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# United Way hits 80 per cent

--Campaign continues... Page 5

## The News-Dispatch

Thursday

Michigan City, Indiana

20 cents

November 11, 1976

# City CD fund decision made

By LEO MORRIS  
News-Dispatch staff writer

After learning the city might receive \$400,000 instead of \$255,000 in Community Development (CD) funds in 1977, the Community Development Advisory Committee last night made its final decision on how those federal funds should be spent.

The largest amount — \$199,000 — was earmarked for a combination day care, senior citizens and community center at the proposed Dr. Martin Luther King Center site along Wilson Road.

The committee also recommended \$120,000 be spent on city water projects, \$70,000 on recreation and \$11,000 for someone to administer the program.

The committee's recommendations must first be approved by the city council, then by the federal Housing and Urban Development

Administration (HUD). City planner Charles Oberlie and assistant planner Arthur Payne said they hope to have the recommendations ready for the Tuesday council meeting.

City council President Stanley Przybylinski said this morning it is likely the council will go along with the committee's recommendations.

In addition to the \$255,000 CD entitlement the city will receive in 1977, \$145,000 in CD "discretionary funding" might be available, Oberlie said last night. He said he expects to hear for sure in the next few weeks if the discretionary funding is available.

The city has been eligible for \$45,000 in discretionary funding since the CD program started, Oberlie said, but the city has never applied for it because of the administrative problems involved. If the city is eligible for \$145,000, it would

be worthwhile to apply for it despite those problems, he said.

The committee voted to seek the \$145,000 and spend it for the day care center at the King center site. It also approved \$54,000 of the \$255,000 entitlement for the King center to help build a senior citizens—community center at the site. The King group has pledged to contribute the \$50,000 it has raised towards construction of the center.

The entire \$249,000 would be used for construction only. Staffing and maintenance of the two facilities would be provided by a cooperative effort of the King group and several social service agencies.

Following a meeting in the mayor's office yesterday morning, representatives of the area's Neighborhood Centers, Head Start, Coates Community Center, Christian Life Center and King group

reached an agreement to provide staffing and maintenance.

The \$120,000 for city water projects would be used to finish the Freyer Road water project. Any remaining funds would be applied to the Eastport water project.

The \$70,000 for recreation would be used for additional equipment in city playgrounds. The equipment would include such items as basketball goals, climbers, slides, spring animals, and benches.

Following are a number of pieces of additional equipment proposed for each playground:

- Southgate, 6; Jefferson, 8; Knapp 6; Walker Street 3; Ridgeland Avenue, 3; Oakhills, 5; Niemann School, 2; Riley 8; Water Tower, 1; Gardena, 7; Cleveland, 3; Tall Timbers 10; Memorial Park, 3; Merrihill, 2; Mullen 10; Edgewood, 10; Joy 10; Hansen Park, 4; Harborside 1; Zilla

Square, 5; Pullman 9; Central School, 7; Park School, 5, and Garfield 3.

Hansen Park also is listed as needing asphalt for a basketball court.

Another item in the recreation allotment is \$7,565 for other equipment including baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer and high jump equipment.

The Coates Community Center also is to get \$3,000 for recreation equipment.

The committee last night considered, but rejected, using some of the CD money for Spaulding Hotel demolition and the Bicentennial Amphitheater project.

Committee members voted to include in their proposal to the city council a recommendation that the two projects be given priority status when it comes time to appropriate federal revenue sharing funds next year.

