

Claribel Bentler 23Feb79
Weidman Route 2A
Main Street, Weidman

ISABELLA COUNTY FAIR
IN FULL SWING THIS WEEK

The Weidman Messenger

VOL. XV, NO. 7

Weidman, Mich. 48893

Thursday, August 24, 1978

35¢ per copy

Editor's Column

By Connie

THE POST OFFICE AND THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

Postal costs have zoomed not only in first-class mail, but in other ratings of mailings, worst of all in second-class, or newspaper mailing rates.

Last week's "Grit" newspaper announced that, due to exorbitant postal costs, it is preparing to go to private delivery all over the country.

Grit figures the post office will thereby lose revenue on 500,000 copies of the paper usually mailed out weekly.

Grit is not the only newspaper hard hit by postal rates. All area papers have gone or are going to privately-delivered mailings.

The Morning Sun and Buyers Guide, locally, deliver totally "by hand", or delivery by small-town boys and girls.

(The Morning Sun has an auto route delivery, as does the Detroit Free Press and other papers.)

The post office will be losing a great amount through the raising of its despised "second-class" matter (heretofore a privileged class of mail, presumed by the American Constitution to be eligible for postal rate favors because of its public-information character).

The Farwell News and Review, one of us few remaining weekly country newspapers, announced recently it was gearing up for private-delivery methods to avoid the exorbitant postal costs each week.

Second-class matter (newspapers, magazines) are charged according to the postal "zones" they are mailed to.

For instance, the Messenger has one subscriber in Idaho, to whom we send a copy each week on an \$11 per year subscription.

According to latest postal figurings, our mailing of that one copy to Idaho for 48 weeks costs the Messenger \$12.78 per year.

No, we would not cancel Annetta Bellows' subscription on that account. We'll continue mailing her paper each week.

Not long ago, a \$50 check to
(Continued on Back Page)



THE OLD ETHEL BYWATER HOUSE--Is undergoing renovation by the Dale and Sharron Sprague family of North Woodruff Road, who have purchased the property. Extensive remodeling and redoing are going on inside the house, with old plaster walls being torn off, ceilings being removed, all to be replaced by brand-new and attractive interior trim and finish. The job is no little one, as the Bywater house is one of the "oldies" in Weidman, and those oldies require nearly all-new interiors at least.
Messenger photo



WEIDMAN'S DOWNTOWN BUSINESS STREET--Is completely modernized, as witness Mick Schmalbach's little barber shop tucked in between Sides' Laundromat and Abbott's new furniture store. Clark's Market long ago put a cute little Alpine roof over its front, and now there's a matching roof down the street. Some towns around us have not kept pace with the times in their business sections, and the difference is amazing. Weidman has kept the pace.
Messenger photo

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Richardson and family of Jackson spent the weekend with their sister, Mrs. Rowena Allen, and family.



KELLI RUTH HOFFMAN

BEAL CITY GRAD IS MISS ISABELLA COUNTY FAIR QUEEN THIS YEAR

Kelli Ruth Hoffman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoffman of North Littlefield Road, is this year's Miss Isabella County, having won the Queen title at the Isabella County Fair opening Monday night.

She is a 1977 graduate of Beal City High School, and was sponsored by the Beal City Business Association.

She was crowned Monday evening at the new Fairgrounds, at the opening of this week's County Fair.

She is attending CMU, majoring in the field of dental hygiene. She has worked over a year now as a dental assistant in Mt. Pleasant.

Among other honors, Kelli won \$500 worth of Vita Craft cookware, a color portrait from Guys and Dolls photo shop in Mt. Pleasant, a trophy, and a wardrobe allowance for the Miss Michigan Pageant; and also a \$500 scholarship to the college of her choice.

Beal City is indeed proud of its Queen, having enthusiastically sponsored her for the Fair contest.

Kelli is 19, and was a first runner-up in the National Trout Festival pageant this year.

(Continued on Back Page)

TREE TREATMENT AND TRIMMING... A GOOD JOB

So Ye Ed hired a man from Mt. Pleasant to come over and spray four of her 50-foot blue spruce trees which had become unsightly with dead and browned branches.

