A car-bicycle accident on Bethel Pike near county road 350 west has sent a rural Muncie boy to the hospital. 11-year-old John Brammer of route nine, Muncie, is in Ball Hospital after his bicycle was struck by a car driven by 21-year-old Gayle Carais of route one, Elwood. According to state police, Carais was headed northwest on Bethel when she slowed to pass Brammer. At the same time, the boy lost control of his bike. He is listed in serious condition in the intensive care unit with head injuries and a broken leg.
I don't enjoy writing stories from news releases. Many times news releases don't contain news anyway. ("Company X announced today that Mr. Y has been appointed Vice President in Charge of Z.") In addition, I worry about the objectivity of the content. After all, they are the company's, the politician's, the organization's news releases.

On the other hand, if I were really hurting for news and didn't have a wire machine at my disposal, I would probably welcome news releases. The type of information they provide isn't heard often on many stations, probably for the same reasons that I don't like to use them.

I recall once we received notice of an "upcoming" Muncie Human Rights Commission workshop the day after it had been held! I phoned to confirm what was the obvious truth; however, before I could finish my greeting, the receptionist was referring my to her boss! Needless to say, I talked her into staying on the line and giving me the short, simple answer that I needed.

If a release contains information that I consider important, I'll go ahead and write it up or direct someone else to. The alleged strict regulation and resulting decline of Indiana coal is important, as is a small business workshop for its localness. Two stories from news releases follow.
Misled government policy and over-regulation threatens to create a coal crisis in the United States. That's what Seventh District Congressman John Myers thinks. The Republican is especially worried about the growth of western coal fields and the decline of eastern fields. In a newsletter, Myers points out that 400 to 500 miners and mine construction workers have lost their jobs in his home district alone during the past year. He says this is happening because Indiana coal is being priced out of the market. Myers says regulations have added thousands of dollars to the cost of landscaping exhausted surface mines. In addition, environmental regulations, especially those regarding sulfur dioxide emissions, discourage Indiana coal while causing utilities to consider using western coal. Myers says he will continue to investigate the problem by meeting with coal industry officials, visiting Indiana mines, and talking with miners and their union representatives.
The dining room of the Muncie Area Career Center will soon be the sight of the sixth in a series of small business workshops. Sponsored by the Small Business Council of the Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, the workshop takes place tomorrow evening at seven. Leading the session will be David E. Robertson. He's the president of P-D-P Corporation, a Muncie data processing firm. He'll tell participants how small businessmen can use computers to their advantage. The popular workshops are open to any small business owner or manager in the Muncie area whether the firm is a member of the chamber or not. Cost of the seminars is five dollars per person to cover all costs of space rental, administration, and materials.
GOT EM!

I'd hate to see Village Pantry's insurance premiums. The chain of convenience stores is really vulnerable to robbery, especially the 24-hour outlets.

During fall, holdups were occurring so often that we were slugging our stories "Weekly Village Pantry Holdup." That's what I called mine on the morning of October 18. The story on the morning of September 26, had a different ending though, and my slug tells it all.
This time they didn't get away. According to Muncie Police, two men armed with a knife held up the Village Pantry at 26th and Madison shortly after two this morning. Within a minute of the radio dispatch on the robbery, K-9 officer Bronie Gregory had stopped the getaway car. Gregory took the two men back to the store, where they were identified by the employee they had just robbed. Now being held in the Delaware County Jail on preliminary charges of armed robbery are Robert Herrington and Edward Murrell, both of Indianapolis.
TUESDAY EVENING FIRE BEAT

The morning calls on September 26, also resulted in a fire­fighters' story with a hidden ingredient. Can you find it?
Muncie firefighters were fairly busy last evening. First off at 10:31 were two large trash fires at the old Delco Battery plant. Two units spent about an hour extinguishing those blazes. At 10:42 five units were dispatched to the Ball State campus, more specifically Knotts Hall in the LaFollette Residence Hall complex. A fire in a waste basket there caused light smoke damage to the basement. That blaze is still under investigation. Finally, at six minutes past midnight, firefighters received two calls that the Pizza King at 214 South Tillotson was on fire. However, firefighters upon their arrival discovered a car fire instead.
If, in the preceding story, you guessed that the LaFollette fire was the work of Ball State's Autumn Arsonist, you were right. The Teachers College would be the next target that evening.

SBA DECLARES RANDOLPH COUNTY A DISASTER AREA

Here's another news release story. My original slug declared that we locals already knew that Randolph County was a disaster area! (My apologies to WIUC in Winchester.)
SBA DECLARES RANDOLPH COUNTY A DISASTER AREA

LCL/News Release & Gast

GAST

9-27-79 11:25 a.m.