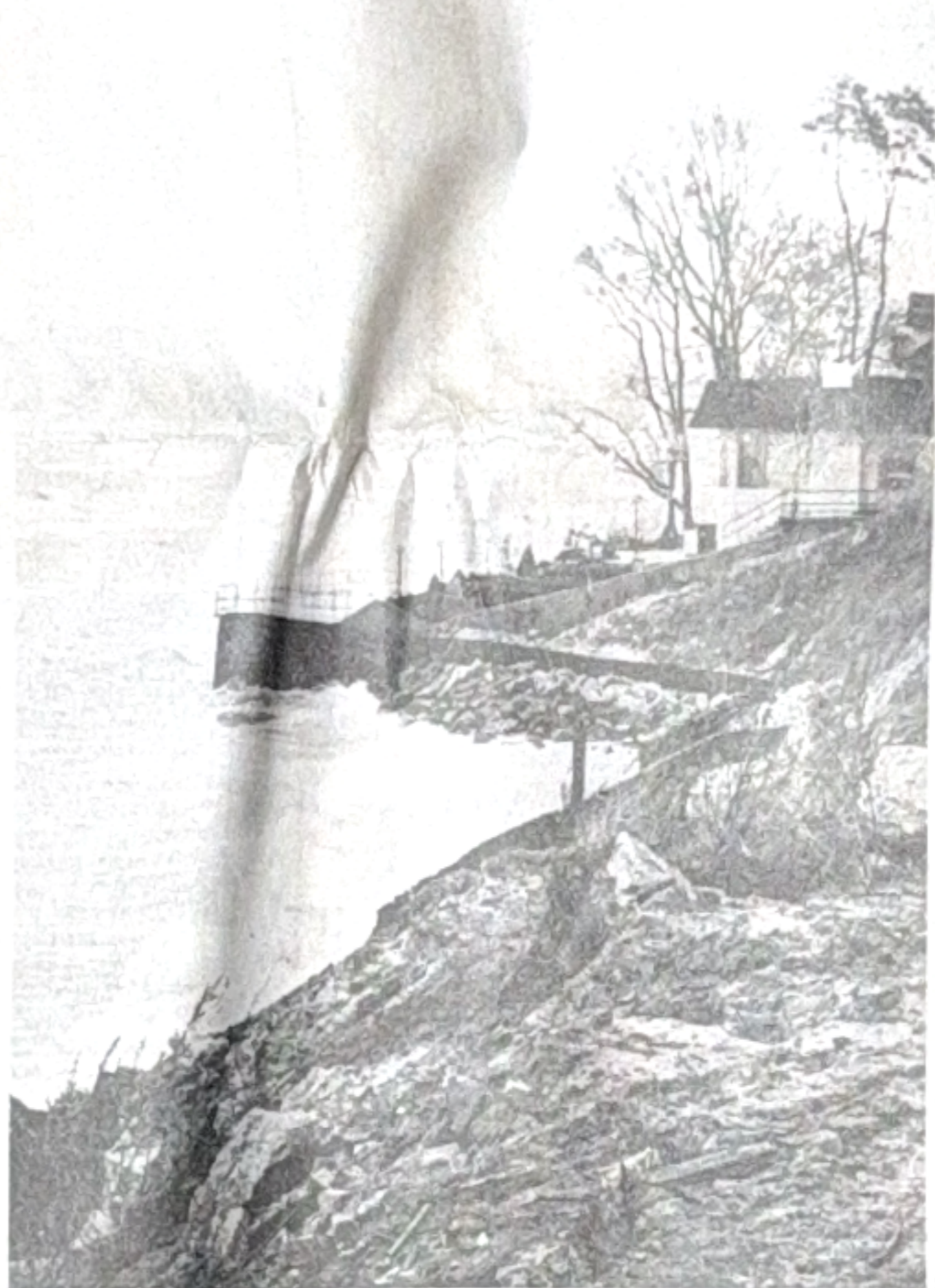
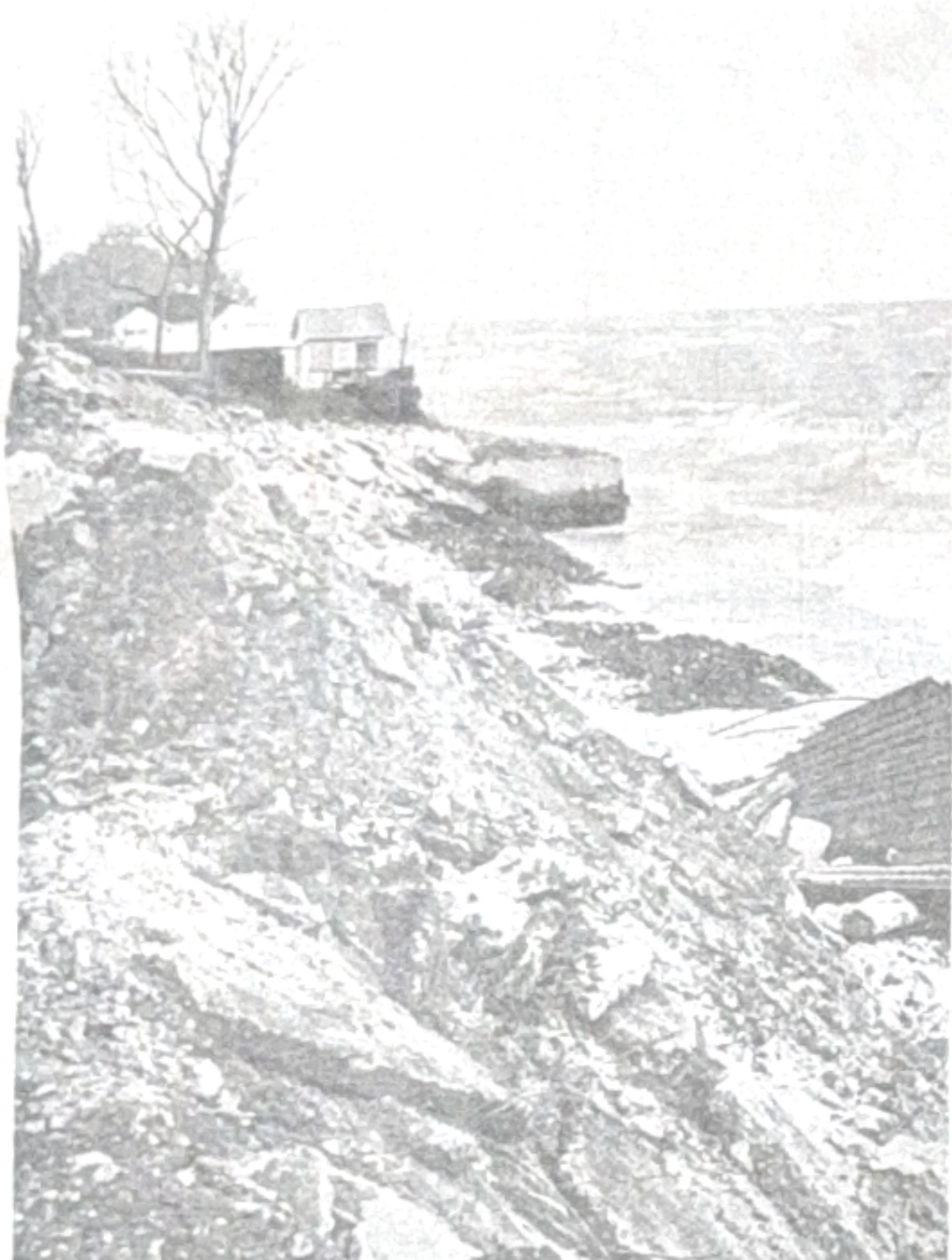
Members of the amphitheater committee attended last night's meeting to make a final appeal.

