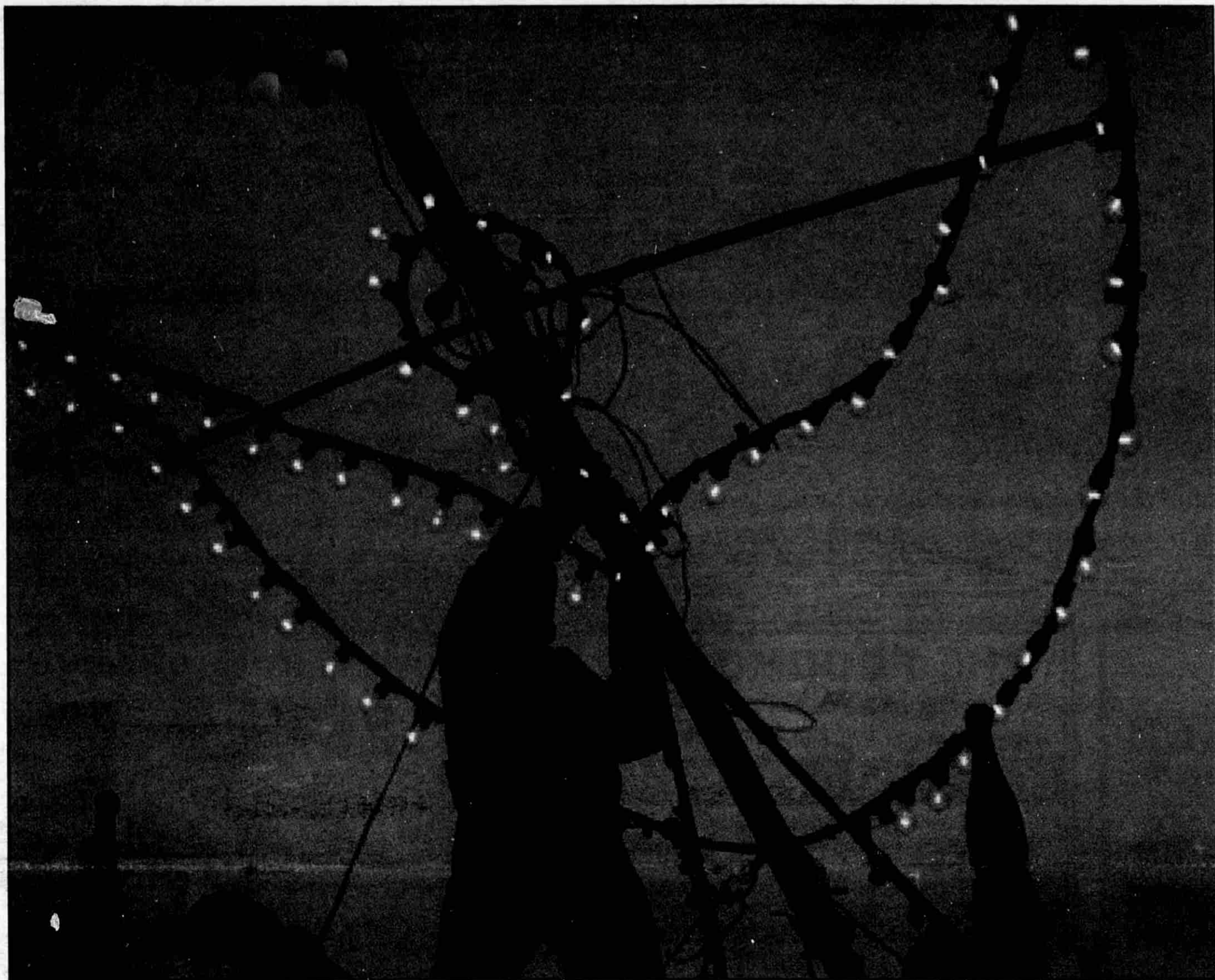


The Lowell Ledger

Volume 35 Issue 9

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, January 3, 2007



Out with the old

Ivan Blough, immediate past president of the Lowell Area Historical Museum, took down the lights on the Showboat last week. Blough has created 13 different light bulb designs which decorate the top of the Showboat for holidays. The first one for 2007 will be the heart design for Valentine's Day in February.

Area residents remember former President Gerald R. Ford

Local Boy Scouts invited to participate as motorcade proceeds toward museum

By Emma Palova

After a week of public tributes from coast to coast, former President Gerald R. Ford, 93, will be buried today on a hillside site overlooking the Ford presidential library and museum in Grand Rapids.

More than 1,000 Eagle Scouts from the Gerald R. Ford Boy Scout Council plan to line the casket's

route on Fulton Street to the museum.

Rich Riley, scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop #102, pulled his own two sons from school to participate in the funeral. Approximately a dozen other local boy scouts participated as well.

"It was an opportunity of a lifetime," he said. "It showed the boys that anything is possible. They get their Eagle, and they could be president."

Riley said it gave the boys an opportunity to show respect to Ford for what he has done for scouting.

Politically, Ford will be remembered for pardoning Richard Nixon, who resigned to avoid impeachment in 1974. Ford was the only president in U.S. history not elected.

Prior to his presidency, Ford served 26 years as a congressman from Michigan. U.S. Rep. Vern

Ehlers now occupies the congressional seat that Ford held.

"I am privileged and I have always felt a sense of honor to be serving in the same House seat that congressman Ford served," said Ehlers. "Jerry Ford personified the many good traits that West Michigan has to offer to our nation with his honesty and forthrightness."

Ford visited Lowell on

numerous occasions, both as a congressman and vice president in the late '60s and early '70s.

As a congressman, Ford rolled into Lowell with his "office on Main Street" in 1968, providing regular office hours to his constituency. He attended Showboat performances after its restoration.

As ushers during Showboat performances, Lowell residents' Ivan

and Carolyn Jane Blough, and George and Dolores Dey secured seats for Vice President Ford and his entourage.

Ford gave an Independence Day address at Fallasburg Park on July 5, 1971.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a "Progress Dinner"

Remembering Ford, cont., pg. 9

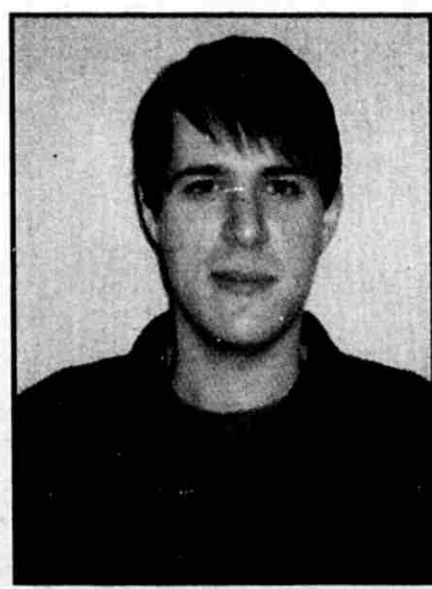
What are your New Year's Resolutions?



Jessica Barney, of Lowell, and a bank teller at Huntington Bank, would like to get her bedroom painted in 2007.



David Bulhuis, of Lowell, would like to be more helpful and caring for other people in 2007.



Don LePard, a teller at Huntington Bank, has made several resolutions: not to party anymore; to improve his apartment; and to be at work on time.



Dispatcher/police department clerk Leslie Heffron has made a resolution: to exercise more and lose weight in 2007.



Angie Carlson, a bartender at Sneaker's, has made a resolution: to drink less in 2007.



Vance Dimmick, of Lowell, does not like to make any New Year's resolutions.

Obituaries

HOSLEY
Richard E. Hosley, aged 79, of Lowell, passed away December 31, 2006. He was preceded in death by his sisters Lucille, Helen and Virginia. He is survived by his brother Fred and Anita Hosley of Lowell; several nephews and niece. Private services will be held by the family at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Holland Home.

JOURDEN
James Marvin Jourden, aged 75, passed away on Monday, December 23, 2006, at the Laurels of Kent in Lowell. He was a Korean-era veteran serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is

survived by his children Ellen Jourden, Glenda and John Klapp, Dave and Rhonda Jourden, Mike and Margaret Jourden, Rose Jourden, Doug and Anna Jourden, Raymond Jourden, Donna and Don Ritter; 13 grandchildren; brother Rev. Kenneth and Esther Jourden; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held Dec. 29 at Hessel-Cheslek Funeral Home, Sparta, with Rev. Rick Miller officiating. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to The American Cancer Society.

KIDDER
Arnold L. Kidder, aged 82, of Alto, a veteran of WWII, passed away on Friday,

December 29, 2006. Funeral services were held Tuesday at the Matthyse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Home in Caledonia. Military honors under the auspices of the Kent County Veterans Honor Guard. Interment in Alaska Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Spectrum Health Hospice.

MALONEY
Elsie Maloney, aged 93, of Lowell, passed away December 28, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband Earl in 1975 and seven brothers and seven sisters. She is survived by her son Ric (Linda) Maloney of Grand Rapids; daughter Darla Maloney of Lowell; sisters Ann Haskins of Grand Haven, Esther Staal of Lowell, Selma (Russ) Dahl of Spring Lake; many nieces and nephews. Funeral

service will be Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 11 a.m. at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Rev. Nathaniel Johnson from Vergennes United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to: American Cancer Society, 400 Ann Street, NW, Suite 202, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 or charity of one's choice.

SALISBURY
Ilene Joyce Salisbury 1939-2006, aged 67, of Grand Rapids was lovingly called to live with Christ in her new heavenly home on December 22, 2006. She was preceded in death in 1994 by her husband Robert G. Salisbury Sr. to whom she was married in 1976. Also preceding her in death were her parents George and Leona Benac of Bay City. Surviving are her

children and step-children Kristine Nelson (Wayne) of Greenville, Bradley Smith (Eleanor) of Bedford, NH, Andrea McElfresh (Ken) of Las Vegas, Robert Salisbury (Anne) of Alto, Susan Kellar (David) of Lowell, Timothy Salisbury of Grand Rapids, son-in-law Gary Liu (Sandy) of Lowell; Ronald Smith (Nancy) of Chicago who is father to Kristine, Bradley and Andrea and to whom Ilene was married from 1959-1975. Ilene had 16 grandchildren. Surviving siblings are Janet (Jack) Fredrickson of Freeland, George Benac Jr. (Ruth) of Lecanto, FL, Marilyn Rau-Cowan (Oliver, deceased) of Grand Rapids, Sharon (David) of Eagan, MN. Graduating from Handy High School in Bay City, Ilene later earned an RN degree from St. Mary's/Aquinas in 1960. For 35 years she was a caring and devoted Registered Nurse working in various hospitals in Michigan. Ilene enjoyed many hobbies and interests in her 67 years. She was a master seamstress, books filled her home and reading was a favorite pastime. She loved Christian music of all kinds. Ilene's faith in God was evident and always central to how she lived. St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids was her home church. A memorial service will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3215 Four Mile NE, Grand Rapids on Friday, Jan. 26 at 11 a.m. with a reception following.

All are invited. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice at Trillium Woods Development Office, 2100 Raybrook SE, Suite 300 Grand Rapids, MI 49546-5783.

VANPORTFLEET
Clinton L. VanPortFleet, aged 82, of Grand Rapids, went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, December 26, 2006. He was preceded in death by his brothers John Loren and Vane VanPortFleet and sister Marge Bradley. He is survived by his wife Laura of Kentwood; children Teri and Frederick Kaechele of Allegan, Bill and Sue VanPortFleet of Kentwood, David and Debra VanPortFleet of Kentwood, Patti and Matthew Kleeves of Evert, Mark and Dawn VanPortFleet of Dimondale; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Helen Dykema of California, Lois and Jim Hale of Grand Rapids, Margaret VanPortFleet of Walker, Donald and Tina Den Braber of Alto; many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Saturday at the Matthyse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Home in Kentwood with Pastor Wayne Kiel officiating. Military honors under the auspices of the Kent County Veterans Honor Guard. Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association or a charity of one's choice.

The pat on the back, the arm around the shoulder, the praise for what was done right and the sympathetic nod for what wasn't are as much a part of golf as life itself.

- Gerald R. Ford

**NOTICE
LOWELL CHARTER
TOWNSHIP**

Lowell Township is seeking applications for the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Board of Review and Park Committee. Applications should be received by Thursday, January 11, 2007.

Application forms may be obtained at the Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 897-7600.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

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Free trees available

Anyone from Michigan who joins the National Arbor Day Foundation during January will receive 10 free flowering trees.

The trees (dogwoods, crabapples, hawthorns, redbuds and goldenrain trees) will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between Feb. 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bi-monthly publication, "Arbor Day" and "The Tree Book" with information about tree planting and care.

To become a member and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Flowering Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410 by Jan. 31 or go online to arborday.org.

The Lowell Ledger
(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for 17th year in Kent County, 26th year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

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(616) 897-9261
E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI
Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Do you know the pilot?