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July flooding has resulted in Randolph County's being declared a disaster area by the Small Business Administration. Under the declaration, the adjacent counties of Wayne, Henry, Jay, and Delaware are also eligible for disaster loans. Persons have until March 21, 1980, to file loan applications for physical damage and until June 23rd of next year for economic injury. The S-B-A will have a representative at the Winchester A-S-C-S office from October 2 to October 6, and there will be a public meeting to explain the disaster loan program on the evening of October 5 at the Randolph County 4-H Club-Husted Hall. The declaration follows flooding that was caused by heavy rains in the area between July 13 and the 31st.
COMMISSIONERS MEETING NICE AND QUICK

With the recruitment of Brice Sheets to edit the Noon News on Mondays, I began covering the Delaware County Commissioners. The commissioners' meetings embraced the "office hours concept." The rumor was that the meeting would begin at 9:00 Monday morning; if you had any business, show up. Monday morning the commissioners would make phone calls and generally congregate in the back room, then come out about 9:30 and sit down. After a round of throat-clearing, they would convene the meeting.

Business would be conducted slowly, and any action would be followed by a pause before the next item was taken up for discussion. If bids were to be opened at 10:00, the commissioners would mark time until then.

Commissioner Bob Pence must have been the busiest, if not the most powerful, man in Delaware County. Of the six organizations I covered as part of my honors project, he was supposed to be involved with four of them. Heaven knows how many more he was on.

I was glad to have covered the commissioners. I felt that their actions and decisions were important to Muncie and Delaware County. In addition, I was assured of at least one new local story each week.
Monday morning's meeting of the Delaware County Commissioners was short and sweet, lasting no more than twenty minutes. Equipment bids were the only items on the agenda. The commissioners rejected a pair of bids on two new dump trucks for the county highway department, a bid for a diesel-engined Ford truck and one for a gasoline-engined G-M-C truck. Commissioner Bob Pence said he wanted to take a look at an upcoming bid for a G-M-C truck with a diesel engine. He also pointed out mechanical problems with the last Fords the commissioners had purchased. County Attorney Thomas Cannon opened two sealed bids for new laundry equipment at the Delaware County Health Center. One bid was from Ralph Ginn of Ginn's Sales and Service; a slightly higher bid came from L & S Equipment, Incorporated. The commissioners took the two bids under advisement, then adjourned to an early cup of coffee.
OVERNIGHT SHOOTING WEST OF YORKTOWN

Yes, I overslept on the morning of October 3. I woke up, realized what had happened, decided to make the morning calls from my room, and started to call Jack McQuate at the station. He beat me to the phone and told me about an overnight shooting. I made the calls and collected the information, dressed, went down to the station, and typed up the shooting story.
One man is in the hospital, another is in jail, following an overnight shooting west of Yorktown. According to Delaware County Police, 20-year-old James Grimes allegedly shot 24-year-old Steve Spurgeon over an argument about a car. Grimes allegedly owed Spurgeon 500 dollars for a car he had purchased from Spurgeon. The debtor allegedly phoned the creditor and told him to come to his home on state road 32 west of Yorktown. Spurgeon did, and as he got out of his car, Grimes allegedly shot him on the left side of the face and neck. Spurgeon is listed in _______ condition at Ball Hospital. Grimes has been charged with pre-attempted murder. Police say the incident occurred shortly after one o'clock this morning.
PLAN COMMISSIONER WALKS OUT OF COMMISSION MEETING, SEZ HE'LL RESIGN

My second story on the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Planning Commission caused a conflict. The problem involved story length. By the time I attached Thursday night's other business to Rev. Watkins' verbal resignation, I had a story that was well over two minutes long. I hastily made a cart for the Ten O'clock News and got the long version on the air once. That was all.

News Director Sarah Slater told me to shorten the story. I bulked the cart and rewrote the story, cutting out everything except Watkins' resignation.

I angrily declared that Friday's listeners would have to read the morning paper to find out what else happened. I was wrong. Reporter Hawes' story also failed to mention anything other than Watkins' actions. Therefore, no one ever knew that the commission had also okayed a similar rezoning request for the county surveyor involving land located near the project which Watkins resigned over.

