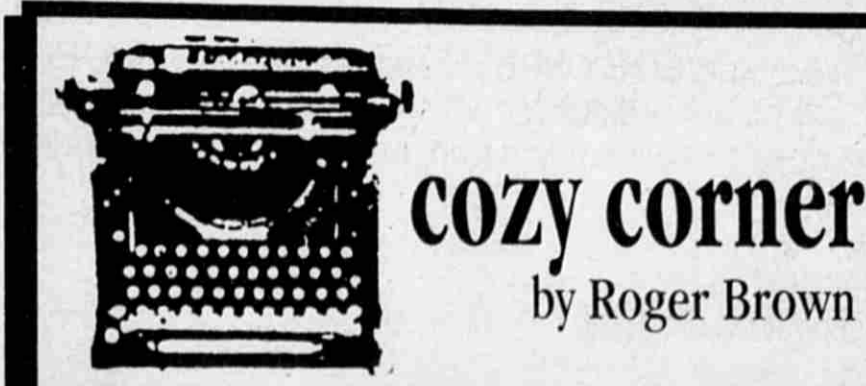
Paula and Michaela Blough are proud to announce the birth of their sister, Maria Elizabeth, born December 6, 1996, at 11:35 a.m. She weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Happy parents are Carl and Brenda Blough of Lowell. Grandparents are Noah and Marguerite Blough of Lowell and Paul and Sheila Dykstra of Freeport. Great-grandmothers are Marie Welton of Alto and Emma Dykstra of Grand Rapids.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ADA COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH 7227 Thornapple River Dr. 676-1032 Pastor: THOMAS J. BARTHA Morning Worship.....9:30 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. We invite you to make this community church your church home. WELCOME TO ALL.</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL "A friendly church with a life changing message" Worship with us this Sunday and find yourself part of a caring church family! Day Bible Chapel is an independent and nondenominational church. (COME AS YOU ARE!) Location: The church is just east of the intersection of Centerline and Pinckney, north of M-21. Worship Service.....10 A.M. Call 897-6332 anytime Rev. Frank Lattimore</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL REV. William J. Renkema - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>LOWELL WESLEYAN CHURCH "A great place to bring your family!" 1069 N. Lincoln Lake Rd. Phone 897-6890 or 897-8304 Worship begins at 11 A.M. Pastor Bill Price</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 REGULAR HOURS Morning Worship.....8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School.....9:50 A.M. Wednesday Worship.....6:45 P.M. REV. B. GORDON BARRY Nursery & child care available</p>	<p>EMMAUS LUTHERAN Serving SE Kent County Meeting At: Pine Ridge Elementary School 3250 Redford S.E. Bill Brandner - Pastor 897-1584 WORSHIP 9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 A.M. Church office 956-6695 We invite you to "walk" with us.</p>	<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Holloway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Wednesday Evening.....7:00 P.M. JOSEPH FREMER, PASTOR 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>THE NEW RIVERVIEW 14043 E. Fulton, Lowell Phone: 897-9948 ★ Restaurant & Lounge ★ Daily Specials ★ To-Go's Available ★ Private Banquet Hall (Meetings, special parties, etc.) ★ Small Parties Accepted</p>
<p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 S. Bellevue • Ph. 897-7185 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....11 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M. Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:30 P.M. GLENN H. MARKS - Senior Pastor, 897-9110 STAN GERIG - Associate Pastor, 897-5894 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:30 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 897-5648 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 Worship and Church School.....10:00 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Joe Le Pard.....Director of Education Meghan Culver.....Music Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. TIMOTHY E. HARMON, Minister Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street Sun. Worship Service.....9:30AM & 6:00PM Sunday School Hour.....11:00AM Contact Church Office for Prayer Mgt. times 897-7185 JOE GERKIN, PASTOR</p>	<p>Join Us In Worship</p>		

Viewpoint . . .



I went to the ballet last week. Yup... Roger Brown, the guy whose idea of a big time is playing cribbage in an ice shanty, dressed up and trundled off to see The Nutcracker. What made the event even stranger was the fact that I took my mother. I don't remember doing anything one-on-one with my mother since she last changed my diapers.

This outing came to pass because of Sandi Deitz, my son's girlfriend of about three years. Sandi is a professional dancer with the Grand Rapids Ballet. My mother had mentioned numerous times that she'd like to see her dance, so Sandi sent me two complimentary tickets and asked that I take her. Sandi rationalized that I am slightly less stuck in my "guy stuff" ways than my father. My dad's a good guy, but I just can't imagine him getting terribly excited about attending the ballet.

I took mom out to dinner prior to the performance. We had a great meal and arrived at the hall in time to find our seats and look over the program. Sandi had one of the lead roles as the Sugar Plum Fairy. Our seats were in the mezzanine so it was

difficult to recognize Sandi by her face. We'd only glanced at the program before the lights went down. And, my mother and I were completely ballet illiterate.

Consequently, we applauded profusely at the end of the Snow Queen's performance thinking it had been Sandi. During intermission I had a chance to look the program over more closely and discovered Sandi didn't perform until the second act. Jed and Granny go to the ballet.

When Sandi did perform, we could recognize her even from the distance. She dances beautifully! And, you don't have to take my word for it. Dave Nicolle raved about her in his Grand Rapids Press review on Friday. It's obvious Sandi has worked very, very hard at her profession. Mom and I were extremely proud of her. I'm not sure I'm ready to commit to a steady diet of the ballet, but I am excited. I had a chance to go.

After seeing Sandi perform, the paradox of her relationship with my son Casey really struck home. Here on one hand is Sandi, a professional ballerina, the Sugar Plum Fairy. On the other is Casey, a gunner on an M-1A1 Abrams main battle tank with the 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized). It would be hard to imagine two more dissimilar professions.

The one thing they do have in common is that they both seem to be excelling at their jobs. Casey recently outscored everyone in his company on a physical training test. In part of the test he did 185 military style pushups in less than two minutes. I couldn't do that many in a day.

This afternoon, he will be attending a Blue Medallion Social at the post officer's club as an honored guest. The medallions are given out randomly by high ranking officers

when a soldier performs exceptionally well. Those awarded these medallions wear them until the next quarterly social, at which time they are recognized by the commanding general. The medallions are then exchanged for commemorative 1st Division coins the awardees keep.

Casey won his medallion during a recent field exercise in which his company of tanks played the role of opposing forces. Casey's tank and another one from his platoon were sent to discreetly flank an approaching company of tanks and mounted infantry and attack them from the rear. The maneuver worked. Using laser simulators the two tanks destroyed eight Abrams tanks and several Bradley Fighting Vehicles before the unit could withdraw to cover.

The action was witnessed by the battalion commander. He awarded Casey and the gunner on the other attacking tank with blue medallions. They were the only two in their company to earn the medallions during the exercise, so my guess is they are quite coveted.

