

Weidman Messenger

WEIDMAN, MICHIGAN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1960

Editor's Column

By CONNIE

THIS IS GOODBYE . . .

This is goodbye to our faithful readers of the Messenger in this column. We hadn't planned it this way; and if we understand, bear with us. We're still in a state of shock.

We had seven weeks to go, and several buyers for the offset plant; we had planned a goodbye issue on Feb. 25, which would be the last issue of Weidman's own local newspaper. Fate seems to have determined a closer schedule.

We know our readers will miss the little home-town paper. We'll miss it ourselves, all of us who have worked on the Messenger these years since 1952. Our heartfelt thanks to our subscribers and writers for their faithfulness, and to the area generally for its sympathy in our disaster.

Our special thanks to the men of the Weidman Volunteer Fire Department. We have always marveled at all volunteer fire fighters; business men, working men, town folks who drop everything when that siren lets loose, and run to risk their lives to fight a fire.

In the case of the Messenger fire, we cannot express our gratitude and our admiration of these men. In the Messenger shop were glass gallon jugs of chemicals, some of them inflammable; there was danger a-plenty in that shop for fire fighters, but the Weidman firemen went in and did wonders in the midst of the most terrifying danger.

They did some heart-breaking thoughtful things, too. We never dreamed that anyone outside the

Weidman Fishing Contest Report

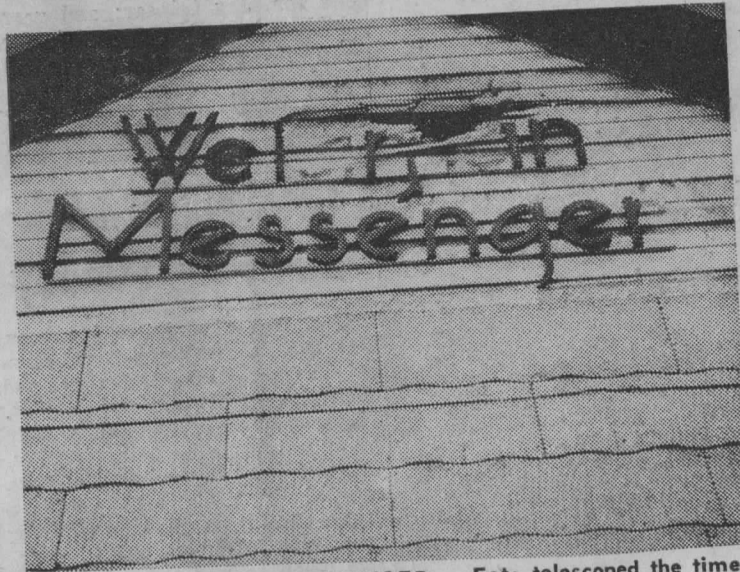
Weekly prizes are being given for bluegill, pike, speck and perch caught on hand lines or tipups through the ice on lakes or ponds in Isabella and Mecosta Counties. Largest of each species will be carried through each week, with the larger fish as they are caught taking the lead.

The point system used to determine placement in the contests has one point for the length in inches; girth of fish at largest distance around in inches (inch equals one point); weight of fish, one point for each ounce.

A fish, for example, 8 inches long, 8½ inches in girth and 5½ ounces in weight, is good for 22 points. Fish may be measured at any grocery store, Fox Hardware, or at Walt's Bait Shop, in Weidman. Each week ends on Saturday, with the new week starting Sunday. Prizes may be seen at Fox Hardware.

At the end of the contest, Feb. 29, a Grand Prize will be given for each of the four species of fish. A sparring prize also will be given at that time for the largest

Fire Knocks Out Messenger Plant



GOODBYE, WEIDMAN MESSENGER — Fate telescoped the time of remaining issues of the Weidman Messenger when fire broke out Sunday afternoon in the plant, knocking out possibility of production for the scheduled seven weeks you were supposed to receive your home paper. Connie surveys the ruins of the pasteup and photographic department after the fire.

Fire knocked out the Weidman Messenger printing plant Sunday afternoon somewhere between three and four o'clock. Fire Chief Ed Fox, on looking over the ruins, said Tuesday the fire apparently started from an overheated stove.

The Messenger's publisher, Connie Roe, had been in the shop about 35 minutes earlier to check, as was her custom, the pump (which needed daily priming), and the stove. She found the stove burning very low, with controls turned to medium heat. She adjusted the thermostate, waited a few moments while it seemed to work normally, and left. Thirty-five minutes later the fire call went in.

The fire was discovered by Fey Johnson, who saw smoke at the building from his father's garage. His wife, Lela, ran and pressed the siren button at the fire house.

A great deal of smoke and water damage was apparent, with some of the printing machinery showing heat damage. No estimate has yet been possible.

Connie had planned seven more issues of the paper, the last falling on Feb. 25. She had several buyers for the offset plant, and had expected to close a deal with one of them next week.

Appreciation —

Sunday evening James Slattery, published of the Mt. Pleasant Daily Times-News, called to offer the facilities of his printing plant to get out this week's emergency issue of the Messenger.