Soon afterwards, I discussed the problem of story length with Chris Nolte at WMDH. He remarked that, with his hourly newscasts, he could write two stories from one meeting. At first I dismissed that idea, thinking that it wasn't compatible with WBST's news format and schedule. I later changed my mind and broke a few meetings into double stories. I found that the trick seems to work, especially if the scripts refer to the meetings as little as possible.
The Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission is minus one commissioner following the apparent resignation of the Reverend A. Claude Watkins during Thursday night's meeting. The Presbyterian Housing Program, Incorporated had filed for a zoning change to permit construction of a seven-story structure adjacent to Westminster Village. Opposition to the new building centered around bad drainage, bad roads, and inadequate fire protection. Opponents also claimed that the new structure would be a burden on taxpayers, since the corporation is non-taxable and government money would be used to house some of the elderly and handicapped residents. Watkins recommended the commission pass the rezoning, then made a motion that no one seconded. Next, a motion was made to disapprove the rezoning. When Commission Chairman A. E. Suro called for Watkin's vote, Watkins complained that whenever he makes a motion, the commission turns it down. He told them that they could do what they wanted to, because he was resigning. When asked if he was abstaining his vote, Watkins replied, "I ain't sayin' nothin'." Then he left the meeting. The remaining commissioners also turned down a request from Thelma Potter, 3804 Wheeling Avenue.
The request would have changed that property from R-3 Residence to B-L Limited Business Zone. Spot zoning was cited as the reason for that disapproval. The commission also rejected the request of Earl and Mabel Conyers. They wanted to rezone property in the 17-hundred block of Cornell Avenue from R-4 Residence to M-H-R Mobile Home Residence Zone. No one appeared to represent them, but William Schafer entered a petition containing twenty names against the change, with most of those people in attendance at the meeting. Commissioners rejected the plan because of spot zoning. They did get around to approving a few requests, too. A request from Bill Conners was approved to rezone the premises at South Mulberry and East 2nd Street. Conners wants to store trucks on the property.

Poolroom owner Sam Harvey and tavern owner Robert Flowers both opposed the change, because of vandalism on the property, while Marshall Willis said the proposed change would continue the erosion of the residential area. Commissioner Bob Pence, in recommending the change, pointed out the abundance of surrounding businesses as well as a proposed fence around the site to discourage vandals. County Surveyor Stan Hiatt plans to develop single-level condominiums between McGalliard Road and the Westport Addition. His rezoning request passed, but not without some questions and answers regarding drainage problems, much like the problems at Westminster Village.
The Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission is minus one commissioner following the apparent resignation of the Reverend A. Claude Watkins during Thursday night's meeting. The Presbyterian Housing Program, Incorporated had filed for a zoning change to permit construction of a multi-story structure adjacent to Westminster Village. Opposition to the new building centered around bad drainage, bad roads, and inadequate fire protection. Opponents also claimed that the new structure would be a burden to taxpayers, since the corporation is non-taxable and government money would be used to house some of the elderly and handicapped residents. Watkins recommended the commission pass the rezoning, then made a motion that no one seconded. Next, a motion was made to disapprove the rezoning. When Commission Chairman A. E. Suro called for Watkin's vote, Watkins complained that whenever he makes a motion, the commission turns it down. He told them that they could do what they wanted to, because he was resigning. When asked if he was abstaining his vote, Watkins replied, "I ain't sayin' nothin'." Then he left the meeting.
The night I covered my second Park Board meeting, the doldrums had set in. The low moral I found at City Hall was matched by that of the crew back at the station. The disease being contagious, I took the "leisurly, creative approach" in writing my notes into a story.
If you have a pontoon boat in the waters of Prarie Creek Reservoir, you have until next Monday to get your vessel into dry dock. Park Superintendent Gayle Workman says vandalism has been bad at Prarie Creek this summer with a lot of break-ins. He thinks the culprits simply wait until the area is clear of police, then make their moves. Workman's crews are getting ready for winter by moving benches and barrels indoors. On a brighter note, those same crews have painting and scraping to do before next spring arrives. At Monday night's Park Board meeting, Recreation Director William Reiter (righter) told members that the popularity of tennis seems to have peaked this summer, running picked up steam, while softball enjoyed such a boom that park facilities couldn't handle the demand. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing plans for the Bicentennial Park. In a related note, there's good and bad news for motorists who frequently use Ninnetrista Avenue. It looks like the street's wooden posts will be removed, but not the "one-way, do-not-enter" signs.
UNITED WAY FUND DRIVE REPORT FOR 12 OCTOBER 79

I was putting the Noon News together one morning when Mr. Warrell phoned to report on the United Way's efforts. I wrote a story from the call and decided to experiment with its opening lines.
How would you like to have 738-thousand 220 dollars? That's how much money the United Way of Delaware County has received during their current fund drive. According to United Way Labor Leader Mack Warrell (war RELL), that's about sixty per cent of the goal. The campaign officially got underway on September 19. It finishes up with the final report on October 24--a little less than two weeks from now. Warrell says the campaign is broken down into eleven divisions. Division three--the business division, with a hefty 81-point-eight per cent--has been the most successful so far in meeting its goal.
WESTMINSTER GROUP WITHDRAWS APPLICATION and
SENIOR CITIZENS HEARING HELD

My next commissioners' meeting brought back memories of a plan commission meeting past. Not only did I cover the senior citizens' hearing that followed, I also managed to get Stan Hiatt's condominiums back on the air. Furthermore, I broke down the morning's events into two separate stories.
WESTMINSTER GROUP WITHDRAWS APPLICATION

LCL/Jeff Gast

GAST

10-15-79 11:45 a.m.