Also, Casey recently earned his second Army Achievement Medal and was promoted to Specialist Four. He's quite a soldier, and I'm awfully proud of him.

So, why all this parental bragging? Well, I honestly didn't intend for this column to come out that way. I was simply going to point out the differences between Casey and Sandi in an attempt to humorously prove the old adage is still very true, "opposites do seem to attract." What I've really proven is that there is nothing more boring than a proud parent. Sorry. I'll write about the dogs next week.

TO THE EDITOR

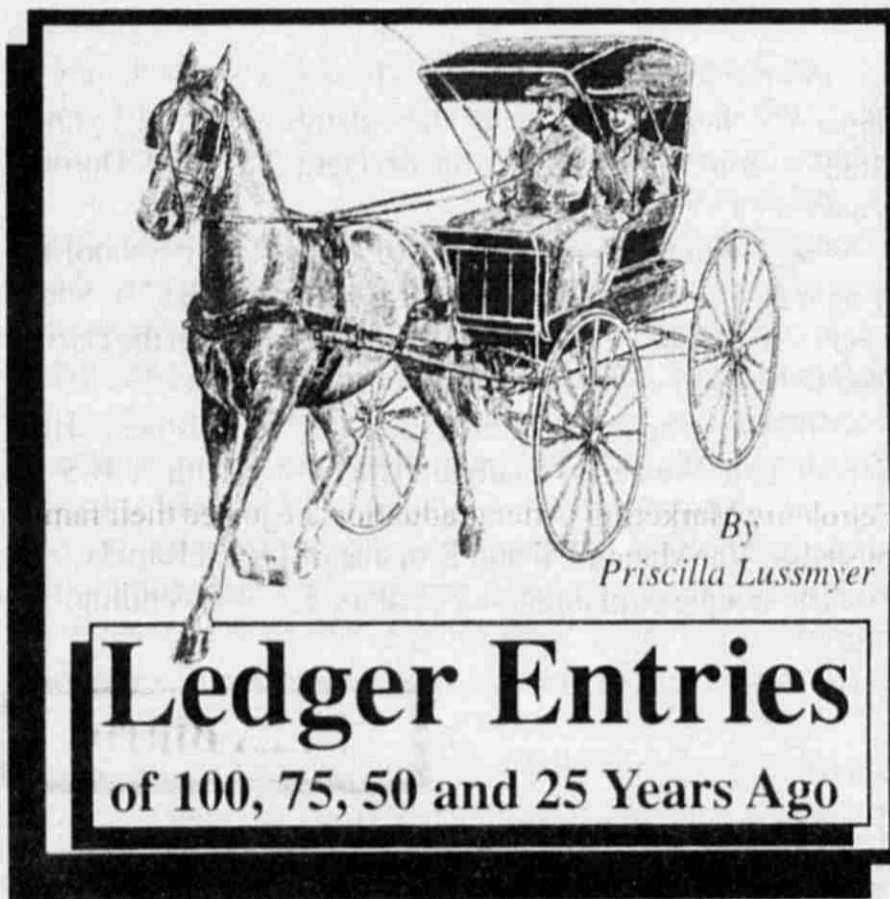
Dear Editor,

Somebody broke into the scout cabin on the north end of Washington St. over the weekend of December 7/8. This has been a problem for us the past 30 years. I do not know why people need to break into the cabin and destroy things that have no value for them. It is just a childish thing to do, which we are getting sick of.

The spraying of a fire extinguisher on the floor and tables; throwing sugar all over; painting priceless awards that date back to the 40's and 50's; breaking the windows; destroying a coffee pot which was one month old; breaking Klondike Derby trophies; cutting up door casings with a hatchet and the general messing up. Some of these were done this past break-in plus they stole about \$130 worth of popcorn that we were trying to raise funds with. Now we have to buy more popcorn and take away our profits.

I don't know why people have to break in and destroy other people's property. Maybe it's a game for them, but it's about time to stop this game. Some of the awards we'll never be able to replace, plus the contents of the building are not covered by insurance so we'll never replace them. If the person(s) who did this replace the things they stole, then we won't take further action.

Dirk Ritzema



125 YEARS AGO IN THE LOWELL WEEKLY JOURNAL - DEC. 20, 1871

Very early, intense cold in the west leaves many settlers with little food, trying to live in their wagons. Herds of cattle are also perishing from the cold.

Scotch inventor Macle has invented a type-setting machine, which is described in a column (of course, set by hand). There are 140 school districts in Ionia County.

"A few cattle in the streets Saturday, and a few sleighs minus straw and hay Saturday night. Pound them Marshal." The Methodists are putting on a pork and bean supper to help pay for the new furnace.

75 YEARS AGO IN THE LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO - DEC. 15, 1921

The Clover Leaf Club debates "Resolved: That women should hold high political office." The affirmative side wins.



COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

As Christmas and the end of 1996 approach, it seems appropriate to look at what is good in our particular community.

In his recent books, *The Geography of Nowhere* and *Home From Nowhere*, James Howard Kunstler points out that most communities now lack a "sense of place" or a particular identification. Mr. Kunstler says that American culture is very abstract; it's an idea of a place rather than the place itself. Very few places are worthy of our affection anymore.

Many communities and their schools are like that - abstract. It has long been my contention that the reason our community

is different and distinct from the many other communities on the outskirts of Grand Rapids is because our foundation of solid rural values still exists. Even as growth happens here, honesty, ethical practices, caring, accountability and civic duty are all very much in evidence in and around the Lowell area.

Next month, many of you will help the board and staff at Lowell Area Schools spotlight those character traits which you feel are important to record and remember every day. It is the public opportunity to stand up and say these solid values are important to us. We can use this effort as our defining moment, and to keep reminding ourselves how special and unique our community has been and continues to be.

As your board of education and school staff, we count the people of this community and their deeply-rooted values among our most valued blessings. Please accept our gratitude for your support and our heartfelt wishes to you and your families for a blessed Christmas and a happy new year.

Your comments about this concern or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Bert Bleke, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., P.O. Box 269, Lowell, MI 49331.



THE 88TH LEGISLATURE: PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE

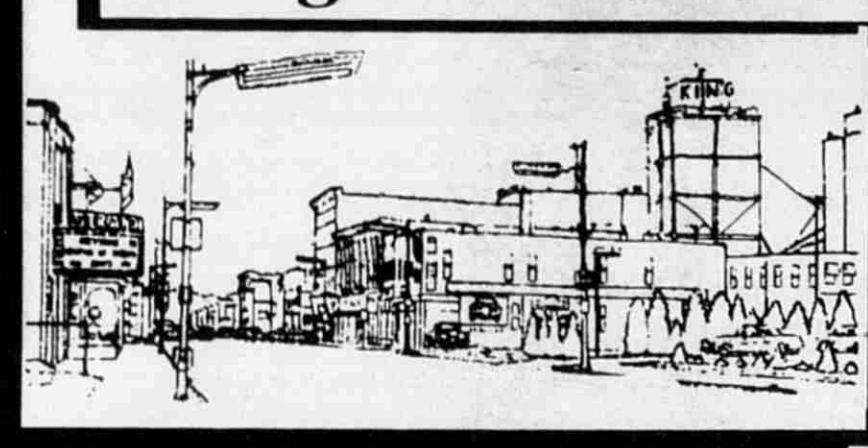
Last week marked the end of the 88th Legislature, probably the most productive session in Michigan history. As I look back at the large number of bills that passed during the last two years, I think the theme of the past session would be "protecting the future of our families."