CD committee members expressed doubts about whether the amphitheater project would qualify under the CD guidelines, which indicate the money should mostly benefit those of low to moderate income.

Amphitheater sponsors argued the amphitheater would benefit everyone in Michigan City.

The advisory committee has been meeting regularly for the past several weeks, developing priorities and seeking public input at a series of public meetings.

It now will meet quarterly to review the progress of the program it has developed. It might also have to conduct another series of public hearings this summer. Oberlie informed them last night there is a chance more CD funds might be made available then.



## Lakefront danger

Efforts to halt lakeshore erosion at Michiana, Mich., are at a standstill, while the relentless action of wind and waves continues to eat away at the shore. In the left photo, fill material has been placed in the Stop 40

area to protect the road. In the right photo, a seawall protects a home from wave erosion, although part of the wall has been eroded. (News-Dispatch photos by Henry Lange)

# Wind, waves winning battle

By HENRY LANGE  
News-Dispatch staff writer

MICHIANA, Mich. — "If something isn't done soon, erosion could create a catastrophe along Lake Shore Drive," said village council president Dr. Wayne Dunlop today.

Portions of the lakeshore here have been eaten away by Lake Michigan waves churned by strong north winds between Stops 39 and 41.

At least two homes already are endangered by the waves, but the main concern of the village officials is the condition of the roadway.

"The village council discussed the problem Monday night until 12:30 a.m. and right now we're at a standstill," Dunlop said.

He said Dale Granger of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources warned the council members about a possible disaster this winter unless an ice cap forms along the shore early.

Dr. Dunlop said Granger said lack of an early freeze would make the roadway vulnerable to waves created by late fall and early winter storms.

"We've got \$20,000 in contributions from residents along the shore and others inside the village

and there are matching funds in the village treasury, but we can't use them because of opposition from a very small group," Dunlop said.

The village council president said the matter has been under discussion since July.

The village project calls for construction of a revetment between Stops 39 and 40.

He explained the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must conduct a public hearing if there is opposition to a program; otherwise the Corps could issue a permit.

"It would take 30 days for review and the hearing and an additional 15 to 30 days to reach a decision. By that time it will be December and no construction company would work in that kind of weather," Dunlop said.

He explained the Corps earlier developed a two-phase program to halt the erosion. The program was submitted for approval in Washington, but was sent back for redesign as a single phase project.

"We have every reason to believe the new design will be approved, but it won't be until 1977 before the work could begin. This means we'll have to do what we can through the remainder of this year and into next year," Dr. Dunlop said.

He added that no information on funding has been received.

"You know what kind of a tax base a village of 250 to 320 residents has," he said.

Dr. Dunlop said it now appears the village will have to use what resources it has to save the road this winter.