(A lot of pine and spruce trees throughout Isabella County show damage or have died, this year.)

So we paid the man \$80 for spraying four trees with Sevin, which we have on hand but do not use except in dire emergencies, such as asparagus infestation.

He came Monday morning and spent a couple of hours spraying our trees. Eighty bucks for the job.

Then, we had to hire a man from Clare to come and trim out the dead branches of our infected trees. Twenty dollars.

A lot of money to spend on evergreen trees--but these are 45-year-old specimen trees, and we couldn't see losing 'em. Allys Roe bought them and had them planted, way back in the

1940s.

But--why don't more men take up a specialized line of work like that? True, you have to know what ails the trees and what to spray on them. You have to have a spray outfit. (We're gunna get one, \$26.95, next spring, for the required second spraying.)

It's a vocation highly lucrative. You do have to learn a little about trees and their infestations. Why not?
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Brinton News

Frances Beck, Reporter

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Baker left Friday for a few days' visit with their son, Larry, and family at White Pine, in the Upper Peninsula.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Tower and family attended the Tower family get-together at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Henderson at Swartz Creek Sunday. Walter Tower joined his son, Darrel,

and family, and also attended.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Bowen called on Mr. and Mrs. Milford Spencer at Newberry last week, during their trip through the northern part of Michigan.

Ila Lang and David Moon and friend called on me Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kline attended the Geney Riley Show at Blanchard Sunday. Little Jamie Kline has been ill with strep sore throat.

Ann Latham is having a new basement put under her house, and some other improvements made.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Wright were in Grand Rapids last week one day, getting material for a solar unit.
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Local Items

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Charnes attended an Open House at the Russell Kirk home in Mecosta Sunday. Annette Kirk showed the Charneses all around the

house, including a new wing built in castle style.

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Denslow and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Embrey visited their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Skip Bodell, of McCoy Lake, near Reed City, Sunday.

Mrs. Nina Forbes spent the weekend in Ithaca, at the Harvey Brien home. Carl and Bernice Brien and two small girls were also there, celebrating the birthdays of Carl and Lisa. Dorothy Brien took Mrs. Forbes home.

Mrs. Robert Tibbetts and her daughter, Carolyn, of East Lansing were overnight guests of Mrs. Claribel Beutler a week ago Saturday. Sunday they and Mrs. Jeanette Johnston attended the Fordyce family get-together at Marion. Claribel and her daughter left for Walloon Lake from Marion, to spend a few days at the Tibbetts cottage. Jeanette and her mother returned in mid-week.

It's that time of year again when the flies get friendly.

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Weidman Messenger

Weidman, Michigan

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Address all mail: Weidman Messenger, Weidman, Michigan 48893.

Want Ads

WANT AD RATES: 75 cents per week, unless very long. Over 1 inch in length, regular advertising rates. Cards of Thank \$2.50, unless very long.

BEDROOM SUITE--Features your choice of full or queen-sized bed with dresser, mirror and nightstand. Unclaimed and still in factory cartons. Original cost, \$405.50; unclaimed balance, \$335.00. Weekly lay-away payments, \$7. Call Mr. Miller at 772-0971.

Aug. 24t1&Spt6

HELP WANTED--In Isabella and Gratiot Counties; extra money for you--must be over 60 years with low income. Spend four hours a day with youngsters. Call Commission on Aging, ph. 772-0911, ext. 216. Foster Grandparents.

June 8tf

DRYER AND WASHER--Repair Man, available any time. Free estimates. Electric or gas stoves repaired, adjusted. Water pumps, small engines, miscellaneous. Call 644-2447.

Aug. 17 tf

WILL BABY SIT--In my Weidman home, week days. Call 644-3479. Experienced grandmother.

Aug. 24t1

WANTED--Four or five bushels of pickling cucumbers. Ph. 644-3467.

Aug. 17tf

AREA BINGO

B-I-N-G-O

WEIDMAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

1/2 MILE SOUTH OF WEIDMAN
On Coldwater Road

Every Wednesday Night, 6.30 p. m. till 11 p. m.