Each legislative initiative we undertook was aimed at improving the quality of life for all of our citizens. The results are far-reaching and are evident not only in West Michigan, but in each community across the state.

We took major steps toward making Michigan communities safer for all people by enacting strong anti-crime legislation. A sweeping juvenile justice package, of which I was proud to be lead sponsor, was passed to send the message to violent juvenile offenders that if you do an adult crime, you'll do adult time. We implemented a sex offender's registry, so law enforcement can monitor the activities of dangerous individuals.

Capitol Commentary, con'td., pg. 17

Along Main Street



DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Children can visit with Santa at Rupert's Drop from 6 to 7 p.m. and carriage rides will run from 6 to 10 p.m. from the Riverwalk Plaza on Wednesday, Dec. 18. The live Nativity will begin Wednesday, Dec. 18 and run through December 23 on the Riverwalk Plaza from 6:30 to 9 p.m. each night.

Children can also visit with Santa at Cousin's Hallmark on Saturday, Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. until noon.

Sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

FIFTH-GRADE CONCERT ON LCTV

"A Christmas Concert" by the fifth grades of Cherry Creek Elementary will be shown on LCTV Channel 2 on: Wednesday, Dec. 18 at noon; Thursday, Dec. 19 at 5 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 21 at 10 a.m.

CUB SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Cub Pack 3102 will hold a pancake breakfast with Santa from 8-11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21 at the First United Methodist Church. Pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee. The cost for adults is \$3; \$2 for children or \$7 a family. All proceeds go to The Roberson Memorial Fund.

Break-ins, cont'd.... From Page 1

Ritzema said. "It is such a childish thing they are doing."

Bush said anyone with information about the break-in should call him at 336-3125 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or they may call dispatch at 336-3113.



In 1939, the Montgomery Ward department store in Chicago sought something novel for its Santa Claus to distribute to parents and children. Robert May, a advertising copywriter for the store, suggested an illustrated poem, printed in a booklet, that families would want to save and reread each holiday season. May conceived the idea of a shiny-nosed reindeer, Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer. That Christmas of 1939, 2.4 million copies of the "Rudolf" booklet were handed out in Montgomery Ward stores across the country.

Please join family and friends to celebrate the **85TH BIRTHDAY OF CLARENCE B. (PECK) KLAHN** At An Open House **Sunday, Dec. 22 from 2 to 5 P.M.** at his home - Orchard Hill Farm 9896 Cascade Rd. S.E., Lowell

LAAC CHRISTMAS SHOW & SALE
The Lowell Area Arts Council presents a "Gala Christmas Show and Sale" running through December 24. The Main gallery at the center located at 149 S. Hudson in downtown Lowell will be filled with the handcrafted work of over 50 Michigan artists. Unique and unusual, the gallery of gifts features jewelry, pottery, glass and much more.
The gallery will be open for this special event Tuesday through Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and closed Mondays. Special hours for Christmas Eve are 12-3 p.m. For any further information phone the center at 616-897-8545.

YOUTH FOOTBALL MEETING

A Lowell Youth Football meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 6 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Board of Education board room, 300 High Street.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PARENT SUPPORT MEETING

A workshop will be held at Highlands Middle School cafeteria on 4645 Chandy NE on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1997

Toys For Tots, continued... From Page 1

This year, as many as 10,000 children in the West Michigan area may qualify for Toys for Tots assistance.

Recipient families are identified through a receipt from the Department of Social Services or Aid to Dependent Children benefits.

Volunteers are needed to assist with pre-registration

Chamber announces lighting contest winners

Carriage rides, Christmas carolers, a parade, a live nativity, the lighting of the city Christmas tree and the annual Christmas lighting contest can even give the best of "scrooges" a dose of that "holiday feeling."

These Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce festivities have filled the downtown streets, Riverwalk Plaza and community this Christmas season. Ball Floral was the winner of the business lighting contest. It received a plaque commemorating the honor.

Earning honorable mention recognition were Lowell Ledger/Litho/Buyers Guide, Cousin's Hallmark, Rupert's Drop and Attwood. In the residential traditional category Doria West placed first and received a \$50 gift certificate.

Well closure awaits \$1 purchase of remaining one

By Marc Popiolek
Contributing Writer

Before Lowell Charter Township can close several wells in Eastgate Village, an agreement must be reached with Robert Schaaf to provide access to one remaining well.

Schaaf has offered the township \$1 to take the well off their hands, which includes releasing the township from any liability or responsibility.

However, before the deal can be sealed, the township must

review whether it can give him easement accessed to the site.

The well, located on three acres of land adjacent to Schaaf's, would be used by the homeowner to irrigate his three-acre parcel.

The well previously served residents of Eastgate, but when the new water system was constructed, the township agreed to seal all of the wells.

It awarded the sealing project to the Layne-Northern Company for \$10,201.

If an agreement can be reached with Schaaf and once the wells are sealed, the township will then look to remove the pump facilities and buildings from the well sites.

registration on distribution day. Persons wishing to volunteer for this area can call Leslie Visser or Laurel Verburg at 459-0255.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with toy sorting and distribution. Persons wishing to volunteer for this area can call Mindy Smith at 361-5957.

Dale Latva was second, receiving a \$35 gift certificate and Trent Sible was third. He received a \$25 gift certificate.

In the residential spectacular category, it was Kurt Hieshetter (\$50 gift certificate) who received top honors. Robert Wylie (\$35 gift certificate) was second and John Vezino (\$25 gift certificate) was third. The Lowell Area Arts Council spirit of Christmas award went to Wilson Milley. He received a \$50 gift certificate.

In a Christmas poster contest sponsored by the Lowell Ledger/Buyers Guide and the Lowell Area Arts Council, the winners were Courtney Wierzbicki (five and under); Andrew Wilterink (5-10); O.J. Armstrong (11-16) and Evelyn Briggs (senior citizen).

review whether it can give him easement accessed to the site.

The well, located on three acres of land adjacent to Schaaf's, would be used by the homeowner to irrigate his three-acre parcel.

The well previously served residents of Eastgate, but when the new water system was constructed, the township agreed to seal all of the wells.

It awarded the sealing project to the Layne-Northern Company for \$10,201.