Help! Call the Ledger 897-9261 with any info regarding this old photo from the 1920's or 1930's. The smiling man in the back seat is C.H. Runciman. The plane, pilot, date and place are a mystery. "Runcie" gifted to the city a large portion of the land which is now the Lowell airport. It would be a good guess that this photo was taken at that site. We have also been told that Runciman sometimes hired a plane and pilot to scout area bean crops for his business. Judging from the grin, Runcie might just be out for a good time.

Free smoking cessation classes offered in Lowell

For people trying to quit smoking, Tobacco Free Partners offers free smoking cessation classes throughout Kent County and there's one scheduled for Lowell starting Jan. 10. These group sessions will meet for six weeks on Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. Topics include: Developing your personal Quit Plan; reviewing medications and nicotine replacement therapies; understanding withdrawal symptoms; coping with stress; managing weight control and fitness; and preventing relapses. The classes, held at Metro Health Plaza, 2550 W. Main, are sponsored by Lowell Family Medical Center and Priority Health. To register call 616-975-0123 or go to www.tobaccofreepartners.org and click on classes.

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), participating in an educational program can increase your chances of quitting by 70 percent. The facilitator for the Lowell class is Jodie Seese, with Health & Safety Associates. Seese is a nationally certified tobacco addiction specialist and has been involved in cessation programs for eight years.

"It's important for people to understand that quitting is a process, a transition. It's a learning experience and it's highly individualized. Every smoker is a little different and what worked for your neighbor or a co-worker may not be right for you. The benefit of a class is that you determine your own Quit Plan based on your smoking patterns and previous quit attempts. You also have the support of everyone in that class which participants cite as a tremendous value to the them."

The pressure is on smokers as new policies at work places go into effect on Jan. 1. Altico and the three metropolitan Grand Rapids hospitals are examples of employers implementing restrictions regarding smoking on company property. Many people use New Year's resolutions as a motivation for quitting, but that can backfire. If you haven't taken the time to learn about your addiction and jump in unprepared, it can be very difficult and unsuccessful.

Seese recommends, "Instead of saying, 'I'm going to quit for the New Year,' why not commit to exploring how you can quit, and a class is a great step in that direction."

Other examples of researching how to quit would be consulting your physician or your health plan for new programs and medications. Seese also recommends the "Become an Ex" program developed by the American Legacy Foundation and the Mayo Clinic. It offers a free step-by-step quit manual as a learning tool and includes online coaching and phone counseling. Call 1-800-QUIT NOW or go to BecomeAnEx.org for more information.

"I tell people, 'Now is a great time to be a smoker.' You have more resources, more options and more information than you've ever had. There's new medication, community support programs and a free class right here in Lowell. Stay positive and stay focused. You can do it."

THANK YOU
From Roanoke Ranch For Kids

Well, the year is almost over! Where has it gone? We, at the ranch, would like to thank the people of our community for their support. We had a wonderful year at the ranch. United Methodist Community Housing and Campfire USA joined us this summer for a six-week program to learn about country life and horses. We had a benefit that really touched a lot of families lives. And on December 16, we had a Christmas party for 20 kids. They rode horses, played games and went on a wagon ride. Backwater Cafe then donated the restaurant providing us the opportunity to feed the children a home cooked meal. Santa Claus had gifts for each child.

Without your support we could not have made this happen. So from the bottom of our hearts and the children's - thank you. We look forward to working with all of you next year.

God Bless,
Roanoke Ranch for Kids

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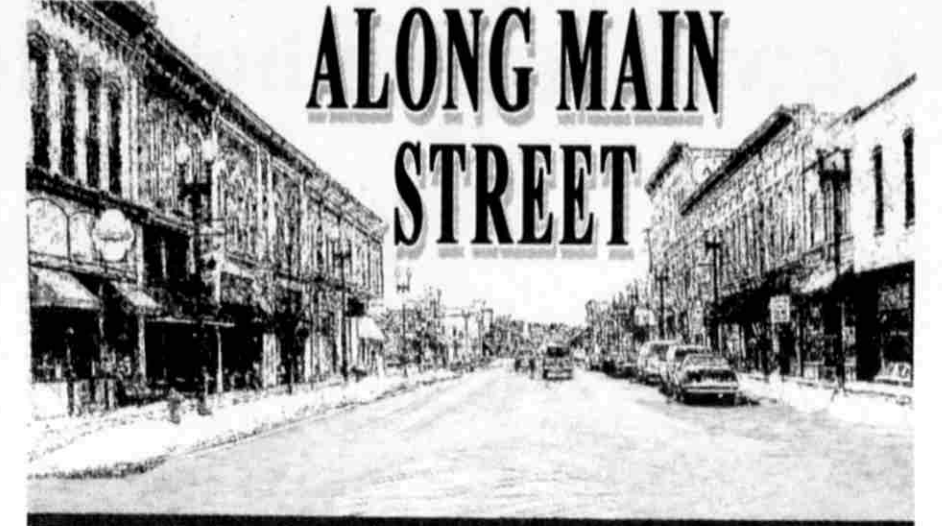
\$5.75 Adults Evening
\$4.75 Students, Late Show, and Adults Until 9 PM
\$3.75 Kids, Seniors, & ALL SHOWS 4-6 PM

Students 2 For 1 Ticket Tuesday

No passes Free drink refills & 25¢ corn refills
SHOWTIMES VALID 1/1 - 1/4

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG)
11:30, 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 9:00
ROCKY BALBOA (PG)
12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:45, 9:15
ERAGON (PG)
12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:45
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G)
11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
(PG-13) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25

COUPON FREE
20oz DRINK
with \$2.00 purchase
of 46oz bag of battery powered
vacuum cleaner. Exp. 1/16/07. 13



ALONG MAIN STREET

CHESS SETS NEEDED
Lowell Middle School is starting a chess club. If you have a used chess set in good condition that you could donate, phone 897-7808.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT
Ann Dimmick, of Lowell, has a photography exhibit on display at Huntington Galleria through Jan. 30 during regular business hours.

YOUTH HOCKEY NIGHT
The Lowell/Caledonia Hockey Program is hosting a Youth Night Saturday, Jan. 6 at the 8 p.m. game vs. South Christian at Patterson Ice Arena. All youth hockey players in the Lowell and Caledonia school districts will get in free with their jersey and be introduced during the game intermission. Call 897-5068 for more information.

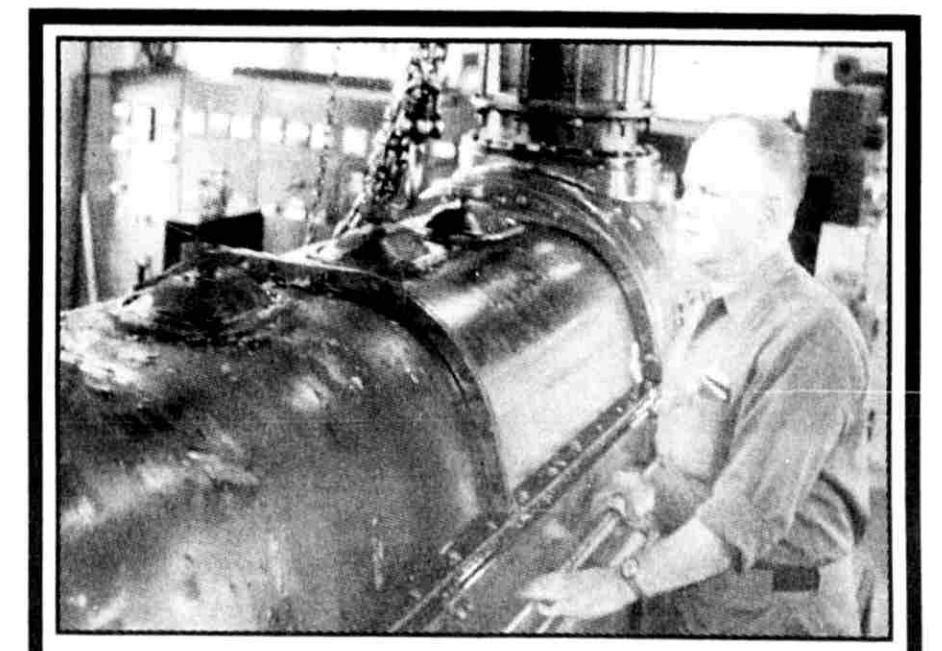
HOCKEY POP CAN DRIVE
Lowell/Caledonia Hockey Fundraising Pop Can Drive is Saturday, Jan. 6 starting at 10 a.m. If we don't make it to your front door please come to Meijer between 10 a.m. and noon and drop them off to us!

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT
Juniors and seniors and their parents will be guided through the process of filing for and receiving financial assistance by Jo Ann Litton from Grand Valley State U. on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Call 987-2908 for more information.

LUMINARY WALK
The Wittenbach/ Wege Center will have a luminary walk with special events at the cabin from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13. Donations: \$5 individual; \$10 family. Refreshments. Call Ranger Steve 987-1002 with questions.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING
The Wittenbach/Wege Center will have its Christmas tree recycling on Jan. 13 from 2-5 p.m. Suggested donation of \$5 per tree to support LAS Environmental Club and WWC programs. Make checks payable to Lowell Area Schools, attn: WWC.

UKRAINIAN EGG DECORATING WORKSHOP
The Lowell Area Historical Museum will be hosting a Ukrainian egg decorating workshop for adults, taught by Linda Busman. Learn this ancient folk art as you create your own Ukrainian egg Jan. 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Lowell Township Hall. Cost: \$20. Call Linda Barnes at the museum to register: 897-7688. Deadline: Jan. 16.



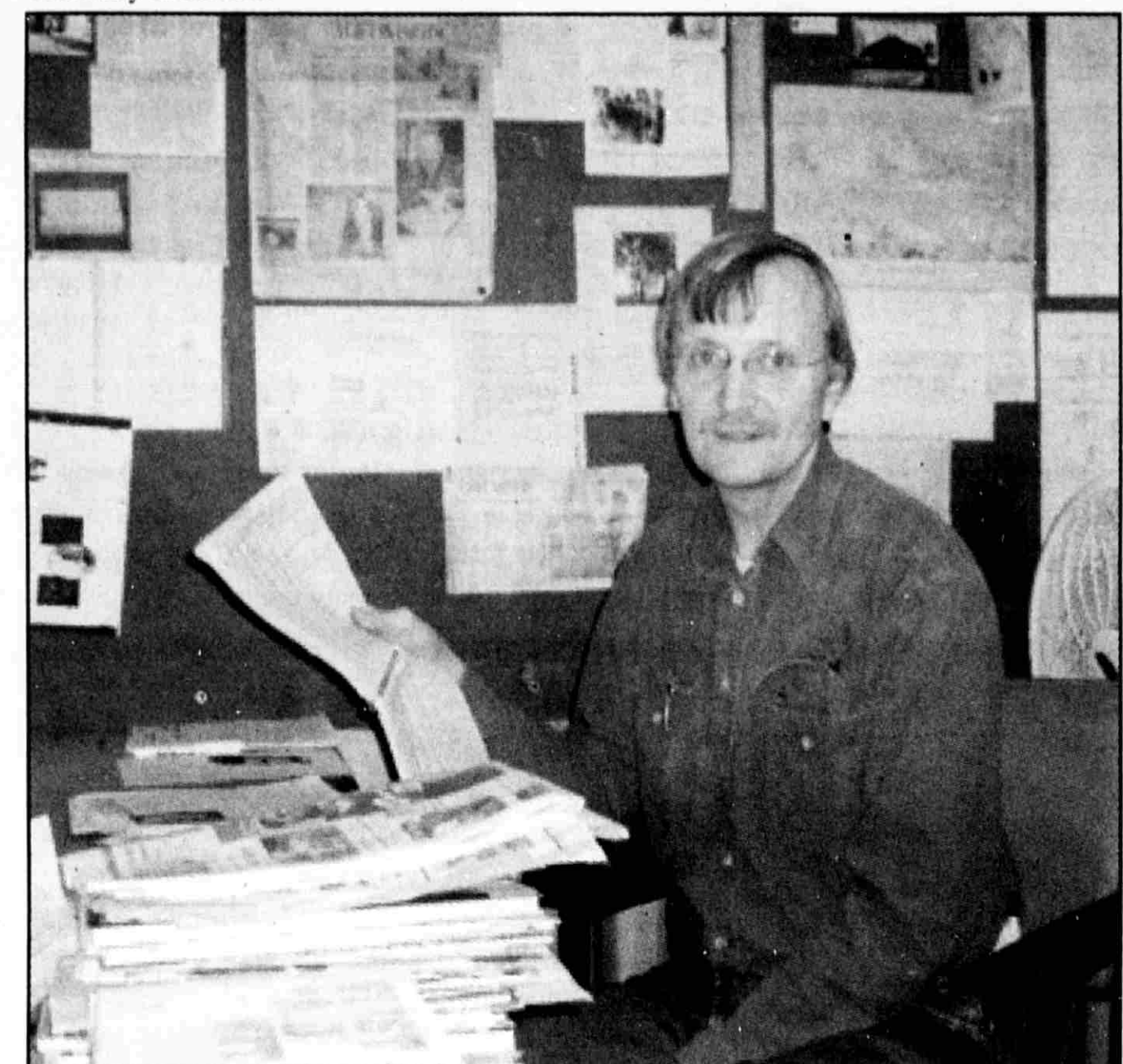
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and operated electric utility.