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At Monday morning's meeting of the Delaware County Commissioners, Presbyterian Housing Program, Incorporated withdrew its application for rezoning. The non-profit corporation had been planning to build a multi-level structure adjacent to Westminster Village. However, the Metropolitan Plan Commission turned down the rezoning request at its October 4th meeting. Attorney John Moll represented the Presbyterian group. In withdrawing the application, he told commissioners that the proposed structure met all the zoning requirements and met a great need, but there was opposition to it. The commissioners also upheld a plan commission approval allowing County Surveyor Stan Hiatt to construct some single-level condominiums between Westport Addition and McGalliard Road. In other action, the commissioners took under advisement bids from G-M-C and Ford. Those are for the purchase of two dump trucks for the county highway department. And Frank Landis was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Liberty Wastewater Board. He replaces Mrs. Billy Kennedy, who resigned last spring.
"Lot of towns and cities in the United States are proud of their senior citizens, and I don't know why Muncie can't bend a little bit." Those were the words of senior citizen Basil Adams Monday morning. The Senior Citizens of Delaware County held the sixth public hearing required by law in applying for a Community Development block grant. The grant money would be used to reach a number of objectives. One is the expansion of adequate housing for Delaware County's elderly and handicapped, as well as persons with low and moderate incomes. Another objective is the establishment of a centralized facility for senior citizens. A third goal is the relocation of the county highway garage, or the establishment of some branch "mini-garages." County Grantsman Dave Grindstaff told the audience that time, fuel, and man-hours are lost by having the county garage in Muncie, because it could take hours for crews to make it out of town in bad weather. Toward the end of the hearing, County Commissioner Bob Pence pledged his support to the senior citizens. The group will hold one more meeting; that will occur in Cowan, but the meeting's date is not yet set.
WEEKLY VILLAGE PANTRY HOLDUP

My version of the weekly Village Pantry holdup story previewed on the morning of October 18.
Muncie police are investigating an overnight robbery at the Village Pantry at 12th and Walnut. According to the police report, shortly after two this morning, the suspect entered the store with a used revolver and a can of soft drink. The store attendant was on the phone, and, as he turned around, the suspect told the attendant to give him all the money. The cash—less than fifty dollars—was put in a sack, and the suspect walked out. He's described as a black male, about five-foot-eight or nine inches tall, with a stocky build, about 190 to 200 pounds. He appeared to be in his late twenties, had a mustache, and a small afro.
COMMISSIONERS DON'T LIKE ANNEXATION PLANS

If you can't stand the heat, get out of the newsroom. It was 86° inside when I typed and carted the following commissioners' story.
The Madison County town of Chesterfield wants to annex a chunk of land in Delaware County. Monday morning the County Commissioners went on record against the proposed annexation. Noting that the annexation would push Chesterfield all the way up to Daleville's outer limits, commissioners said that Daleville should be given the chance to grow. They also alleged that Chesterfield was annexing to gain industrial potential rather than people. Zoning is another problem. As it stands now, the area proposed for annexation looks to the County Commissioners for final approvals on rezoning requests. However, if the land would be annexed, it's believed that Chesterfield would have the jurisdiction. In other business, the commissioners have chosen the G-M-C bid for two county highway dump trucks. They turned down a bid from Ford. The Emergency Medical Service has another ambulance shortage, following accidents and breakdowns. However, E-M-S Director Robert Vandeevender (van DEE ven der) told commissioners that he's been receiving a lot of cooperation from other county units and Ball State.
Inauguration of a new college president and a phone call from an Indianapolis radio station led to the wildest newscast I have done yet.

The inauguration of new BSU President Jerry Anderson was underway, and WBST was carrying the ceremonies live. (In addition, the broadcast was being taped in the control room.) While I was assembling the Noon News, WTLC called and requested a story on the inauguration. To comply, I needed to pull a short excerpt out of the taped program and write a story around it.

With the station manager breathing down my neck, I kept one ear to the radio while fighting a losing battle with the Noon News. I put together about the first ten minutes of the news and grabbed some wirecopy and a dozen or so AP carts. Then I hastily typed out reasonable facsimiles off the cart labels onto a sheet of paper. That would have to do for the news.

