

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 19

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Former Lowell grocer owner dies

••• Family and friends celebrated the life of Bob Hahn, 98, who was remembered for his heart, humor and incredible health.

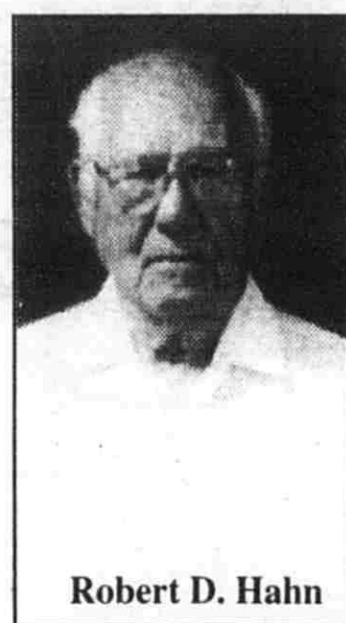
By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

It's not often in life that the mere mention of someone's name can bring a smile to the faces of others.

That was true, however, for family members and friends remembering the life of Robert D. Hahn.

Hahn, aged 98, of Lowell, died on March 5, 1998, at the Home of Hope Hospice in Grand Rapids from complications of congestive heart failure.

For the majority of his life, Hahn basked in good health.



Robert D. Hahn

"His first bout with hospitalization came at the age of 97," said his daughter Roberta Jones. "I attribute his good health to being constantly active. Dad said it was due to his steady diet of peanuts and candy every evening."

If laughter is man's best medicine, Hahn kept a lot of people healthy.

"He had one of the funniest wits I knew," said friend Ruby Christiansen. "Whenever you talked to him, he'd always end the conversation with a quip or joke. He was a good-hearted man."

Hahn was the toastmaster at the Lowell Rotary for many years. The Paul Harris Fellowship Award recipient was the longest surviving charter member of the Rotary.

Jones said one of her fondest memories of her father was working in the grocery store with him. "It was fun because of the conversations I and Gurney and Gretchen (brother and sister) had with him," Roberta explained. "The salesmen were also royally entertained by dad."

He wasn't a bad businessman either. Hahn opened Hahn Grocery in 1922. The Depression years were not an easy time to be in the retail grocery business, but at the time of its sale in 1942, Hahn Grocery was the sole survivor of seven independent grocers in Lowell.

Following the sale of Hahn Grocery, Hahn became a major stockholder, and secretary treasurer of Universal Metal Products of Saranac.

In 1962, he left the company and started an active retirement... one he filled with fishing.

"My grandfather loved to fish. He pursued trout and salmon in the streams and rivers and then took to the Great Lakes," said his grandson Bob Hahn.

Hahn met Thelma Peckham on a blind date. She became his wife for over 60 years until her death in 1991.

They had three children: Roberta (Richard) Jones, Gurney (Donna) Hahn, and Gretchen (Rev. Edward) Hawley; grandchildren Gwen, Annette, Richard, Robert, Anita, Gretchen, Rebecca, Sarah and Martha; 12 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Hahn were held Monday at Rothgerst Chapel with Rev. Edward Hawley officiating. Interment was at Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids.



Bountiful Books

Alto Elementary's resource teacher Mary Bont glances through reading materials received through the Michigan Friends of Education. The program is funded by a legislative grant to solicit, store, pack and ship books to qualifying individuals throughout the Lowell School District area. The books must be given to students to take home. They cannot be used in a school library or as regular books in the classroom. The program is made possible through the donations by major publishers of children's reading material.

Wilcox appointed Vergennes Township interim supervisor

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Marsha Wilcox went from Vergennes Township's "Gal Friday" to interim supervisor in less than an hour at a special meeting of the Vergennes Township Board Wednesday night.

Wilcox was appointed by the board to fill the interim position until the August election. She replaces Jim Cook, who served as the township's supervisor for the better part of four terms (nearly 14 years). He resigned last week due to declining health.

"Jim Cook along with Gil Wise helped form the township's future and destiny. They were there at the critical transition

Wilcox, cont'd. pg. 8



Marsha Wilcox

Lowell superintendent announces plans to reduce administrative staff by two

•••With Bert Bleke's decision fueled by economic future, the reduction will save Lowell Schools approximately \$150,000 in 1998-99.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Economics, not performance, guided Lowell superintendent Bert Bleke in his decision to recommend the reduction of two administrative positions for the 1998-99 school year.

The positions that will be impacted are the Bushnell Elementary principalship (Louie Dudeck) and the director of public relations (Susan Lockwood), effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year.

"The reduction of these positions is based purely and simply on economic necessity," Bleke said. "The performance of Louie (Dudeck) and Susan (Lockwood) has been excellent. I am very proud of their work. Both have been caring administrators in our district."

Bleke said his decision stems from his concern for the long-term financial stability of the district.

"This action, as well as the \$250,000 from our budget this year, is preventative in nature," Bleke said. "We are not in a financial crisis. We are looking to 2000-2001 and want to make sure we don't have a crisis then."

In his 12 years in the district, Dudeck has served as principal at Runciman and Bushnell elementaries. He will take early retirement effective at the end of the school year.

Lockwood has been an employee of the district for approximately six months.

"Had we known the income was going to be frozen for next year, we probably wouldn't have filled the position. I feel badly about how things have worked out with Susan's position of public relations coordinator," Bleke said.

Lockwood's duties will be divided among existing administrative staff in 1998-99.

The Bushnell principalship position will be assumed by Jim White, the district's curriculum director. Prior to taking the curriculum position, White served as principal at Alto Elementary.

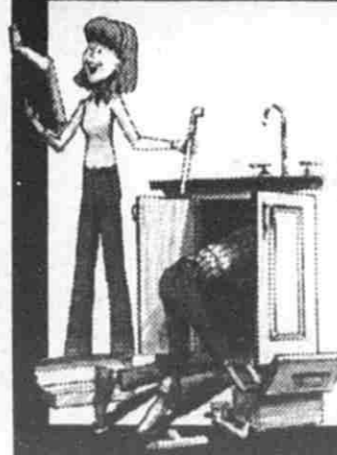
Bleke said White will continue his work as curriculum director.

"I want to stress my commitment to the position of full-time curriculum directorship in the district," Bleke explained.

The Lowell superintendent said he would assume some of the curriculum responsibilities, an area not unfamiliar to Bleke. He worked in curriculum while with the Forest Hills School District.

Reductions, cont'd. pg. 8

INSIDE THE LEDGER



Spring
**HOME
IMPROVEMENT
SUPPLEMENT**

Pages 13 - 24

OBITUARIES

HAHN - Robert D. Hahn, aged 98, of Lowell, died on March 5, 1998, at the Home of Hope Hospice in Grand Rapids, from complications of congestive heart failure. He was born on June 10, 1899, to John and Irene Hahn of Burlington, KS. He was blessed throughout his life with a phenomenal memory and excellent physical strength, finding it mysterious that his body should be failing him after only 98 years of use. Following his marriage to Thelma Peckham, he worked at the Peckham cutter (sleigh) factory, then Superior Furniture and other odd jobs. In 1922, he opened his own grocery store, Hahn Grocery, and in 1929, built the

house on the western half of the Peckham lot which was to be the family home for 69 years. Bob and Thelma had three children: Roberta (Richard) Jones, Gurney (Donna) Hahn, and Gretchen (Rev. Edward) Hawley; grandchildren Gwen, Annette, Richard, Robert, Anita, Gretchen, Rebecca, Sarah and Martha; 12 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. In 1962, Bob left Universal Metal Products of Saranac to begin 36 years of very active retirement, his primary hobby being fishing. Besides being a Lowell Rotarian and a member of the Lowell Masonic Temple, he was on the Lowell tax appeal board for a number of years due to deserved repu-

SCHRAMM - Mrs. Margaret E. Schramm, aged 71, of Grand Rapids, passed away Friday, March 6, 1998, at Butterworth Hospital. She was preceded in death by her husband Paul Schramm, Sr. She is survived by her chil-

dren Paul Schramm, Jr. of Lowell, Elizabeth Kahn of Drummond Island, Frances Wochholz of Grand Rapids, Vance Schramm of Grand Rapids; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; her brothers Edwin Foster and John Foster both of New Jersey; her sisters Patsy McCurray of New Jersey and Rena Slegona of Maine and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Mrs. Schramm were held Tuesday at the Van't Hof Chapel with interment in Rosedale Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions to the American Heart Association, The Muscular Dystrophy Association or Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids.

SEIF - Mrs. Joanne Seif, aged 67, of Ada, passed away on Monday afternoon, March 2, 1998. She was a 1949 graduate of Marywood Academy

and a 1977 graduate of Grand Rapids Community College, School of Nursing with a Practical Nursing Degree. She worked at St. Mary's Hospital and did private duty nursing. Joanne was a former president of the Altar Society of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. In the summer she especially enjoyed Lake Michigan. Her family had a special place in her heart and she was a "Good Ruler" - when she talked, they listened. Joanne is survived by her husband Richard, whom she married on February 26, 1949; her children Patrick and Judy Seif and David and Michelle Seif, all of Grand Rapids, Sally and Steven Jeltema of Charlotte, Michael and Susan Seif of Belding, Joseph and Annette Seif of Rockford, Timothy and Debra Seif of Ada, Albert and Kathy Seif of Lowell, Richard Seif of Cedar Springs, Julie and Patrick Mooney of Rockford, Thomas Seif of Lowell and Paul Seif of Ada; 21 grandchildren; her in-laws Catherine Boerman, Herman and Jane Seif, Gertrude and Bruce Baird, Esther and Leonard VanderJagt, Peter and Jean Seif and Robert Seif; nieces and nephews. The Mass of Christian Burial was

offered on Thursday with Rev. Fr. Wayne Wheeler, Jr. as celebrant. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the American Diabetes Association or Welcome Home for the Blind. Arrangements Pederson Funeral Home, Rockford.

TUFFS - Mrs. Uvaun Tuffs, aged 94, of Grand Rapids, went to be with her Lord, Friday, March 6, 1998, in Fremont, MI. She was preceded in death by her husband William J. Tuffs; son Lloyd J. Tuffs; and three brothers. Surviving are her children Vivian (Edward) Ranville of Fremont, Gloria (Leonard) Harrison-Jackson of Lowell, Joan (Lawrence) Hedgecock of Lowell, William C. (Ellie) Tuffs of Buffalo, MN; daughter-in-law Dolores Tuffs of Comstock Park; 11 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; six step-great grandchildren; and two great great grandchildren; sister-in-law Mildred Slagal and numerous nieces and nephews. Private family services will be held at a later date. For those who wish, memorials may be made to a charity of one's choice.

LMS drama presents "Date With a Vampire"

The Lowell Middle School eighth grade drama class will present a blood-curdling comedy, *Date With a Vampire* on Thursday evening, March 19.

Count Sid Onitt is trying to mend his vampire ways by going legit, so he can become a member of parliament. But it's hard to follow his good

intentions. Olgar has brought along four vampire widows for a visit, and they just won't listen to the count's instructions to stop pestering the 11 fresh-blooded teenagers who have arrived as part of their cultural field trip to London. Romance brews as one of the students, aptly named Sherlock Holmes, tries to win

the heart of Johnna. He devises a plan where he will save her from the vampire, but mistaken identities create all sorts of confusion and bring a variety of strange characters out of the woodwork.

The free evening of entertainment begins at 7:30 in the middle school cafeteria.



Front row, left to right: Pat Kaufman, Kim Davis and Erin Weber; second row, left to right: Christine Benson, Adam Buttrick (as Count Onitt) and Brittany Plescher; third row, left to right: Tennille Bryant, John Hauschild, Pete DeBoer, Chris Cress and Stacey Onan.

Front row, left to right: Jaimey Sadlak, April Telman and Carl Stanford; second row, left to right: Jasmine Steele, Shanda Yonker, Matt Horan (as Sherlock), Renee Fox and Marc Scaturro; back row, left to right: Glenda Guernsey, Teresa Leasure, Erik Stormzand, Susie Stedman, Branden Biggs and Devin Morehouse.

He that knows himself knows how to strengthen his weakness, and the wise man conquers everything, even the stars in their courses.

—Baltasar Gracian

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Saturday, March 14th
begins at 8:00 p.m.

music by:

Hit & Run Band

featuring:

The Bluez Brothers

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The Tod Nyson Band

to benefit the Lowell Showboat



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Experience the best of Lowell and meet our area businesses, churches, schools, municipalities and service groups.

Saturday, March 28, 1998
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lowell High School
11700 Vergennes

Admission is free of charge. Concessions provided by the Lowell Athletic Boosters. Door prizes will be given away.

The Lowell Community Expo is sponsored by





By:
Joan Wittenbach

Patricia Polacco has been a favorite children's author and artist for many years. With each new book I gasp in delight as I find myself awed by her loving insight into people and situations that come into her life.

But there was one day I really felt betrayed by her...the day I picked up her book, *Ms. O' Man*. "Can't he?" I muttered to myself as I flipppantly turned the pages, "she can't be calling her dad that name." Now believe me, I know that parents have been called names much worse than that, but for me, Polacco using them for her parent tore into my heart.

Many years ago, talking to my much loved stepfather, I recall saying to him, "Oh, I could never call you that." It was like renouncing all the love and patience my mother and he had given to me through the years. And now, one of my favorite authors is shouting to the world of young readers those very words. I didn't bother to even read it.

A couple of months ago I picked up the book again at the library. Perhaps I had mistudied the book by its cover. I had! I felt penitent as I read through the book. Honestly, when does one ever begin to grow up and not judge books by their covers or persons by first impressions?

I finished the book with a strong sense of respect for her father and the author herself. To introduce her father to the reader, she writes: "Our ol' man was a traveling salesman who knew the back roads of Michigan like most of us know our own faces in a mirror. He was a blinflam man. He worked in words the way other artists work in oil or clay. Streaming all over the state in his big old cruiser, with his radio turned to WJIM, he was a dream saver, a wish keeper. A raggedy man in unmatched socks and a worn plaid suit."

I still don't like to hear people addressing their parents or elderly people with the ol' man or ol' lady quip, but at least I sat down and listened to the author's story and gave her a

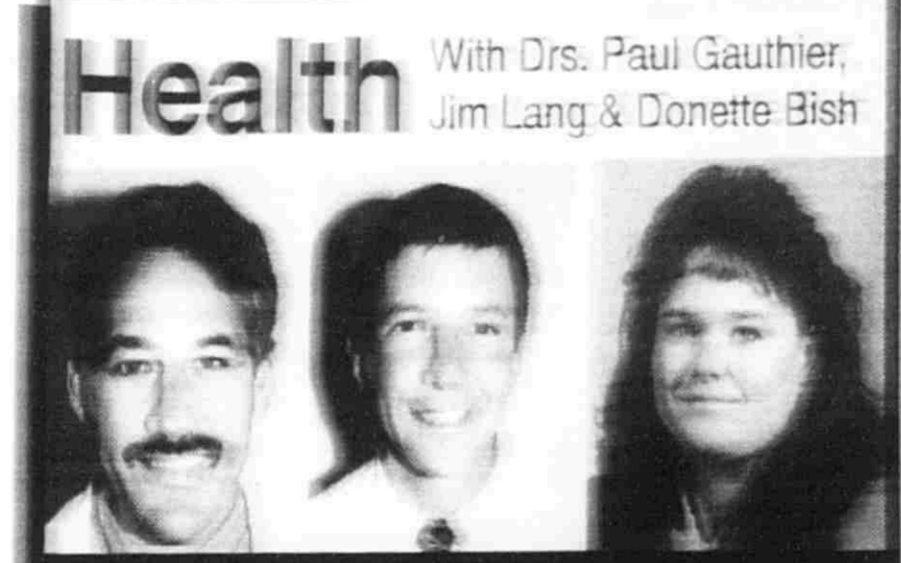
chance to justify the name calling. She didn't need to justify anything. It was my problem and that had to be fixed. A faithful, artistically gifted grandma, a trip to Potter's Pond and a "surprise find" there keeps the story swelling to the conclusion of a summer of life change for the ol' man and his family.