If an agreement can be reached with Schaaf and once the wells are sealed, the township will then look to remove the pump facilities and buildings from the well sites.

The Ledger TV LISTING MAGAZINE

CHANNEL	SYMBOL
2	LOCAL
3	WWMT-3
4	WOTV-41
5	WLLA-64
6	WGVU-35
7	WXMI-17
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**
17	WTBS
18	C-MAX**
19	FAM
20	FX
21	M-TV
22	LOCAL
23	USA
24	DISCOVERY
25	WGN
26	ESPN
27	CNN
28	HN
29	NICK
30	A&E
31	PASS
32	TNT
33	DOPLAR RADAR
34	EWTV
35	TNN
36	TRAVEL
37	LEARNING
38	SCI-FI
39	VH-1
40	WEATHER
41	HISTORY
42	AMC

* Denotes channels not appearing in the grids
** Denotes Premium Channels



FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20 THRU DECEMBER 26

Ellen Burstyn and James Earl Jones (pictured) star as friends during the segregated 1940s in *Timepiece*, premiering Sunday on CBS. The film is a prequel to last year's holiday drama *The Christmas Box*. Richard Thomas, who starred in *The Christmas Box*, makes a special appearance.

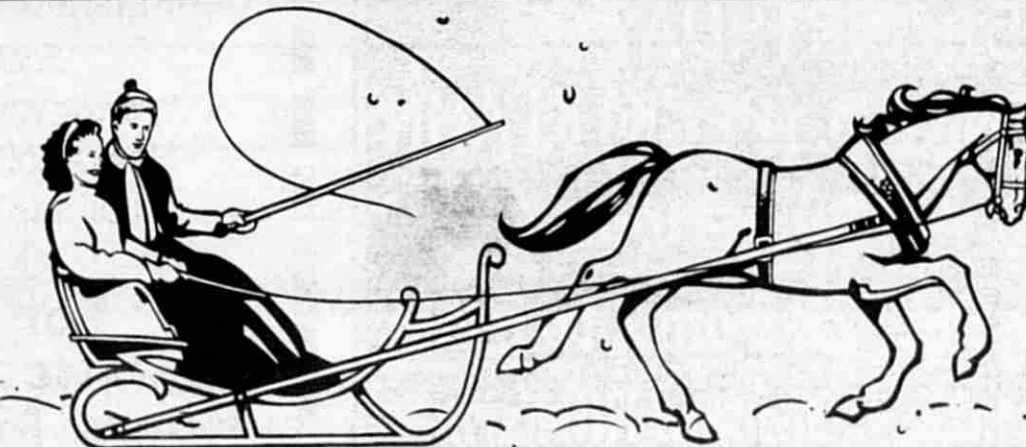
When You Insure Your Home and Car With Us, You'll Save \$\$\$.

When you insure both your home and car with Auto-Owners, we'll save you money with our special multi-policy discounts.

Call your local Auto-Owners agent today for all the details.



Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business
The "No Problem" People



The Speerstra Agency wishes you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Dale Triplett

Speerstra Agency

A DIVISION OF CARR AGENCY, INC.

835 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI 49331
897-9259 or 897-8500

"GIVE ME A BREAK...I'LL FIX IT - FOR LESS"

\$50⁰⁰ OFF
ANY NEW WINDSHIELD INSTALLATION
• to be applied toward deductible.

OPEN: Mon.-Fri. Sat. by appt.

FREE MOBILE SERVICE
897-4912
242-8401
CALL NOW!

CALL 24 HOURS

Will accept all competitors coupons. Some restrictions may apply.

ADVANCED AUTO GLASS

OUR GUARANTEED IRA

An IRA from FB Annuity Company guarantees you a lifetime retirement income. You save on taxes, too, because your interest earnings are tax-deferred. You might also qualify to tax-deduct all your IRA deposits. Call today. Making your future more predictable.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

DALE JOHNSON
6095-28th Street
Grand Rapids, MI 49546 - 940-8181

AD-3029-4 (9-91)

DAYTIME MORNING 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

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 DECEMBER 20, 1996 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 20, 1996 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 4:30

SATURDAY MORNING DECEMBER 21, 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 DECEMBER 21, 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 DECEMBER 21, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs and movies.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 22, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs and movies.

SATURDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 21, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs and movies.

SUNDAY EVENING DECEMBER 22, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs and movies.

SUNDAY MORNING DECEMBER 22, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs and movies.

SUNDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 22, 1996. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs and movies.

MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 23, 1996. Table with columns for Broadcast Stations and time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30). Rows list various programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and movies.

MONDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 23, 1996. Table with columns for Broadcast Stations and time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30). Rows list programs like Late Show, Nightline, and various movies.

TUESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 24, 1996. Table with columns for Broadcast Stations and time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30). Rows list programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and movies.

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 24, 1996. Table with columns for Broadcast Stations and time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30). Rows list programs like Christmas Eve Mass, Holidays at Home, and movies.

WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 25, 1996. Table with columns for Broadcast Stations and time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30). Rows list programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and movies.

