

United in marriage

Bechler - Williams
Martha Leigh Williams and Phillip Jon Bechler, both of Phoenix, Ariz., were united in marriage on Friday, May 19 at Maryvale Baptist Church, Phoenix.
The bride is the daughter of

Lawrence and Lillian Williams, Phoenix, and the groom is the son of Roland and Phyllis Bechler, Bad Axe.

Music selections were provided by the Hand Bell Choir of Grand Canyon University.

The bridal procession was "The Wedding March" from "The Sound of Music." Solo selections included "The Father's Call," "That's All I Ask Of You" and "Seven Things." Organist was Jeffrey Yoder and soloists were Julie Bechler and Philip Williams, Lynda Harwood and David Flint and Rev. Paul Williams.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a gown, designed by the bride and her mother, of silk taffeta, featuring hand appliqued lace and pearls. She carried a bouquet of long-stemmed white roses.

Rev. Paul Williams, Stockton, Calif., brother of the bride and Rev. Joel Fairley officiated at the double-ring ceremony. Lynda Harwood, Glendale, Ariz., college friend of the bride, was maid of honor. Sara Sheeran, Needles, Calif., sister of the bride, served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were college friends Becky Winkler, Chandler, Ariz. and Keita Chafin, Sierra Vista, Calif.

Laura Fairley served as flower girl and Chris Wil-

liams, nephew of the bride, was ringbearer. Douglas Bergman, Phoenix, friend of the groom, was best man. Groomsmen were Douglas Bechler, Lansing, brother of the groom; Michael Hartman, Detroit, Dave McKinley, San Diego, Calif. and Chris Markabrad, Phoenix.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the church fellowship hall.

The bride is a graduate of Grand Canyon University where she is continuing her education in music. The groom is a 1983 graduate of Laker High School and has attended Grand Canyon University. He is employed by the Sony Corporation.

The couple resides in Phoenix.

Pigeon

Recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mel Baerwolf were Mr. and Mrs. Roger Baerwolf and Sarah of Dallas, Tex., Mr. and Mrs. Bob Davis and Tim of North Street, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Elsholz of Brighton, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Elsholz of Peck and Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Sheldon of Sandusky.

Club news

ELKTON SENIOR CITIZENS

Forty members and guests registered for the weekly potluck lunch at the Elkton Civic Center last week.

Mildred Dietzel offered the table prayer. A moment of silence was observed for Alice Reynolds.

Ardis and Clayton Gemmell were in charge of music and "America" was sung and Pledge to the Flag recited.

The Birthday Song was sung for George Shaw, Velma Walerek and Eleanor Izzo.

Thirty-one blood pressures were recorded before the meeting.

Get-well cards were signed for Esther Hodapp and Minnie Williams.

Ray English reported that Beatrice Gregor is improving at home. Frank Rinnert is recovering from illness at home.

Mike Renn introduced Pete Tandy, who entertained the group with several stories of Yankee humor.

Next week's program was to be chaired by Emily Podlaskowski.

Reunions

FLUEGGE

Ninety-six relatives attended the Fluegge Reunion at the Pigeon VFW Hall with a potluck dinner served at 12 noon, which was hosted by the Henry and Emma Elbing family.

After dinner, President Otto Fluegge conducted the meeting. Letters were read from Ada Enz and Emma Zabell. Donna St. John informed the group that her sister, Barbara Sweet, who has been paralyzed from a car accident, would appreciate letters and visits.

Marvin Fluegge, Junction City, Ore., gave a prayer on behalf of Matt Lynk of Gladwin. It was reported that Arnold Weiss is recovering from hip surgery at Bay Medical Center in Bay City. The group mentioned that cousins who live in Germany would like to come and visit in April.

Games were held for the children, after which bingo was played.

Rick and Herb Fluegge showed a few films of past relatives that all enjoyed.

Kevin Weiss, seven month old son of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Weiss of New Baltimore, was the youngest member present. Mildred Rothe, Bad Axe, was the eldest.