"Every single day of his life on the road, he brought home a tale to tell us. He collected stories like kids collect baseball cards, or fine ladies collect special teacups." That statement alone spoke to me of the heritage that he gave to his daughter, the artist and exceptionally gifted storyteller, Patricia Polacco. As it has been said, "Love begets love."

enon is an outlet for tension - kind of a nocturnal version of nail biting. Most teeth grinders report having a higher than average amount of stress. Most tooth grinders are capable of clenching the jaws with a force of more than 250 pounds per square inch - about 10 times the impact of chewing. Grinding spells average about 8 seconds and happen just a few times each night. When the person is grinding too much, daytime symptoms can occur, including headaches, enamel corrosion of the teeth, jaw pain, and even jaw misalignment. People are unaware that they are grinding - usually a person in the same bed or bedroom will alert them to the fact that they do so.

Bruxism has no simple solution, but most physicians and dentists will recommend some sort of stress management strategies to reduce it. Sometimes antidepressants or biotfeedback are effective. What seems to work very well, however, is the use of a bite-splint to be worn at night to protect the teeth from grinding.

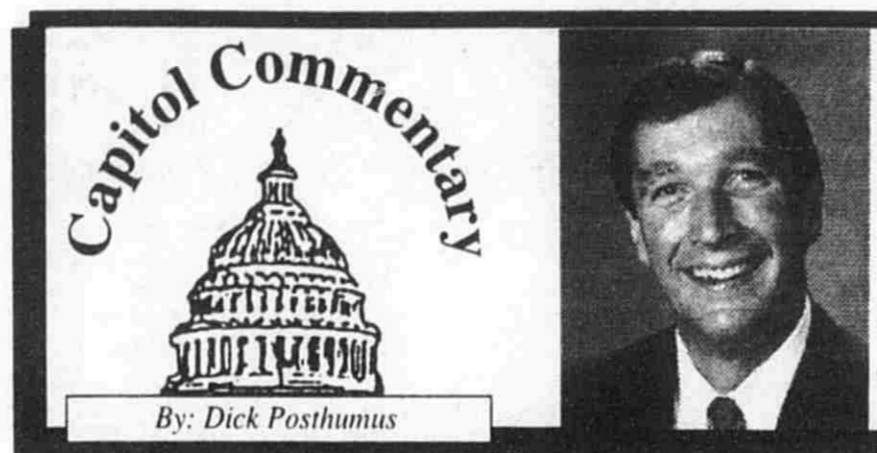
If you develop unexplained headaches or persistent jaw pain, have your doctor or dentist examine you for the possibility that it is related to nocturnal tooth grinding. Treatment may be quite simple and rewarding.



TEETH GRINDING

Grinding of the teeth during sleep (called bruxism) is more common than you might think. It is usually not a problem unless it begins to cause symptoms.

Most authorities now believe that this grinding phenom-



BENEFITS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR TAKING MICHIGAN'S HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY TEST (HSPT)

Parents around the state with 11th graders in their household will soon be faced with the prospect of having their high schooler take Michigan's High School Proficiency Test. Controversy, questions and some confusion have surrounded the test as news stories and editorials alternate between those who say it's good and those who say it's not needed.

Lowell Area Schools superintendent, Dr. Bert Bleke, has helped sort through the morass of information that has been tossed back and forth about the test.

He recently responded to seven criticisms about the test, trying to allay the concerns of students and parents. His arguments are well-reasoned and persuasive and deserve consideration. Dr. Bleke gives a clear explanation of the important role these examinations will play in preparing our young people for life in the twenty-first century.

Why give the test? It's a natural continuation of the MEAP test which measures students in grades 4, 5, 7 and 8.

Our state established many years ago the importance of coordinating curriculum and testing to measure the status of schools and students.

What is the benefit to the students? Students are required to apply what they've learned to real world situations. To do this, they will be required to use higher level cognitive skills. This will benefit both the students who enter college directly and those who immediately enter the workplace.

Are colleges and employers really interested in the test? These two groups would be elated that students leave Michigan's K-12 schools with high levels of learning.

Is the test designed only for college students? The test is extremely rigorous and demanding, but it is geared to measure skills and knowledge that is in Michigan's model core curriculum requirements for all 10th graders.

Why can't the PSAT, ACT and the SAT be used? They are not coordinated with our model core curriculum and they are designed primarily, if not exclusively, for college bound students and are not taken by all Michigan students.

How much local control of education is lost because of this test? Teachers have always depended on textbooks used nationwide to educate students. The current state model core curriculum will provide more local control because it has been written and designed by Michigan educators for Michigan students. A classic example of this increased local control is the Kent Intermediate School Districts (KC4) curriculum that has been written specifically for Kent County students by Kent County educators.

Is the end of the year too crowded to give this test? High schools have a six-week window to give the test. The average high school student attends school for approximately 4000 hours during his or her four years. It is difficult to believe that eight

hours is too much to ask for a critical test such as this. Dr. Bleke concludes that the test should not be the sole judge of success for our high school students or our high schools. However, the test is a powerful tool for the improvement of education for our children.

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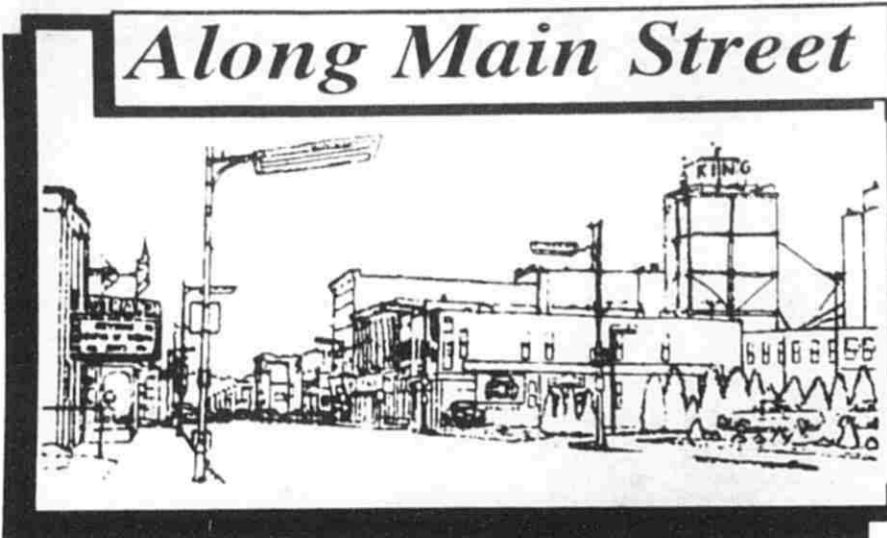
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Along Main Street

MIDDLEVILLE ARTIST DISPLAYS WORKS AT HUNTINGTON BANK

The recent mixed media works of Middleville artist Pat Corson appear at Huntington Bank in a Lowell Area Arts Council presentation.

Corson's paintings will be on view through April 1. The bank is located at 414 E. Main St., Lowell.

PERSON OF THE YEAR

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for Person of the Year. Submit in writing your

Wilcox, continued.... From Page 1

when the township could have gone a number of ways. I think everyone is happy with the way things came out," said township trustee Mark Weber. "Jim is probably the last of the supervisors/assessors. It will be difficult to replace his knowledge."

Wilcox's appointment was met with much favor. "Marsha is a dedicated community person with knowledge of the Vergennes Township/Lowell area," said Carol Nauta. "She will do an excellent job of serving everyone."

Township resident Jim Stone added that Wilcox's knowledge makes her a great choice in the short term.

There were two other township residents who expressed an interest in serving as the interim supervisor.

Both candidates, Richard Dwyer and Tim Wittenbach, will oppose Wilcox in the August primary. Registration deadline for the primary is May 4.

Vergennes Township trustee Susan Geiger Hessler abstained from voting. "I would have liked to see more due process for all the candidates," she said. "I think there was enough time for the board to interview all the candidates. I

nomination to LACC, Liz Baker, P.O. Box 224, Lowell, MI 49331. Deadline is April 1, 1998. For more information call Liz at 897-9161.

COMMODITIES

Commodities will be distributed on Thursday, March 26, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lowell Moose Recreational Building, 1320 E. Main. Seniors, please bring in your new 1998 benefit amount from the Social Security Administration you received in December 1997.

LOWELL COMMUNITY EXPO

The second annual Community Expo is coming Sat., March 28. Businesses and entrepreneurs, if you haven't already received your application, please call Liz at the chamber office, 897-9161.

Don't delay! Reserve your space today.

LMS PRESENTS "DATE WITH A VAMPIRE"

The Lowell Middle School eighth-grade drama class will present the bloodcurdling comedy, *Date With A Vampire*, on Thursday evening, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the LMS cafeteria, 750 Foreman.

Don't miss this free evening of entertainment.

CROP WALK RALLY AT METHODIST CHURCH

A kick off rally will be held Thurs., Mar. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main. This rally will provide information on how to participate in the CROP Walk scheduled for Sun., May 3, at 1:30 p.m. starting at the Lowell Methodist Church. If you or your organization are interested, please plan to attend the rally or call 897-5936 for more information.

DRAWING/PAINTING WORKSHOPS

There is still time to register your kids for Alto Art Series Workshops. Openings are available in drawing with Sandy Bartlett for Saturday, April 4, and painting with Ann Breckon on Saturday, April 11.

Classes will be held at the Alto Library from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$15 per workshop and supplies are furnished. To register call the Lowell Area Arts Center at 897-8545.

YMCA SPRING SOCCER DEADLINE

The YMCA spring soccer registration deadline for grades 1 thru 8 will be Thursday, March 12. Please sign up today! Call the YMCA at 897-8445.

Reductions, cont'd... From Page 1

"We will have to reshuffle tasks from both positions among existing administrative staff," Bleke said. "I do not anticipate existing administrators receiving more money for carrying out these tasks."

The reduction in administrative positions will save the district approximately \$150,000 in salary and benefits.

Bleke, again, expressed his concern for what he called "rather obvious, uneven funding of schools in the state of Michigan."

"Proposition A has improved the problem, but it hasn't solved the problem," Bleke explained. "And it will not solve the problem."

He noted that Caledonia and Forest Hills get \$1,300-\$1,400 more per pupil.

"How long can that be fair? Why should they get more money? This seems both inherently unfair and unethical," said Bleke.

The Lowell School District is not in pain now, but Bleke said the recommended reductions are to help protect the fund balances and good student programs two and three years down the road.

The reductions still need the approval of the Lowell Board of Education.



Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa is eight stories high.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! From the office of Dr. Jim Reagan. 207 W. Main St. Lowell 897-7179. Hope You Have A Happy St. Patrick's Day! ERIN GO BRACH. Front row, left to right: Carrie, Julie and Carmen; back row, left to right: Rachel, Gall, Diedra and Jim.

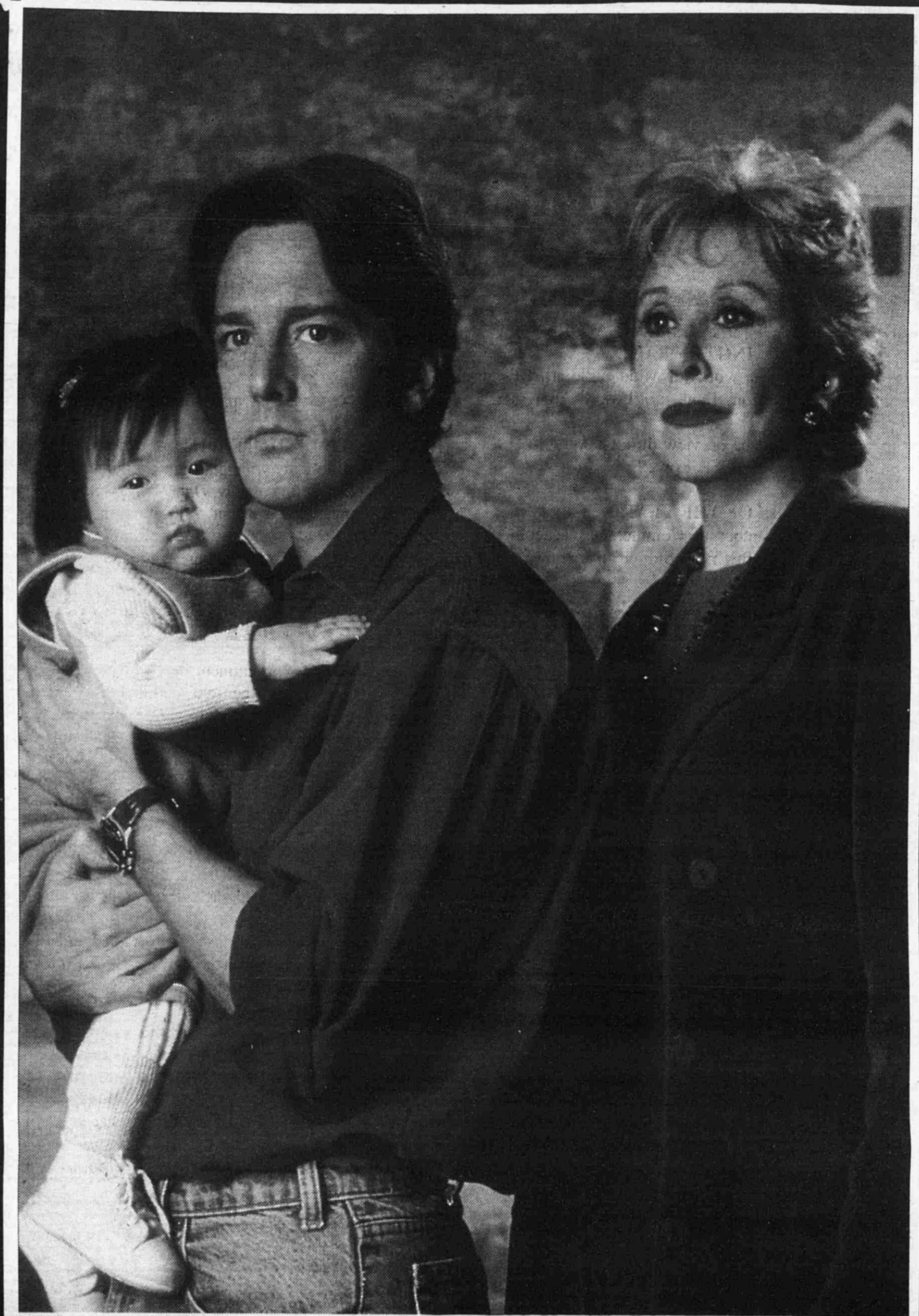
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Lowell Light & Power. Owned By The People of Lowell. SERVING SINCE 1896. 127 NORTH BROADWAY - LOWELL, MICHIGAN. ELECTRIC POWER OUTAGE. Lowell Light & Power will be having a power outage early Sunday morning, March 15, 1998, starting at 1:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. to make necessary repairs to a main substation transformer. In the event of inclement weather, the outage will be rescheduled for Saturday evening, March 21, starting a midnight until 8:00 a.m., Sunday, March 22, 1998. The main areas affected are: No. Hudson Street - From Main St. to Howard St. Howard Street - From Riverside Dr. to Amity St. Riverside Dr. - From Main St. to Howard St. Main Street - From Amity St. to E. Main City Parking Lot 200 Block of South Washington Street 400 Block of Kent St.

The Ledger TV LISTING MAGAZINE

Table with 2 columns: CHANNEL and SYMBOL. Lists TV channels and their symbols for the week of March 13 through March 19.