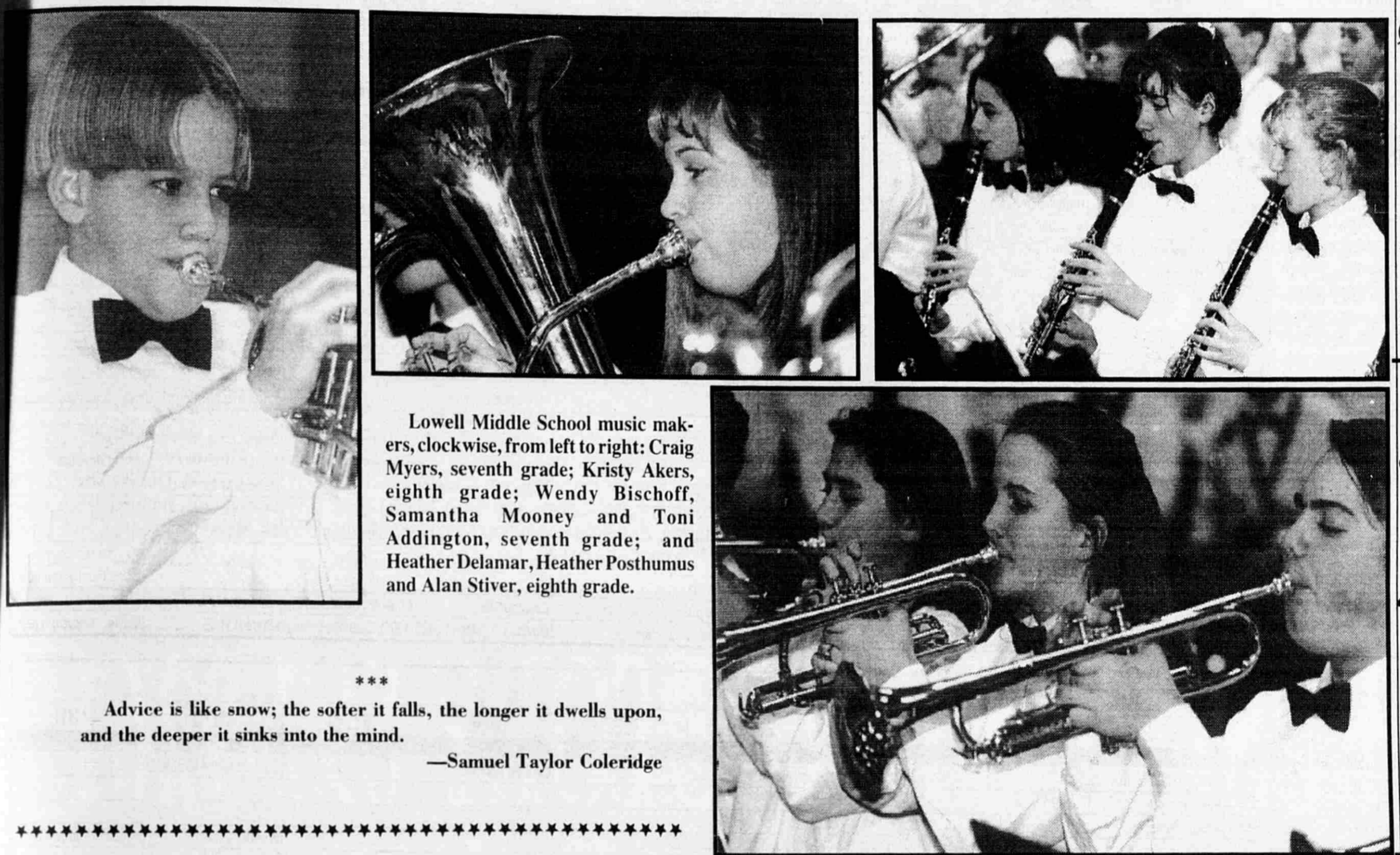
WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 25, 1996. Table with columns for Broadcast Stations and time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30). Rows list programs like Late Show, Nightline, and movies.

THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 26, 1996. Broadcast stations and programs for 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, and 11:30.

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT DECEMBER 26, 1996. Broadcast stations and programs for 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, and 4:30.

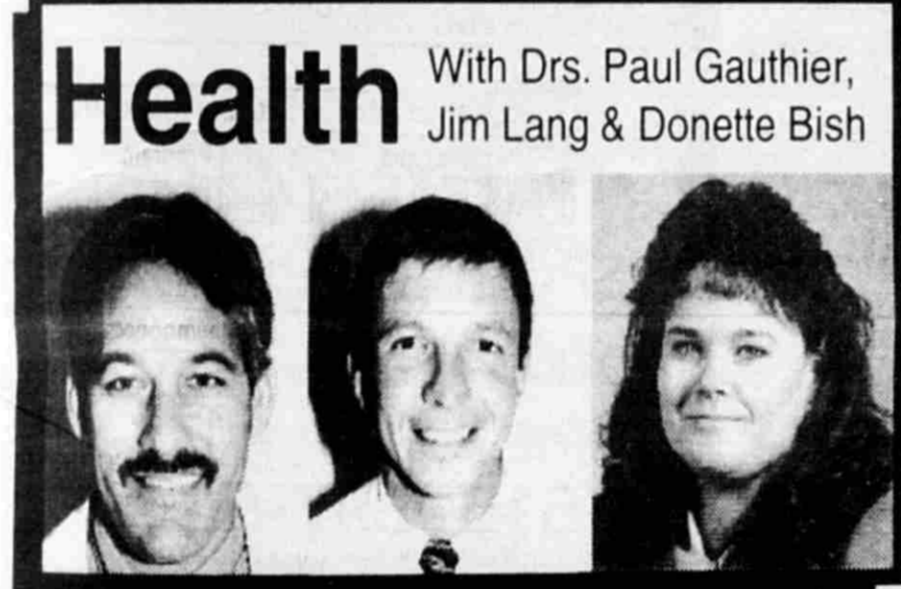
LOWELL CABLE TV DEPARTMENT. 127 N. Broadway, Lowell 897-8405. Promoting HBO movies like Sabrina and Sense and Sensibility.

Lowell Middle School holiday concert



Lowell Middle School music makers, clockwise, from left to right: Craig Myers, seventh grade; Kristy Akers, eighth grade; Wendy Bischoff, Samantha Mooney and Toni Addington, seventh grade; and Heather Delamar, Heather Posthumus and Alan Stiver, eighth grade.

Advice is like snow; the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind. —Samuel Taylor Coleridge



Health With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Donette Bish. TB SKIN TEST

Health With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Donette Bish. TB is a condition caused by a bacteria which has become more common again during the past decade. TB usually affects the lungs and is spread when an infected individual coughs up the bacteria and the germs are breathed in by another person.

If you have a positive TB test, but are found not to have active TB, it is usually recommended that you take medication for six months or so to prevent the inactive germ from becoming active.

Capitol Commentary, cont'd...From Pg. 5

Citizens can now better protect themselves and their families by finding out if a person on the registry lives in their community. Along these same lines, legislation was passed to allow criminal history checks into the backgrounds of people applying for jobs dealing with the care and custody of children.