Feb. 10, 79p

B-I-N-G-O

Joint Temple Association
413 Coker Drive

Every Saturday Night
6:30 P.M.

9 Aug. 78p

3 ROOMS OF FURNITURE--Placed in lay-away, but never paid off. Versatile Herculon sofa-bed and matching chair, end table, coffee table and lamp for living room. Nightstand and bedroom set--dresser, mirror, and bed, plus a 5-piece dinette totaling an investment of \$600. Call Mr. Woods at 772-0971.

Aug. 24&spt6

FOR RENT--Clean, small, two-bedroom house with garage, at Ojibwa Recreation Area, on Lake Windoga. Ph. 644-2513 or 644-2424.

Aug. 17t3

GARAGE SALE--Starting Friday. Three blocks west of Clark's Market, in Weidman. Table and chairs, quilting frame, and miscellaneous items.

24Augt1

LEGAL

Notice

The Isabella County Board of Commissioners will be accepting resumes for appointment to fill a recent vacancy on the Mid State Substance Abuse Advisory Council.

Please submit resumes to the administrator's office, Isabella County Building, 200 N. Main St., Mt. Pleasant, Mi. 48858, by Tuesday, September 8, 1978.

Aug. 24t1

COMPLETE LIVING ROOM--Sofa, loveseat and chair in herculon trimmed with vinyl accent striping. Set of end tables with complimenting lamps, all in unclaimed lay-away. Take over weekly lay-away payments of \$5 on the remaining unclaimed balance of \$430. Original cost, \$655.38. Call Mr. Duncan at 772-0971.

Aug. 24t1

AVON

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Sell Avon. You set your own hours so you can be home when the kids get home. And the harder you work...

MORE YOU EARN! Call today, Lorraine Schneider, Box. 44, Reed City, Mich. 49677.

Aug. 24t1

HOUSEFUL OF FURNITURE--Reliable person wanted to take over weekly \$10 lay-away payments on a houseful of furniture. Four-piece bedroom suite with Sealey mattress and foundation; 7-piece dinette with formica top table and 6 vinyl covered chairs; contemporary styled sofa, love seat and chair, set of tables and lamps. Original invoice, \$1,600, remaining unclaimed balance, \$1180. Call Mr. Fredericks at 772-0971.

Aug. 24t1

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Aug24t1

Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Miller were Sunday evening visitors at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, the Richard Touchinskis, and girls.

Obituary

DAVID A. WILLIAMS

David A. Williams of Barryton died last Tuesday morning in the Fairfield County General Hospital at Lancaster, O., as a result of injuries he suffered in a motorcycle accident.

Funeral services were held last Friday at 1 p. m. at the Barryton Church of Christ with Andy McNeese officiating. Burial was at East Fork Cemetery in Barryton. He was 21 years old. He was born Aug. 29, 1956, in Clare County, the son of Laverne and Virginia Williams.

He was a graduate of the Chipewewa Hills High School, spent a hitch in the U. S. Navy, and attended Ferris State College. He was working for an oil-producing company near Lancaster at the time of his death.

He is survived by his parents and three sisters: Mrs. Mark (Theresa) Furst of Sault Ste. Marie, Debra and Sue, both of Barryton; two brothers, Steve and Jeff, at home; maternal grandmother, Mrs. Orpha Ruthruff of Barryton, and paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ransom Williams of Barryton.

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Ted Smith of Mt. Pleasant took his mother, Mrs. Clara Smith, to her doctor in Mt. Pleasant Monday.

Two years ago today, high temperature was 83, low 61. We were in the middle of a dry spell.

Ten years ago today, high temperature was in the low 90s and the low, 70. Within two days, temperatures had dropped to 62 high, 47 low.



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REACT TEAMS SPONSOR FUND RAISER FOR JERRY LEWIS TELETHON

Isabella County REACT Team No. 2417 is sponsoring a fund-raising drive for the Jerry Lewis telethon, to be held at the Weidman Masonic Hall in Weidman Aug. 26, Saturday, from 8 a. m. till 10 p. m.

There will be refreshments available, games for the children, door prizes, live music, and an opportunity to give to Jerry's kids.