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



FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 13 THRU MARCH 19

A widower (Andrew McCarthy) enlists legal and media support in his fight to keep his adoptive daughter (C. Lee, left) from being taken away in A Father for Brittany, premiering Sunday on CBS. Michael Learned also stars in the fact-based film.

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SATURDAY EVENING MARCH 14, 1998. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, FSD, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX) listing various programs and movies.

SATURDAY LATE NIGHT MARCH 14, 1998. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, FSD, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX) listing various programs and movies.

SUNDAY MORNING MARCH 15, 1998. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, WXMI, WOOD, WKAR, WZZM, WSYM, TBS, FAM, FX, USA, DISC, WGN, ESPN, CNN, NICK, A&E, FSD, TNT, NASH, TRAV, TLC, SCIFI, HIST, AMC, DISN, HBO, MAX) listing various programs and movies.

Spring HOMEET IMPROVEMENT SUPPLEMENT. A large graphic advertisement featuring the word 'HOMEET' in large letters with 'Spring' written in a cursive font above it. Below the main title is the word 'SUPPLEMENT'. The background is a light gray with a white house silhouette. There are several illustrations: a woman in a black dress holding a camera, a woman in a black dress holding a stack of books, a woman in a black dress holding a stack of books, and a woman in a black dress holding a stack of books. The text 'HOMEET' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word 'SUPPLEMENT' is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The word 'Spring' is in a cursive, black font. The overall design is clean and modern.

Use The Right Caulks & Sealants To Save Energy

Caulks and sealants are your home's best defense against the elements. They are intended to seal gaps around the exterior of your house to keep out moisture, which can cause rot and structural damage, and air, which can deplete heating and cooling energy.

A bead of caulk can provide big returns on protection by sealing door and window frames, exterior lamps, air conditioners, electrical receptacles and other vulnerable areas on your house. It can also bridge the gap between two building materials, such as where brick or stucco meet wood. Inside the home, caulk keeps water from seeping where sink meets countertop or bathtub meets wall or floor.

Now the big question: Which caulks or sealants work best for specific jobs? With advancements in product technology, there are caulks

that will provide the best results for just about every job in your home.

They are available in white, colors or clear, and many can be painted. The most popular formulation for exterior weatherproofing and indoor applications is siliconized acrylic, with excellent adhesion and a tight seal that will last for the lifetime of your home. According to Kerry Lane, technical manager for Red Devil, Inc., a 125-year-old manufacturer of caulks and sealants, "There are new caulks on the market that may be used in all temperatures, from as low as 0 degrees Fahrenheit up to 120 degrees F," said Lane, including the company's Lifetime Brand. Lane offers some basics for applying caulks or sealants:

• For wide gaps up to 1/2 inch width/depth or larger areas, it is best to use a caulking gun with a

10.1 fluid ounce cartridge.

• Squeeze tubes are available for smaller jobs mostly found indoors, such as around sinks and tubs.

• Remove old, loose caulk, dirt or debris with a putty knife; there are several on the market with a sharp end for digging out old material.

• Cut off the tip of the caulk cartridge on a 45 degree angle with a razor knife.

• Mask the area with tape for an even caulk line.

• Use a fluid, steady motion to lay the bead and smooth with a caulk smoother or your finger where necessary.

• Mistakes can be scraped off with a razor knife.

The caulk bead should entirely fill the gap and be smooth enough to be virtually unnoticeable. Although fall is the most likely time to caulk in preparation for winter weather, it is wise to check the house in the spring to

ensure cooling and energy efficiency during the hot summer months. And keep tabs all year-round on vulnerable areas inside the home, such as around sinks, tubs and toilets. A great deal of water damage can be prevented by a bead of caulk.

A variety of caulks and sealants are available at home centers and hardware stores, ranging in price from \$2-\$5 dollars. It's a small price to pay for years of protection against weather and water damage.



Beat The Heat & Save \$\$

To keep your home cool in the months ahead, make sure your air conditioner is operating at the peak of efficiency. There is more at stake than your comfort.

An inefficient air conditioner can cost you money as it strains to provide the cool air you'll need to "chill out" during the dog days of summer. Experts at Sears Home Services recommend an annual air conditioner checkup to ensure you're getting the most from your system while keeping your energy bills in check and not over-taxing the parts. Sears sales representatives will conduct a free energy consultation for you.

To increase the odds of a cool summer without unnecessarily high energy bills, keep these

10 hints handy: **Inside Your Home, Have A Professional:**

- Clean and inspect the condenser coils of the air conditioner unit.
- Lubricate the condenser fan motor.
- Check control circuits. If your air conditioner is more than 10 years old, you will probably save money in the long run by investing in a new, more energy-efficient system for your home.

- Check the air filter to make sure it is clear and doesn't need to be replaced.
- Lubricate the furnace and air handler blower as needed.
- Check and adjust the belts as needed.
- Give the evaporation coil a complete examination.
- Check the condensate drain line.
- Check system operation.

- Outside Your Home:**
- An air conditioning checkup now will make it more likely that you keep your cool during the summer months.
 - Check the condensate pump operation, if applicable.



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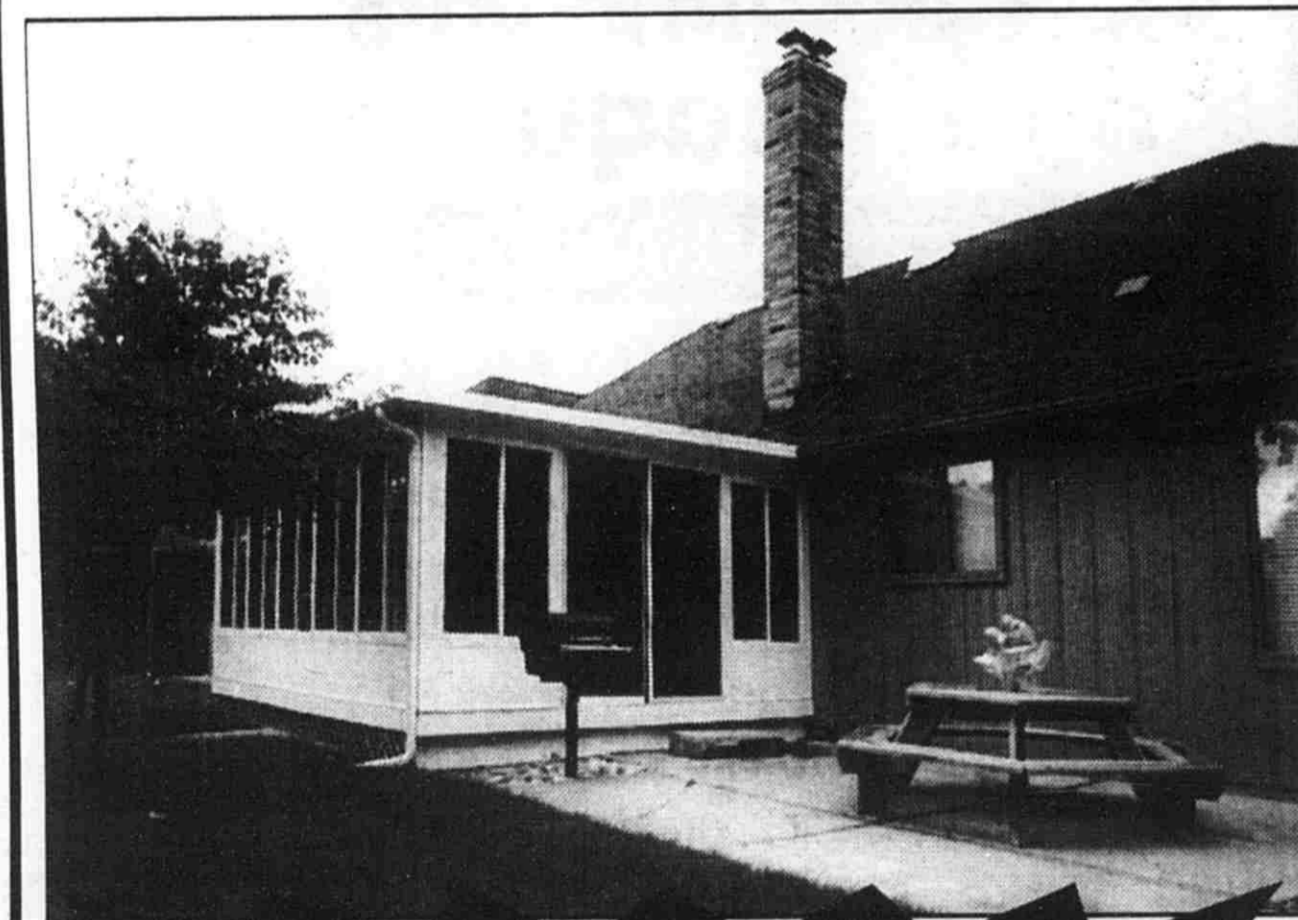
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Flooring: The Beauty Of Laminate - Affordable & Durable

You might say it's hit the ground running. Laminate flooring, a trend that got its footing in Europe more than 20 years ago, has recently swept across the Atlantic to become one of the fastest growing categories in the home-flooring industry and is projected to capture as much as 10 percent of the United States flooring market in the next 10 years.

The first truly revolutionary flooring product North American consumers have seen in nearly 30 years, laminate flooring offers fashion and function at an affordable price. With its vast array of patterns and colors as well as its durability and low maintenance, the new product is an increasingly popular choice for today's homes, appearing in living rooms, kitchens and family rooms alike.

"Laminate flooring's style and performance features address today's consumer needs," says Santiago Montero, publisher and editor-in-chief of Floor Covering Weekly. "Also, it's a natural product, manufactured from wood products, and that appeals to the consumer."

Laminate flooring can set the stage in any room. Manufacturers are replicating wood and in-laid wood looks, as well as stone-look patterns such as terrazzo, slate, granite and marble in a rich variety of colors. "The design possibilities are endless—you can mix and match woodgrains and abstracts to create a handsome, unique floor," says

Donald Raymond, vice president of marketing for Uniboard Canada, Inc.

Today's savvy consumers expect good design at an affordable price. Laminate flooring answers the call with an average cost of an installed laminate floor estimated at \$6 to \$8 per square foot. "Laminate flooring's price points are positioned at the high end of vinyls and the low end of solid hardwood, making it a nice bridge product for consumers," Montero notes. The product's ease of installation also helps cut costs.

For example, it normally takes only eight hours for two professionals to install a laminate floor in a typical 600-square-foot room, compared to days for other types of flooring, according to Curt Haffner, director of marketing for Wilsonart International. "We're finding that laminate flooring is particularly attractive for families because of its durability," says Donna Proudfoot, marketing director for Pickering In-

corporated. "It's tough enough for everything from Hot Wheels to high heels, and it never needs to be waxed." How is this high-style, hard-working product made? High-impact laminate flooring is an engineered wood product, constructed by fusing several layers of

material under tremendous heat and pressure. Typically, the product's surface layer—consisting of a high-pressure or low-pressure laminate with a clear, durable melamine finish over a printed design—is bonded to particleboard or a high-density fiber-

board core. A bottom layer helps balance and stabilize the floor. This process allows for more affordable fashion options than ever before plus the durability and easy maintenance demanded in a floor surface. As consumers discover laminate flooring's

benefits, the new product is predicted to surface as the flooring of choice in the North American market. For more information about laminate flooring, contact the Particleboard/Medium Density Fiberboard (PB/MDF) Institute at 1-301-670-1752.



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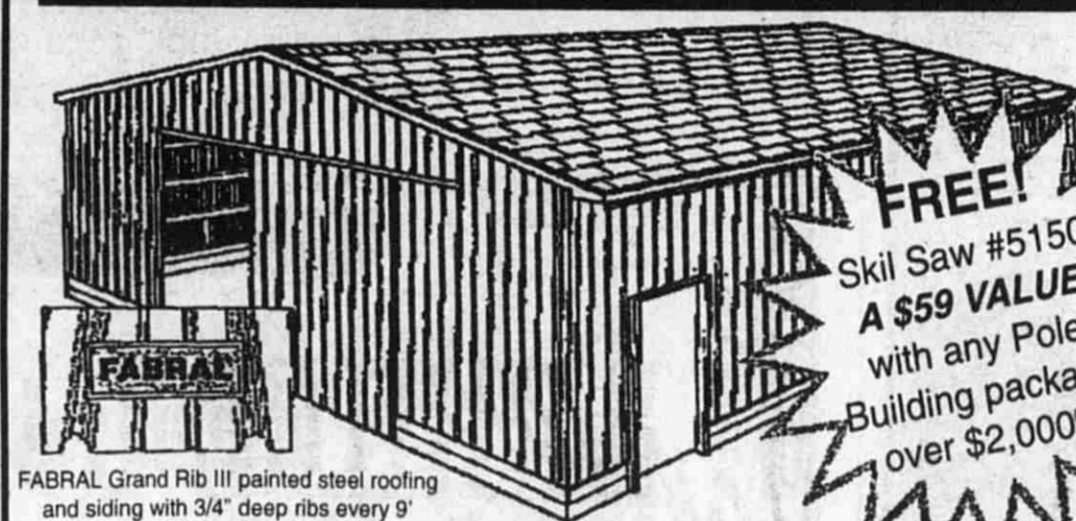
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Do Your Homework Before Starting Home Improvements

Embarking on the process of creating a new look for your home can be confusing and frustrating.

One way to simplify the process and get the results you want is to consult with an expert—an interior designer.

To select an interior designer who will design a space that meets your needs, you must first do your homework, according to an independent survey of residential interior designers conducted by the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

Following are some guidelines to help you find the right interior designer.

Laying The Groundwork

Homeowners need to be prepared before they start looking for an interior designer. The most important part of this preparation, interior de-

signers say, is to identify your personal likes and dislikes. Here are elements to consider before doing interviews:

- Determine what existing design elements, such as pieces of furniture, artwork or special heirlooms, you want to keep.

- Look through magazines or books for ideas.

- Visit furniture stores and tour model homes for additional design ideas.

- Establish a consensus between the decision makers in the home on all important issues to avoid problems or misunderstandings later.

Additionally, interior designers say homeowners should follow a three-step process to determine their expectations for the project:

- Decide how the space is to be used.

- Determine your needs and wants.

- Develop a list of priorities.

In order to be properly prepared, interior designers also say that homeowners should establish a budget. Visit stores to check out prices of design elements in which you may potentially be interested and set a ceiling for how much you are willing to spend.

Referrals, Referrals, Referrals

Finding the right interior designer may take a little time and effort, but it can prove to be well worth the trouble. Referrals tend to work out best, according to nearly one-half of the designers surveyed by ASID. Participants in the survey cited ASID's toll-free nationwide referral

service (1-800-775-ASID or <http://www.interiors.org>) as a valuable starting point.

"When homeowners choose an interior designer who is affiliated with ASID, they can be confident that they are working with someone who meets the industry's most demanding professional and ethical requirements," says Charles Gandy, FASID, president of Gandy/Peace, Inc., in Atlanta.

Getting To Know You

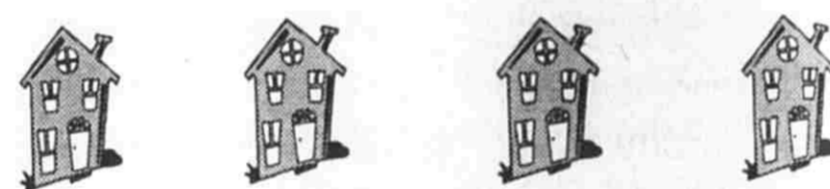
When asked about selecting interior designers, respondents said that the most common mistake homeowners make is being too casual about the interviewing process. It is extremely important to determine whether a proper "meshing" of personalities and ideas is taking place between designer and client.