He said the real problem is at the shoreline.

"We can protect the road, but when the bluff is eroded away, the

pavement will collapse," he added.

Dr. Dunlop said if the road collapses there will be serious problems including lack of access to homes along Lake Shore Drive and damage to underground utilities at the lakefront.

Meanwhile, erosion control is up to the village street department which spent considerable time this summer dumping fill material into areas where the roadway is already endangered.

## ICC South Shore hearing Tuesday

(Other stories on Pages 8 and 11)

An Interstate Commerce Commission staff hearing on the proposed South Shore Railroad passenger service abandonment is scheduled for Tuesday at 9 a.m. in the city police building.

ICC staff member Gary Gordon will conduct the hearing with area transportation and planning agencies to discuss economic, environmental and other impacts antici-

pated if the passenger service is halted.

The meeting has been scheduled to obtain staff input for the ICC commissioner before a decision is made on whether to require a public hearing on the South Shore proposal.

Tonight, the LaPorte County Public Transportation Authority will present its goals and objectives at its meeting at 7:30 in the police building.

## Children witness murder in classroom

DETROIT (AP) — Seven-year-old Laura Denomie and 35 other children had just started their English lesson in Betty McCaster's first-grade class. A man entered, exchanged a few words with the teacher, then shot her.

"Miss McCaster was screaming," Laura recalled later. "She reached her hand out and tried to push the gun away but bullets hit her and she fell back against the table."

Miss McCaster, 46, was fatally shot in the head Wednesday in her classroom at Burt Elementary School on Detroit's northwest side.

"We were screaming, and we all ran out of the room," Laura told police. "He shot her three or four times from this far away," she said, indicating a distance of about five feet.

Hours later, police arrested Miss McCaster's estranged husband, Al J. Lewis, 46, on open charges.

Most classes were canceled for the rest of the day at the school, where Miss McCaster had transferred only three weeks ago because, police said, she was afraid of Lewis.

Her sobbing pupils fled the scene and clustered in a first-floor classroom. Their parents waited anxiously in the corridor while po-

lice tried to piece together the youngsters' confused stories of what happened.

Police and school officials said a man had come to the school, inquired where Miss McCaster's classroom was, and entered it just as she began an English lesson.

Pupils said the two exchanged a few words before the man pulled a gun. When Miss McCaster told one child to go to the principal's office for help, the children said, the gunman became infuriated.

The Detroit Free Press reported in today's editions that Lewis had for the past two months been trying to get public school officials to fire his ex-wife. Lewis called the newspaper several times, claiming he could prove Miss McCaster had stolen school equipment.

The newspaper said Lewis called a reporter Monday and said he had signed himself into Doctors Hospital and expected to be there three weeks. A hospital spokesman refused to say what kind of treatment Lewis had. He signed himself out Tuesday night.

School principal Wilbur Klein said Miss McCaster's husband, whom he knew slightly, had come to the school a few days ago and demanded to see his wife. The principal said he told Miss McCaster, but she refused to see Lewis.

## 2-car crash kills one

A man believed to be from Chesterton, was killed in a two-car crash about 11:25 a.m. today on the ConRall overpass on U.S. 20, west of the LaPorte-Porter County line.

Initial reports from the scene show the victim had a driver's license issued in Michigan City, but he is believed to have recently moved to Chesterton.

State police declined to reveal identification pending arrival of the Porter County coroner and notification of next of kin.

The pavement on the overpass was reported icy and an eastbound station wagon reportedly went out of control, crossed the highway and struck the car bearing the victim, roadside.

## Inside

— Interest in reading the newspaper and following local issues has picked up at Elston Junior High...Page 2.

— New Prairie School teachers received a five per cent pay raise, retroactive to July 1...Page 3.

— A Chesterton High School attendance rule change probably will be presented at the Duneland School board's Dec. 6 meeting...Page 3.

— It will be some time before "They're off" is heard at a proposed race track in Three Oaks...Page 5.

— Several fund-raising activities are planned to help buy band uniforms for Elston and Rogers high schools...Page 6.

— A rural LaPorte County man became Michigan City's

fifth fatality of the year today...Page 6.

— Hoaxes are giving CBERS a black eye...Page 11.

## Deaths

Warren Coan, 70, Port Charlotte, Fla.

Margaret Leist, Canoga Park, Calif.

Kenneth Holley, 37, 5186N County Road, 350 West, LaPorte.

(Details on Pages 6 and 7)

## Weather

Cloudy and cold with snow flurries tonight and tomorrow. Low tonight near 30. High tomorrow near 30. High yesterday 38, low 30, at the local U.S. Coast Guard Station.