Come and enjoy all or part of the day, says REACT, and give from your heart.

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S. W. Sherman

Mabel Chaffee, Reporter

Beatrice Gatehouse came home from CMC Hospital Friday, feeling much better. Welcome home, Bea, and keep up the good work!

Oren Sheldon and Mabel Chaffee shopped in Remus Thursday morning.

Randy and Sherry Eberbach of Lansing visited their mother, Pat Kurtz, Sunday afternoon.

The Howard Beutler family enjoyed swimming and sailing at Walloon Lake, near Petoskey, Sunday, visiting Marjorie Tibbetts and family, who have been vacationing there the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Dutcher were camping in northern Michigan, returning home Sunday.

Kay Dutcher enjoyed visiting her cousin in Muskegon last week, while Becky Dutcher spent the week visiting relatives in Mt. Pleasant.

Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Dutcher, Jr., took Steve to his therapy session in Detroit Saturday. The Dutchers also visited Mr. and Mrs.

Monroe Dutcher Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beutler of Rosebush and Claribel Beutler spent Friday evening with the Carl Beutlers.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Dutcher and granddaughter, Patti, spent several days last week camping near Ludington, and enjoyed a plane ride over Lake Michigan. They say it was exciting and the scenery was beautiful, viewed from the air.

Claribel Collins of Mecosta called on Pat Kurtz and Mabel Chaffee Monday.

Laurel and Billy Beutler attended a church picnic at Kim Donley's at Lake Isabella Sunday afternoon.

Laura Latham of Riverview Apartments in Mt. Pleasant, Doris Wilmot and Linda, Pat Kurtz, Mabel Chaffee, Oren Sheldon and Al Woodbury and grandson had a farewell luncheon at the D&R Restaurant Thursday, as Al is leaving for Florida to be near his daughter, Leila Johnson, and family. God speed, Al.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gaudard and daughter of Midland were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Dutcher, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Smith of Midland were also guests of the Dutchers Sunday.

The Bob Dutchers spent last week camping at Ludington. The Dale Dutchers visited them at their campsite.

Mrs. Bob Hogg of Remus spent Wednesday afternoon with the Ervin Dutchers, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gaudard and children of Midland were Friday evening guests of Ervin and Goldie Dutcher.

We wish Clarence and Harriet Dillenbeck the best of luck with their coming auction, and health and happiness in their future home in Grand Haven. We can remember buying penny candy at the Ray Dillenbeck drug store, many years ago, when pennies were very hard to come by.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stadfield and three children of Indiana, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Starika of Muskegon, and Florence Fitzgerald of Lansing enjoyed the weekend at the lovely home of the Carl Fitzgeralds.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Fitzgerald visited Mary Ellen and Christina Howard at Blue Lake, Mecosta, Tuesday. The Howard ladies are from Ohio, vacationing at the lake.

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Local Items

Mrs. Earl Maeder and grandson, Vickie, of Florida, are spending a few days at their cottage at Coldwater Lake. They spent Sunday evening with Mrs. Clara Smith.

Can anyone pronounce this word? Bac-kac-he?

West Gilmore

Lena Cole, Reporter

Joe Mossell of South Bend, Ind., called on his parents, the Paul Coles, Saturday. Joe was called here due to the death of his aunt.

Erwin Burstmester of Kalamazoo and son, William, of Grand Rapids, came Wednesday to visit their daughter and sister, Mrs. Tony Masiwchuk, and husband. Erwin spent the week with them.

The Paul Coles went to Bay City Friday to see their granddaughter, Mrs. Russell Ewing, who had surgery.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pfannes called on their brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bess Pfannes, Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pfannes left Sunday for Florida, to bring their very ill daughter home with them. She will be placed in the Sharlow Rest Home at Clare.

Mrs. Tony Masiwchuk called on the Paul Coles Thursday evening.

Paul and Lena Cole called on their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ewing, of Vassar, Sunday. Frank presented his Mom with four beautiful carnations.

We received word that our little four-year-old granddaughter, Angela Ganser, broke her leg.

Our sympathy to the family of Ruth Snider.