Schedule a meeting with the designer to review a portfolio of past work and discuss expectations. Inquire about the designer's education, training, experience, professional affiliations and other credentials. Also ask about available services, cost estimates and what the designer can do to help optimize your budget. Request a list of three or four previous clients. Call them and ask about their satisfaction

and the designer, and the client needs to feel comfortable. Achieving this level of comfort often begins during the interview process."

Interior designers say that a good designer is one who cares about each client and seeks to understand the client's lifestyle and needs. It is important that the designer be a good listener who can communicate clearly and effectively with the client and any other people who may be involved in the project. Overall, homeowners should look for educated and qualified interior designers who can demonstrate their creativity and talent. For more information, call ASID's referral service at 1-800-775-ASID.

"Working with an interior designer to develop a new style for a home is a very personal experience," says Melinda Sechrist, ASID, owner of Sechrist Design Associates, Inc. in Seattle, Washington. "Ideas are passed back and forth between the homeowner



Tackling Troublesome Toilet Repair

Sometimes, it is signaled by a sudden bigger water bill that reveals a silent but wasteful leak. Usually, it's that sound that won't stop until you jiggle that handle two or three times. Ultimately, it means it's time to tackle that troublesome toilet.

Toilet tank repairs are America's most

common household plumbing project. But too many homeowners settle for a quick fix when they would benefit far more from a toilet "tune-up."

A toilet tune-up is an easy overhaul of a toilet tank's vital components—and a great use of time when the tank is already empty for even a single-part repair. It's a step beyond a minor repair, but the reward is years and years of quiet, efficient flushes.

Non-professionals can perform a toilet tune-up by replacing the fill valve, flapper, tank/lever handle and water supply connector. It requires just over an hour of time and you'll find these four replacement parts in almost any hardware store or home center.

By tuning up your toilet you can be sure to keep your tank problem-free for millions of flushes. An important reward when you consider that each member of a family of three flushes a toilet four times a day.

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"Decking Out" Your Deck Brings Increased Returns

Home buyers rate decks as the most desired outdoor feature of a home, according to Building Material Retailer magazine. That's because today's decks are no longer just surfaces to store lawn furniture and hang clothing to dry. They're outdoor living rooms that provide space for entertaining, cooking, lounging and children's play. And decks are a valuable addition, as they typically recoup 71 percent of their original construction cost.

If you want a deck that holds its value and provides years of entertainment, consider the following tips, brought to you by the deck experts who produce Kodiak® preserved wood, an innovative new building product that combines the beautiful look of quality, natural cedar without the high price.

- Take time to specifically think about what kind of deck you need. For example, how many people will be using the deck (size), when it will be used (Is lighting necessary?), and who will be using it (Will steps be a problem?).

- Remember that decks are an extension of your home. Therefore, echo your home in your choices of deck shape and style, furniture, color and landscaping. The goal should be to create a deck that looks as if it has always been there, rather than added as an afterthought.

- To maximize your return on investment, choose quality building products that will look good years from now. Some products, such as Kodiak lumber, even come with a lifetime limited warranty to ensure they will hold up against the elements.

- Decks are no longer just built in a standard rectangle—experiment with geometric six-sided and eight-sided sections and curves, diagonal, herringbone and sunburst patterns, as well as multi-level designs.

- If your deck is more than 24 inches off the ground, railings are usually required by code. However, railings can be an eye-catching feature—utilize ornate up-rights and interesting patterns.

- Choose materials that are easy to maintain. Kodiak preserved wood, for example, is treated with a two-step, patented process that provides color saturation throughout the wood, not just on the surface. This thorough saturation keeps maintenance to a minimum, as periodic staining is not necessary. In addition, Kodiak preserved wood resists mold

and is unsurpassed in resisting termites and decay fungi.

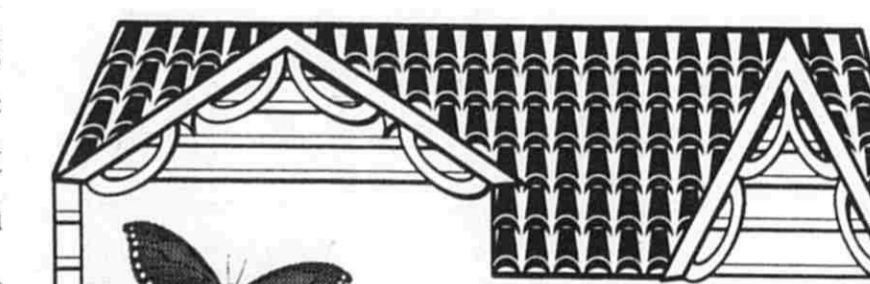
- If you will be using your deck primarily for entertaining, consider built-in seating with a circular eating area. This provides a more intimate atmosphere, allowing guests to speak to one another in a close-knit space. Furnish it with weather-resistant chairs, lounges and tables.

- Safety will be a concern if children will be playing on your deck.

If you're using treated wood, pay special attention to its chemical content. Some brands contain arsenic, which can cause infection with splinters. Kodiak lumber, however, is treated with a new process that doesn't contain arsenic and has been proven to be safer for both children and the environment.

- Consider adding amenities to increase the value of your deck, such as a hot tub or spa. Many home buyers find that hot tubs are more practical than swimming pools and are easier to maintain.

Besides its suitability for decks, Kodiak preserved wood is also ideal for other value-added, outdoor remodeling projects such as playgrounds, gazebos, sheds and fencing.



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Avoiding Home Improvement Contractor Problems

Much of the natural anxiety homeowners feel in embarking on a home remodeling or repair project can be relieved if they take the time to select the right contractor. "Homeowners should give this decision at least as much care as they give to choosing products," advises Jane Thompson, president of Sears Home Services, which performs more home improvements and repairs than any other contractor nationwide. "Consumers depend

on the contractor's expertise to guide them through all the technical issues and count on his integrity on working within their budgets," Thompson explains. "Consumers need to remember that the contractor's crew will be in their home and around their family for the life of the project, so they should check out his company with care."

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Check for complaints. Check whether any complaints have been registered against the contractor you are considering. Call the local Better Business Bureau to learn if any customers have written letters or filed complaints with the BBB.
- Your state's Attorney General's Office can tell you if there are any unresolved complaints filed against a contractor, and your local police department can steer you clear

of "scam artist" contractors facing criminal charges. If the contractor you are considering has an unresolved complaint in his file, find someone else.

- Check for rapport. When you meet with the contractor's salesperson, ask yourself if you are comfortable with this person. Do you trust the company he represents? Do you believe he knows what he's talking about? Based on those answers, do you believe his company will send you installers who also will be knowledgeable and pleasant?
- Will you be comfortable having this contractor in your home and around your family for the life of this project?

- Check out the company. Will the contractor give you a complete, written description of any warranties covering the installation portion of the project? Has the com-
- Ask if they would hire him again, if he finished the job on schedule, if he was responsive to their phone calls, and if he kept them informed about the progress of the project.

pany been in business long enough to assure you it will be around to honor those warranties? Can you obtain business references, and when you check them, does the contractor have a long-standing history of honoring his obligations?

- Check out the products. Are the products the contractor wants to install in your home covered by warranties? Are they quality products, and are they what you want?

- Check customer references. Ask for 10 or 15 references. A reasonable number of completed jobs indicates an established company. Then call three or four of these references to ask about the contractor's integrity and quality.

- Check his license and insurance. Make sure your contractor knows the local building codes and is licensed to perform the work. Make sure he has property damage, liability and worker's compensation insurance—but don't take his word for it.

- Ask to see each individual policy, note the policy numbers, the dates the policy is in effect and the names, addresses and phone numbers of the insurance companies. Then call the carriers to make sure the insurance policies are current. Again, if you find any problems, find someone else.

"Your home is too big an investment, and too important to your family's well-being, to take chances," Thompson concludes. "Make sure you choose someone with a good history, whom you know you can trust."

Conserve Your Energy When Weatherproofing Your Home

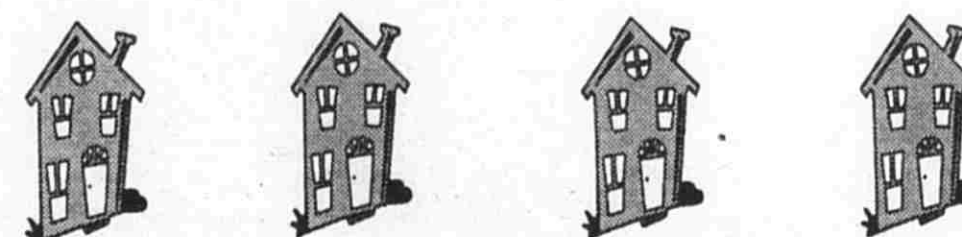
With a few simple steps, you can benefit the environment while making your home more comfortable and energy efficient. Home experts estimate that up to \$350 a year of heated and conditioned air literally goes out the window . . . and doors and other spots in homes that aren't properly sealed. If you totalled all the areas around the

house that need caulking and weatherstripping, you'd have the equivalent of a three-foot gaping hole in the wall. These helpful do-it-yourself tips from the experts at DAP, a leader in home

- Leaky windows cause 15 to 35 percent of total home heat loss. Use insulating foam sealant or caulk to seal cracks and gaps around window frames and where glazing meets the sash and the sash meets the jambs on windows.
- Seal and insulate inside and out. Fill in tiny cracks and big gaps. While most people routinely check windows and doors, exterior leaks also demand attention. Use foam sealant to fill big gaps around your foundation. Any opening in the frame of your house

needs a sealant. Experts point out that all this is a lot simpler thanks to new easier-to-use products such as DAP@tex, a latex-based insulated foam sealant that washes up with soap and water, and Alex Plus@ Easy Caulk, neither of which requires a caulking gun.

- Seal from bottom to top—basement to attic. In the basement, check along the floor as well as basement windows and doors. Use foam sealant to close gaps and cracks in crawlspaces.



Avoiding Roofing Nightmares

Avoiding these signs, your roof may need replacing. A deteriorating roof not only detracts from a home's appearance, but can damage its interior and drive up heating and cooling costs. Roof ventilation is part of GAF Materials Corporation's five-part Weather Beater@ roofing system. Each component works together to provide lasting protection for the home and its occupants. Other elements include "Class A" fire-resistant shingles, a leak barrier, a roof deck protector and a protective and attractive hip and ridge cap.

- Loose or missing roof shingles.
- Shingles curled around the edges.
- Shingles that are cracked, buckled or blistering.
- Gutters full of granules from the shingles.
- Roof flashing that shows wear. If you checked one or more of

Dept. Safe Choice, 1361 Alps Road, Wayne, NJ 07470.



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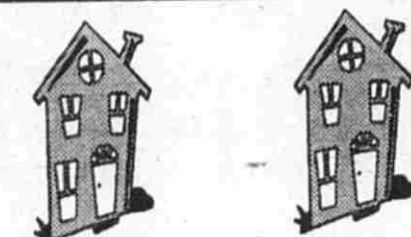
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Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died. — Erna Bombeck, humor columnist



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Sunscreen For Your Deck/Keep Your Deck Looking New

Sun protection isn't just for people. It's for your wooden deck and fencing, too. In fact, sun is a major cause of damage to outdoor wood. While many people worry about the damage

moisture can cause, they often don't think about the effects of the sun. The sun's UV rays fade and prematurely age wood, reports wood expert Mike McEnroe of The Flood Company. Sunlight breaks down

the glue that holds wood fibers together, leaving a thin gray matte on the wood's surface. "It is in fact, the sun that causes wood to turn gray," says McEnroe. "It can also cause the wood to dry out very quickly, forming cracks and splits."

With two million decks built each year, a myriad of new products entering the market and the problems caused by Mother Nature, consumers are finding it difficult to determine the proper way to care for their wooden decks or fences. "The truth is you need to protect your outdoor wood from sun and mois-

ture," says McEnroe. A product such as Flood's CWF-UV is a penetrating oil finish which contains ultraviolet inhibitors that protect wood from both sun and rain. Unlike a sealer, it penetrates into the wood instead of sitting on the surface, and protects without cracking, peeling or flaking.

Many think pressure-treated wood is already protected from the elements. While pressure treating protects against rot and insects, it does not protect the wood from sun and moisture damage. A protective finish is necessary.

Most decks need to be protected with a penetrating oil finish every other year. However, they need cleaning, too. Cleaning is necessary each year with Dekwood Cleaner and Brightener, which does not remove the finish, but removes dirt and grime that break down the wood fibers, reports McEnroe.

For homeowners who have specific questions about their deck, The

Flood Company offers a free help line. Call for expert answers to most any wood care question or to receive a free wood care guide, 1-800-321-3444 (TTY/hearing impaired calls: 1-800-356-6346 ext. 322), or write Wood Care Guide, P.O. Box 2535 Hudson, OH 44236-0035, or visit The Flood Company Web site at <http://www.floodco.com>.



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Hints For Homeowners

It often starts with a gurgle that won't stop until you jiggle the handle. But that won't truly fix a sneaky but wasteful leak that leads to bigger water bills.

You could even be

wasting thousands of gallons due to a virtually silent leak. Here's how to easily reveal it: Remove

the tank lid, then flush. As the tank refills, add several drops of dark food coloring to the tank water. Wait at least

20 minutes. If any trace of color appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak.

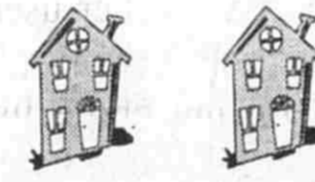
Toilet tank leaks are America's most common household plumbing re-

pair according to Fluidmaster, the world's leading repair parts manufacturer. They say too many homeowners settle for a quick fix when they would benefit far more from a toilet "tune-up."

With little effort, non-professionals can perform a toilet tune-up by installing a new fill valve, flapper, tank lever/handle and water supply connector. It takes just over an hour and uses four replacement parts

found in almost any hardware store or home center for a total cost of \$20 or less.

A toilet tune-up is a wise use of time since the tank is already empty for even a single-part repair. It's a step beyond a minor repair, but the reward is years and years of quiet, efficient flushes.



Things You Should Know About Your Home

Knowing more about your plumbing can help your home run as smoothly as possible and could improve the odds you won't end up all wet. Here are some commonly used plumbing terms and helpful hints to help you ask the right questions, understand the work of pros and care for your home's plumbing.

Terms To Know

- **Ballcock**—The water fill valve in the tank of a commode or water closet.
- **T&P valve**—The temperature and pressure relief valve, installed on water heaters in case of a temperature or pressure buildup that will route water to the exterior of the home.
- **Snaking a line**—Machine used to unstop

a sewer or drain line. Also called a roofer cleaning.
- **Back flow preventer** is a device to prevent backflow or siphonage of liquid waste into a potable water system, or backflow from a municipal sewer into a residential sewer.

If you encounter a problem you cannot easily solve—such as a clogged toilet or a basement leak—or a plumbing

improvement project, it's best to call a professional, licensed plumber.

Make sure that the plumber you call is reliable. Since plumbing emergencies can happen at any time of the day or night, it's also a good idea to keep a handy list of plumbers who are on call 24 hours a day.

Helpful Hints

- Don't pour grease down your kitchen sink drain.
- Run cold water through the disposal during and after use.
- Pour hot water down the drain once a week.

• In the laundry, use moderate amounts of biodegradable detergent.

- Never flush any paper, except for toilet paper, down the toilet.
- Keep the strainer in the shower clean for efficient drainage.

Caring For The Outside Of Your Home

When cleaning up, don't forget to give the outside of your home a thorough, top-to-bottom examination.

Windows, roof and siding bear the brunt of bad weather. You should decide whether or not this "first line of defense" needs renovating. Making an informed evaluation of your windows, roof and siding is not as difficult as you might think. Ask yourself the

following questions to help you make the best decisions for your home and family.

- **The Windows**
 - Are they easy to clean?
 - Do they provide the right amount of light and air?
 - Are they energy efficient?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, consider replacing your windows. Quality windows with a variety of

frames, glazing (glass) and styles can be installed quickly and easily, so there is no need to struggle with storm windows and screens.