In the meantime, I had finished writing the inauguration story except for the dropping in of an actuality. With the ceremonies ended, I went to the control room, rallied the production crew, and got my excerpt. Upon returning to the newsroom at about 11:50, I discovered that the equipment I needed to feed WTLC the story was tied up recording a special program. Fortunately, a patch cord was installed to by-pass the recording, and I finished sending the feed as the clock struck noon.

I hung up the phone, grabbed the story, and dashed to the studio to get our news on the air. What transpired over the next twenty minutes was the most ad-libbed newscast I've ever done. I had already organized local and state news, but the remaining national wirecopy and carts had yet to be put in order. Using my sheet of paper, I ad-libbed wraps for carts and planned my next moves while the carts were playing. In doing so, I managed to stay a few minutes ahead of myself.

The cart wraps may have not been artistic, but they got the job done. Assignments Editor Andy Zehner was in the station at the time and told me afterwards that the newscast had sounded okay to him.

I later discovered an error in my inauguration story. Dr. Anderson had come to Ball State from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh. By gosh, I had written that down in my notes but accidentally omitted it when I typed up the final draft of the story.

Although I wished I could have been better prepared, the morning's experiences gave me a somewhat haphazard feeling of accomplishment. I left for my 1:00 class feeling ready for CKLW, CBS, and glory.
Inauguration was held this morning for the new president of Ball State University, Doctor Jerry M. Anderson. Anderson has committed himself to Ball State...

"It is my personal promise and pledge...of a commitment of time, energy, and the application of any expertise I possess...to this university. And a willingness to listen, learn, and provide shared and informed leadership."

Indiana Governor Otis Bowen was one of the dignitaries present at the inauguration. Saying that he came not as governor, but as a representative of Indiana's five-point-five-million people, Bowen welcomed Doctor Anderson to the Hoosier State. The new president comes to Ball State from the University of Wisconsin, where he was Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer. He is Ball State's ninth president.
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEAR MORE ABOUT QUESTIONABLE ANNEXATION

What the following story doesn't say is how the county commissioners also made up the membership of the Drainage Board. During the morning of October 29, the commissioners recessed their meeting, then convened a meeting of the Drainage Board. As the latter body, they transferred $50,000 of federal revenue sharing money to the county commissioners. Then they adjourned the drainage meeting, reconvened the commissioners' meeting, and voted to accept the money they had just transferred to themselves!

When Chris Nolte made his daily 12:30 call, I mentioned the very legal proceedings to him. He quipped, "There's a story right there!"
At Monday morning's commissioners meeting, there was more news about Chesterfield's proposed annexation into Delaware County. Metropolitan Planning Commission Chairman A. E. Suro and County Commissioner Don Bonnet have been investigating the situation during the past week. The proposed annexation will be discussed in two public hearings: one in Anderson on November 8th and one in Chesterfield on November 14th. Anderson has to approve Chesterfield's annexation. However, Suro told WBST that, if the city thinks the town is taking too much land, some amending of the boundaries could take place. That could result in the Delaware County land being dropped from the annexation proposal. In other news, 50-thousand dollars of federal revenue sharing money were transferred from the drainage improvement fund back to the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Richard W. Thornburg hopes that, if people have to call for an ambulance, they add their city or town to the directions. This comes following a weekend call to the Emergency Medical Service. The caller gave the address as Plum Street. The problem is, both Albany and Yorktown have Plum Streets. Speaking of the E-M-S, it's gaining "vehicular" strength. A newly repaired ambulance will be inspected
tomorrow; after that, the E-M-S will have three of its own units at its disposal.
The early calls on the first morning of November produced a story about a construction trailer fire that no one wanted to report. The fire dispatcher told me that the trailer appeared to have been burning for some time before firefighters were notified. A couple of factory workers had finally called the blaze in, but only after they themselves had arrived at work.
Muncie firefighters still don’t know the owners of a construction trailer that was destroyed by fire overnight. The trailer sat on a vacant lot in the Keller West Addition at county road 300 West and McGalliard. Firefighters were called at 12:46 this morning; however, the fire had already been burning awhile, and the trailer was a total loss.
I hesitated to correct the Star on the air, but the person(s) who suggested the story evidently thought the practice was tolerable, and so it was done.
Indiana Governor Otis Bowen will be holding a reception for
Muncie mayoral candidate Alan Wilson. That reception takes
place at the Roberts Hotel this evening from four until six.
This morning's Muncie Star had listed the event as taking place
on Sunday. The reception is open to the public, and all local
G-O-P candidates will be present.
BIGGEST ARGUMENT OF THE NIGHT WASN'T EVEN ON THE AGENDA

Remembering my previous planning commission story, I was apprehensive when I walked into the County Building for the November meeting. However, I came away with a compact script that, incidentally, concerned at item from the previous, ill-fated session.