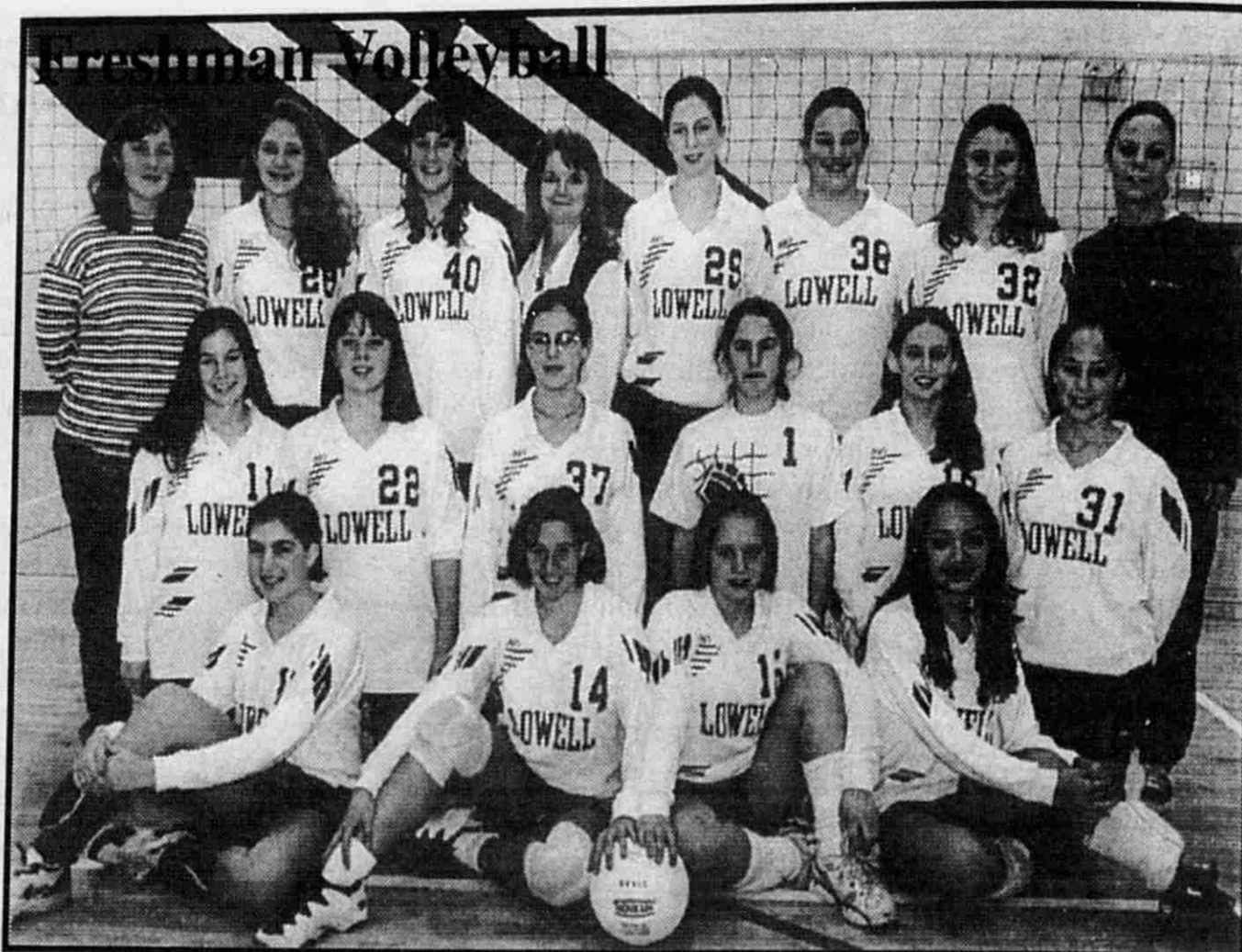
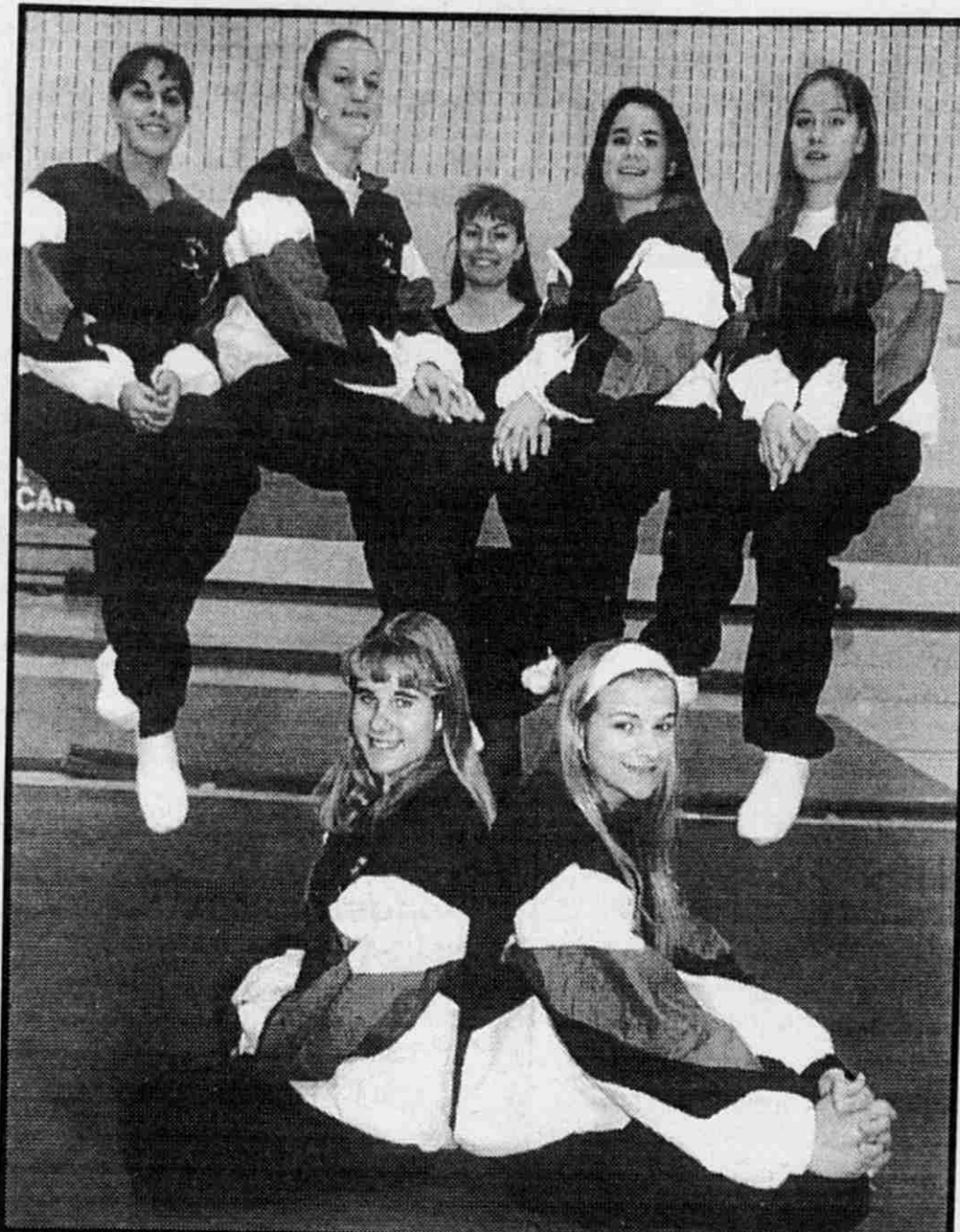
PERSON WANTED to OWN & operate retail candy shop in Lowell area. Low investment. For information call: MRS. BURDEN'S GOURMET CANDY COMPANY

LEAVING YOUR JOB? RETIRING? We can help protect your retirement plan money. For more information, call today. 1-800-294-6417

Don't Let This Strip Your Business's Identity! LOANS BY PHONE SAME DAY APPROVAL! HOMEOWNERS! living from paycheck to paycheck!

Lowell Gymnastics

Members of the Lowell gymnastics team, front row, left to right, are: Renee Brower and Kristy Hughes; back row, left to right, are: Laura Douglass, Shannon Laux, coach Michele DeHaan, Brenda Lacey, and Samantha Ripley. Missing from the picture are Lisa Malone, Anna Garza and Skye Fisher.