There were 10 marriages and 10 births recorded during the last two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Fluegge, Junction City and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Pomeremke of Nebraska, came the farthest distance.

Others present were from Mt. Clemens, Lansing, Holt, Sterling Heights, Westland, St. Clair Shores, Royal Oak, Midland, Kalamazoo, Kawkawlin and the Thumb area.

The 1991 Reunion will be hosted by the Ernst Fluegge family.

The meeting closed with the singing of "God Be With You 'til We Meet Again."

POPPLE SCHOOL

It has been 51 years since the first Popple School Reunion was held on the original school grounds on M-53 at the end of S. Pinnebog Road on Aug. 1938.

John McQuarrie was elected the first president and Jay Burgess acted as secretary. There were over 100 former teachers and pupils in attendance.

In later years, Popple School consolidated with the Bad Axe and Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port School Districts. The school was then sold and moved off the property.

This year, the Popple School Reunion will take place on Sunday, Aug. 20 at the Popple Trailblazers Club on Wadsworth Rd., 1/2 mile east of M-53. Potluck dinner will be at 1 p.m. and participants are asked to bring a table service and beverage.

All former teachers, pupils and residents of the former Popple District are welcome to attend.

453-2331

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Watching For Rain And Luck

"And in the summer grows and blooms each green thing." William Wicher, 1574

As in every other year, rain and luck are the all-important keys, but with a little rain and a little luck, this could be one of the best growing years in memory for Thumb-area farmers.

They say the wheat is "standing up and ripening down," just right for a harvest season scheduled to begin within the next few days. Yields are expected to range from 80-100 bushels per acre this year — up from last year's 50-60 bushel totals.

Those yields and prices could mean a return of \$300+ per acre for area growers, the best return in years.

Rain is especially critical for this season's corn and bean crops, too. Navy beans are stalled right now, after a rain-delayed start. And corn plants need rain to help set the emerging ears.

Finally, beet growers report that this year's crop could be one of the best ever. The young plants show advanced growth for this time of the season, and sugar company officials expect the crop to equal the area's 10-year average.

Man first broke the ground and planted seeds thousands of years ago, but still today modern farmers watch for rain and luck.



IT TAKES MILLIONS of beet plants to make tons of sugar, and this year's crop looks good so far.



THE VIEW THROUGH a tunnel of corn stalks and leaves shows healthy young plants. With corn about to tassel, an inch or 2 of rain would help insure a good crop.



EVERYTHING stands ready for this season's wheat harvest to begin.

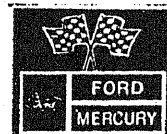
Photostory by Mark Rummel

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88 MUSTANG Convertible, *	\$12,995, OR BEST OFFER	83 BUICK REGAL LIMITED, 63,000 Mi.	\$4,995
88 COUGAR 10,000 miles	\$10,995	83 BUICK REGAL 6 cyl., auto., loaded	\$4,995
86 TAURUS loaded, low miles,	\$9,995	81 MERCURY COUGAR	\$499
88 MERKUR XR4TI, loaded	\$12,995	80 OLDS 88 clean	\$1,995
88 FORD AEROSTAR WGN. XLT	\$13,995	79 RX 7 MAZDA mint cond.,	\$3,995
88 MUSTANG GT, 3,000 Mi., Loaded	\$12,995 OR BEST OFFER	TRUCKS	
87 SABLE loaded, white	\$7,995	87 CHEVY FULL-SIZE BLAZER, 22,000 Mi.	\$12,995
87 RELIANT auto	\$4,995	86 FORD F-150 48,000 mi.	\$6,995
87 TEMPO GL 41,000 miles	\$5,995	86 FORD BRONCO II	\$8,495 OR BEST OFFER
87 ESCORT, 46,000 miles	\$4,495 OR BEST OFFER	86 CHEVY 4x4 SILVERADO-Loaded	\$8,995
86 MUSTANG V-6, auto.	\$6,495	85 F-150 54,000 mi.	\$5,995 OR BEST OFFER
86 ESCORT 63,000 mi., auto	\$3,995	85 BRONCO II 4x4, AUto., Air	\$6,495 OR BEST OFFER
86 ESCORT L, 2 door, sharp!	\$3,995	85 FORD CONVERSION VAN, sharp!	\$7,995
85 REGAL clean	\$4,995	84 FORD CONVERSION VAN	\$8,995 OR BEST OFFER
85 ESCORT auto., 45,000 mi.	\$3,995	84 FORD RANGER	\$3,495
85 CELEBRITY auto., 67,000 mi	\$4,495	83 FORD CONVERSION VAN	\$5,995 OR BEST OFFER
85 CAVALIER	\$2,995	82 F-150 56,000 mi.	\$3,995
84 PONTIAC 6000	\$4,995	81 CHEVY K-10 4x4, mint condition	\$4,495
84 PONTIAC SUNBIRD	\$3,995 OR BEST OFFER	78 JEEP CHEROKEE WAGON	\$1,995
84 AMC ALLIANCE	\$2,495 OR BEST OFFER	76 CHEVY PLOW 3/4 Ton	\$2,995
		72 VOLVO WAGON	\$995