Mr. and Mrs. Norma Buchel took a trip up north this weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Straus and Margaret and Mark of Drummond Island called on friends and relatives around here the last few days. They called on their cousins, the Paul Coles, Saturday.

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Local Items

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mills of Holly Hill, Fla., spent last Tuesday and Wednesday with their cousins, Lela Whearett and Don Clark. Georgine and Renee Brew of Grand Rapids spent Saturday with them.

Mrs. Clara Smith accompanied her son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Smith, to visit at Wolverine from Friday till Sunday. They camped in their son, Wayne Smith's, yard while there. They enjoyed a big corn-roasting party while there, with a big picnic supper.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Neubecker and family of Milwaukee, Wisc., spent the past week at their summer home on Lake of the Hills, which they purchased recently, and with his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Neubecker. They returned to Milwaukee Sunday.

AUCTION SALE Saturday, SEPT. 9

AT THE PAT DILLENBECK FARM, on Battle Road

Everything will be sold: household goods, lawn and Farm Machinery, including a Tractor, and a Chevrolet Pickup Truck.

See Buyer's Guide
For Details of Sale

RAY BALZER, Auctioneer

**ALL
ROADS
LEAD TO THE
NEW ISABELLA
COUNTY
FAIR**

Beal City

Dora Smith, Reporter

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Schafer spent last week on a trip to Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Dells. They took the boat across Lake Michigan, and drove back by way of Chicago. They had a very enjoyable trip.

Mrs. June Blasen called on Mrs. Delores Gould Tuesday afternoon.

Janice Pung and Kevin Schafer were married Friday evening in a beautiful ceremony, with a reception following at the K. of C. Hall.

The bans of matrimony were announced Sunday for Leon Cotter and Kathy Steffke; also Lou Jensen and Pam Block.

Beal City Schools open Monday, Aug. 28.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Tilmann and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Tilmann went to St. Helen to attend an Open House for Michael Tilmann, DDS, and his new office.

Don't forget to attend the K. of C. chicken barbecue Sept. Third.

Mrs. Monica Grinzinger visited Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Grinzinger last week.

The Beal City Antique Car Club went to Oscoda to attend the Lumberman Days celebration over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schafer, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Jo Schafer and children spent the past week up north, fishing.

Sister Margaret, Sister John Baptist, Sister Magdalene Sophia of Grand Rapids spent the past week with relatives and friends in Beal City.

Mrs. Tony Schafer spent Sunday with her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Milo Eldred, at Winn.

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CARD PARTY AT BEAL CITY HAS 57 IN ATTENDANCE

At their regular card party on Thursday, Aug. 17, there were 57 people to play pepper in the Knights of Columbus Hall in Beal City.

Vada Block won first prize for the ladies, with Nora Gruss second and Irene Hauck low.

Bill Martin won first for the men, with Will Lawens second and Otto Skalitzky low.

Margaret Lawens won the pepper prize. Agnes Sheahan won the door prize.

Sandwiches and coffee were served for refreshments.

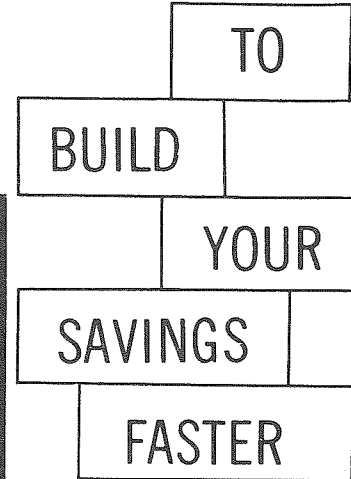
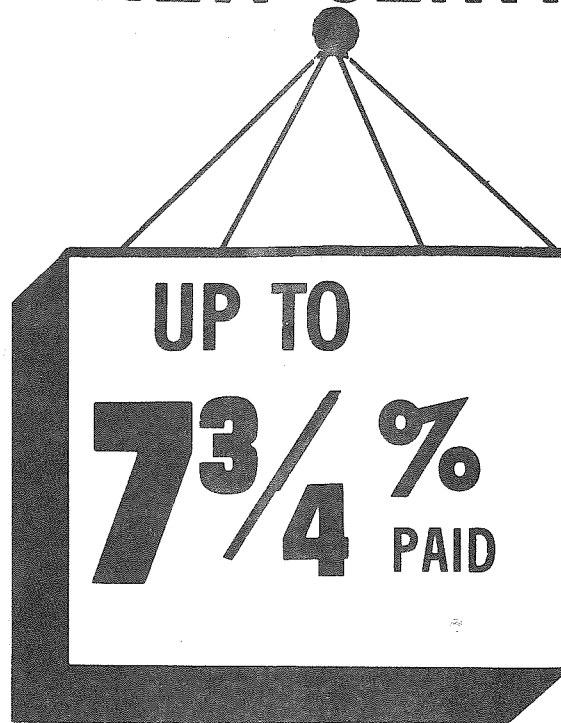
The next card party at the K. C. Hall in Beal City will be Thursday afternoon, Aug. 31.