Of the items omitted from October's revised meeting story, two—Stan Hiatt's condominiums and Earl Conyers' mobile homes—later made it on the air as part of other stories.
The Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission began its meeting with an item that wasn't on the agenda. Due to a staff error, a rezoning request had been scheduled one month early in October. At Thursday night's meeting, commissioners suspended the rules to consider the request. Earl and Hable Conyers own a number of lots in Morningside Addition that they would like to locate mobile homes on. As is, the Conyers can have eight mobile homes on the property. The zoning change would have allowed ten. Opposition centered on the area's traffic problems and lack of services, and the plan commission turned the request down. In other action, requests for three rezonings along McGalliard Road were passed with one motion. The changes should further commercial development along an already commercial thoroughfare.
Faced with two important subjects, I broke down the commissioners' meeting into two stories. In each script, I made only slight mention of the meeting itself.
The future of Delaware County's ambulance service may include Advanced Life Support. The president of the Regional E-M-S Planning Commission, Bill Spolyar, and Doctor Roger Possum are the chief promoters for A-L-S; they presented their case to the County Commissioners Monday morning. As it stands now, E-M-S technicians are rather limited in what they can do for patients at the scene. Possum says that with Advanced Life Support, the patient would be in much better shape when he got to the emergency room—and would have a much better possibility of leaving the hospital alive. Two things are needed to be certified for A-L-S: additional training in the form of a state-approved course, and the equipment technicians would be trained on. The price tag for that equipment—somewhere between 52 and 58 thousand dollars.
Chesterfield's annexation plans may have been called off, but no one on this side of the county line has heard the official news. The Madison County town had wanted to triple its size with part of the new land coming from Delaware County. However, Saturday morning's Muncie Star carried a report that said the annexation was called off Friday night. Delaware County officials have yet to receive any official word of that call-off, so they're going through with their plans to send a letter of opposition to the Anderson City Council. Anderson was to have held a hearing on November 8 to discuss Chesterfield's plans; the town was to have followed with a hearing of its own on the 14th. On the other side of the county, 155 homes are currently being built in a newly-annexed part of Selma. Nearby resident Roseann Yoder told County Commissioners this morning that she's worried about the condition of the county road at that location. Her worries developed into questions of boundaries and jurisdictions between the commissioners, the Selma Town Board, and their respective planning commissions.
With the elections less than one day away, I finally got my candidates' profile done. I may have been late, but I wasn't the last, as several other persons finished their profiles after me. (I was to have profiled a council race for the primary elections in May, but begged off when schoolwork became too heavy.)

Sometimes out of creativeness or laziness (who, me?), I'll put two persons' voice cuts back to back. I've found that it helps to keep carts short, eliminates the need for extra writing, and is good for making comparisons or presenting reactions.
In the race for Third District councilman, Democrat Linda Crosby will go up against Republican Claude Carter. Crosby is the wife of Muncie Firechief Bing Crosby. A graduate of Southside and Indiana Business College, she is employed in the filing office of the Delaware County clerk. She formerly worked at Warner Gear, where she was a member of Local 287. Her opponent graduated from Central High School, attended Ball State, and is a Navy veteran. Claude Carter has worked 32 years for I & M and is a member of I-B-E-W Local 1392. Both candidates tend to agree on the issues...

CROSBY: "I don't really think there are many issues. I think there are a lot of problems facing Muncie: uh, the budget we have to work with, transportation, snow removal. Uh, there are many different problems. Of course, the snow's a problem every time a snowflake falls."

CARTER: "Well, undoubtedly, it's--uh--it will be the budget. Uh, uh--that will--I believe the budget for operating the city services's one of the most important problems that--uh--council will face--
uh--during my term if I'm elected. And--uh--I would vote for the best police protection, fire protection, and other city services available for the least amount of money. My main concern is and will be that what the taxpayers want...and expect."

However, the two contenders plan to resolve those issues in different ways. Crosby wants to take a look at the facts, and then make an intelligent, appropriate decision. Carter, on the other hand, wants to work with the mayor and other councilmen in planning action prior to official meetings.
FIRST PHONE-IN ON NOVEMBER ELECTION NIGHT

I was to have spent election night at Alan Wilson's headquarters; however, none of my three election reports was delivered from there. Wilson and his workers locked up and left about 6:15. At first, I thought they might be going for dinner and would return, but headquarters was to remain dark the rest of the night.