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Vet gets a chance at life . . .

DEAR MR. ROSS:
Sir, I am a disable Vietnam veteran, who has to be on a respiratory machine 24 hours a day because of emphysema. The machine

weighs 250 pounds and makes me a prisoner in my own home, as I cannot carry it on my back. Without it, I cannot go outside to take a walk or go to the park, let alone the most important thing — get a job.

I spent five years in a Vietnam prison camp before I escaped, and although the government helps me, they also keep me disabled because they can't purchase a portable machine for me. If I could get a portable

machine, a black suit and shoes, I have a job waiting for me as a limousine driver. Please, I've been a prisoner long enough and just want a chance at life. I can't think of any other way out of this terrible "Catch 22" situation that I'm in, after

having exhausted all other possibilities. What I'm asking of you is the \$500 I need to make it all happen. Is that too much to ask for? — Mr. G.F., Bronx, N.Y.

It's okay to be disappointed in me — just don't get disappointed in God if you don't get what you want right away. Stick with it and good luck. —————

DEAR MR. F.:
A \$500 check would be a lot to ask for if you wanted a night out on the town, but it's pennies to me, if that's what it takes to get your life back on track. I'm not alone in my thinking either. I spoke with Anne-Marie Battenfeld of Respiratory Control Systems, Inc., who made me a most attractive offer for a portable oxygen machine. I've made arrangements with them to come to your apartment and set you up.

However, I'm still sending you a \$500 check, because we're going to make sure you get the proper start. Should I ever hear from you again, I hope it's with a success story of your own, because you deserve it. I'm excited for you, and you have my best wishes for a productive life with freedom. —————

DEAR MR. ROSS:
I am only 12 years old. My dad has written you about helping out on a fun drive to help the handicapped. But I've decided that instead of asking to help the handicapped, we should have asked for a bed, or an abortion, or maybe even running shoes! That's what I've seen you give away lately.

I am disappointed in you, but I know God will help my dad to help the handicapped. — J.T., Ocala, Fla.

DEAR MRS. D.:
We'll try to keep your name out of the obituary column as well. My editor came rushing in with your letter and swore I had to help you. I suppose that's because Miss Webber is such an avid walker and claims it to be the best exercise for young and old alike.

If walking gives her the stamina to work 12 hour days, imagine what it could do for you. My check is on the way. However, if I catch wind of a rumor you're jogging the streets of St. Louis, I might suggest you're overdoing it a bit. Best wishes! —————

DEAR J.:
You made a small error — it's not a "fun" drive, it's a "fund" drive, and it's done to raise money for worthy causes. It also means hard work and often times, a great many rejections. Success, however, is a result of overcoming those rejections and not giving up. —————

DEAR MR. ROSS:
You help so many people who don't ask for a lot. You seem just as willing to help put a little quality into someone's life as you do to give money for a chance at life.