Members of the Lowell freshman volleyball team front row, left to right, are: Lindsay Perkins, Candice Downs, Tasha Shattuck, Niki Russell. Middle row, left to right, are: Kelly Kemen, Jaime Sheppard, Jamie Linkfield, Jody Seif, Lindsey Thaler, Angie DeWit. Back row, left to right, are: Kara Tousley (mgr.), Angie Schmidt, Jennifer Dean, coach Jackie Malokofsky, Lindsay Scigliano, Maggie Wisner, Rebecca Brander and Teresa Rich (assistant coach).

Possible executive cuts will mean the difference between a balanced and deficit budget

Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Knowing where its district budget has been, Lowell superintendent Bert Bleke felt guardedly optimistic about the proposed amended budget for the 1996-97 school year.

"Over the last few months, we have addressed concerns that got us in trouble and have made significant changes in how we do business," Bleke said.

How can there be guarded optimism when the proposed amended budget shows excess expenditures totaling \$246,835? The district has identified \$250,000 in its expenditures for contingency fund.

Bleke set up the fund on a hunch that early next year in answer to some tough state budget questions, the Governor will make executive cuts in education.

"The Governor wanted to give schools less than what was passed," Bleke said.

The state also faces a suit (Duran Case) from a number of Michigan schools. The suit involves billions of dollars. It may also play a role in the Governor's executive cut decision.

If the anticipated cuts in education are not forthcoming, Lowell's proposed amended deficit budget will have a new face - a balanced budget.

Bleke notes that the school's actual audited budget would

then show excess revenue of approximately \$4,000.

"We know the numbers are right and can be held accountable," Bleke said.

Issues mentioned in the annual audit regarding changes and refinements were monthly accounting, reconciling bank statements, and dual accountability.

"We now have all budget control officers involved, which helps give us a clearer idea of budget responsibility," Bleke explains. "If an urgency remains, it is that we do a better job of developing next year's budget."

Currently, the district employs Jim Gallagher to work in the business office two-three days a week. Gallagher will spend three-four days a week during the months of January, February and March.

The interim business manager is contracted for the remainder of the academic year. Bleke said the district will decide in late winter what it will do in the future. "I feel fortunate to have a good man in place now."

Bleke reviewed the food service and athletic budgets with the board.

Food service has a proposed amended budget with excess expenditures of \$7,820.

This is explained by the fact that costs are up and there is less federal subsidy.

Bleke also noted that lunch prices at Lowell haven't been

raised in the past two-three years.

In the athletic department, expenditures exceeded revenues by \$244,130. To cover the cost, a transfer of \$245,000 was made from the general fund. It accounts for 1.2 percent of the budget.

"Nothing is sacred," Bleke said. "The question is - where are we impacting the most kids?"

The new amended budget was labeled as user friendly by Bleke. "I think it allows the lay person to look at it and track where the district is."

Vergennes United Methodist Church

At the corner of Bailey & Parnell

Sermon Title:

"Pondering Christmas in Your Heart"

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45 AM

Pastor Nathaniel "Than" Johnson

10411 Bailey Dr. NE, Lowell, MI 49331

Church Phone: 897-6141

BUSINESS DIRECTORY 897-9261

Martin D. Vredenburg, D.D.S.
GENERAL DENTISTRY
1150 North Hudson Street
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-8429

Victorian Thymes
Floral & Gift
CREATIVE DESIGNS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
• Fresh, Silk and Dried Flowers
• Fresh Plants and Foliage
• Distinctive Gifts • Cards and Balloons
505-B W. Main
(Next to Little Caesar's)
HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY, 9-6 • SATURDAY, 9-3
PHONE: 897-5767 • FAX: 897-9097

TRADING CARDS • COMIC BOOKS
Rookies
SPORT CARDS PLUS
BUY • SELL • TRADE
106 West Main • Lowell • 49331
(616) 897-5650

Looking For An Independent Agent?
One Name Says It Best.
An agent who represents just one insurance company can't always provide the insurance that's best for you.
But your independent Auto-Owners agent represents several companies. So if one insurance isn't right in price or coverage, he'll find another that is.
Your local Auto-Owners agent. No one does it better - or knows you better - than him.
Auto-Owners Insurance
Life, Home, Car, Business.
One name says it all.
Dale Triplett
Speerstra Agency
A Division of Carr Agency, Inc.
835 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI 49331
897-9259 or 897-8500

howboat AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.
"THE MACHINE SHOP"
Complete Machine Shop Service
Division of Showboat Auto., Inc.
Parts Plus
AMERICA'S FAMILY OF AUTO PARTS STORES
1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
(616) 897-9231
HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

OPEN SUNDAY
FLORAL & GIFTS
PRODUCE GROCERY
BEER & WINE
HUDSONVILLE ICE CREAM
CUMBERLAND PRODUCE MARKETPLACE
SUNDAYS 9 TO 9 • WEEKDAYS 8 TO 9
1250 E. FULTON, LOWELL
Phone 897-7617

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

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant
W.J. WHEELER Michigan
103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, Michigan 49331
616-897-7711

BODYWORKS GYM & FITNESS CENTER
Nautilus • Cardiovascular
Free Weights • Aerobics
Personalized Programs • Tanning
Supplements • Clothing • Co-Ed
1335 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331
Brett Thomas, Owner
Phone (616) 897-8397

JB HARRISON
Insurance Agency, Inc.
BUYING A HOME?
We offer competitive rates and group discounts.
Call for a Quote Today!
616-868-0050 800-217-0712
6090 Alden Nash NE • P.O. Box 175
Alto, MI 49302
Judy Harrison
President

Thomet
CHEVROLET BUICK Geo
1250 West Main Street • Lowell, Michigan 49331
Mr. Goodwrench
★ COMPLETE BODY & FRAME REPAIR
Phone 897-9294

Call...
ARCTIC, INC.
HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING • REFRIGERATION
Sales & Service
Call Bryant to the rescue!
1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331
(Behind McDonald's)
PHONE 897-4123

QUALITY TAX SERVICE, INC.
216 E. Main St., Lowell
(616) 897-7668
• CORPORATE, BUSINESS & PERSONAL TAX PREPARATIONS
• BUSINESS START-UP & CONSULTING
• PAYROLL AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES
SUMMER HOURS:
MON - WED & THURS. • 10 AM - 6 PM
TUES & FRI • NOON - 5 PM.