My first report was due before 6:30, so I wrote up a short script and called the station from Carey headquarters. Needless to say, my phone conversation surprised a few Democrats!
FIRST PHONE-IN ON NOVEMBER ELECTION NIGHT

LOI/Jeff Gast

GAST

11-6-79 about 6:20 p.m.
(Carted)

It's a cold, blustery night in downtown Muncie, and at the
darkened Wilson headquarters, Republican mayoral hopeful Alan
Wilson will soon be digging in for the long night ahead. All
the campaigning, the issues, the endorsements have come down to
this day and its large voter turnout. Consequently, all the
results of the heavy voting will come down to tonight.
However, the mayor's race is off for right now, as Wilson and
his supporters have adjourned for what may be called "The Last
Supper." When they return, we'll see if Alan Wilson will be
successful in his bid to become the first Republican mayor
since John Hampton was elected in 1963. I'm Jeff Gast outside
Wilson headquarters.
SECOND PHONE-IN ON NOVEMBER ELECTION NIGHT

My second report was even shorter than my first. I phoned it in from the "sardine can" on West Main Street. (One thing nice about the Democrats is that they always rent a head­quarters big enough to hold everybody.)
SECOND PHONE-IN ON NOVEMBER ELECTION NIGHT

LCL/Jeff Gast

GAST

11-6-79 about 7:25 p.m.

(Carted)

Alan Wilson has closed his headquarters...evidently for the night. A party worker here at Republican headquarters says that Wilson is to arrive at about 7:30. The early returns are looking good for the Republican. While I was standing outside Wilson's headquarters--eh, uh--on south. . .south Walnut Plaza, I talked to a gentleman who told me I was at the right place. Considering that I was standing outside in the cold weather, I wonder what he meant.
THIRD NOVEMBER ELECTION NIGHT STORY--INTERVIEW WITH VICTORIOUS ALAN WILSON

Republican headquarters was packed, awaiting the arrival of Muncie's new mayor. Carolyn Herold had asked me to record Alan Wilson's victory speech if I could. As it turned out, his "speech" was an assortment of disconnected sentences.

Instead, I chose to wait my turn for a quick interview. Thus, as I had interviewed Wilson the Republican nominee six months earlier, I interviewed Wilson the mayor-elect that night. Is it true he has Presidential ambitions?

I feel that some people see Alan Wilson as a "freak" mayor in a city that rarely votes for the GOP. Nevertheless, it's going to be interesting to see what a Republican administration will do in Muncie.
THIRD NOVEMBER ELECTION NIGHT STORY--INTERVIEW WITH VICTORIOUS ALAN WILSON

LCL/Jeff Gast

GAST

11-6-79  about 9:00 p.m.
(Carted)

How does it feel to be a winner?

"Well, it feels super. Uh, I've lost before so I know that feeling too. Uh, obviously, it feels much better to be on this side of the vote margin!"

Uh, what's the first thing you're going to do as mayor?

"Well, the first thing I'm going to start doin' right now is filling administrative positions, and I've made no promise to anyone. Uh, that talent search is gonna start--the thoughts about it are gonna start tomorrow. Uh, we're gonna find the people to put in administrative positions to do the kind of job this city needs. We've got to have the very best people we can find."

What are your--uh--long range goals for Muncie?

"Well--uh--I've said in the campaign speech to make Muncie one uh the finest cities in the United States. Uh, we've got the talent here if we'll just utilize it, and we're gonna go right after it."

Okay. . .congratulations, Alan.
GARBAGE PICKUP PEOPLE WORK ON VETERANS DAY;
HEAD-ON CRASH, TOTALLED CARS, NO MAJOR INJURIES; and
SUNDAY MORNING HOUSE TRAILER FIRE

As a rule, weekends don't generate much local news. However, November 11, was an exception, as I came away from editing the Noon News with three local stories. The first came from a note the station manager handed me; the other two came from police calls.
Tomorrow is Veterans Day; however, one group of persons who won't be taking tomorrow off is Muncie's trash collectors. Garbage pickup in the city will be on the regular schedule this week, and that includes Veterans Day.
A head-on crash at 6:56 this morning totalled two autos but caused no major injuries. It occurred at the intersection of McGalliard and county road 400 West. Treated and released at Ball Hospital were 22-year-old William J. Milliner of Elkhart and 35-year-old Louise Morgan of Alexandria. According to police, the accident occurred when the Milliner auto turned in front of the Morgan auto.
Muncie firefighters were on the scene of a house trailer fire for one hour this morning. The trailer was occupied by Diane Ray and was located on Lot 38 of the Hickory Haven Trailer Park at 5400 Kilgore. The blaze caused damage to the kitchen with smoke damage to the rest of the trailer. Fire officials say it was probably caused by faulty electrical wiring. Firefighters were called at 10:29; they returned to their station at 11:29.
GAS STATION GOES UP IN FLAMES and
TRUCKERS HELP KOPS STOP KIDS

Another installment of early morning calls resulted in two stories for the day's newscasts.
GAS STATION GOES UP IN FLAMES
LCL/Morning calls & Gast
GAST
11-13-79 6:50 a.m.