Lowell
Light & Power

Lowell sexton hopes to create historical walking tour of cemetery

By Emma Palova

A cowboy poet, a photographer, a philanthropist, an author and the founding father of Saranac all rest at Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell.



Oakwood Cemetery sexton Don DeJong has discovered many interesting stories from researching cemetery records.

English, Avery, Hooker and Peckham will trigger memories and come alive in the guide.

DeJong thought of the idea while updating the cemetery records' database for the city over the last two years. "It's wonderful to fill in the blanks," he said, "to provide the city with accurate records."

In the process of updating records and researching obituaries from the Lowell newspapers, DeJong found heart-warming stories ... not just names. Even though not all of the stories tell tales of fame and valor, many are interesting, according to DeJong.

For example, take the stories of two sensational murders that occurred to two individuals buried in Oakwood Cemetery. One was officer Charles Knapp; while trying to stop bank robbers, he was shot off his motorcycle. The other was 21-year-old Stanley Moore, a student who was murdered in Colorado by a gangster who had given him a ride.

The headstone of photographer Norton Avery has an engraving of an old-fashioned camera. He and his son Keith contributed to visual arts, writing and publishing.

Norton Avery's photo of a wrinkled old transient in the Lansing area received national attention.

"I am amazed at the stories I've read in the Lowell newspaper, in the obituaries," DeJong said. "I've read in an obituary what it was like to have had to bury a number of children before the parents died."

DeJong has written a series of articles titled, "Anything interesting in a cemetery?" for the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Other interesting personalities at Oakwood Cemetery include the Hooker family from Saranac. John Hooker, one of the early settlers in the area, built the first wood-framed house.

DeJong enjoys helping people locate where their loved ones are buried. There are more than 5,000 people buried in the 1873 cemetery located on North Washington St.

"It is a tedious task to keep the records organized," he said.

DeJong's historical walk and brochure will profile businessmen, earliest settlers, civil war and other veterans.

The sexton's collection of old articles includes a letter from N.B. Blain, a pioneer Lowellian. In the letter, Blain included one dollar for a one-year subscription to the "highly-prized" Lowell newspaper.

Oakwood Cemetery is also the final resting place for author Howard Peckham; he wrote many historical books.

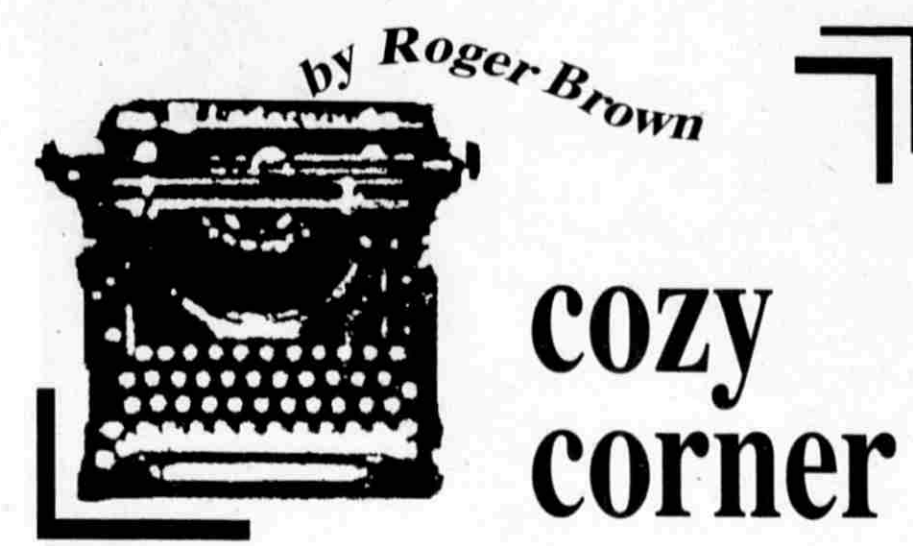
In designing the walking tour, DeJong was inspired by the walking tour of Silverbrook Cemetery in Niles, Mich.

The tour will offer a glimpse into the past and an appreciation of the people who helped build Lowell, according to DeJong.

He also hopes to use the historical self-guided tour as promotional material for Lowell.

Once completed, the cemetery guide, now only in conceptual stages, will be available at City Hall, the Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Viewpoint



As we slide on into a new year, like every other writer tasked with filling space in a publication, my thoughts turn to the events of the previous year. I guess that's because there hasn't been enough of the New Year to comment upon. Duh?

As I looked back, par for the course, there was a lot of good news, and a lot of bad news in 2006. I'm talkin' world events right on down to whatever happened to rain on me. Let's see how some of this stuff works in the old "bad news ... good news ... joke format?"

The bad news is ... The Lions managed to beat the playoff-bound Cowboys, on the road, in the last game of the season. The surprise win dashed the team's shot at the number one pick in this year's draft. The good news is ... Brady Quinn, the Notre Dame quarterback and pre-eminent choice as the number one pick, probably gained a reprieve from becoming another Joey Harrington. Now Matt Million is free to select yet another deceptively slow wide receiver as the Lions' first pick.

The bad news is ... I was selected from a gaggle of traffic in Atlanta last week. When the cop asked me why I was speeding, I told him the truth. "Just running with the traffic," I said. "Any slower and you're a speed bump," I added. The good news is ... When he handed me the ticket for the full amount over the limit, I was able to stifle myself and not tell him what I thought of his cheesy porn-star mustache and traffic cops in general.

The bad news is ... Michigan voters returned Jennifer Granholm to the governor's office. The good news is ... Michigan voters didn't send Dick DeVos to the governor's

office. Where's a guy like good old Soapy Williams when you need one?

The bad news is ... My old biplane is scattered about the hangar in a million pieces. During a recent annual inspection, cracks were found in the rear spar of the center section between the upper wing panels. A major repair is in progress. The good news is ... The biplane isn't scattered around the countryside in a million pieces. If the center section goes, the entire airframe folds up, with me in it.

The bad news is ... Nothing seems to change much on the Iraq front. The good news is ... Our old pal Saddam Hussein ended the year by assuming room temperature. It seems to me an Iraqi lynch mob could have saved us all a lot of grief if they had done the same thing a few years ago.

The bad news is ... Terese and I had to spend a good deal of time, effort and money to recover from Hurricane Wilma. The hurricane happened late in 2005, but our recovery lasted well into 2006. In fact, I'm still replacing lost power tools and things like that, as I need them. The good news is ... The so-called experts don't seem to have a clue. The forecasts of increased hurricane activity in 2006 were completely wrong.

The bad news is ... We lost Max, our faithful dog of 14 years. The good news is ... We have a new dog. Mick, an eight-month-old Aussie, has completely stolen our hearts. Some day we may have to think about obedience training. For now, we're just letting him work his magic on us.

The bad news is ... Television programming has gotten even worse. I know that doesn't seem possible, but it's true! The good news is ... I've been forced to boycott the tube, save for a few sporting events and occasional programs on the History Channel. Even if I'm only working a crossword puzzle, it's better than watching TV.

The bad news is ... The Detroit Tigers lost the World Series. The good news is ... We're all looking forward to April and the season opener. That's a switch.

The bad news is ... Today is a busy workday for me. I'm running late and need to cut this off a little short of my usual column length. The good news (for you readers) is ... Today is a busy workday for me. I'm running late and need to cut this off a little short of my usual column length. Seriously, here's wishing you all a Happy New Year!

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

A look into the future!!! Ahhh!! This Michigan weather is wonderful. Standing here atop Devil's Peak I can see forever, the flat winding north like a giant "rattler", the peacocks at the Hendrick's farm on the other side once "yellin" help, help, help. Remembering as a child the fear trembling in my small "knobby" legs as I followed the path to the top, along the very edge of the world. How exhilarating for a young boy!! My God, what is that I hear?? It ... it ... sounds like my favorite woodpecker, the pileated. Ahhh, but no, it's not the pileated ... not more than 600 yards from where I stand they're building a car wash for those living in the condos on each of the old 4 hills toboggan run. It once was great fun as a kid!

I understand they are calling it "the new stacked city." Look at all of the trees cleared to make way for this fiasco; it's similar to all the black walnuts cut to death at the cemetery or those downed along N. Washington and Boves Rd. It's as if the city council does not understand the many important reasons for a tree's existence. I am so very sorry to learn that the boy scouts, after nearly 65 years of great outdoor adventures, have been relocated much like our American Indians; they now reside at the old King building where they teach canoe-making in the old pool, or is that gone too?

Have you seen the giant billboard at the corner of N. Washington and E. Main? It reaches to the clouds. I notice that "Ye olde asparagus patch," 50 years in the making, has been earmarked for the "Happy Swing" golf course. The small island my brother and I fished from as young boys is slated for a big, big marina with club passes. What have we come to? It is so very hard to swallow what so very few are in control of. Our future pleasures. Shame, shame, shame, it's always about \$\$\$.

David Davis,
Lowell

Dear Editor,

Our community should be thanking their lucky stars for the William Schreur family. If you appreciate a neighbor who is caring, kind, responsible, and knows what's good for the beauty and overall environmental health and quality of the Greater Lowell area, they are second to none. Bill Schreur and his family have been foresight and are such wonderful guardians of the land.

To those it may concern, no, I was not solicited by anyone to write this. It comes strictly from the heart. Thank you Bill Schreur, for all of the considerable contributions I realize that you have made in Vergennes Township that we all enjoy.

Sincerely,
Martha Bultema

To the Editor,

A number of articles have been written in Michigan to inform the public of the large number of homes on the market at bargain prices, informing the first time home buyer that now is the time to get a great deal.

One factor not mentioned is the importance of having a realtor working for the buyer or Buyers Agency.

Most consumers don't know they aren't being represented when they are buying a home.

Buyer's Agency is rather new to Michigan and many realtors don't understand the concept or steer from it to remain as Sellers Agents.

To define the differences of the two, to be a Buyers Agent, a realtor and their broker are under a contract to represent a buyer during the entire transaction of purchasing a home.

Seller's agency is where the realtor is working for the seller.

In the state of Michigan, all realtors work for the seller even when the home is listed through another real estate broker, unless a contract exists with the buyer that establishes a Buyer's Agency.

To The Editor, cont'd., pg. 10

Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

WHEN INVESTING, LOOK PAST "OUTLOOK" FOR 2007

It's time for all the financial experts to make their predictions for 2007. Some will say the stock market will keep rising over the next year, while others will claim the market will fall. How about interest rates, inflation, oil prices and any number of other factors? With very little effort, you can find conflicting opinions on all these subjects. How can you base your investment strategies on such an uncertain forecast?

You can't - and you shouldn't.

In fact, you'll be better off if you stop asking questions that have no answers. No one can really tell you where the Dow Jones Industrial Average will be in 12 months, nor the price of a barrel of oil, nor the interest rate on a 10-year Treasury note. Even more importantly, the specifics

of the financial markets over the next year are just about meaningless to you if you will be investing for another two or three decades.

Consequently, instead of pondering what lies ahead for the financial markets, ask yourself these questions:

- Is my asset allocation suitable for my risk tolerance? You'll need to periodically review your portfolio to make sure your investment mix is still appropriate for your individual needs. You don't want to take on too much risk, but, at the same time, you don't want to invest so conservatively that you can't attain the growth you need. And, over time, some of your goals may change, along with your family situation, so you'll want to make sure your investments reflect your new circumstances.

- Do I need to upgrade the quality of my investments? Year in and year out, through market volatility and political turmoil, quality investments never go out of style. Take a close look at your holdings. Do you own stocks of companies with strong management teams and competitive products? Have your bonds received high "grades" from the independent rating agencies? In any given time period, the highest rated investments may not offer the best returns, but, over the long haul, they are likely to provide you with the greatest potential for rewards.

- Can I reduce my investment expenses and taxes? Most

people don't realize just how much expenses and taxes can eat into investment returns. By buying quality investments, and holding them for the long term, you can help reduce transaction costs. And you can gain greater control of your tax situation by focusing on tax-advantaged vehicles, such as your 401(k), Roth or traditional IRA, fixed annuities and some types of municipal bonds.

- Do I own investments that can offer the potential for both reliable and rising income during retirement? This question is especially applicable if you are closing in on retirement. To supplement your Social Security and the distributions from your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, you will need to count on income from your investment portfolio. To maintain a steady source of income that can also keep you ahead of inflation, you may want to explore a mixture of fixed-income vehicles and dividend-paying stocks. Keep in mind, though, that dividends can be increased, decreased or totally eliminated at any point without notice.

You can't predict shifting political winds, geopolitical unrest, new tax legislation and the fortunes of specific industries. But by following the steps outlined above, you can quit looking for a crystal ball - because you won't need it.