- **The Roof**
 - Is it more than 10 years old?
 - Do you notice any loose or missing shingles from the roof?
 - Do you have water

stains on interior ceilings?

- Are there cracked, curled or rotted shingles?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, your roof may need to be replaced regardless of its age. Remember, harsh weather can age a roof before its time.





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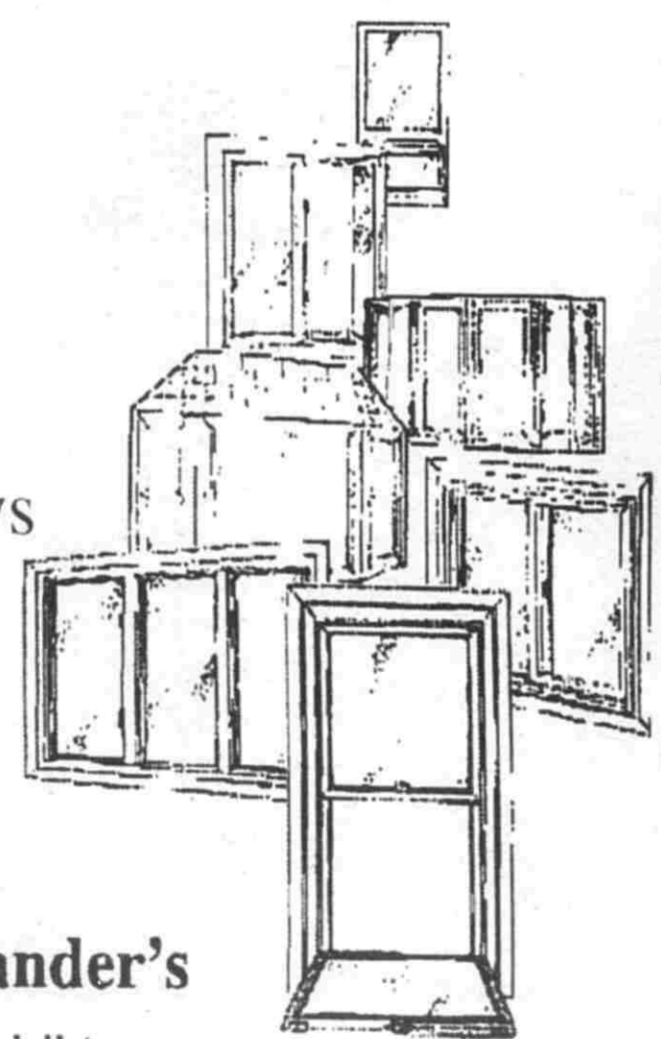
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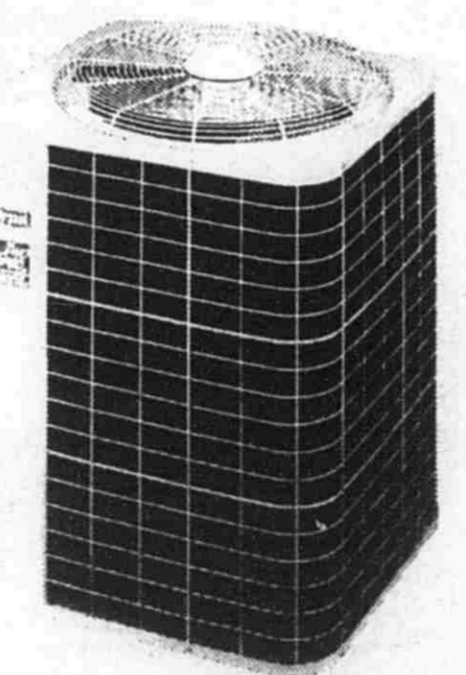
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First Aid For Wood Finishes

Q. My mother used to put "polish the furniture" on my chore list every week when I was growing up. I'm lucky if I get around to it twice a year these days. What's the rule of thumb to go by for how often is too often?

A. Here's my rule of thumb. If you use a piece of wooden furniture on a daily basis, say a kitchen table, wood cabinets or a coffee table in the TV room, wipe it down with a damp—not wet—cloth and polish the piece on a weekly basis.

If it's a decorative piece of furniture that isn't touched or sat upon often, my best advice is polish it about four times a year—or to make it easier, polish with the seasons. Tie it into major holidays: Easter or Passover, Fourth of July, Halloween and the winter holidays. Use a protective cream polish like Weiman Furniture Cream, which will allow the wood to breathe as the humidity in the house changes.

furniture. How can you tell if your furniture has a wax buildup and how do you get rid of it?

A. Waxy yellow buildup sounds like the complaint of 1950s housewives. But it can definitely compromise the beauty of your wood furniture. Built-up wax can dull the finish of woods and make them more susceptible to fingerprinting and dirt collection. Wood soaps dissolve this wax, opening up the pores of the wood for deep cleaning and protection. A mild, low-alkaline wood soap, like one made by Weiman, will unclog wood pores and allow for deeper protection of the wood, and your finish will have a high-quality polish.

Think of furniture treatments as cosmetics. A wood soap is a cleanser and a cream polish is a moisturizer, and they both help prevent cracking and fading. You'd never apply a second layer of makeup without removing the first, so treat your fine furniture the same way.

Q. You always hear about wax buildup on

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Check Your Range To Prevent Accidental Tipping

Without properly installed anti-tip hardware provided by the manufacturer, your kitchen range can tip forward accidentally if the oven door is used as a step stool, a makeshift seat or some other form of support, or if too much weight is applied to the front of the range, warns the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

When this happens, injuries can result, such as scalds and burns, from hot foods and utensils that slide off the range top.

Children and older people are particularly likely to be involved in range-tipping incidents. Children may use the open oven door as a step to reach for items stored high on nearby shelves or in play as a jumping-off place. Older people may lose their balance after bending, stooping or rising and then use the oven door for support.

To prevent ranges from tipping, manufacturers provide special

anti-tip hardware with each new range along with instructions for installing it. They also put warning labels on the range and include information in the use and care guides. Unfortunately, the anti-tip hardware is not always used.

Make sure your range is properly installed using this hardware. If you are remodeling, building a new home or buying a new range, make sure the builder or installer uses the anti-tip hardware provided with the range.

Ranges most vulnerable to tipping are freestanding and slide-in models. The anti-tip hardware will secure the range to the floor and/or wall. Set-in or drop-in ranges will not tip if they are installed correctly with the recommended sizes and types of screws.

To prevent your range from tipping, AHAM advises:

- Educate and supervise your children to use the range safely.

- Keep the oven door closed when not in use.

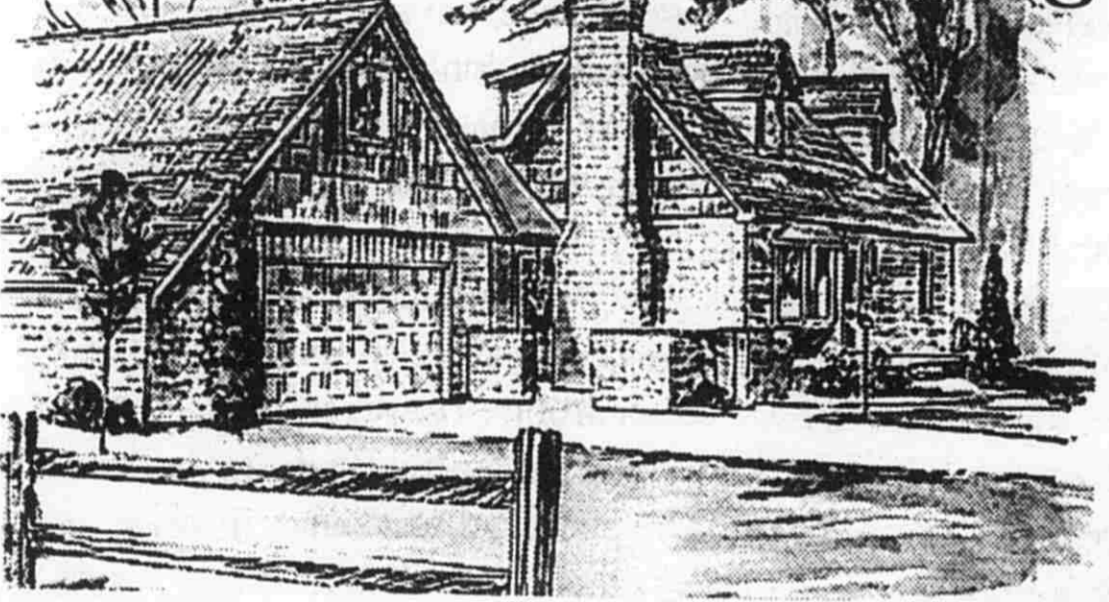
- Never use the oven door as a stool, seat or as a support for body weight or other objects.

- Alert older people that the range can tip if they use the oven door for support.

- Most importantly, make sure your range has been installed with the anti-tip hardware.

To receive a free Protect Against Range Tipping safety brochure, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, PART Program, Suite 1231, 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606.

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Q. I recently inherited a solid oak dresser in desperate need of refinishing.

After spending a hefty sum to resurface the dresser, what should I do in terms of polishing or oiling the piece to make sure this fresh finish stays fresh?

A. First off, if you've got a freshly refinished piece of furni-

ture, don't do anything to it for about six to eight weeks. A new finish needs to "cure" or set for a time to ensure that the finish will stay smooth and beautiful.

Once you've let the piece cure, use a silicone-free furniture cream like Weiman Furniture Polish. But don't apply it directly to the dresser. Instead, take a soft cloth like an old T-shirt or

chamois cloth and dampen it with water. Apply the lotion to the cloth, then rub it into the wood along the grain.

Most people forget to actually polish the furniture. Take a dry cloth and actually buff the wood by rubbing along the grain. Over time, this treatment will give your furniture a healthy glow that will really light up the room.

Q. I've heard that a piano should never be polished as the cream or spray would damage the wiring inside. Is this true?

A. Besides being a melodious, harmonious musical instrument, a piano is also a beautiful piece of furniture.

And as such, pianos need special care.

Piano restorers are often faced with these challenges, and experts recommend caring for pianos in a slightly different manner than other pieces of furniture.

Instead of using a cloth to apply the cream, experts recommend spraying a beaver-hair paintbrush lightly with

furniture cream, then gently brushing the piano. This removes dust and loose dirt quickly and carefully. It's an especially good technique for any piece of furniture that has intricate carving—but please, don't use a paintbrush that has ever been used with paint.

Q. We purchased a new cherry armoire for our bedroom. However, my husband is afraid that if we put it in direct sunlight, the wood will fade. Since our bedroom lets in quite a bit of sunlight, what should we do?

A. It's true... the sun's rays can hurt wood, much in the same way it

can damage skin. But there are ways to prevent this damage without putting your new armoire in a dark closet.

Choose a furniture polish that offers some form of sun protection. The more ultraviolet rays you can prevent from hitting the furniture, the better. Weiman Lemon Oil or Furniture Cream both contain UVX-15, which has been proven to absorb ultraviolet light.

Have a wood question? "Ask The Furniture Cosmetologist!"

Submit questions to "Ask The Furniture Cosmetologist," P.O. Box 9569, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Caring For The Outside Of Your Home

Windows, roof and siding bear the brunt of bad weather.

You should decide whether or not this "first line of defense" needs renovating. Making an informed evaluation of your windows, roof and siding is not as difficult as you might think.

Ask yourself the following questions to help you make the best decisions for your home and family.

The Windows

- Do they give your home a neat, well-maintained look?

- Do they enhance your home's style?

- Are they easy to clean?

- Do they provide the right amount of light and air?

- Are they energy efficient?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, consider replacing your windows.

Quality windows with a variety of frames, glazing (glass) and styles can be installed quickly and easily, so there is no need to struggle with storm windows and screens.

The Roof

- Is it more than 10 years old?

- Do you notice any loose or missing shingles from the roof?

- Do you have water stains on interior ceilings?

- Is there damaged flashing between the roof line and exterior walls?

- Are there cracked, curled or rotted shingles?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, your roof may need to be replaced regardless of its age. Remember, harsh weather can age a roof before its time.

The Siding

- Are there any corner pieces missing?

- Is your siding faded or in need of new paint?

- Have any siding slats warped or pulled away from the house?

- Are there any dents or abrasions in the siding?

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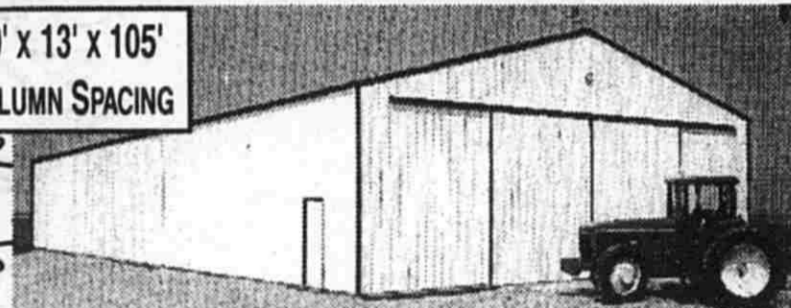
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MONDAY EVENING MARCH 16, 1998. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOVU, etc.) listing various shows and programs.

MONDAY LATE NIGHT MARCH 16, 1998. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, etc.) listing various shows and programs.

TUESDAY EVENING MARCH 17, 1998. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, etc.) listing various shows and programs.

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT MARCH 17, 1998. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, etc.) listing various shows and programs.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MARCH 18, 1998. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, etc.) listing various shows and programs.

WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT MARCH 18, 1998. 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 (WVMT, WOVU, etc.) listing various shows and programs.

THURSDAY EVENING MARCH 19, 1998. 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 various TV channels and programs.

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT MARCH 19, 1998. 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 various TV channels and programs.

LOWELL CABLE TV DEPARTMENT. 127 N. BROADWAY, LOWELL • PHONE 897-8405. GOT MILK OF MAGNESIA? ALL NEW SEASON BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 10PM HBO. THE DEVIL'S OWN. Aliens & Intrigue On The WGN Road To Chicago. Gene Roddenberry's Earth: Final Conflict.

City snowplows resurface in Monday's snow storm

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

It had been awhile since Lowell residents experienced the sights and sounds of city snowplows. It was Jan. 23 when Lowell's snowplows last took to the city streets prior to Monday's winter storm which brought the area eight inches of that white stuff. In 1996-97, Lowell snow-plow trucks spent 463 hours on the road, rolling up 4,018 miles. In 1997-98, they have been on the road 184 hours or 1,516.6 miles not counting Monday's miles or hours. This represents a 62 percent decline from the previous year. "We have hardly plowed or used salt," said Dan DesJarden, Lowell public works director. Less use means less money spent from the street fund.

LMS bands score first division rating

Lowell Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade bands both scored a first division rating at District 10 MSBOA festival last week at Grandville. Both bands scored an overall top rating for their performances. This means that both bands qualify and will participate in the state band festival either May 1 or 2. Only bands that score first division ratings participate in the state festival. In addition, all students will receive first place medals and both bands will receive a trophy to signify their accomplishment. The seventh grade band, under the direction of Dale Latva and Kathryn Ketchum, performed at festival on Thursday, Feb. 26. The seventh graders played "Hillandale March," "Royal Tournament," and "Fanfare and Presto" for the performance portion of the festival. The eighth grade band, under the direction of Dale Latva, performed on Friday, Feb. 27. They played "Liberty March," "Portrait of a Clown," and "Anthem and Alleluia." This is the first time in the history of Lowell Middle School that both seventh and eighth grade bands scored a first division rating. "The students are to be credited for all the hard work and practice that goes into such an accomplishment. This says a lot about Lowell bands, the students and parents involved and the support they get from the Music Boosters and the administration," Latva said.