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An overnight fire in Grant County caused considerable damage to the Marathon Service Station at the I-69 and state road 18 interchange. A state trooper discovered the fire when he went to check out a smoke report. Firefighters from Monroe and Jefferson Townships in Grant County, responded in time to keep the blaze from completely destroying the building. The pumps and tanks at the station were spared. State police say damage estimates and the cause of the fire should be known later today.
Two truckers helped state police stop a pair of juveniles overnight. The pair, ages 15 and 16, were from Michigan and allegedly had failed to pay for fuel purchased from Story's Truck Stop. When state police tried to stop them, they took off. Two truckers used their rigs as moving barricades to block the juveniles' escape. State police then went to work from the rear and ran the juveniles' car off the road. The car they were driving was discovered to have been stolen. They're being held in Madison County Jail.
I had intended to wrap up my honors project at the beginning of Fall Quarter Finals Week. However, I decided to plead for an extension rather than risk neglecting my other studies. Since then, stories have continued to pile up.

Many of the people I talked to at meetings thought I was from "the newspaper." One such person was the Park Board's secretary. After clarifying some information with her at my last Park Board meeting, I mentioned that I was from WBST. She was evidently flattered and remarked that she would have the minutes show that I was in attendance!
Muncie's Bicentennial Park should be sixty percent completed by the end of the year, weather permitting. The Park Board wants to make sure the money will be there to finish the remaining forty percent. President Bill D. Taylor has signed a letter requesting the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to extend the time on a grant to June 30, 1980. That would give the contractor—Stampoo Construction—time and money to finish the project. Also in Tuesday night's Park Board meeting, Park Superintendent Gayle Workman said he was considering closing down cabins during some of the winter months to save money on heating bills and snow removal. Ron Orebaugh had written a letter to the board regarding the possible rental of farm land at Prairie Creek Reservoir. The board turned down the idea, because of the area's value as a wildlife refuge, and because Taylor felt that the parks belonged to the people and should not be rented out.
MISSING STOP SIGN CAUSES MISHAP

With my last final left to the faculty for judgment, I headed home from Ball State University. Two days later, I returned to edit two Saturday newscasts so I could record an aircheck.

The afternoon calls brought in one story about a missing stop sign and the accident it caused.
A missing stop sign caused an auto accident just before noon today. Cars driven by Clarence E. Fears and William R. Nallenweg--both of Muncie--collided at the intersection of Second and Jefferson. Fears' wife, Alma K. Fears, was injured in the mishap and was taken to Ball Hospital where she was treated and released. According to the police report, Nallenweg was eastbound on Second when he pulled into the path of the southbound Fears auto. Fears had the right of way, but further investigation revealed that the stop sign for eastbound motorists on Second Street had been missing for almost two months.
The evening calls brought in a genuine railroad story for this railfan to write. Even so, I felt the story wasn't that important. The fire dispatcher's persistence in volunteering the information was about the only reason I wrote the story up.
Muncie firefighters put out a fire on a flatcar in the middle of a train late this afternoon. Conrail reported the fire at 5:55, then had the westbound freight pull out to Warner Gear where firefighters could reach it. The cause is undetermined; the blaze burned a hole in the wooden bed of the empty flatcar.
WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS--SUBSTITUTE THAT IS

The final story in my collection is part climax, part anticlimax. I had business to conduct at WBST the following Monday, so I decided to cover the county commissioners one more time as well. The meeting itself wasn't worth the effort.

Monte Barton did tell the commissioners that the winter salt supply was in trouble, and I decided to question him further on the subject. With all those mine explosions, maybe the salt companies needed some government regulations.

My resulting story was not unlike that appearing in the morning paper the next day. However, I was proud to have told Delaware County about its (nonexistent) salt supply 18 hours before the Muncie Star did.
When it rains, it pours--Substitute that is

LCL/ Jeff Gast

GAST

11-19-79 10:50 a.m.

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The Delaware County Highway Department is heading into winter without one grain of salt. Supervisor Monte Barton says he began advertising for bids late last summer. At that time, several suppliers indicated that they would bid. However, all the companies later reneged, citing strikes, mine explosions, and government regulations. To take the place of salt, Barton says the department is mixing its own solution. The substitute contains an abrasive for traction and a melting agent. Barton feels it will be cheaper and work better than salt. There is one drawback: the solution could clog sewers in the county. Barton says the mix is ready for use with the first snow, although not enough has been made to be stockpiled yet.