Ledger Entries

of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago

By Priscilla Lussmyer



125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
JANUARY 4, 1882 THIS ISSUE IS MISSING.

100 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER JANUARY 3, 1907
The last sugar beet producers in Michigan are pulling out; the beets don't pay their costs any more. There were 38 post office burglaries in Michigan last year; the thieves netted \$3,718.

The Ledger editor agrees with Pres. Roosevelt that a third term is unnecessary. The Class of 1904 has a reunion at the Central building; 15 of the 23 are present.

75 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO

DECEMBER 31, 1931

Renis Doyle, treasurer of King Milling Co., has been unconscious for a week following being hit by a car while crossing Main Street.

Milton Barnes of Grattan trapped a big badger last week. They are rare in this area.

Lowell schoolgirls will present an operetta, "Penny Buns and Roses" in City Hall Jan. 12, admission 25¢, proceeds for charity.

The Welfare Union distributes toys, refurbished by various local groups, to 75 needy families.

50 YEARS
THE LOWELL LEDGER
JANUARY 3, 1957

Lowell has a 7 percent increase in businesses the past nine years; Ada, a whopping 30 percent.

There's no competition for this year's village elections, and apparently nobody wants to be assessor. However, two, three and four candidates vie for supervisor in Vergennes, Ada and Cascade townships.

Arnold Wittenbach switches to bulk milk tank trucks; no more five-gallon cans to lift in the daily pickup.

25 YEARS
THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
DECEMBER 30, 1981

This is a 24-page issue, combining Dec. 24 and this week and reviewing 1981, month by month.

The Snowmobile Club reviews a full year of parties, dances and hayrides, and some snowmobiling.

The syndicated "House Call" column suggests slimming down before the holidays instead of having to afterward.

The new ice-skating rink at Richards Park is pictured.

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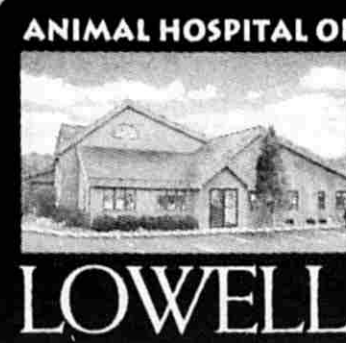
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Weddings

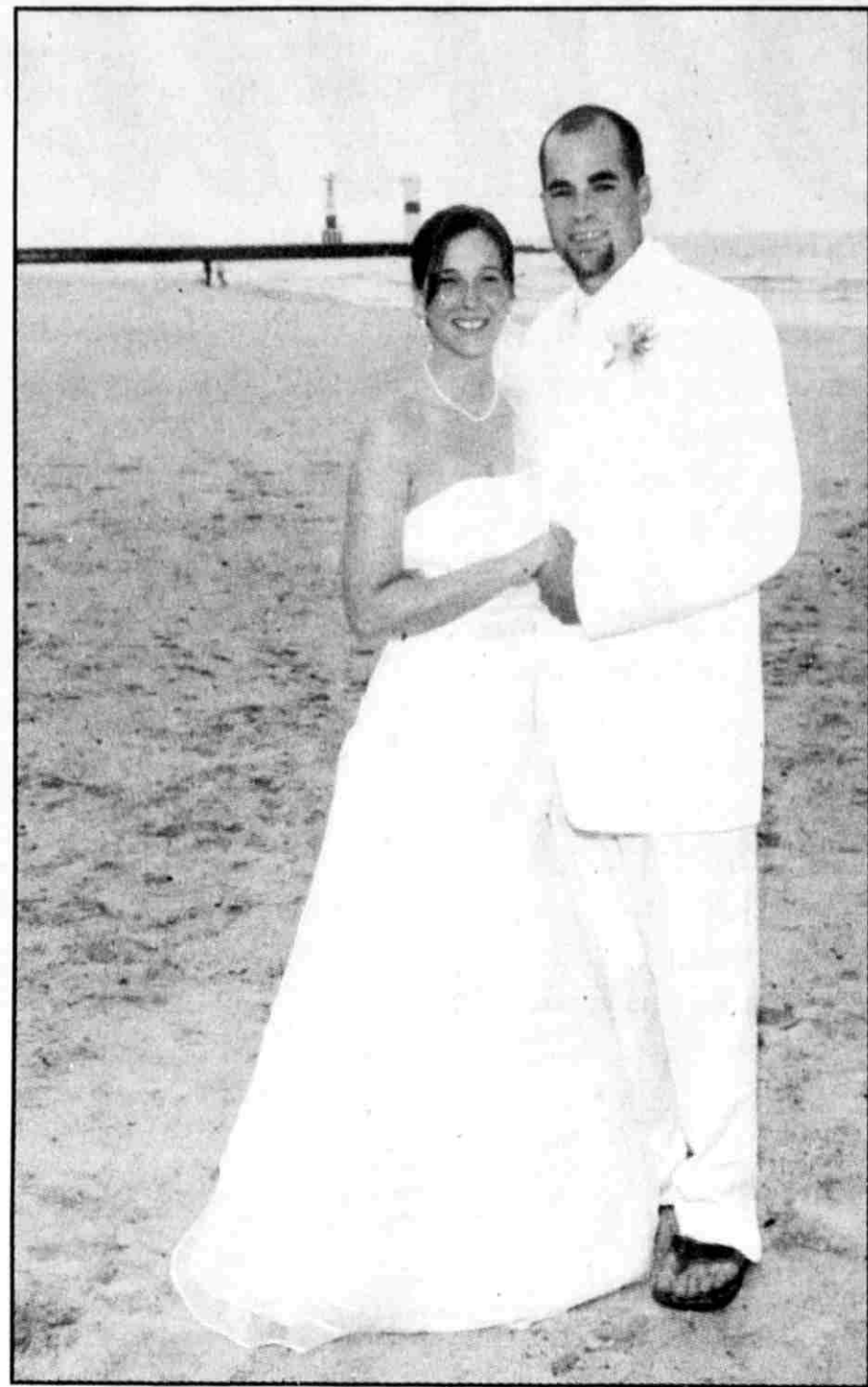
DeVries/Heinicke



Mr. and Mrs. Michael DeVries

First United Methodist Church in Stevensville was the setting for the November 11, 2006, wedding of Rachel Nicole Heinicke and Michael George DeVries. Officiating the ceremony was Rev. Gordie Barry. Parents of the couple are Susan and Daniel Heinicke, and Doreen and Doug DeVries. Grandparents are Carole and George Anderson, Marty Chrisman and Dee DeVries. The couple graduated from Lowell High School in 2003 and currently reside in Saranac.

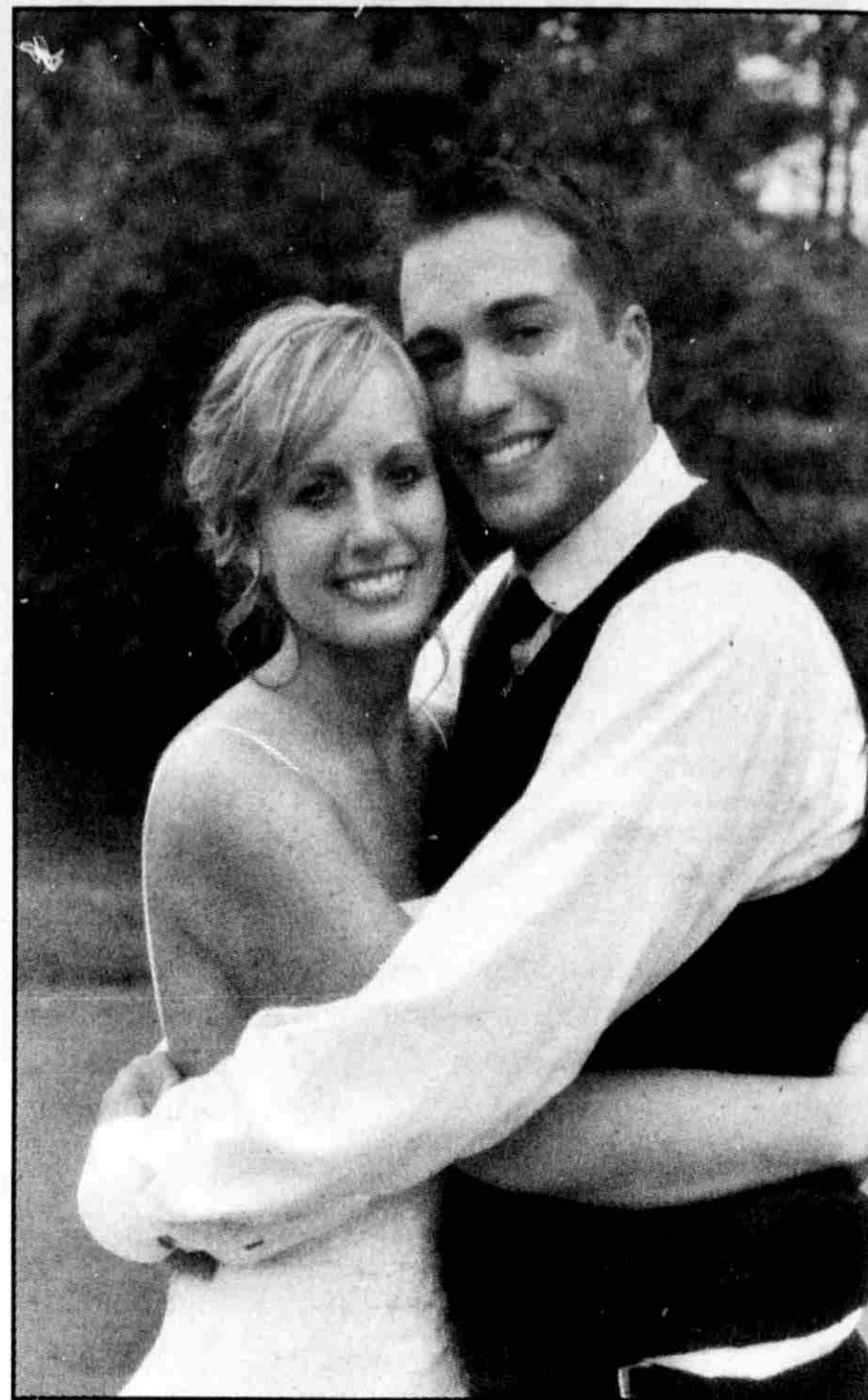
Junglas/Wierenga



Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Junglas

The September 23, 2006, wedding of Elizabeth Wierenga and Kenneth Junglas took place at Pentwater. Parents of the couple are Bill and Joanne Wierenga and Ken and Kathy Junglas. Maid of honor was Shelly Staal. Bridesmaids were Erin Koevers, Jessica Curtis, Amber Metternick, Amanda Fetterhoff and Lisa Shaffer. Best man was Ryan Junglas. Groomsmen were Adam Eggerding, Mike Rekeny, Denny Snuffer, Jaime Shaffer and Jesse Shaffer. Usher was Greg Wierenga. Master and mistress of ceremonies were Brian and Tish Wierenga.