I'm a 79 year old widow and have started walking about six miles a week for exercise. Thank God I can do that and a little gardening at my age.

Sometime ago I got a spur on my heel. My doctor gave me two cortisone shots over the course of several weeks. However, the soreness is always with me. Now my doctor gave me a

prescription for a built-up heel in my shoe. My friend uses them, and she says they're wonderful for walking. The cost is \$125. I would appreciate any help and am so glad you don't put names in the paper! The only news I care to make is the obituaries — when my time comes, that is. — Mrs. C.D., St. Louis, Mo.

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I am only 12 years old. My dad has written you about helping out on a fun drive to help the handicapped. But I've decided that instead of asking to help the handicapped, we should have asked for a bed, or an abortion, or maybe even running shoes! That's what I've seen you give away lately.

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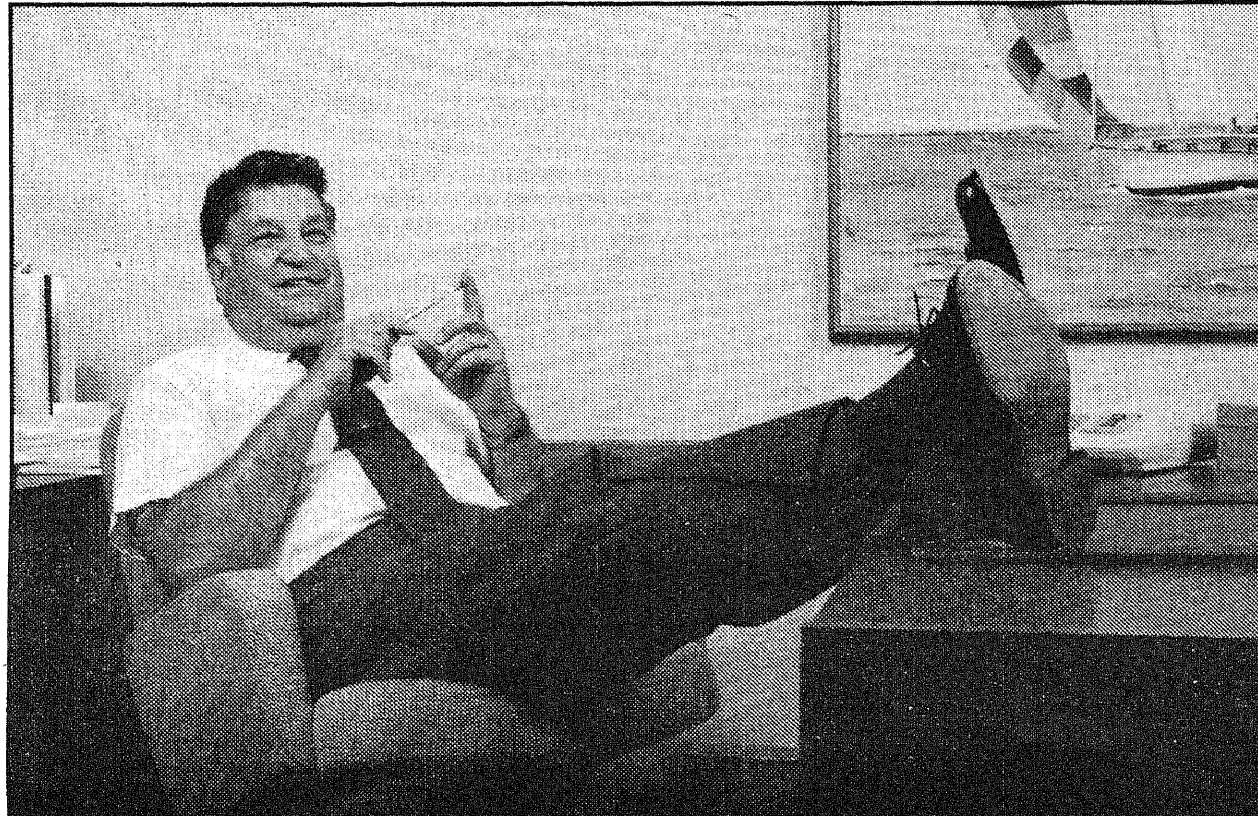
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Those will be big shoes to fill!