Everybody everywhere is cordially invited to attend.

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One year ago today, the high temperature was 68 and the low, 40. We had almost too much rain during August of last year.

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North Weidman

Elvah Gott, Reporter

CORRECTION

In last week's Messenger we incorrectly put the wedding of Diane Graham at Lake Windoga or the Ojibwa Recreation Area.

Sorry.

The wedding took place at Lake Isabella.

We also erred in saying they went to Lake Hawaii on their honeymoon. They went to the Hawaiian Islands.

Elvah Gott returned Monday after visiting her sister in Lansing several days and over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Don Smith and Mrs. Don Alwood attended the wedding of Pamela Jean Smith and Richard Allen Heinrich at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Au Gres recently. Pamela is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Smith of Au Gres. Mrs. Louise Smith sang at her niece's wedding. Many of the Pohl families attended the beautiful ceremony. Mr. Heinrich is a school teacher in the Bay City Schools, and Mrs. Heinrich is a dental assistant in Au Gres.

Mr. and Mrs. Rusty Alwood and family were supper guests a few evenings last week at the Don Alwood home. They are all moved to their 80-acre farm home southeast of Winn, on the corner of South Woodruff and Fremont Roads. Bill Alwood and Troy of Saginaw spent a couple of days with the Don Alwood family. Heather Alwood spent a day and night with her grandparents. She is looking forward to starting school at the Blanchard Elementary School soon.

Mrs. Helen Alwood attended the wedding of Janice Pung and Kevin Schafer Friday evening at the Beal City Church. It was a very warm evening, but a beautiful wedding.

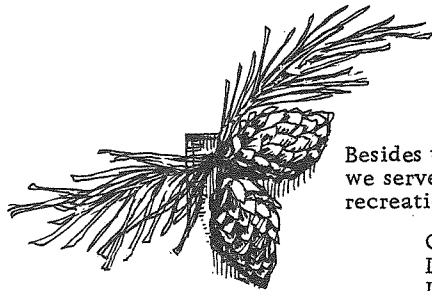
Jim Alwood and Mrs. Orma Kripa and granddaughters, Melissa and Ronnie, went to the Tri-Cities Airport Saturday night to get Mrs. Richard Alwood of California, who will visit relatives around here for a week or more.

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Weidman...

The natural Shopping Center.

May We Serve You?



Besides townspeople and farmers, we serve people from surrounding recreational areas:

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Lake of the Hills
Littlefield Lake
Six Lakes
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Lakes Windoga and
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Gift Shops
Beauty Shops
Fuel Oil Distributor

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Landscape & Garden Center
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Park
Elementary School
State recognized Fire Department

Bingo Games

Building Contractors

Active Chamber of Commerce (WBA)

(Offered as a Public Service by This Newspaper)

HOW CAN I IMPRESS
PEOPLE WITH THE NEED
TO BE MORE CAREFUL
WITH FIRE THIS YEAR?



Around Horr

Jessie Rosencrantz, Reporter

SMALL GIRL WINS HALF A BEEF

Mrs. Pete Wood and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Miller and daughter, Carrie, spent last Thursday at Pinconning.