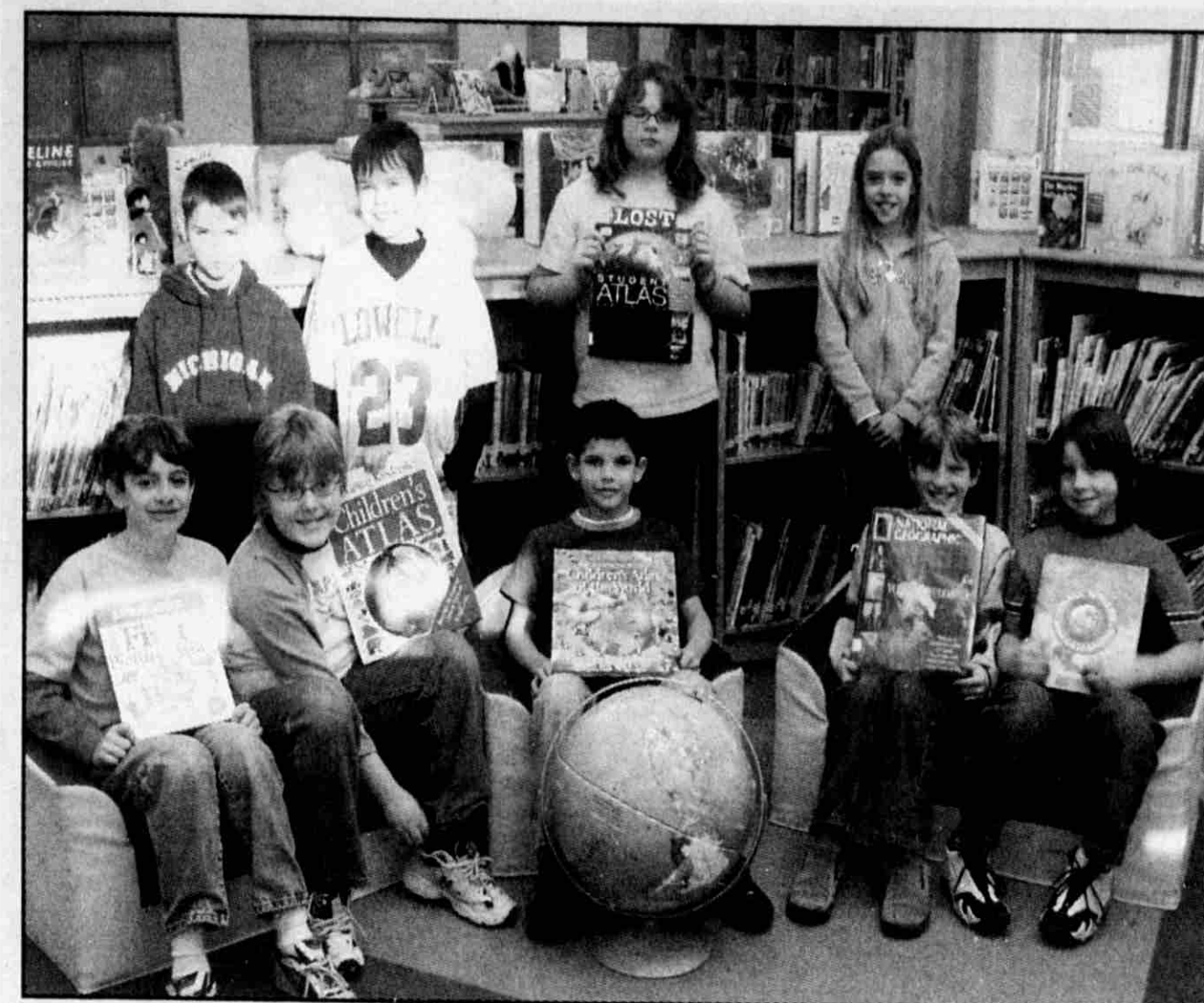
Glupker/Boersma



Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Glupker

Ada Christian Reformed Church was the setting for the August 26, 2006 wedding of Lynn Boersma and Aaron Glupker. Parents of the couple are Tom and Jo Boersma and Phil and Karen Glupker. Maid of honor was Missy Boersma. Bridesmaids were Andrea Bekkering, Jennifer Kitchen, Brooke Young and Cori Marshall. Flower girls were Renee Marshall, Kyra Marshall and Addison Ruiter. Best man was Josh Mills. Groomsmen were Troy Zeil, Chris Glupker, Josh Glupker and Ryan Boersma. Usher was Jamie Reno. Master and mistress of ceremonies were Chris and Beth Ruiter.

Murray Lake Geography Bee finalists



There were 10 finalists who participated in Murray Lake Elementary's 2006 Geography Bee. Todd Hovey won the bee by answering "Greece" to the question, "Mount Olympus, reaching an elevation of 9,750 feet, is the highest point in which European country?" Zeth Dean was the runner-up. Seated are Jackson Simmons, Caleb Flentje, Zeth Dean, Todd Hovey and Jay Clark; standing are Ben Bogaard, Ryan Walters, Jessica Johnson, Rachael Walters. Not available for picture is Jonathon Roberts.

HEALTH

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE

Peripheral Artery disease is a condition which involves narrowing of the arteries that supply the legs and arms. Fatty deposits build up along the walls of the arteries, impeding blood flow. Over time, the blood flow to the legs and feet can be severely affected.

Symptoms of peripheral artery disease include cramping and pain in the legs when walking. The pain usually resolves when you stop walking. Often, the feet or toes will feel cold and there may be discoloration of the skin. Ulcers may appear on the toes.

The most common cause of peripheral artery disease is smoking. Smoking causes vasoconstriction of the small blood vessels further inhibiting blood flow. Anyone diagnosed with peripheral artery disease must stop smoking immediately. Diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol are also important causes of peripheral artery disease.

Your doctor diagnoses peripheral artery disease by examining your pulses in the legs and feet. A doppler examination can measure the amount of blood flowing to the extremities. Sometimes an angiogram (an x-ray picture taken after injecting dye) is performed.

Treatment of peripheral artery disease consists of smoking cessation, exercise, medication to control high blood pressure and cholesterol, blood thinners, and other medications to improve blood flow in narrowed arteries. Sometimes surgery is performed to bypass or stint critical areas of narrowing.

Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



AREA REPS NEEDED

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE) is looking for volunteers to serve as Area Representatives in our community. ASSE provides academic year, semester and short-term exchange programs in the United States for 15-18 year-old students from around the world.

Area reps recruit and screen prospective host families, interview students to study abroad, and supervise the visiting exchange students in their community. They are reimbursed for their expenses and are provided with some travel opportunities.

For more information call Pat Juhl at 262-781-4811 or 1-800-677-2773.

HOST FAMILY NEEDED

Michael, 17, is a German exchange student who needs a host family for the second semester of high school. He has above average grades and speaks English well. Michael likes sports and bike riding. As a host family, you will be responsible for board, room and guidance. He has his own spending money and medical insurance. After school ends in June, he will return to Germany.

Call Pat at 1-800-382-7439 if you are interested in being a host.



In The Service

Army Pvt. Patrick L. Zanella has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During his nine weeks of training, Zanella studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat,

map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises. Zanella, a 1999 graduate of Lowell High School, is the son of Gwen Zanella of Lowell.



LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of Jan. 8, 2007

MON: Bosco sticks w/ pizza sauce (3 meat sub also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), broccoli, assorted fruit, milk.

TUES: Deluxe nachos w/meat, cheese, lettuce (ham & cheese sub/lettuce also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), fresh fruit/apple juice, animal crackers, milk.

WED: Cheese pizza (BBQ rib on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, milk.

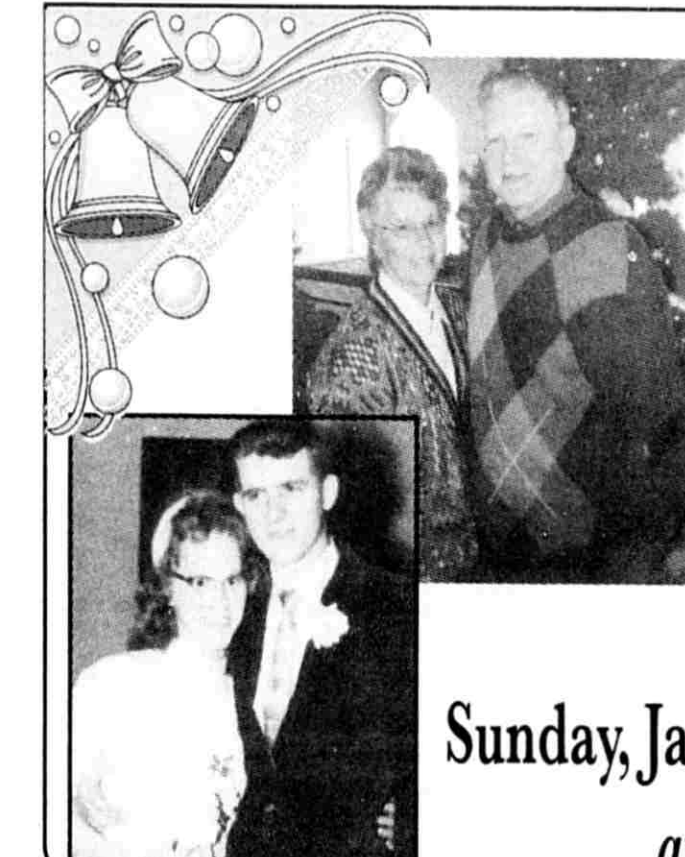
THURS: Chicken nuggets & homemade dinner roll (turkey & cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), oven potatoes, peas/assorted fruit, milk.

FRI: Hot dog on bun (Danimals yogurt & string cheese w/honey wheat pretzel twist also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), peas, assorted fruit, milk.

Happy Birthday

- JAN. 4: Donna Johnson, Nicholas Knonenwetter, Ruth Wood.
- JAN. 5: Ryan Sauber, Craig Carpenter, Pauline LaDue, Genie Southwick, Jody Ann Young.
- JAN. 6: Don Green, Mary Ellen Miller, Bob Kinsley, Bobbi Jo Young, Terri Stuckey, Norann DeLoof.
- JAN. 7: Lois Seese, Helga Wester, Bob Leyman, Karen Cummings, Troy Dilly.
- JAN. 9: Jordan Potter, Helena Guastavino.
- JAN. 10: Mary Jo Vezino, Mike Barnes, Alvin D. Brenk I, Jared Felling.

Wish Sue Phillips a Happy 40th Birthday on January 9th
Love Mom, Tammy, Brittany & Jacob, Billy, Jenny & Ryan



A Golden Anniversary will be observed on February 9, 2007 by Arnold & Dorthy Kimball. The occasion will be celebrated with an

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 14, 2007 • 1:00 - 4:00 PM
at Deer Run Golf Club

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Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Reflections of faith

Rev. Dean Bailey, pastor
Alto and Bowne Center United Methodist churches

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God

in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, good will among people." Luke 2:13-14 (NRSV)

Christmas 2006 has come and gone: carols are silent, trees are dismantled, decorations are packed away, presents are opened, some presents are returned, gift cards are spent, relations go back to their homes. We survived the holiday. Many with joy and celebration, others with hurt and sadness, some with stoic endurance.

Yet, in spite of all the trappings and wrappings, what if the essence of Christmas - the glory, the peace, the good will of which angels sang - could be continued day after day after day so that we would keep keeping Christmas? God's

gift of Christ is not just for a day or a season, but for all time (and eternity). So we receive God's gift every day and live out peace and good will every day - that's the way to keep keeping Christmas.

Henry Van Dyke put it this way: "Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world - stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death - and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem... is the image and brightness of Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you keep it for a day, why not always?"

Why not?

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School, 11AM Morning Service, 6PM Evening Service, Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648</p> <p>Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor John King, Youth Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups & "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7:00 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM, SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, ENTIN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWare.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor</p> <p>Wayne Harnes, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 8:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB J.C. Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith</p> <p>9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	



Featured Artist

Ann Dimmick

By Emma Palova

When photographer Ann Dimmick started taking pictures some 40 years ago, she had to have pictures of everything. Later, she transitioned into nature photography, capturing images of birds, butterflies and Michigan landscapes.

A favorite image of the former teacher is capturing

surprises that come her way, such as a backyard bird or butterfly, a sunset on U.S. 131.

"I took a picture of a hawk landing in my crab apple tree," she said.

Her photographs are available at Woodland Creek, Mackinaw City and a variety of other shops in Michigan.

She originally took

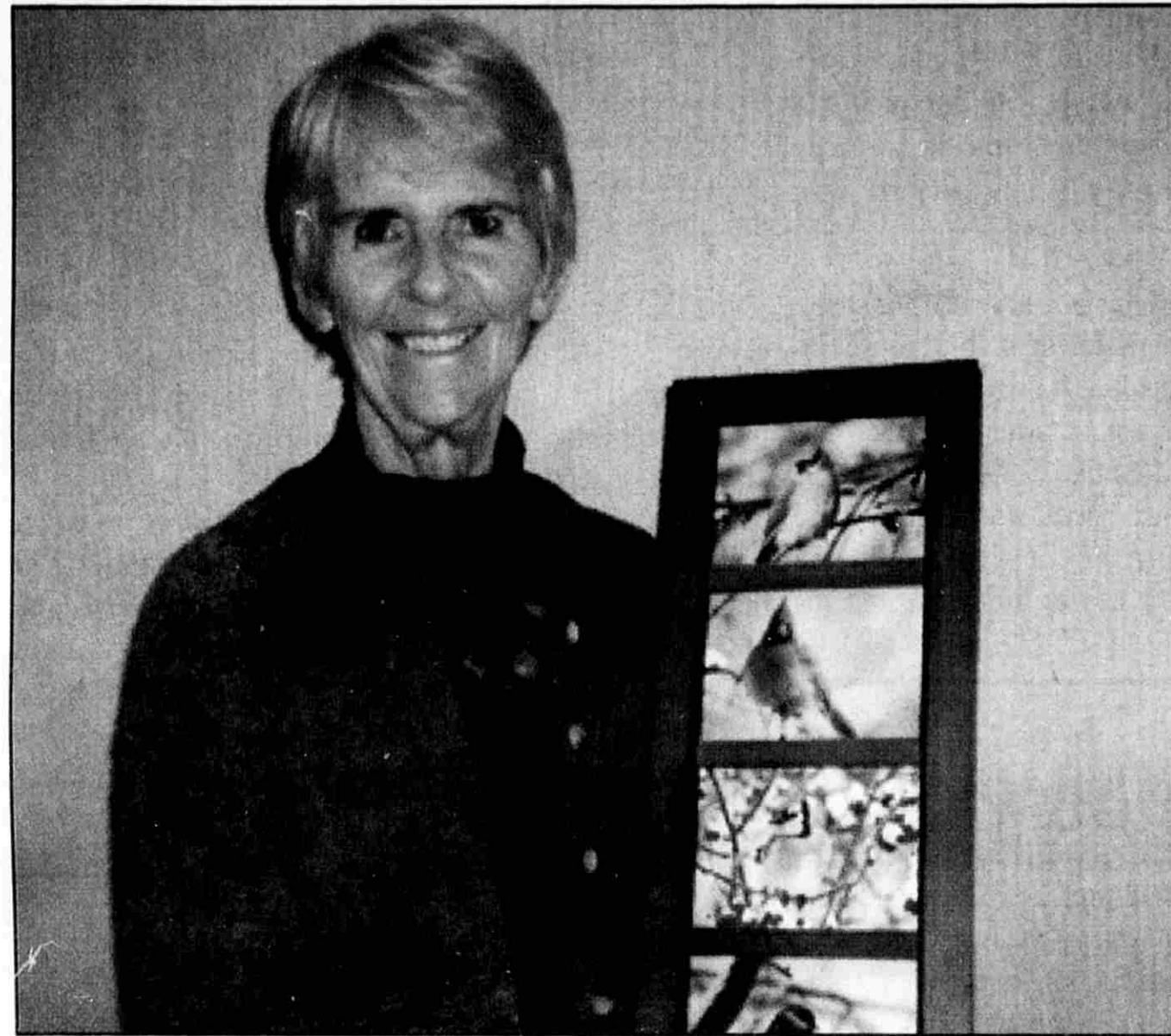
pictures with a Minolta, but later switched to a Canon digital SLR.