ADVANCED AUTO GLASS
"GIVE ME A BREAK...I'LL FIX IT - FOR EVEN LESS!"
897-4912
242-8401

MIKA MEYERS BECKETT & JONES PLC
117 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-3111
Ross A. Leisman
Daniel C. Brubaker
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

TECHNOGRAPHICS
508 W. MAIN • LOWELL
897-4268 • FAX 897-4283
STORE HOURS:
MON: 10-4; TUES - THURS: 10-5;
FRI: 10-6; SAT: 10-2
★ Still In Time For Christmas ★
• VARSITY JACKETS (sizes small thru large)
• NOVELTY GIFTS
• CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS
• GIFT CERTIFICATES
We Do Embroidery, Silk Screening And Special Orders!

Choosing A Rental Truck?
RYDER
It's An Easy Call.
LOWELL TRUCK RENTAL & STORAGE
1301 Bowes Road, Lowell 897-0180

SPATTER FLOOR COVERING
LARGE SELECTION OF CARPET, VINYL FLOORS & CERAMIC TILE
OPEN
MONDAY 9-6 • TUESDAY 9-6
THURSDAY 9-6 • WEDNESDAY 9-9
FRIDAY 9-7 • SATURDAY 10-2
CALL: 897-2122
FAX: 897-2124

CITY TREE SERVICE
897-0339
• Tree & Stump Removal
• Lot Clearing
• Trimming
• Brush Chipping
25 Years Experience • 24 Hour Emergency Service
We're Insured For Your Protection!
(Ask for our certificate)

THE ROOFERS
Specializing In Barn Roofs, Vinyl Replacement Windows & Interior Work
• Professional
• Quality Work
• Free Estimates
• All Roof Types
241-4015
Home # 897-7253

WaterFurnace
GEOTHERMAL HEATING • COOLING • HOT WATER
Certified Heat Pump Technician
T.S.C.
Technical Sales and Consulting
Phone 616-897-2115

Let Everyone Know About Your Business!
This Space Only
\$5.00 Per Week!

STOP MART
800 W. Main Lowell
897-4277
Open 5 AM - Midnight
Mon. Thru Thurs.
5 AM-2 am Fri. & Sat.
8 AM-Midnight Sun.
BEER • WINE • GROCERY
DELI
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
• BEER • WINE • DELI • GROCERIES
• PRODUCE • FROZEN FOODS

DURKEE LUMBER, INC.
Lumber and Building Materials
868-6026
6071 Depot St.
Alto, MI

ROLL AWAY JANUARY SUNDAY SKATING SPECIAL
Noon to 3 PM
PARENTS SKATE FREE WITH EACH CHILD'S PAID ADMISSION
805 E. Main, Lowell
897-0001

Quality Travel
"Let us put the world at your fingertips"
216 E. Main Street
Lowell, Michigan 49331
BETTY MITCHELL • PEG CZARNOPIES
(616) 897-5267
FAX: (616) 897-4386

History of Lowell represented in Christmas on the Grand celebration

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

As part of this year's "Christmas on the Grand," 22 trees were decorated and are being displayed (through Jan. 3) at the Gerald R. Ford Museum.

Each tree is reflective of the history of a city, business, organization and/or association.

The Lowell Area Historical Association was asked to participate in the inaugural event.

The approximately 250 handmade ornaments which dangle from the Christmas pine represent a part of Lowell's rich history.

Lori Mattingly and LAHA member Tina Phillips created the historical holiday look.

"I asked Lori to help me because I knew she had background experience in Christmas tree decorating for Nieman Marcus," Phillips said.

Ornaments include a

Swiss cheese like oyster shell used by the old Lowell Button Factory; a stalk of wheat; a miniature bag of King Milling flour; and a picture of Ford and Louis Armstrong on the Showboat stage.

Topping the tree is a star made of twigs, ivory and berries.

"It was a lot of fun," Mattingly said. Fun, which took three weeks to complete and over 60 hours of work. "I enjoyed coming up with ideas."

The museum contacted LAHA's Jim Reagan and asked if the association was interested in participating. Reagan said "yes" and the rest was left up to Phillips' and Mattingly's imagination. "Lowell's was the most creative," LAHA director Norm Borgerson said. "Tina and Lori were given a \$300 budget and they didn't even spend half of it because most of the ornaments were handmade. The tree was just terrific."

Former president Ford

stopped and viewed the tree and the picture of Armstrong and him together on the Showboat stage.

"He had a very clear memory of the years he attended the Showboat," Borgerson said.

Marj Harding added that Ford was pleased Lowell was being represented. "The former president reminisced about the good memories he had of the Showboat," she said.



Tina Phillips and Lori Mattingly, above created an artistic and historical holiday look of Lowell for Christmas on the Grand. The Christmas tree exhibit can be seen through Jan. 3 at the Gerald R. Ford Museum.



A study commissioned by the National Livestock and Meat Board found that for 16 percent of those surveyed, a food's fat content is more important than its calories.



Nothing is particularly hard
if you divide it into small jobs.
—Henry Ford

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 8, 1997 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 Sheryl Esquivel for an ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Township of Grattan so as to rezone the following described lands from the R-R Rural Residential District to the A Agriculture District:


That part of the following described lands currently zoned in the R-R Rural Residential District: The West 20 acres of that part of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 lying Southerly of the Southerly line of Highway M-44 relocated, except the West 750.4 feet thereof and also except the North 295.4 feet of the East 150 feet thereof, Section 14, Town 8 North, Range 9 West, Grattan Township, Kent County, Michigan.

The proposed text of the amending ordinance is on file and may be examined at the offices of the Grattan Township Clerk, 11676 Old Belding Road, Belding, Michigan 48809. All interested persons may attend the public hearing and be heard concerning the proposed amending ordinance.


Dated: December 9, 1996

Planning Commission
Of The Township Of Grattan

★ UNSUNG ATHLETE OF THE WEEK ★



AMY STAUFFER
Freshmen Girls Basketball



PAUL JACOBUS & JIM FLEET
Freshmen Football

Our freshmen coaches labor in obscurity coaching the early games where often the crowds are small and few remember the results beyond the season. These individuals work with our freshmen, trying to teach and instill the values of discipline, hard work, teamwork, and self esteem. It is not all about the score, but about developing an understanding and love for the sport which helps these athletes become winners in life.

Next week we salute members of our wrestling team.

Unsung Athletes of the Week Presented by:

SPEERSTRA AGENCY & H M

897-9259 • 835 W. Main, Lowell

Hastings Mutual Insurance Company

We're only silent until you need us.

ASSEMBLY

Many opportunities at a top Lowell area company. All shifts available. These are long term possible permanent positions paying up to \$7.25 per hour. For immediate consideration call:

MANPOWER TEMPORARY SERVICES TODAY!
897-0050
EOE

505-D West Main, Lowell

MANPOWER TEMPORARY SERVICES



65th Wedding Anniversary

Lyle (Bud) and Gene Lemmon of Lowell celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on December 15.

Celebrating with them were their three daughters, Joyce Irwin of Milford, Diane Roy and Norma Lemmon, both of Lowell.

The couple has five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.