"The unused money will stay in the street fund. It will be used for additional maintenance or upgrading of the streets," said Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale. The city budgeted \$8,000 for equipment use (snowplowing and salt truck) on major city streets. To date, it has used \$3,304.92 of that fund. Lowell budgeted \$6,100 for local streets. Of that, it has spent \$2,854. The city of Lowell budgeted \$3,805 for salt on major streets and \$4,100 for local streets. DesJarden said the city has used a total of \$1,500 for salt. "We budget for 200 tons of salt each year. This year we've used somewhere between 50-60 tons of salt," DesJarden explained.

Mike Harding, of Harding Enterprises, has run a snowplowing service for the last 10 years in Lowell. He services 350 customers. On an average, his nine trucks plow 20 times each winter season. This year they've been out five to 10 times. "Our contracts with customers are based on us having to plow 20 times," Harding said. "Last year, we had to plow 25-30 times, but over the years it has averaged out to 20 times a year." "That averages out to 10-15,000 miles on each truck. "Most of our customers have seasonal contracts. Some are on a per time basis," Harding explained.



"Wednesday" is named after the chief god in Teutonic mythology, Woden, or "Odin." At the beginning of the Christian era, the Germans called it "Woden's-day." The French word for Wednesday is "mercredi," after the Roman god Mercury.

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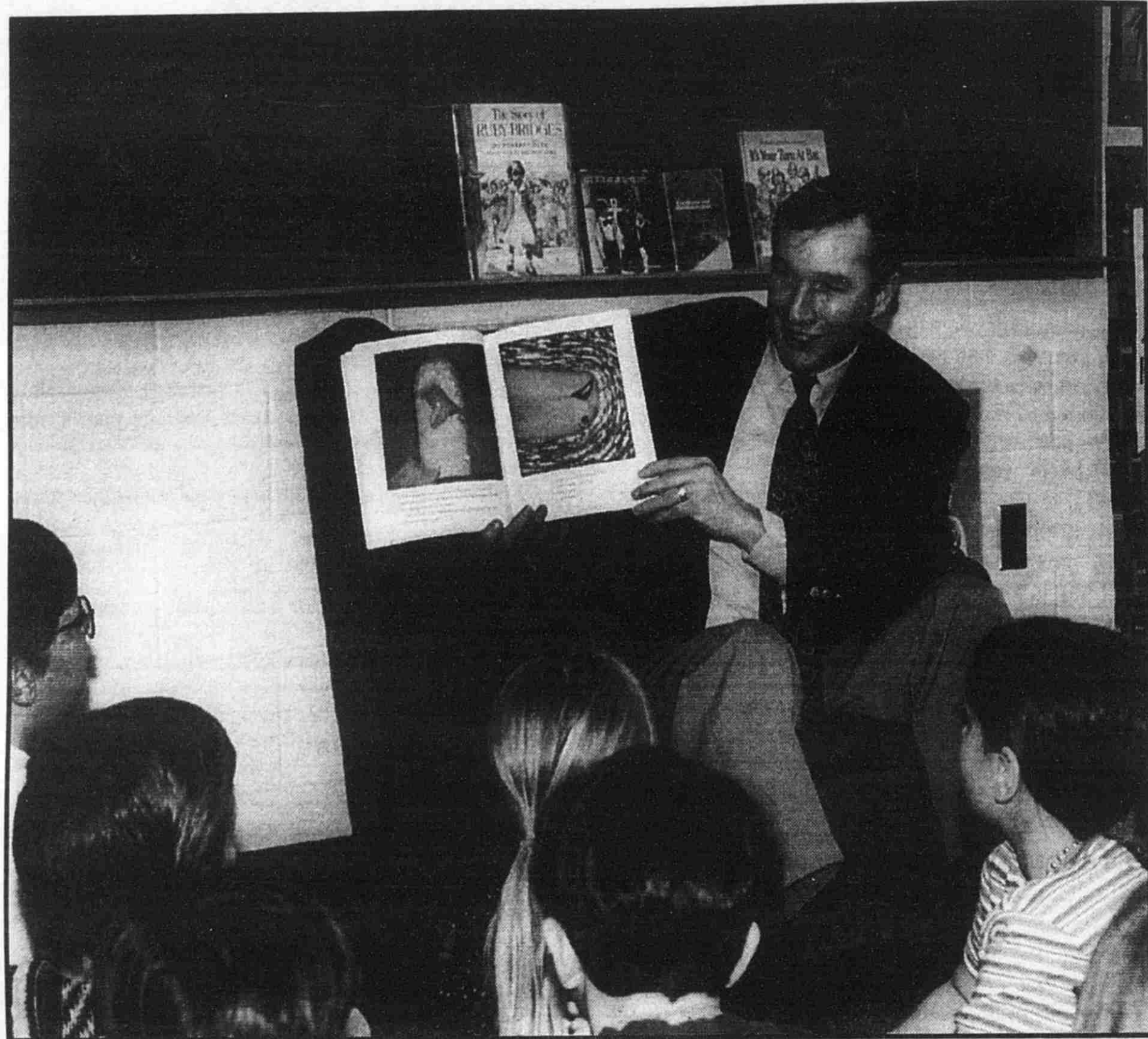
These children achieved DENTAL HYGIENE EXCELLENCE For the Month of FEBRUARY, 1998 DR. J.E. REAGAN 207 W. Main, Lowell 897-7179. DENTISTRY: HEALTH CARE THAT WORKS. Remember, one ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. ARE YOU DUE FOR YOUR SIX-MONTH CLEANING? Christopher Barlow, Kari Bartrum, Blake Bergy, Theresa Bonner, Kaitlyn Brower, Madelyn Brower, Joshua Brown, Andrew Curtis, Erin Doyle, Molly Doyle, Patrick Doyle, Regan Doyle, Ian Essich, Michelle Ford, Austyn Foster, Kacie Foster, Alexander Fox, Elijah Gire, Mackenzie Gire, Jacob Grim, Kaley Grummet, Hanna Haner, Zachery Hofman, Lyndsay Huver, Samantha Kauffman, Teresa Kimble, Daniel Lane, Ryan Lane, Theresa Leasure, Jasmine Lillie, Sean Mandie, Andrew McQueen, Jenna Mitchell, Lindsey Mitchell, David Niewadomski, Joe Nugent, Kelsy Payne, Sarah Payne, Bradley Plaat, Wayne Racine, Aaron Rau, Kathleen Riley, Michael Scott, Katherine Serne, Bailey Smith, Josh Soyka, Kory Stevens, Kelly Stevens, Alan Silver, Nicholas Stormzand, Bryce Tulppo, Courtney Tulppo, Dustin Whorley, Kourtney Wittenbach.

Senate Majority Leader, Dick Posthumus reads to Alto third-graders

Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus, R-Alto, helped third-graders at Cherry Creek Elementary School celebrate Reading Month in Michigan when he read to them Monday, March 2.

During his half-hour with the combined third-grade classes of Nancy Bruker and Doran Truax, Senator Posthumus spent his time reading classics from children's literature.

As part of an effort to emphasize the importance of reading for success in school, Senator Posthumus visited elementary classrooms around the state.



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Keepsake Quilters celebrate quilting day

Celebrate National Quilting Day with the Keepsake Quilters as they visit the Englehardt Library at 200 N.

Monroe St. in Lowell. On Friday, March 20, the Keepsake Quilters will be at the library from 1 to 3 p.m. On Saturday, March 21, National Quilting Day, the Keepsake Quilters will be at the library from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Both days the Keepsake Quilters will provide quilting demonstrations, answer questions and display their Mystery Quilts and other

antique quilts. The Friends of the Englehardt Library sponsor this program intended for adults.

National Quilting Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of March. It began in 1991 to bring recognition to all aspects of quilting, and it is a day to honor all quilters.

The Keepsake Quilters

meet at the home of Delores Dey in Lowell every Wednesday. Presently, there are six regular members and anyone interested may join the group.

For more information about the Keepsake Quilters and National Quilting Day celebration, contact the Englehardt Library at 897-9596.

Larson coming to Englehardt Library

Storyteller Doris Larson will appear in a program at the Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, on Friday, March 20, at 10 a.m. The Friends of the Englehardt Library sponsor this program intended for adults.

Larson will tell the story, "Something of Value" by Sarah Barnhill from the book *When I Am An Old Woman, I Shall Wear Purple*, an anthology of stories and poems by women.

Larson is a member of the

Grand Rapids Story Spinners. She tells stories for children and local groups in the community.

For more information about Larson's program, contact the Englehardt Library at 897-9596.

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ELECTRIC POWER OUTAGE

Lowell Light & Power will be having a power outage early Saturday morning, March 14, 1998, starting at 2:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. to conduct repairs on the Bowes Road substation transformer.

In the event of inclement weather, the outage will be rescheduled for early Saturday morning, March 21, starting at 2:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m.

The main areas affected are:
West Main St./Fulton St. - All customers from Smith Street to Cumberland Manor.
North Center Street - All customers • South Center Street - All Customers
South West Street - All Customers • North West Street - All Customers
Bowes Road - All Customers • South Hudson - All customers from West Main Street to Bowes Road. • Ottawa Street, Grand Street, Maple Street, Brooke Street - All Customers • South Pleasant Street - All Customers • North Pleasant Street - All Customers • Valley Vista Drive - All customers • Deborah Drive - All customers • Roberta Jayne, Laurie Gail, Heffron, Church St., Jane Ellen, Elizabeth Dean, Carol Lynne, Faith Dr., Donna Dr., Sibley - All customers • Schneider Manor - All buildings
Valley Vista Trailer Park - All Customers

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ONLY \$3.50 before 6 p.m. and Kids, Seniors, Everyone all day Tuesday! \$4.99 with Student ID after 6 p.m.

***U.S. MARSHALS**
PG-13
TOMMY LEE JONES
W/TH: 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

***HUSH** PG-13
GWYNETH PALTROW
W/TH: 5:00, 7:20, 9:15

THE WEDDING SINGER PG-13
ADAM SANDLER
W/TH: 5:20, 7:40, 9:45

TITANIC PG-13
LEONARDO DICAPRIO
W/TH: 4:00, 7:30

GOOD WILL HUNTING R
MATT DAMON
W/TH: 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

With this ad, receive one FREE 12 oz. drink to EACH ticket purchased! Expires 4/1/98.

COMING EVENTS

Notices in The Ledger's "Coming Events" are free of charge to any non-profit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto, and Saranac area. We prefer such notices to be kept brief and to be submitted by mail, but will accept notices by phone at 897-9261.

FOURTH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH: American Legion Clark-Ellis Post 152 at Lowell V.F.W. Hall, 307 E. Main St. at 8 p.m.

EVERY 1ST MONDAY: V.F.W. Post 8303 meets at the V.F.W. Clubroom, 307 E. Main St. Lowell at 7 p.m.

EVERY 3RD MONDAY: The Flat River Snowmobile Club meets at the clubhouse at 11841 Potters Rd. Just east of Montcalm Ave., potluck dinner, 12:00 p.m., meeting at 1:00 p.m. New members and guests are welcome. No Sept. meeting.

EVERY THURSDAY: Rollaway Ltd. Senior Bowling, 1 p.m., 55 and over.

WEDNESDAYS: 8 p.m. ALANON meets at Lowell Congregational Church.

EVERY FIRST WEDNESDAY: Lowell Area Jaycees meet at 7 p.m. at Lowell City Hall. Individual, community and management development for young adults 21-39 years of age. Phone 897-0709 for information.

EVERY MON.: Boy Scout Troop 102, for boys 11 and up or completing the 5th-grade, will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. during the school year in the Scout Cabin at the end of North Washington Street. Enjoy activities like hiking and camping and learn skills that can last a lifetime. For more information call 897-6405.

EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY: Alzheimers Support Group meets at 6:30 p.m. at Cumberland Retirement Village. Phone 897-9310 for information.

TUESDAYS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI#372 meets every Tuesday evening at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Building. Weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m.

EVERY SECOND & FOURTH TUES.: Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsmen's Club meets, 8 p.m. at the Club building, 1400 Foreman Road, Lowell.

EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY: G.F.W.C. Lowell Women's Club meets at noon in the community room at Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd.

EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY: 2 to 3:30

EVERY 3RD MONDAY: MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meeting from 9:45 a.m. - noon at Saranac Community Church. Pre-register. Childcare provided. 642-5322.

SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH: The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building located in the former Runciman Elementary, 300 High Street.

EVERY THURSDAY: Ladies Coffee break Bible study. Free nursery and preschool story hour/crafts time. Calvary Christian Reformed Church across from Burger King. 10 to 11:15 a.m.

TUES. THRU SUN.: Shop at Christmas on Main Street, Lowell Arts Council's World of Unique Gifts. Located at 222 West Main St. Open 1 - 5 p.m. Call 897-8545 for information.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD TUESDAY: Lowell Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station, South Hudson, Lowell.

EVERY 3RD TUESDAY: Children with A.D.D./A.D.H.D. Issues Group meeting at St. Lukes Lutheran Church, 32156 4-Mile N.E. (at the intersection of 4-Mile and the East Beltline). at 7 p.m. For information call Linda at 874-5662.

EVERY 1ST TUESDAY: Adults with A.D.D. Issues Group meeting at Aquinas College in the classroom building (at the far end of the parking lot) on Woodward, just south of Fulton in room 109. For information call Ann at 949-8537.

WEDNESDAY: Family Council for the Laurels of Kent Nursing Home. This is a volunteer group formed to enhance the quality of life for all the residents. Interested persons are welcome to meet in the Activity Room, Wing "C."

EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY: Elderly volunteers needed to participate in the Intergenerational Program with school age children from Lowell in many different seasonal activities. Two times available: 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. or 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. Call Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, F.S.E. at the Franciscan Child Development Center, 897-7842.

EVERY WEDNESDAY: DivorceCare meets at 7 p.m. at the Helping Hands Child Care Center, 1188 Lincoln Lake Rd. This support and recovery program is for all adults experiencing divorce or separation. For more information, call (616) 897-6890.

THURSDAYS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops MI, No. 333. Saranac, meets every Thursday evening at the Saranac Public Library. Weigh-ins at 6:45 p.m.

EVERY THURS. - St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational-help for

EVERY FRIDAY: Respite day care for the elderly. Activities and respite for the aging person from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Sister Darlene Wessling, F.S.E. at the Franciscan Child Development Center, 897-7842.

EVERY SAT. Lowell Amateur Radio Club sponsors the 145.270 - repeater which operates on a 24-hour basis. Also there is a Simplex Frequency 147.420 PL 186.2.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE: Business meeting is held the third Monday of each month at 8 p.m.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Open Tues. 12 to 8 p.m.; Thurs. 12 to 8 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Phone 868-6038.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS: Monday & Wednesday, 1-8 p.m.; Tuesday & Friday, 1-5 p.m.; Thursday & Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

FRI., MARCH 13: Regular meeting of the Cyclamen Chapter #94 OES to be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Lowell Masonic Temple.

SAT., MARCH 14: Smyrna's annual St. Patrick's celebration at Smyrna Maccabee Hall. Roast beef dinner serving 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; hot beef supper, serving from 5 to 8 p.m. Euchre tournament begins at 1:30. Everyone welcome.

MON., MARCH 16: Clark Ellis American Legion Auxiliary is meeting at Schneider Manor at 1 p.m. for a luncheon meeting. Bring program ideas for the year. Sponsor Angeline Mulder.

THURS., MARCH 26: Commodities will be distributed starting at 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Moose Recreational Bldg. on E. Main. Expired cards need to be renewed. Apple sauce, canned tomatoes, vegetable soup (packages).

EVERY SECOND THURSDAY: Lowell V.F.W. Auxiliary No. 8303 meets at 3:30 p.m. at the V.F.W. Post, 307 W. Main Street, Lowell.