"I hope that people will enjoy my pictures," she said.

Dimmick is grateful she has been able to capture images of something God has created.

Show organizer David Davis said Dimmick's work is all nature photography.

"She's got it all out the back door," Davis said.



Ann Dimmick's work is on display at Huntington Galleria, 414 E. Main St., through the end of January.

At Your Local Library



CHILDREN'S SNOWBALL PROGRAM

Englehardt Library "Snowballs, Snowballs, will host a program called Snowballs!" It is for ages

6 and under, and will offer snow stories, crafts and songs. And if you have some buttons, bottle caps, and nuts and bolts, bring them along to create your own snowperson.

Registration is required for the Jan. 17 program at 6:30 p.m. Call the Englehardt branch at 647-3920 or register online at www.kdl.org.

I have had a lot of adversaries in my political life, but no enemies that I can remember.

- Gerald R. Ford

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Have you recently completed your degree in Human Resources and now are looking to apply this knowledge in a professional setting? Perhaps you have been doing administrative work and would now like to gain experience in Human Resources. Local staffing firm is in need of a talented, positive, high energy professional to fill an entry-level position within our growing organization. Position requires greeting the general public, answering multiple incoming phone lines, interviewing candidates, offering work that is appropriate to applicants' interests and skills, and doing various customer service and administrative functions. Desire to work with the general population, proficiency with MS Office Suite, and at least six months of prior clerical experience are preferred. Candidates who feel they are qualified, and are interested in jump starting their career, are encouraged to mail their resumes along with salary history to:

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Shaklee

Remembering Ford, continued ... From Page 1

at Runciman School Auditorium, 300 High St., in honor of Ford.

Vicksburg resident, Joe Mapes, with family ties to Lowell, met Ford during an opening night of the Showboat in 1968.

According to Mapes, Ford had a longtime connection to the Lowell community.

When his grandfather C.H. Runciman died in 1968, Ford wrote a letter to his widow, Gladys Runciman.

"I had no better friend than C.H.," he wrote in the letter.

During a backyard party at the Runciman's in 1974, Mapes had mistaken Mrs. Betty Ford for Mrs. Helen Ford, his grandma's housekeeper.

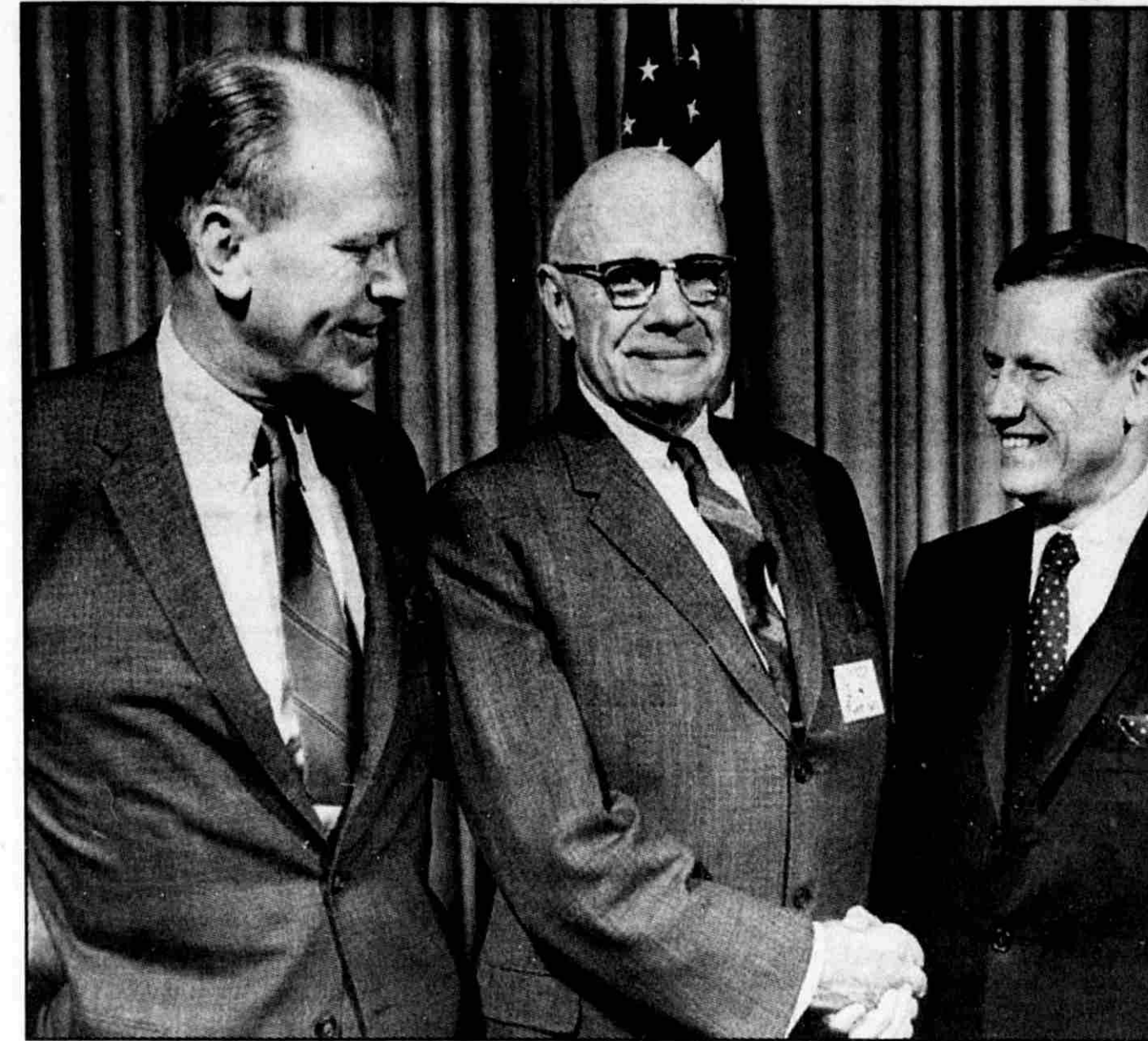
"I was talking to her like she was the housekeeper," said Mapes.

"Grandmother always called her Mrs. Ford. I thought it was the cleaning lady."

After two minutes of chatting, and spotting a welcome sign for the Fords, Mapes realized his mistake.

"I turned red and I didn't say anything," Mapes said. "Nobody suspected anything."

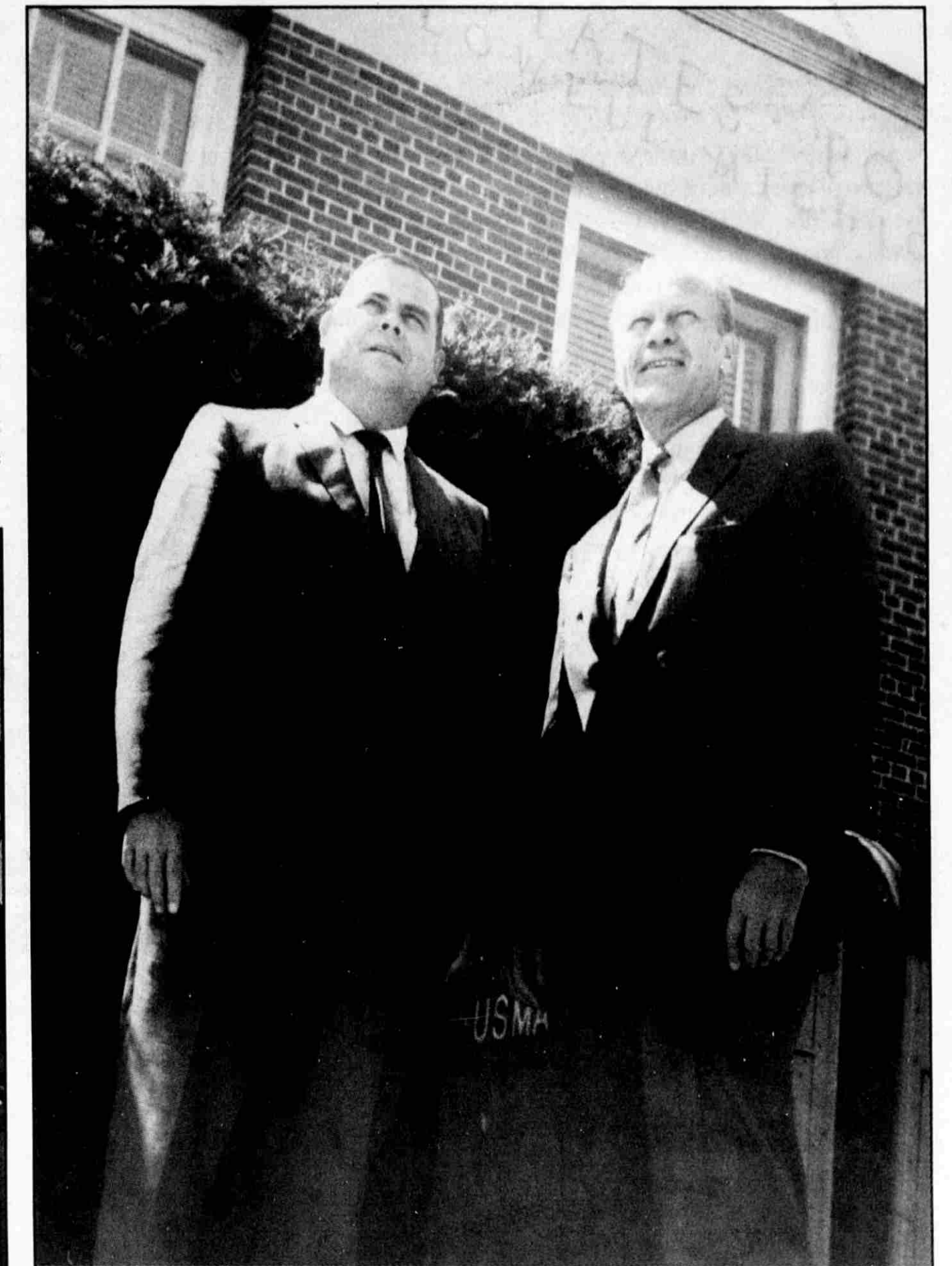
Lowell area residents who have met Ford are encouraged to write anecdotes to the editor at The Lowell Ledger, P.O. Box 128, 105 N. Broadway, fax at 897-4809 or e-mail at reporter@lowellbuyersguide.com.



Pictured at the 1968 Republican Convention are Gerald Ford, C. H. Runciman (shortly before his death), and at right, Gov. Volte of Massachusetts. At that convention, Ford gave Runciman a gavel with the following inscription: Congressman Gerald R. Ford - Permanent Chairman - Republican National Convention - Miami Beach, Florida 1968. After Runciman died in 1968 his wife received a letter stating in part, "I had no better friend than C. H. ..."



Colleen Swan is pictured with Ford at Arnold Wittenbach's former home on Riverside Dr. after he had been a guest at the Showboat.



The late Charles R. Doyle is pictured in 1966 with Congressman Jerry Ford. Ford had given a speech to the Lowell Rotary Club and stopped by the Lowell Post Office to visit with Doyle who was at that time postmaster.