Small Carrie won half a beef at the Linwood Catholic Church St. Ann Parish raffle.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Losey and Mrs. Bessie Price were Friday evening callers of Hattie Losey.

Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson and Randy and Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Wilson and Doug were Sunday guests at the Jim Thompson home. They, along with the local Thompsons and Bill and Bob Thompson and Miss Melanie Moyer, attended a 40th wedding anniversary party for Mr. and Mrs. Del Johnson at the Benn Johnson home Sunday.

Bill Thompson was best man at the Doug Higgins-Coline Berry wedding at Akron, Mich., Saturday evening.

Mrs. Nettie Lawrence called

at the Ed Graber home Sunday. Mrs. Graber had suffered a light stroke.

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Denslow, Cherie North and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Embrey attended a picnic at the Clayton Bodell home Sunday. Several members of the Rounds family were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Oplinger spent the weekend in Pennsylvania, a week ago.

Mrs. Debbie Madigan and baby spent last week at the Oplinger home.

Monty Pridgeon was a recent caller at the Sterling Oplinger home.

Sunday callers of the Charles Fahnestocks were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rescoe, Mrs. Harry Dent and two sons, and Mrs. Nelson Bateman and son.

Mrs. Violet Oplinger and I spent Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Hattie Losey.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Dent called on Pat Dillenbeck at the Alma Hospital Wednesday, and called on her brother, Darrel Kirvan, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Miles Mettle of New Hampshire spent a few

days last week with the Dents.

Mrs. Harry Dent and boys spent the week with them. Gerald and Mabel attended the party for the

Del Johnsons Sunday.

Mrs. Susie Chapman and Mrs. Hattie Losey were Thursday shoppers in Mt. Pleasant.

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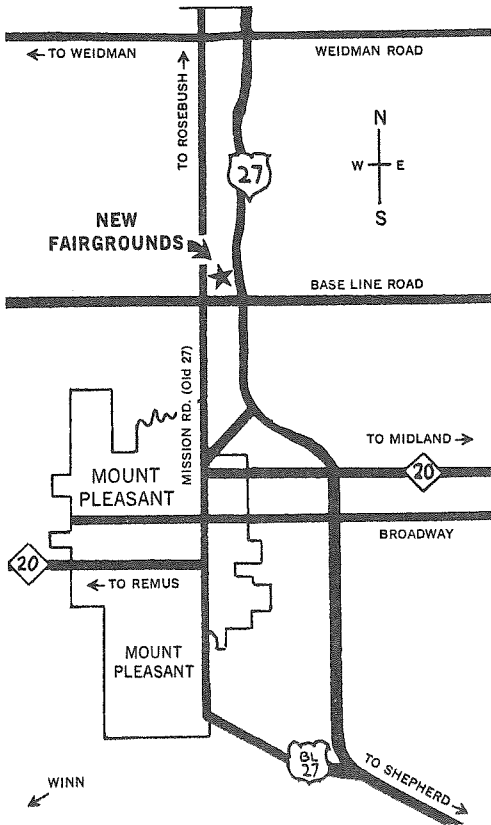
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FIRE CHIEF ORVAL (SPIKE) BRANSON--And Chief Assistant, wife Pauline, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Sunday by "going out to dinner", place undetermined. The Bransons have lived over 20 years in the home they built in 1957, and have a good family: Daughter Brenda, 24; Patty, 21; son Randy, 20; Sherri, 16; and the famous Branson twin girls, Lori and Lisa, five and a half years old. They started their home with just a basement, and have built and rebuilt till now they have a lovely and spacious house on good acreage. Spike has worked for Morbark Industries at Winn for years, and does heavy-machinery work and dirt hauling in his spare time. That's besides his duties as Chief of the Not-tawa and Sherman Volunteer Fire Fighters, which is no mean job. Firemen's wives, the Firemen say, are just about as important as the Firemen themselves; keeping the home going, bailing out at 3 a. m. when the siren lets loose, quieting the kids and "sitiating" them while they maybe run down to the Fire Hall to make hot coffee in big coffee pots and trot out to the fire scenes with donuts from their own fridges or freezers, maybe sandwiches if the fire is a toughie, and of course the life-saving coffee. Messenger photo

Editor's Column

By Connie

(Continued from Page 1)

the post office would see us through about three months of mailing costs.