EVERY 3RD THURSDAY: Royal Arch Masons regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

EVERY 3RD THURSDAY: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade & Lowell meets at 6:30 p.m. for socializing with meeting at 7 p.m. Mother to mother support for pregnant & breastfeeding women. Nursing children are welcome to attend. Our current location is a church in Ada. Call Janet 897-6845 or Laurie, 642-6195 for more information.

SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH: The Ada Historical Society meets at the Ada Township office at 7 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH: Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets in individual homes for huddle meetings for fellowship and devotions.

THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH: Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets in the high school cafeteria during seminar time for planning sessions for activities.

FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH: Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets at 7 a.m. in high school teachers dining room for a light breakfast. For information concerning FCA call Kris Gallagher at 676-1355 or Linda Johnson at 897-4922.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR 897-5949

MON.: 8:30 a.m. Walk & shop - Woodland Mall.

TUES.: 8:30 a.m. Walk & shop - Woodland Mall.

WED.: 12:45 Shopping assistance.

THURS.: 9:00 a.m. Walk & shop - Woodland Mall. 1 p.m. Euchre. Crafts, 9:30 a.m.

MON.-FRI.: Senior meals program, noon.

Special Events

WED., MARCH 11: 12:30 p.m., Movies - Showcase Cinema.

FRI., MARCH 13: 8:30 a.m., Scriptorium.

TUES., MARCH 17: 10:30 a.m., Wellness.

WED., MARCH 18: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Income tax assistance by appointment.

WED., MARCH 18: 9:30 a.m., Advisory Council.

WED., MARCH 18: 12:30 p.m., North Kent Transit.

FRI., MARCH 20: 12:30 p.m., Gerontology Network.

MON., MARCH 23: 12:30 p.m., Shopping, Value City.

WED., MARCH 25: 8 a.m., Women's traveling breakfast.

WED., MARCH 25: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Income tax - by appointment.

WED., MARCH 25: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Income tax assistance by appointment with the exception of Tues., March 10. No taxes April 1.

WED., MARCH 18: 9:30 a.m., Advisory Council.

WED., MARCH 18: 12:30 p.m., North Kent Transit.

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(Dinner reservations should be made 3 working days in advance)

Couple's one-year anniversary in new home shattered by 13-year-olds

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Luke and Renee Brogger were planning a one-year anniversary celebration of their new house with family. Those plans were shattered following a random, violent, malicious act of two 13-year-olds.

Luke Brogger came home (Vergennes Township) from work on Tuesday (March 3) to find that his home had been broken into and thousands of dollars worth of damage had been inflicted on its structure, including walls with holes punched in them, a stairway banister that lay in ruins, shattered crystal given as wedding presents, smashed picture frames, slit bed mattresses, and a battered stove and dishwasher.

"They destroyed a lot of wedding gifts," said Renee Brogger. "Memory stuff... stuff that can't be replaced."

Brogger lived with their neighbors for a couple of days after the incident. "We're back home now, but there are a lot of things to repair," Renee Brogger said.

The Broggers are new to the area. They moved here thinking the subdivision would be free from such anger and

violence.

"It's scary that these things are happening," Renee Brogger said. "I wonder why two 13-year-old boys would get such enjoyment out of this."

Kent County detective Dianne Kik said the boys didn't have a reason. "A lot of times this kind of maliciousness is done because the home-owners have what they want."

Kent County sergeant John O'Rourke spoke to a group of 30 residents about how Neighborhood Watch can be used to drive crime from their neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Watch played a key role in authorities finding the culprits in the malicious destruction of Brogger's home, according to Kik.

The use of a neighborhood calling tree (a neighborhood communication network) helped lead authorities to the culprits. Kik said the boys admitted to vandalizing the home during questioning.

"On Tuesday, we did not have a clue as to who was responsible," O'Rourke told Lowell Township residents. "On Wednesday, two people were arrested. Neighborhood Watch works."

O'Rourke said that there has been 38 reported cases of malicious destruction of property and four reported cases of vandalism in Lowell Township in the last six months.

The key to neighborhood watch working is people in the program getting to know their neighbors and working with them and reporting crime.

"The key to neighborhood security is the people themselves," O'Rourke said. "The sheriff's department cannot function effectively unless it has the support and cooperation of the people."

O'Rourke says people have quit neighboring. "Back in the 50s and 60s when a person went on vacation, a neighbor parked their car in the driveway to make it look like someone was home. People don't always call when they see a suspicious person in their neighborhood."

What is a suspicious person? It can be a person walking down the street looking into cars, going house to house and looking into windows, or walking up into yards.

"Not all people that are acting suspicious are criminals but by reporting suspicious activity, citizens can effectively reduce opportunity for a crime to be committed," O'Rourke explained.

Budget line items match up with audit

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Connie Gillette worked as a school business manager at Saugatuck and Glen Lake prior to coming to Lowell.

Admittedly, other than being public schools, one doesn't have a lot to do with the other...unless you're Gillette - then they are tied together by a "RANDS," an accounting software package.

Such a convenience made each transition a little easier. To what extent each school has used that package, however, has varied.

"When I arrived, Lowell was doing some things with the package that the others weren't doing and the other two schools were doing things with the package that Lowell wasn't doing," Gillette said.

Since Gillette's arrival, through her leadership, the business office has begun to utilize the accounting program to a greater degree.

The results are reflected in budget report line items within categories that match the audit report, customized reports for building control officers, and tracking costs.

"I can't say enough about how the business office staff and building control officers have worked together to stay within the budget and have looked for ways to save the district money," Gillette explained.

Many of the actions taken by Gillette and the business office are the result of tasks outlined in the financial planning subcommittee report.

The district is developing processes to operate more effectively and efficiently. This is being done by keeping control managers more informed through weekly budget reports, utilizing accounting software for budget planning and reporting, and budget projection.

Gillette also looked into privatization of transportation and custodial tasks. "The business office found that privatization wouldn't be cost-effective for the district," said Gillette.

In the financial subcommittee's education business plan, recommendations were made in nine areas. Gillette believes the business office has addressed most of the issues stated in the findings.

"We appreciate the effort made by subcommittee members. Its findings serve as a good guide for us in indicating what we need to concentrate on," Gillette explained.

Recommendations came in areas which included re-evaluating Lowell Area School educators' pay structure; budget calendar process; purchasing policy; review of employee benefit package; privatization, and investment policy.

Plattner takes first at regional

••• Lowell FFA Chapter sends five teams to national competition in Kansas City.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

As a sophomore, he didn't even place, but hard work and determination vaulted junior Aaron Plattner to the top of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) regional class in extemporaneous public speaking.

"Aaron has really improved over the last year," Lowell FFA director Pete Siler explained. "He's worked hard at it."

Plattner was the only Lowell FFA participant to garner a first in the regional at Caledonia High School.

Lowell, however, did



Aaron Plattner took first in extemporaneous speaking at the FFA regional.

Plattner, cont'd. pg. 33

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1998 at 7:30 PM

In the Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, Michigan.

A budget shall be submitted for consideration.

Citizens attending the hearing have the right to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget.

A copy of the entire proposed budget shall be available for public inspection at the Bowne Township Office, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

Trio, held in shooting and robbery of Skirvin, has preliminary hearing

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The preliminary hearing for the three men charged with the robbery and shooting of Jonathon Jewelers owner David Skirvin was held on Friday, March 6.

Lowell resident Robert Mask and Belding's Robert Mosley and Terry McRoberts were arraigned on Feb. 23 (Monday) for allegedly trying to rob Skirvin at his home on Feb. 4.

Mosley and McRoberts were charged with one count of attempted murder and armed robbery, and two counts of felony firearm.

McRoberts, 18, 9531 Belding Rd., admitted to police that

he helped cut phone wire leading to Skirvin's house and then feigned car troubles.

Mosley, 27, 8260 Palmer Rd., was identified by McRoberts as the gunman. Both are being held at the Kent County Jail on \$100,000 cash bonds.

Mask, 22, 11630 Bluewater Highway, is being held on one count of armed robbery and a \$50,000 bond.

Kent County detective Robert Peters said after obtaining a search warrant, police found several items at Mask's home which are believed to be linked to the crime, including rope, wire cutters, flashlights and a hacksaw. They also gathered

gloves, a duffel bag, flashlights, wire cutters and screw drivers.

Mosley and Mask were apprehended by police on Feb. 20 and McRoberts was picked up on Feb. 21.

Skirvin who was shot twice had one bullet ricochet off his head and a second bullet penetrate his scalp. He was hospitalized overnight and released the next day.

Peters explained that after being shot, Skirvin raced upstairs, retrieved a rifle and returned fire on the assailants, who then fled.

Lacey and Brower compete in gymnastics regional

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell senior Brenda Lacey closed out her high school gymnastics career at the regional Saturday in Mona Shores.

Lacey competed in all four events with seasonal best marks in a couple of events.

The Red Arrow gymnast executed her best vault of the year. She earned a mark of 8.4 for her effort. It left her a few tenths of a point shy of

qualifying for the state tournament.

"Brenda had good momentum as she approached the vault," said Lowell coach Michele DeHaan. "She also stuck her landing."

Lacey also had one of her best days this year in the floor exercise. "She had very few execution mistakes. It was a solid performance," DeHaan said.

Judges gave her an 8.4, again leaving her a couple

Plattner, cont'd... From Page 32

earn four second place finishes.

The top two teams in each of the eight categories now advance to the state competition at Michigan State University. Lowell will send five teams to the state competition, which began on Monday.

Making the trip with Plattner are Bill Zook, greenhouse public speaking; Shannon Finnegan, interview; Chris Van Spronsen, Bob Ford and Joe Patterson, demonstration; Lisa Osterhaven, Andrea Baker, Maggie Wisner, Jeff Noal, Brian Fitzpatrick and Tarra Thurlow, parliamentary procedure.

Christin Colon, Jenny Prins, Jennifer Wisner and Lindsay Perkins will participate in the FFA state band.

Shannon Finnegan and Katie Balaam were named members of the FFA national chorus. Lisa Posthumus has been selected as a Region V candidate for state office. She will be one of 18 candidates seeking six offices.

"To send five teams to state is good. They faced a lot of quality competition at the regional," Siler said. "Because of the competition, they will be well prepared for state. The students began preparing for the district, regional and state competitions in November."

Lowell upended by East in regular season finale

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell boys' basketball regular season came to an end Friday night at East Grand Rapids.

The Pioneers looked tournament ready as they took apart the Red Arrows 77-35.

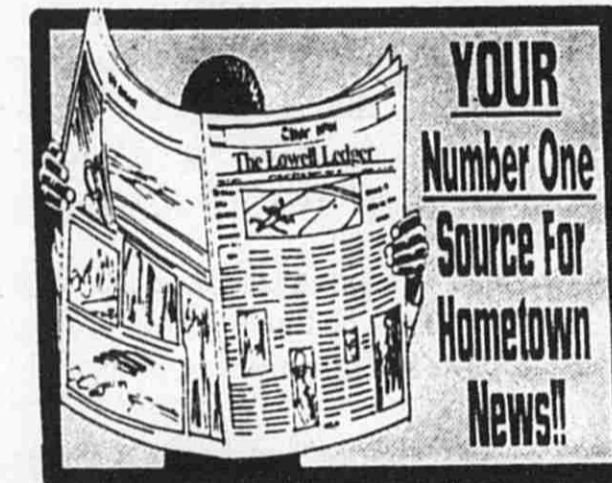
EGR jumped out to a 28-8 first-quarter lead and built from there.

East led 43-17 at halftime and 61-22 after three quarters of play.

T.J. Thayer led all Lowell scorers with eight points. Kevin Williams and Ryan Mix each added seven points apiece.

Matt Lineberger led East Grand Rapids with 11 points.

Lowell plays Wednesday in the Class A district at Creston. The Red Arrows (0-20) will play the winner of the Northview/Greenville game.



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Betty R. Morlock
Deputy City Clerk/616-897-8457

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, March 16, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Englehardt Public Library, 200 North Monroe, for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following rezoning change:

Rezone from R3 (Residential) to PF (Public Facilities)

-Parcel #41-20-02-401-006, United States Post Office (192 N. Broadway)
- Parcel #41-20-02-401-009, Michigan Bell Telephone Company (123 N. Hudson)

Rezone from C3 (General Business) to PF (Public Facilities)

-Parcel #41-20-02-401-003, Graham Building/YMCA Offices (325 W. Main)

Rezone from C3 (General Business) to C2 (Central Business)

-Parcel #41-20-02-401-007, Lowell Ledger/Buyers Guide (105 N. Broadway)
-Parcel #41-20-02-401-008, Larkin's Saloon (301 W. Main)
-Parcel #41-20-02-401-005, Larkin's The Other Place (303 W. Main)
-Parcel #41-20-02-401-004, Larkin's The Other Place (315 W. Main)

Interested persons may submit written or oral comments prior to the meeting at City Hall, 301 E. Main Street or appear in person at the Englehardt Public Library.

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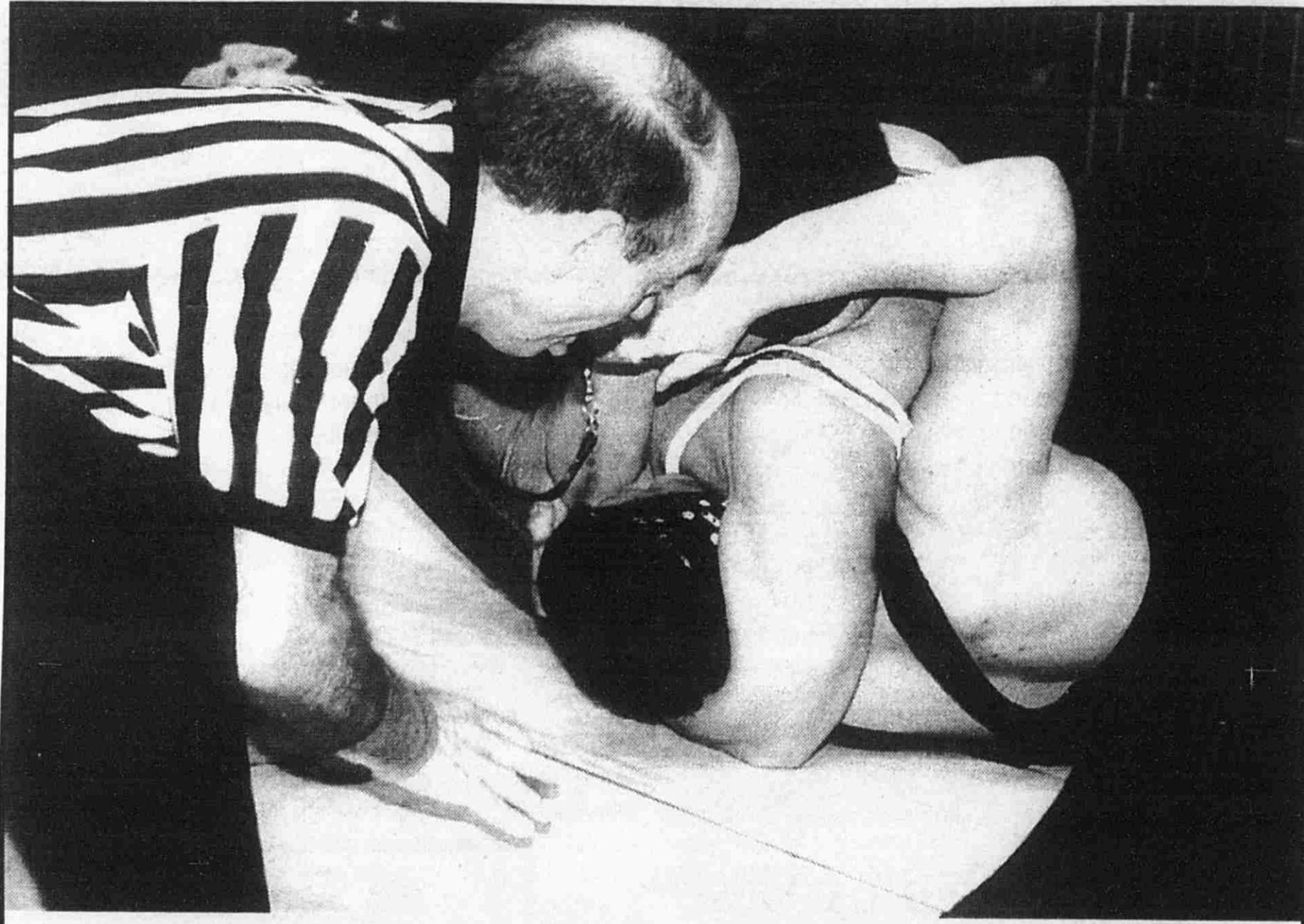
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Heartbreak in Battle Creek

Lowell got to within an inch of the Division II state wrestling finals, but it was not meant to be as the Red Arrows lost to Dowagiac 29-28.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor



Red Arrow heavyweight Mike Arnsward came ever so close to a semifinal clinching pin against his Chieftain counterpart. A controversial whistle stopped action because in applying the headlock, Arnsward's arm covered over the face of the Dowagiac wrestler.