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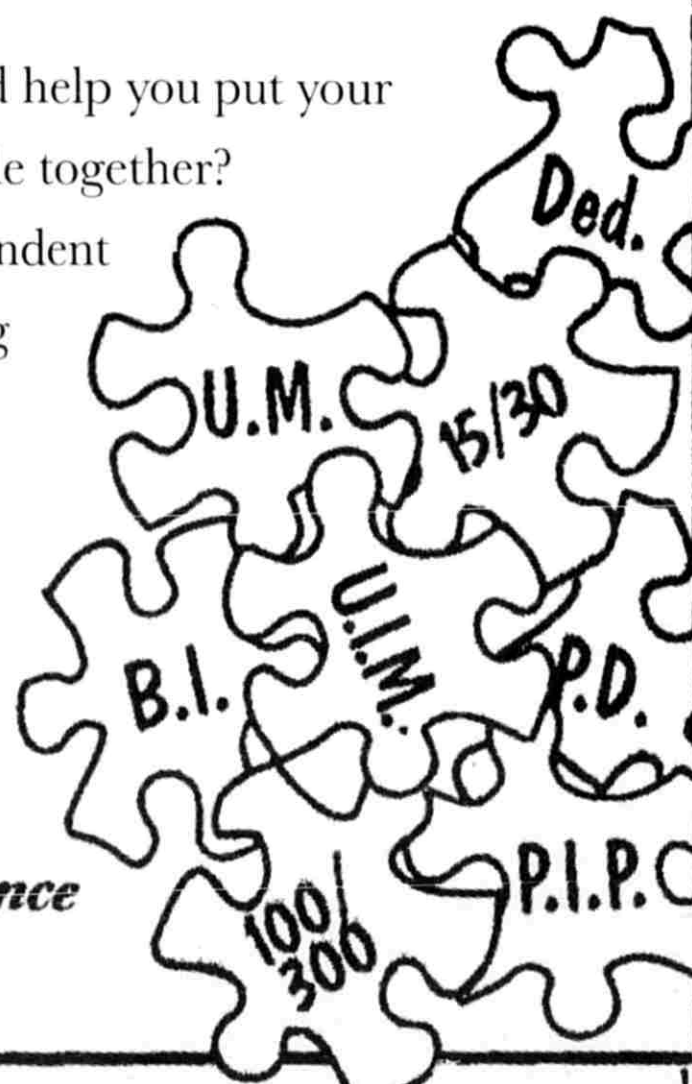
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897-9261

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TAKE THE CHALLENGE!

Lowell and Greenville Together
Will each trim 2007 pounds from their respective waistlines!!!

The Rules

- 4-Member Team (18 or Older)
- Weigh-in as a team on Wednesdays at: YMCA of Lowell or United Lifestyles in Greenville
- Prizes for top three losing teams
- Entrance Fee \$20 per person

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

Lowell Community Wellness
Flat River Outreach Ministries and United Lifestyles of Greenville
Greenville Ministerial Association

Hurry and get your team together!
Humorous team names encouraged!

Kick off date 1/10/2007 • End date 3/21/07

This project is sponsored and underwritten by:

Financial support given by Meijer
Lowell Community Wellness
United Lifestyles of Greenville
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Greenville Public Schools • Lowell Area Schools
In Lowell call Patty 616-340-7781

Go to www.lowellcommunitywellness.com

To The Editor, continued ... From Page 5

By law if the buyer is not contracted with a real estate agent and their broker to represent the buyer is in the purchase of a home, then the realtor is working for the seller at all times.

Confidentiality is a large part of these agencies. For instance, in Buyer's Agency, the realtor would owe all their responsibilities to the buyer and find out as much information about a property as possible. Then use strategies to get that home at the lowest price possible. Without this agency the buyer's information is usually given to the seller, to get the most for a property.

In reality, anytime is a great time to purchase real estate. It's the greatest and most important purchase most people make in their lifetime, and it's not to be taken lightly.

As real estate professionals it is our job to educate our clients to the best of our ability to show them how to get the most in a home, if they are buying or selling.

In today's market, how is a consumer, who finds their dream home, to know if the home is overpriced without an experienced Buyer's Agent working for them? Consumers need to realize that even if they have purchased a home at today's bargain prices, the price they pay is the highest the market will bare.

It's also important that the buyer choose a realtor with all the right tools available, to determine the best value when searching for a new home. In the same manner it's to the seller's benefit to hire an experienced buyer's representative to market their home, who knows the strategies that can protect their interests as well.

Whether buying or selling, we recommend that everyone do their research when finding the right realtor to represent them. Remember, it's the most important purchase or sale you will probably ever make.

Doug and Kelly Wolfe
Lowell

in opposition to preserving this property: "Preservation is forever." I look around at all the development in this area. Talk about being forever. Once the land is developed it's gone forever.

I am personally offended by a comment in last week's Ledger by the mayor saying, "We can't give it away." Since last April, we've been asking the city to please work with us so that we can get them the money they need out of the property. We've never asked them to just give it away. We have those concerned about preservation of rapidly disappearing natural areas who are willing to purchase property such as this.

The city has repeatedly put us off and finally told us to not be concerned about the funding. So which is it? Is this going to be their response when a developer makes an offer? That will be forever.

Peggy Covert

Dear Editor,

I am writing concerning the N. Washington St. property. I refer to a comment made several council meetings ago

A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.

-Gerald R. Ford

Snowshoeing through a Michigan winter

The snow is bound to show up here in Michigan and when it does the snowshoe, an ancient art form designed from practical experience, may be one way to get around.

Long ago, snowshoes were a necessity and allowed prospectors, explorers, trappers and even armies to maneuver through deep snow. Today, the snowshoe is more of a means of recreation.

But that is not to say the snowshoe is any less popular. In fact, there has been resurgence in the popularity of snowshoeing, caused, in part, by the new, lighter weight and more efficient models now on the market.

Alan Wernette works for the Department of Natural Resources as an interpreter at Ludington State Park. He was introduced to snowshoes and the art of making them about 12 years ago.

Now, Wernette has taken his experience to a new level, offering regular workshops where he teaches others how to make their own snowshoes. Though based primarily at Ludington State Park, Wernette will travel to other DNR locations to conduct his workshops.

"Over the years, I have conducted countless workshops," he said, "and average up to 85 pairs of snowshoes every year that I help others to build."

At first, Wernette relied on one manufacturer, based in the Upper Peninsula, to supply him with all of his materials. Now, because snowshoe manufacturers are producing more to meet the growing recreational demand, he shops around the country for his materials.

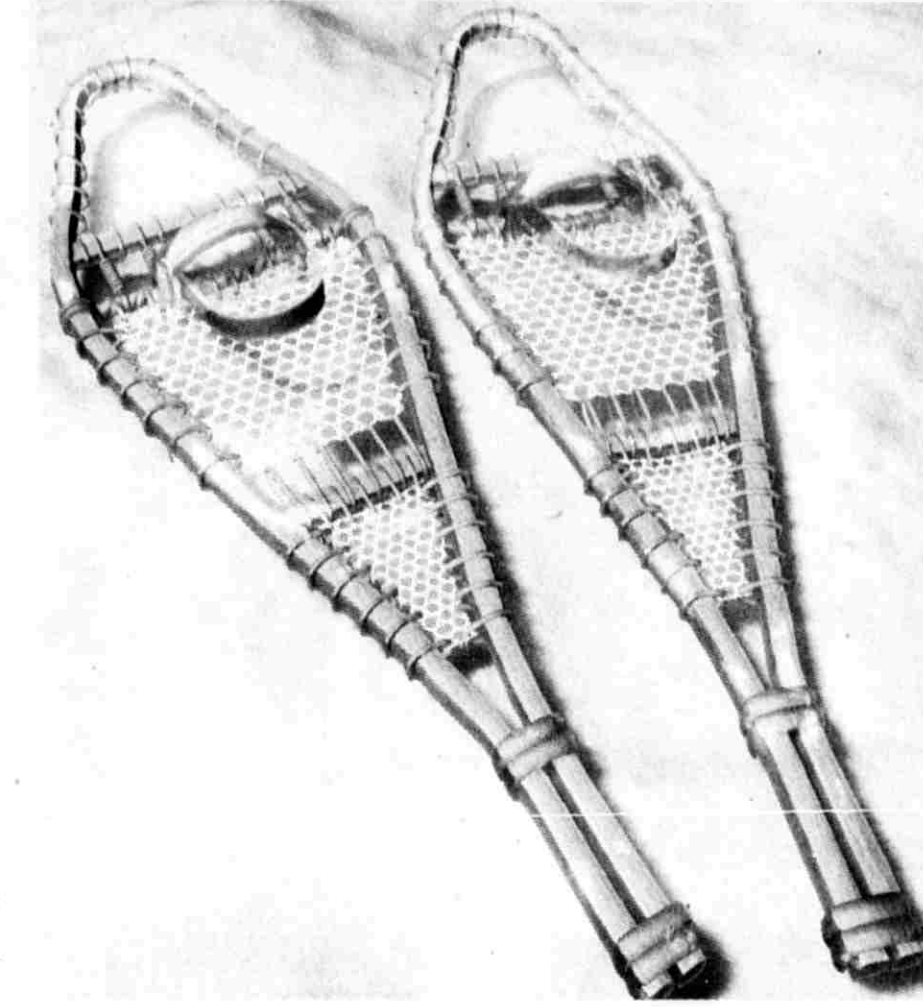
"The snowshoes are made first at the factory from white ash, molded from numerous thin layers of the wood into the rounded form that we see in snowshoes," Wernette said. The pre-formed ash frames are sturdy and require little maintenance, and are the original material first used by Native Americans and others when the concept of "shoes that float on snow" was first devised.

"Ash is highly workable because as you pound the wood, it separates into the thin layers that can be pulled

apart easily. Those thin layers then are realigned and pressed into a mold in the shape of the snowshoe," he said.

Wernette buys the forms pre-drilled with small holes all the way around the edges, and it is through those holes that the webbing is laced.

"I like to use reinforced neoprene for lacing because it is very durable and requires little care," he said. It is also



less susceptible to absorbing moisture from the snow, and no varnish is needed on reinforced neoprene, unlike other lacing materials.

"Tubular nylon also is a very good product, but it needs constant care, especially regular coats of varnish," he explained.

Wernette's snowshoe-building workshops cost on the average \$130 for all the materials and instruction, and

each student leaves the class with his or her own pair of snowshoes.

"Each pair takes about six hours to complete, even for amateurs, which most of my students are," Wernette said. "I like to start my workshops by providing some history of snowshoes; then I compare skiing to snowshoeing to give everyone an idea of what types of terrain and conditions are more suitable to snowshoes and skis."

Snowshoeing and skiing will provide equivalent workouts, but many people find snowshoes to be safer and more stable, Wernette said.

Other benefits of snowshoeing are the ability to view more wildlife; better maneuverability -- it's easy to stop any time -- and it's very quiet.

He equated making the snowshoes, then using them for a woodland hike with making a dry fly and then catching a nice trout on it.

So, where can you go snowshoeing this winter? Any public land where there is snow is fine. It may be fun to include a large group to help pack the trail. Everyone can take turns going first, and then falling to the end of the line when tired to take a break.

It's a great idea to pack a picnic, especially one that requires cooking something over an open fire.

Snowshoes also make fine shovels for digging fire pits, piling snow for a quinzhee or creating a little snow cave for shelter.

A blanket laid over snowshoes makes for a fine seat in the snow or even a back rest when it's plunged tail-end down into packed snow.

Snowshoes are a wonderful means of recreation. Whether you buy a pair or make them in one of Wernette's workshops, don't just use them only as decorations over the fireplace. Rather, strap them on and get outdoors in winter, where the wealth of the beauty of the Michigan winter landscape awaits.

