

Under the . . . Courthouse Dome

By Ron Sharp



After reviewing expenditures of more than thirteen million dollars by the Hodges administration the State Board of Accounts challenged only \$7,847.67.

An 18-months audit was conducted by the State Board of Accounts ending in 1982.

A check of the audit reports that cover up to Dec. 31, 1982, revealed that the city administration expended \$13,316,059.98.

Of the \$7,847.67 challenged the auditors reported that \$3,052.00 be assessed against the mayor, park superintendent, and police chief for parking their campers in the city parks.

According to those involved, the campers were parked in the parks after city officials received complaints of rowdiness in the parks.

Hodges and the other officials are not campers. It was reported that the rowdiness stopped, when the vehicles were placed in the park. The Hodges administration not only had stopped the rowdiness in the parks but also have paid \$7,847.67 in full.

Records published by the state board revealed that city officials in 1982 spent \$6,140,382.77 to operate the city.

Of this amount \$678,438.22 was spent to operate the city sewage plant. The city sewage disposal system in 1982 showed a profit of \$25,159.

Grants from federal, state, and other sources were secured for projects totaling \$6,497,238.99.

One of the side benefits to the city was the collection of some past due accounts — some dating back to 1980.

Monies collected as a result of the audit were:

Hanger rentals, \$18,706.92.

Wayne Township fire expenses, \$2,834.56.

State of Indiana, maintenance of traffic lights \$840 and auto and other refunds \$450.00.

The report also indicated that the city administration should have secured bids on various projects that totaled \$78,237.98.

Some local politicians believe that "Mike" ran a good administration to get as much done as he did and such a small amount contested.

The audit is reported to have cost about \$250,000. Warsaw taxpayers paid only a small amount of this. Indiana taxpayers picked up the rest.

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GASOLINE RATINGS U.S. News and World Report published recently a fuel efficiency rating list on 1986 vehicles being tested.

The Japanese-made Chevrolet Sprint was listed at 60 miles per gallon on the highway. Honda Civic was second with 57; Toyota Camry and Subaru hatchback were tied for third with 36 miles.

For you "big-car bugs" — Buick Electra and Oldsmobile Delta 88 both have a rating of 30 miles per gallon.

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HISTORICAL DAY Kosciusko County Historical Society will hold Historical Day October 6. The Pound Museum at Oswego, the County Jail and the Tippecanoe Park on Old Road 30 will feature special events during the afternoon. Neal Carlson's organization is observing this day to point out the county's past.

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REPUBLICANS TO HOLD BASH — The ninth annual Republican Hall of Fame dinner will be held Oct. 10 at the Shrine building. It will feature Gov. Robert Orr and will honor those who have made outstanding contributions to "Good Government."

Selecting these persons is a difficult task, so here are a few suggestions:

If selection is based on saving taxpayers' money, Jack Lowry, head of the Taxpayers Association, would be a good candidate. (Warsaw Community School taxpayers saved millions due to his association's efforts to cut cumulative building funds.)

If promoting the county's economy and tourism is a high priority, Deb Wiggins, the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce, and county towns would deserve this.

If the award is based on working for the party and also being an officeholder, Carl Latta would be a good candidate. He has been county sheriff and is presently a county councilman and a precinct committeeman.

Another worthy nominee would be the "dean" of all county officeholders, Fred Gilliam, county commissioner.

If the selection is based on the "hardest working public servant," there could be a duel awards — for County Judge James Jarrette and County Recorder Betty Dust.

If the committee wishes to give it to a person who has been active in Republican Party and other civic affairs for a long time, Virgil "Doc" McCleary would be a good candidate.

Or another that come to mind is Thames Mauzy, Kosciusko County Representative. Thames has been in the legislature for a number of years and is a former district chairman of the Republican Party.

There are a number of others who could be considered.

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NEED READER PARTICIPATION for the October 29th column I would like to have stories about unusual events. For example: The elevators in the courthouse have been known to run up and down in the early morning hours, then stop, and footsteps are heard, but no one is there. If you know any stories of this nature, please write to Sharp's News Service, 313 N. Indiana Avenue, Syracuse, Ind. 46567.

You must sign your name. We will not use your name, but all the stories must be true. Your letters must be in by Oct. 23.

It happened . . . in Syracuse

10 YEARS AGO, OCT. 1, 1975

Two Syracuse youths, Craig and Mark Koble, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Koble, took honors in a national contest held this month when the churches of God of North America held a 150th Anniversary event at Findlay, Ohio. In the music contest, held in conjunction with the church event, Craig took first in instrumental, and Mark tied for second in vocal.