Lowell's march toward a state wrestling title ground to a halt, ever so painfully, in the semifinals at Battle Creek Saturday.

The Red Arrows were bumped out of the tournament by the narrowest of margins, losing to Dowagiac 29-28.

Lowell may have even been closer to victory than the one point indicates.

Trailing 29-25 going into the heavyweight match, the Red Arrows needed Mike Arnsward to record a technical fall or pin to advance to the finals.

Arnsward put Dowagiac's Joe Kehrer in a first-period headlock and appeared poised for a dramatic winning pin.

The referee, however, stopped the action, claiming he told Arnsward twice to get off the mat.

"I hate it when referees don't let the kids decide the match," Lowell wrestling coach Gary Rivers said. "I thought Mike had pinned him before that."

Dowagiac coach Chuck Rubino didn't think it looked good either. "I thought it was curtains. We knew he (Arnsward) had a good headlock. Give Joe (Kehrer) credit, he could have folded early but came back and gave us a tremendous effort."

In this case, that was losing a 13-9 decision to Arnsward. The Chieftain coach questioned a referee's call at 135 pounds. Lowell's Brad Lyons earned a 7-6 win over Tony Mortimore. The winning point came on a stalling call with five seconds remaining in the match.

"I think you have to let the kids wrestle," Rubino explained. A Lowell win would have advanced the school to its first state finals. It would have also given Rivers (499-133-6) his 500th career win. Both will have to wait until at least next year.

The Red Arrows' strength up-front gave Lowell an early 16-7 lead after six matches. "After Lyons' win, I thought we were in pretty good shape," Rivers said.

Brett West, 103 pounds, pinned Ian Shields in 18 seconds, giving Lowell a 6-0 lead. After Nick West (112) lost a 6-1 decision, Dan Rottier (119) major decisioned Charley VanHusan 14-4.

Caleb O'Boyle extended Lowell's lead to 13-3 with a 7-2 overtime win against Mike Rubino.

Following Lyons' win at 135, Dowagiac rallied back into the match.

The Chieftains won three consecutive matches at 140, 145 and 152 to take a 20-16 lead.

Lowell's Steve VanLaan, 160 pounds, tied the match at 20-20 with a 17-3 major decision against Jason Hess.

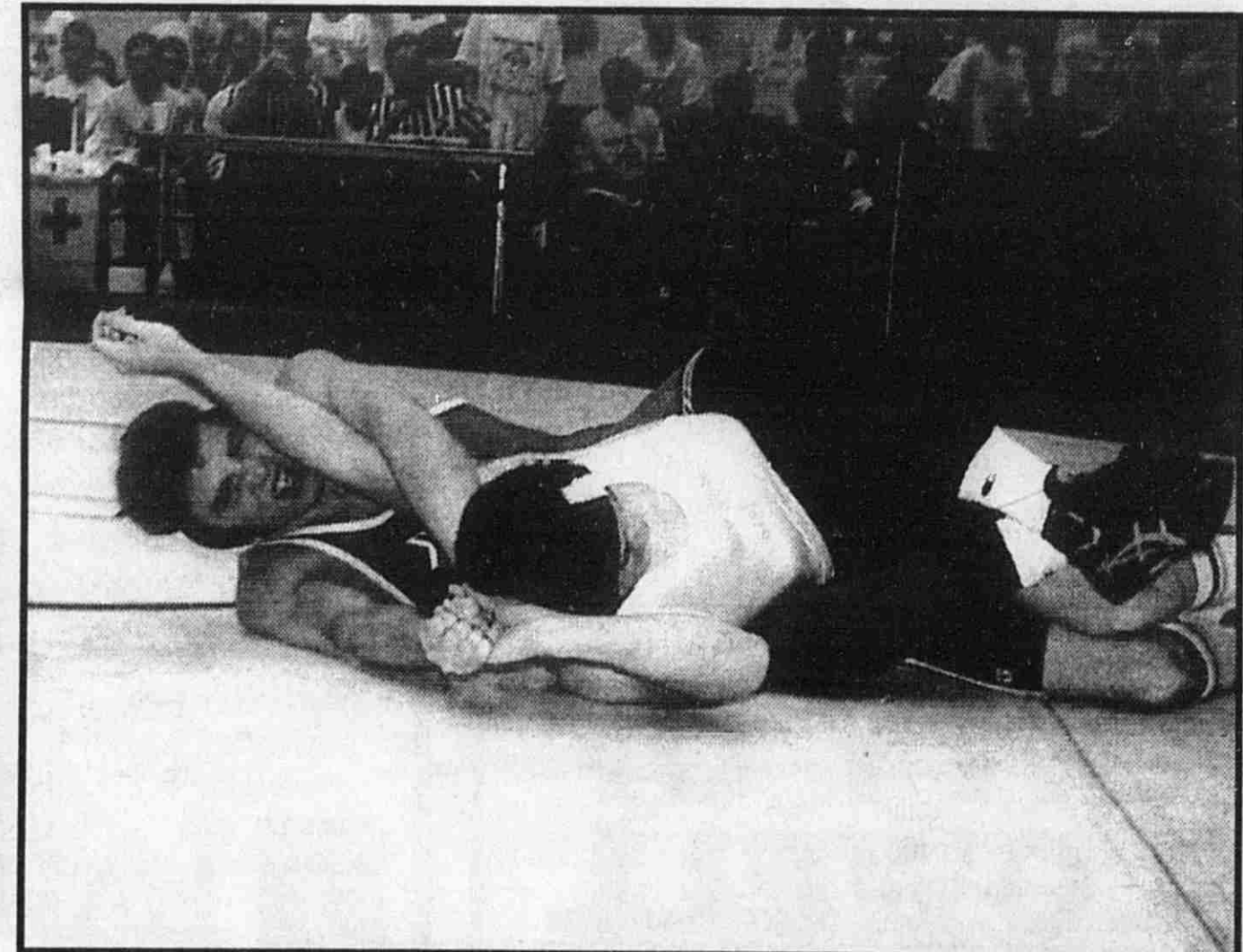
Dowagiac responded with wins at 171 and 189; included in those was a dramatic pin at 171 against Jeff Altoft.

Trailing 29-20, Bill Stouffer got Lowell to within four with a technical fall (16-1) against Jay Kehrer.

"I'm proud of these boys for advancing this far into the state tournament," Rivers said. "To have them down here in the state semifinals is an honor. We'll be back."



Lowell grappler T.J. Forward and assistant coach Dave Strejc celebrate the Red Arrow's dramatic pin at 145 pounds against Birmingham Seaholm.



Lowell's Jeff Altoft pinned his man in the Red Arrows 51-17 quarterfinal victory against Birmingham Seaholm.



There are few things grander in high school sports than the march of regional champion wrestling teams onto the floor of Battle Creek's Kellogg Center.

Lowell 51
Birmingham Seaholm 17

Lowell won seven of the final eight matches to break open a close quarterfinal match.

Of Lowell's 10 match wins, seven were by way of pin.

Earning pins were Dan Rottier, Tom Oesch, T.J. Forward, Steve Van Laan, Jeff Altoft, Bill Stouffer and Mike Arnsward.

"We won at 112 and 152 pounds. Their 112-pounder is going to state," Rivers said.

Lowell trailed 14-12 after 135 and then finished strongly for the win.

Seaholm finished its season at 27-3.

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Be sure to check out the school lunch menu in this issue!

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Your loving daughters, Betty, Mildred and Sharon.

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CARD OF THANKS

The family of Ruth Ann King wishes to thank relatives, friends and neighbors for their prayers, cards, flowers, food, visits and memorial contributions during her illness and at the time of her death. Special thanks to: Doctors Hershberger and Zakem and their staff, Visiting Nurses, neighbor ladies who spent the nights, and the staff at the Home of Hope for their care and support; the staff at Koops Funeral Home for their special attention to our needs; Pastor Gregory Freed for his uplifting message and comforting words and the men and women associated with the Elmdale Church of the Nazarene for the lovely luncheon. God gives us comfort in the form of good friends. May His peace be with you. His love never ends.

Richard King, Earl, Jamie, Jordan & Taylor King & Clara Vandeboss.

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank everyone for all of their cards, visits and acts of kindness shown to Leo Bryant and his family over the past few months. A special thanks to the nurses and staff at Laurels of Kent, Drs. Gauthier, Lang and Bish, Rev. Gordie, Senior Neighbors, Lowell Methodist Church Women, Roth-Gerst Funeral Home and friends at the Alto post office. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

Bertha Bryant & family.

Former chief of police, Hegarty, to speak at Tribute Tree reception

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Kent Intermediate School District's newest consultant will be the guest speaker at Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation Tribute Tree recognition reception. Former Grand Rapids

Police Chief William Hegarty will speak on the value of a quality educational system and the positive effects it has on a community on Thursday, March 19, at 6 p.m.

Hegarty's new position will have him working with all 32 KISD schools in devel-

oping programs to enhance youth development.

"The charge of my new position with KISD is to help school districts develop partnerships with communities, parent groups, youth and law enforcement," Hegarty said.

The former police chief said he spent a large part of his last couple of years in neighborhoods helping youth deal with violence and drugs. "The intent was to help prevent youth from killing youth."

His intense work with neighborhood kids, parents and gang leaders worked well. During this time, youth crime dropped by more than 40 percent according to Hegarty.

Hegarty's work with schools in Kent, Montcalm and Ionia counties promotes safe, drug-free schools, community programs and a fed-

eral- and state-sponsored initiative.

"Schools are doing a good job developing youths' intellectual skills, but students need development occupationally, emotionally, physically and ethically," Hegarty explained. "That's where this

partnership is needed."

Hegarty works three days a week in his new consulting position.

He applauds the joint effort of Lowell, Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids school districts and their work in pri-

vate/corporate sponsored youth development programs.

"Those are great partnerships," Hegarty said. "The KISD consulting position appealed to me because it also works to develop the youth."

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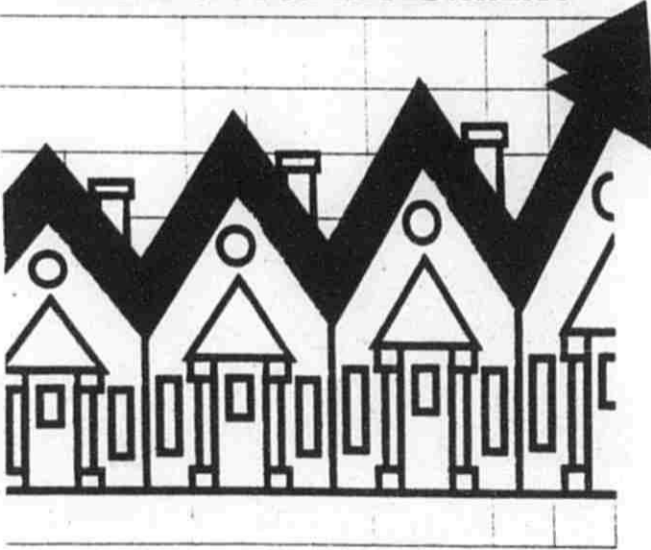
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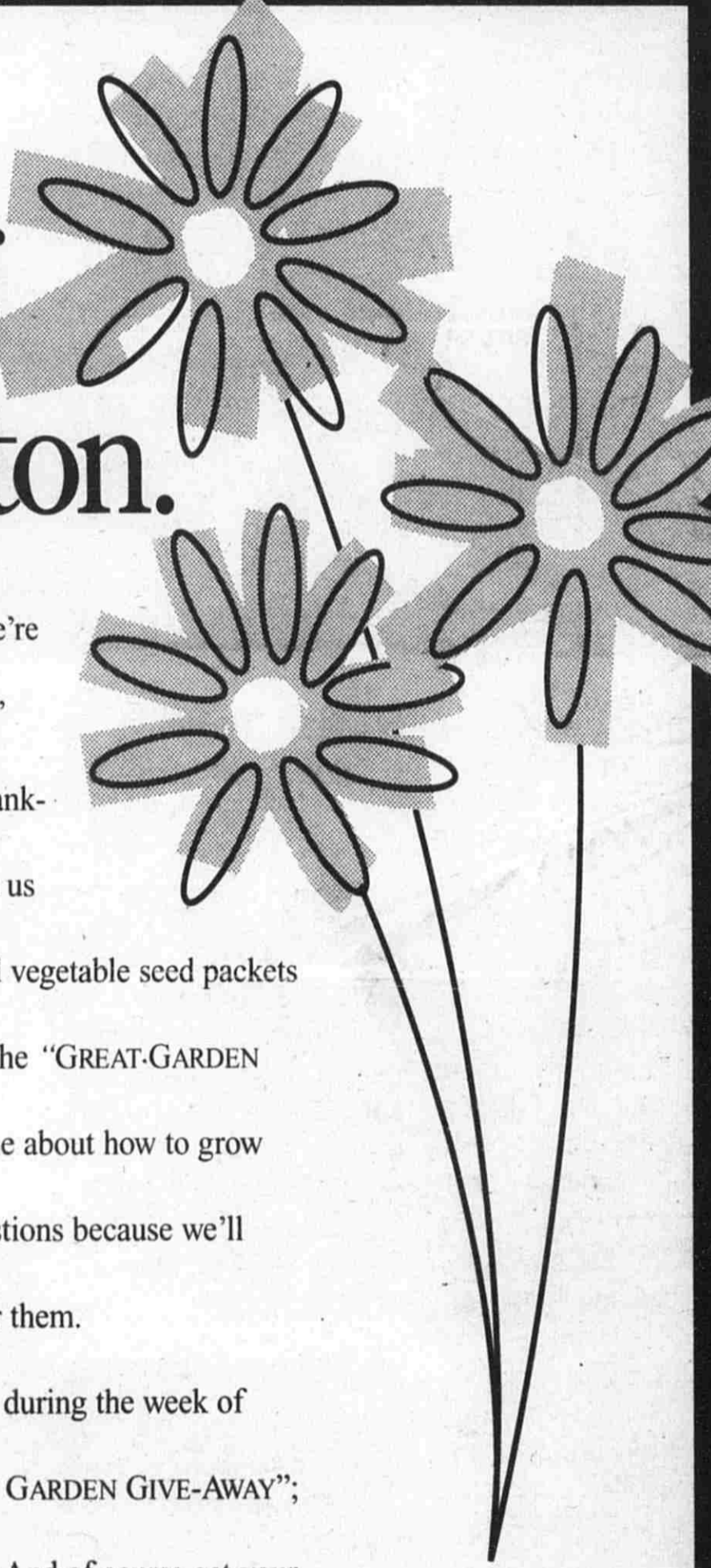
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