Not today.

Now, according to our check-book stubs, a \$50 check lasts a little less than six weeks at the post office.

Dunno where we or the post office is heading, but it's getting rough.

Our bet is that the post office is pricing itself right out of the market. For instance, last evening we picked up our phone to talk with Brother Charles Roe in Tarrytown, New York, rather than put a 15-cent stamp on a letter.

(Phone rates after 6 p. m. and Sundays and holidays aren't so bad, and there's a heap of satisfaction in gabbing with a relative instead of starting out with a letter: "Dear Charles, This will cost me 15 cents to mail, and I think I'll toss it in the waste-basket and pick up the phone."

Parcel post packages are now restricted as to size and shape for post office mailing. And that rate also is skyrocketing. United Parcel delivery company, a private, money-making outfit, is going to town delivering our packages, safely and undamaged.

Whereto, post office?

True, our local workers in the Weidman post office are not to blame for the skyrocketing costs.

But we reserve the right to explode at Washington and its crazy doings, especially in the Post Office Department.

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**SCHOOL'S STARTING SOON!
BRACE YOURSELVES, KIDS!**

Classes in the Chippewa Hills Schools system will begin with a half day's session Aug. 29, next Tuesday. High school students will have a general assembly, then run through a brief schedule of classes, 10 to 15 minutes for each class. There will be no hot lunch served that first half-day.

Teachers will spend half a day Monday, Aug. 28, with the principal and the rest of the day getting their rooms and materials ready for real classes Aug. 29.

A full lunch will be served beginning Wednesday, Aug. 30, and school begins in earnest.

FAIR QUEEN NAMED MONDAY NIGHT (Continued from Page 1)

Miss Hoffman was first runner-up in the Queen contest last year.

Besides being first runner-up in the National Trout Festival this year, she represents REACT as Miss REACT in 1977 and 1978.

She is treasurer of the county REACT group. She was a four-year honor student at Beal City High. She was a member of the Sweet Adeline Barbershop singing group for two years.

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FRIDAY NIGHT'S STORM DID SOME DAMAGE HERE

Friday night's rather violent electric storm did some damage around the village here, none fatal or very extensive.

At the R.D. Sprague home, lightning struck a huge catalpa tree close to the house, splitting the tree but not felling it.

Inside the house, fuses were blown, and several household appliances had to be replaced.

Among the major items were the television set and the electric pump.

Wind blew out a window in the Sprague home.

Ron and R.D. cut down the catalpa tree Sunday. (The tree was badly damaged--split down the trunk--but did not fall. If it had fallen, it would have hit the Spragues' trailer house sitting nearby, and probably the house itself.)

The storm was freaky, hitting here and there very hard and skipping other areas relatively close by.

At Lake Isabella, Ruth Fanson's home suffered a torn-off roof during the storm.

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BIRTHDAY DINNER AT THE R.D. SPRAGUES

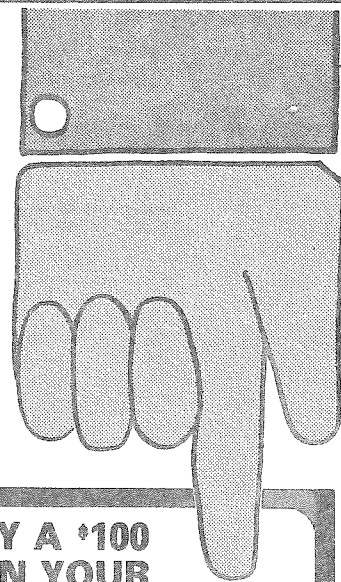
Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Sprague hosted a birthday dinner for Bonnie Sprague and Paul Simmer, Jr., Sunday.

Bonnie's family and Paul and Jodi and small Heather were present, besides the Ron Spragues.

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Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Pitts and Darcy attended the wedding of John Getchell, son of Rev. and Mrs. George Getchell, at Defiance, Ohio, Saturday. The Pittses spent Saturday night and Sunday with the Richard Apples at Alverton, Ohio.

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