A miscellaneous bridal shower was held in the home of Miss Elaine Stichter near Milford on Saturday, Sept. 27, to honor Miss Elaine Hoopingartner of Syracuse. Miss Hoopingartner will marry Don Bokhart on October 18.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Brown of Syracuse were entertained Sunday in honor of their 35th wedding anniversary. Hosting the event

were their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brown and son Jeffrey of Millersburg. Also attending were Mr. and Mrs. B.R. (Susan Brown) Speicher and Randy and Dean of Ligonier, Mr. and Mrs. Donald (Kay Brown) McCulloch, Todd, Danny and Tammy and Robyn Easley of Syracuse.

20 YEARS AGO, SEPT. 29, 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Nussbaum, Syracuse, owners and operators of the laundromat and dry cleaners in Wawasee Village, have returned home from a week end trip to Chicago. They attended the coin-operated laundry and dry cleaning convention, and viewed the new and latest equipment for coin-operated laundries. Some of the equipment on display will not be on the market until late 1966 or early 1967, at which time, Mr. and Mrs. Nussbaum, plan to purchase some new and improved equipment.

For the 25th wedding anniversary of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Brown of r 1 Syracuse. Mrs. Don McCulloch and daughter, Tammy entertained at the Brown home Monday evening. The Browns were married on September 28, 1940. Attending with the hostess and honored guests were their son, Joe Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Botts of Millersburg; Mr. and Mrs. Orlie Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Moser, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Workman and sons, Mark and David, Mr. and Mrs. Don Sheline and children, Dorina and Tommy, all of Syracuse; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moser of Ligonier. Another daughter, Mrs. Byron Spiker of Austin, Minn., was unable to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kleopfer



**Happy 94th
Birthday
"Aunt Julia"**
From All
Your Relatives
And Friends

of Syracuse returned home September 20 from a few days' visit at Rochester, Mich., in the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Kleopfer, Jr., and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Benner have returned to their home in Hillsdale, Ill., after a few days visit with the latter's sisters, Mrs. Alma Laine and Mrs. Wilbur Ward, and Mr. Ward at Syracuse.

30 YEARS AGO, SEPT. 29, 1955

Flames of undetermined origin, first noticed about 12:30 Wednesday morning by a passing motorist, completely destroyed the "Harbor House" Restaurant on the east side of Lake Wawasee. Damage was estimated to be at least \$50,000.

Stover Hire won second place in the World Championship races on Ft. Laudaun Lake at Knoxville, Tenn., last week end. Stover raced in Class B runabout competition with a Rinker boat. In first place for the second time in three years was Dr. Charles W. Hursh, optometrist, of Syracuse Lake and Goshen.

Fire, which may have started from faulty wiring destroyed a barn south of here about 4 p.m. last Saturday afternoon. The farm on which the barn was located is about two miles south of Syracuse. Lost were a large quantity of hay and grain, a nearby tractor, an empty corn crib, and many miscellaneous tools. The property last was owned by Stiffler, his son, Glenn, and the Browns. Loss was estimated at between five and ten thousand dollars.

Syracuse High School Yellow Jackets cage squad will begin practice on October 4 it was announced this week. Coach Jim Hughes and Assistant Stanley Hoopingartner will be in charge.

50 YEARS AGO, OCT. 3, 1936

No longer will mail come into Syracuse, or leave, on Sunday. Long ago, mail was brought to Syracuse from Goshen in a spring wagon, twice a week. Since the B & O railroad opened through town in 1874, mail has been coming here daily by train. But Saturday night was the last run of the "Milk Shake" train — early from the east in the morning; arriving here at 8:13 from Chicago each evening. On Sunday there was no mail distributed in the local post office. In place of the Milk Shake, a mail route by truck from Garrett to Milford and return for six days a week has been established. The route was awarded to Tony Runion of Garrett, for \$2,191 per year. He has the contract from September 30, 1935, to June 30, 1936. He is to make the run from Garrett railroad station by Avilla, Albion, Kimmell, Cromwell, Wawasee, Syracuse to Milford, 50.6 miles and back six times a week. He is to leave Garrett not later than 6:30 every morning, and is

scheduled to make the run to Milford in three hours. So mail is not distributed in the local office before 8 o'clock each morning, as it has been for years.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the only steam carrier serving the community, will participate in the centennial of the Town of Syracuse which will be held October 5 & 6. During the two-day celebration the railroad will have an exhibition here models of two of its historic locomotives, Tom Thumb of 1829, the first built in America, and Ababian of 1834; a Chinese wheelbarrow of 1850 and Japanese jin-rik-sha of 1860.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thornburg and daughter Martha Ann, and Marjorie Slabaugh spent Sunday in Lafayette where Ralph Jr., is attending Purdue.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bowser moved to the Mae Hoelcher property, Friday, on Lake Street, after Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hoelcher had moved to New Paris.

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