In the past 15 years, Les Shetler has made a lot of friends for Mutual Savings and himself in the Thumb. And, since he's about to retire (come on Les, don't look so happy), we just wanted to say "Thanks!"

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Les, you left some big shoes to fill. But, we'll give it our best shot. Oh, and one other thing... "Enjoy!"

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Your complete weekly listing of Thumb Area Obituaries

LLOYD A. KRETZSCHMER
1914 - 1989

Lloyd A. Kretzschmer, 74 of Owendale, passed away Thursday, July 13 at Saginaw General Hospital. He was born Dec. 20, 1914 in Owendale, son of the late William and Mary Jane (Thompson) Kretzschmer. On March 31, 1937 he was united in marriage to Elizabeth I. Kovach in Owendale. He was a member of the Owendale United Methodist Church, charter member of the Owendale Lions Club, member of the Masonic Blue Lodge, Cass City, Bad Axe Commandary Knights Templars #52, Brookfield Township Board Trustee for 30 years, 50-year member of Owendale Fire Department and member of Michigan United Conservation Club.

Kappen of Port Lauderdale, Fla., plus several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a sister, Mrs. Theresa Zimmer, and three brothers, Edward, William and Ralph Hacker. Funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 13 at Elkton Missionary Church. Burial was in Colfax Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Elkton Missionary Church.

OLIN HOFFMAN
1915 - 1989

Word has been received of the death of Olin E. "Ted" Hoffman, age 74 of West Bloomfield, who died June 21 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac. He was born March 7, 1915 in Elkton, son of the late Edwin and Margaret (McIntyre) Hoffman. He was united in marriage to Ruth Eileen Bedford. A graduate of Elkton High School, Mr. Hoffman was a former Pontiac police detective, serving from 1950-1958. He then became an air traffic control specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration at Detroit Flight Service, retiring in 1975. He was a U.S. Naval veteran of World War II. Mr. Hoffman was treasurer of a local Alcoholics Anonymous chapter and a member of the Sylvan Lake Lutheran Church, West Bloomfield Township. He also worked with the FISH Program, an Oakland County agency that helps the needy. As a child, he was involved with the family farm near Elkton.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth, West Bloomfield; two sons, Edwin "Ted" Hoffman, St. Petersburg, Fla. and John Hoffman, St. Petersburg, Fla.; four daughters, Ruth Hoffman, Manchester, Vt., Margaret Hoffman, Palo Alto, Calif., Mary Dickie, Clarkston and Sally Weiss, Union Lake and 13 grandchildren. Preceding him in death was one brother, Neilan Hoffman. Funeral services were held June 24 at Sylvan Lake Lutheran Church. Cremation took place and burial was in Colfax Township. Arrangements were handled by the Godhardt-Tomlinson Funeral Home, Keego Harbor. Memorials may be made to the church.

ALICE F. REYNOLDS
1899 - 1989

Alice F. Reynolds, 90 of Colfax Township, passed away Monday, July 10 at Huron County Medical Care Facility, Bad Axe, following a short illness. She was born May 29, 1899 in Pigeon, daughter of the late Frank and Anna Hacker. On Aug. 5, 1915, she was united in marriage to Howard Reynolds in Bad Axe. He preceded her in death on Aug. 10, 1973. Mrs. Reynolds was a member of Elkton Missionary Church and the Elkton Senior Citizens. She attended Pigeon Elementary School and was employed at Automotive Industries of Owendale for many years. She enjoyed gardening and crocheting. She is survived by one son, Roy J. Reynolds of Bad Axe; four grandchildren; three sisters, Mrs. Irene Ruby of Detroit, Mrs. Violet Speck of Oakland, Calif., and Mrs. Ted (Eleanor)

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