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2007 WINTER VARSITY TEAMS

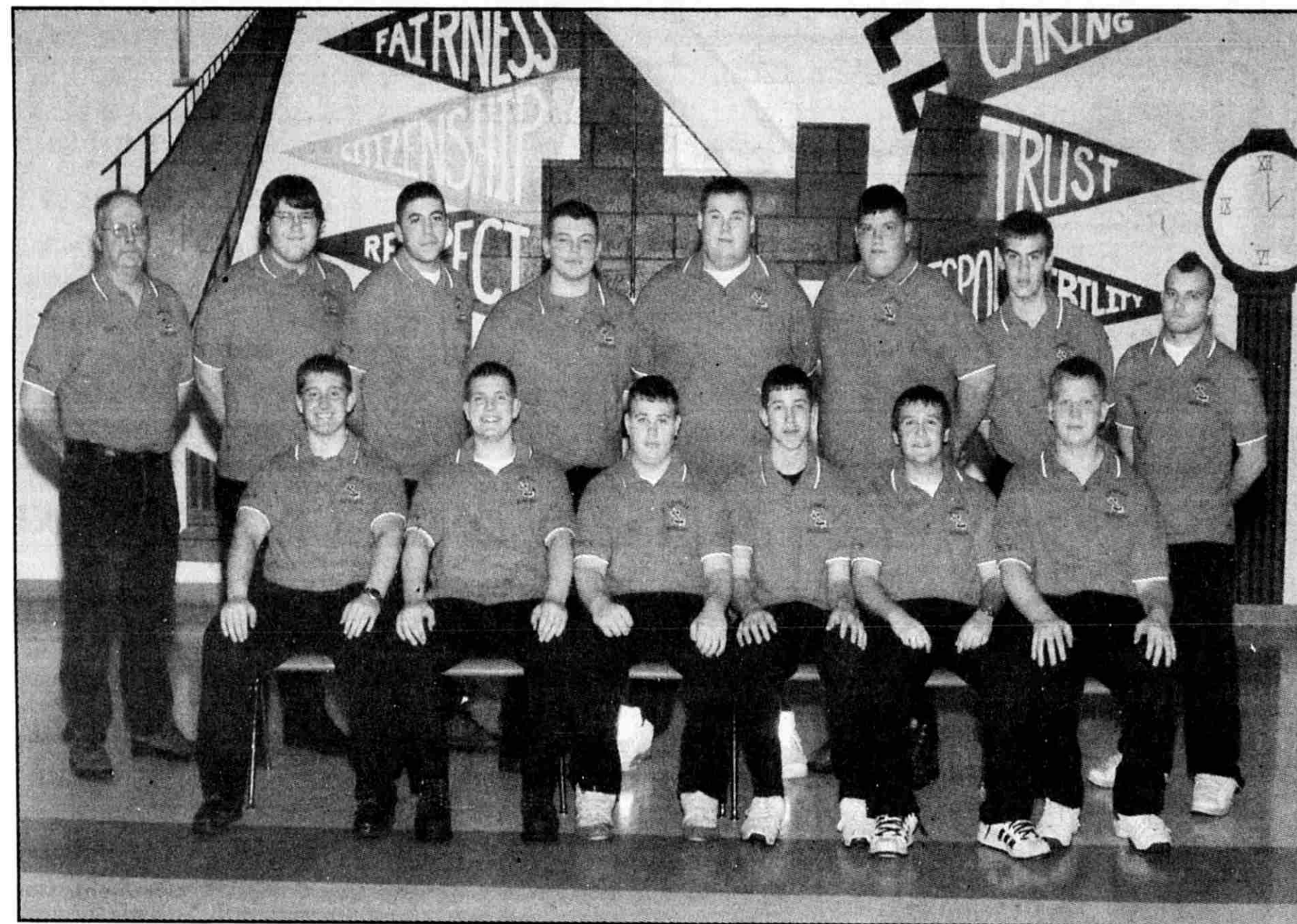


GIRLS VARSITY BOWLING

Members of the 2006-2007 Lowell girls bowling team, front row, left to right, are: Julie Johnson, Brittany Balyeat, Sarah Mosher, Mandy Ward, Liberty Clark; back row: coach Rocky Eickhoff, Ashley Nawrocki, Kristin Bouwhuis, Kelly Walker, Erin Soules, Nicole Videan, coach Jon Eickhoff.

BOYS VARSITY BOWLING

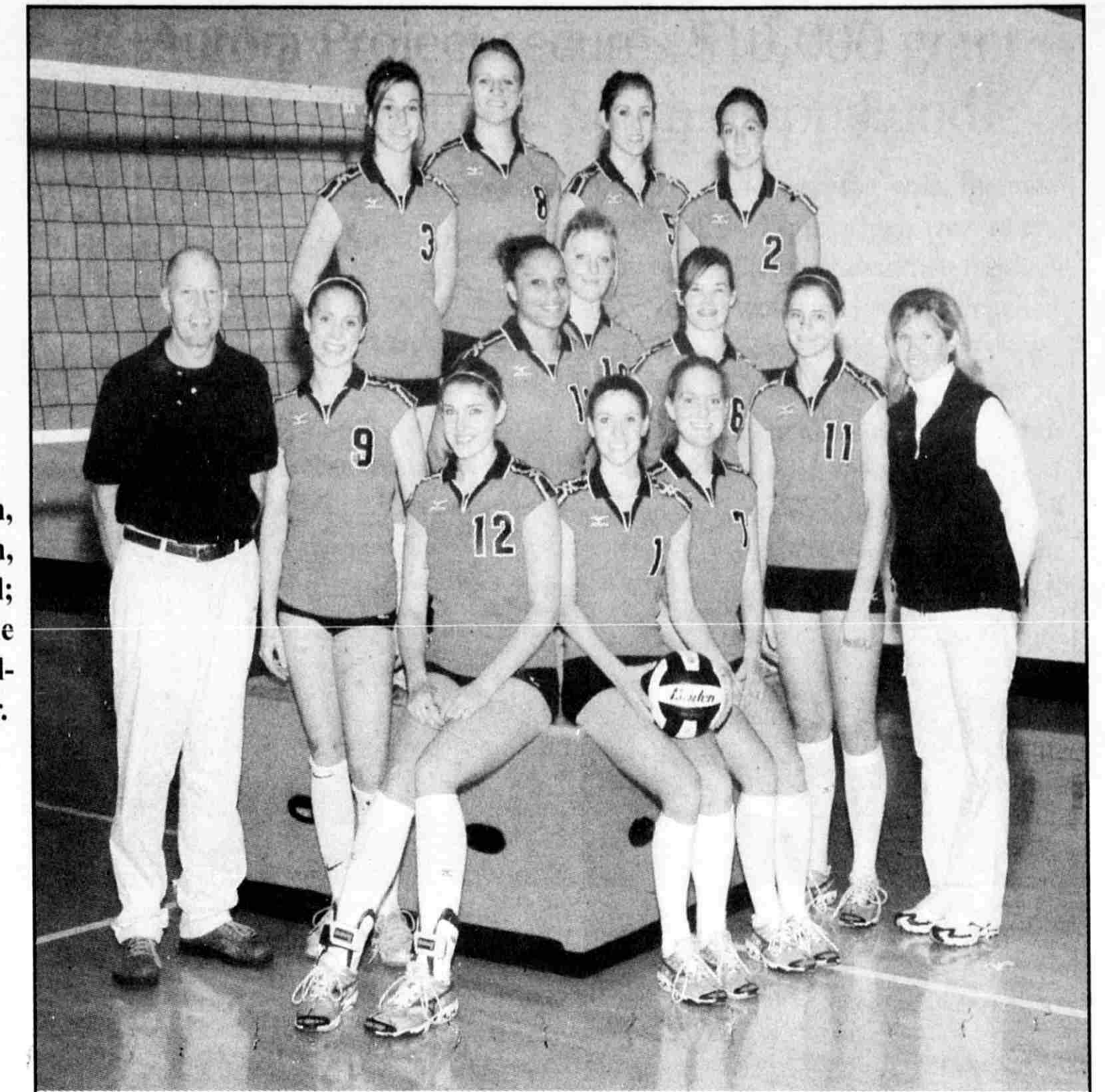
Members of the 2006-2007 Lowell boys bowling team, front row, left to right, are: Tom Alberts, Josh Vaughan, Brandon Jahnke, Jeremy Drake, Eric Bouwhuis, Trevor Washburn; back row: Coach David Adrianse, Brandon Everitt, Matt Strawser, Sean Adrianse, Greg Sherman, Matt Burton, Jacob Nawrocki, coach Jon Eickhoff.



2007 WINTER VARSITY TEAMS

VARSIITY VOLLEYBALL

Members of the 2006-2007 Lowell varsity volleyball team, front row, left to right, are: Amanda Geelhoed, Lisa Johnson, Taryn Schumacher, Mary VanderLaan and coach, Gigi Peal; middle row: Asst. coach Jeff Harp, Madelyn Brower, Jasmine Holliman, Tarin Hippey, Devin DeCator; back row: Kelsea Fillingham, Amy VanEns, Meggy Fitzpatrick, Taylor Schumacher.



VARSIITY CHEERLEADING

Members of the 2006-2007 Lowell varsity cheerleading team, front row, left to right, are: Theresa Buist, Mackenzie Conley, Alyssa Buikema, Hannah Fleet, Tara Beran; middle row: Lisa Nugent, Kaylyn Koza, Stacey Janeschek, Tori Ruesink, Tiffanie Curtis; back row: Katie Ann Polaski, Sydney Burrows, Chelsey Bishop, Laura Walsh, Alex Herb, Kylee Karas.



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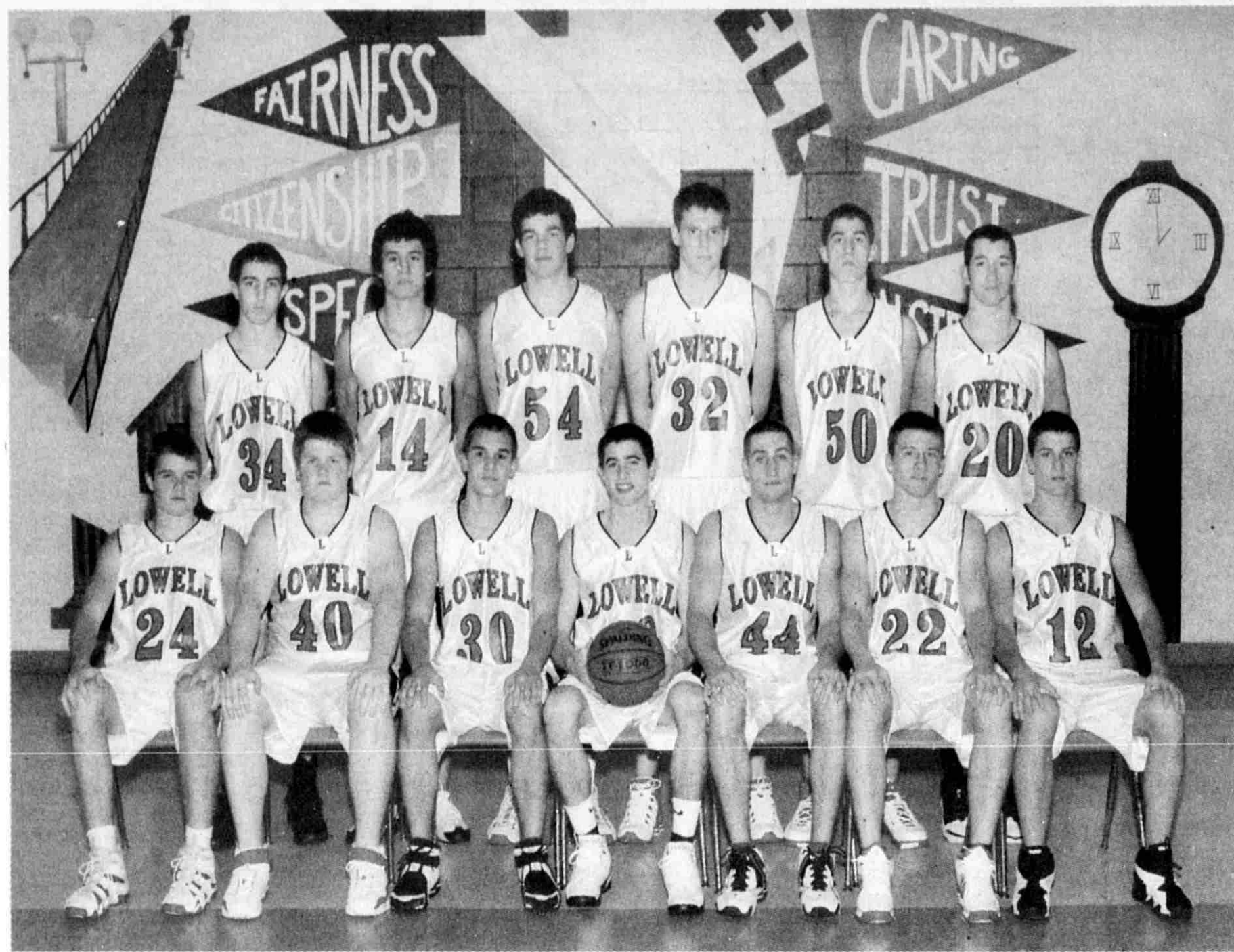
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Attorneys At Law

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2007 WINTER

VARSITY TEAMS



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Members of the 2006-2007 Lowell varsity boys basketball team, front row, left to right, are: Mike Schumm, Erin Bronkella, Matt Kurtz, Brett McMahon, Eric Saenz, Mike McElroy, Kory Stevens; back row: Troy Hefron, Ryan Magnuson, Colin Rich, Bob Werner, Spencer Sellner, Justin Harden

VARSITY GYMNASTICS

Members of the 2006-2007 Lowell gymnastics team, front row, left to right, are: Kelsey Teft, Andrea Coffey, Mandy Vezino; middle row: Aubrey Dee, Rochelle Bieri, Richelle Kimble, Sara Tarchala; back row: Coach Skye Fisher, Kelli Kowalski, Kaylee Yonker, Tiffanie Curtis.



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IN MEMORIAM

Donald Lee Alexander
 July 1954 - January 2006
 A year has passed but the sadness still remains, your love, kindness, wit and humor are deeply missed. Loving thoughts are sent everyday, especially today. We love you each and every day.
 Dad, you are in our memories and our hearts forever ...
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