

Sports

(Cont'd from P. 37)

ease. George Kuck no-hits Petoskey as the Otsego win third straight Northern Michigan title. Gaylord was undefeated again.

Butch Lehmann signs Central Michigan football tender. Wayne Ballard wins top honors in harness racing. Wilderness Valley Golf Course opens. Vanderbilt wins another NMDL baseball championship. GHS JV football team goes undefeated. St. Mary's Ed Tholl named to all-state football team. Rick Holewinski breaks Snowbird basketball scoring record, scores 45 points.

1972

Snowbirds win Holiday basketball tournament. Kalkaska complains bitterly about 74-72 loss.

Snowbirds go undefeated at 18-0, win district title before losing in regionals. Holewinski again all-stater, wins All-American honorable mention honors, named as most valuable

Class D player in state, heads for Northern Michigan University.

Gaylord Senior Division wins district title, but lose in state quarterfinals. Vanderbilt returns to grid wars after nine-year absence. Fred Tremblay new grid coach. Michaywe plans new 18-hole golf course.

Little League withdraws from Community Fund in money rift. GHS harriers win first meet in history against St. Ignace. Snowbirds set scoring pace in 71-0 win over Central Lake. GHS girls go undefeated in volleyball, win MHSC championship. Bob Cherwinski was all-state in football for the Snowbirds.

1973

Mei Kitchen of Elmira wins the I-500 Snowmobile race. Snowbirds win third straight Ski Valley BB crown. Win district, and regional title, lose in state quarterfinals to Grand Rapids Covenant Christian. CC goes on to win Class D state title.

Mike Sides and Mike Jecks win state family twosome bowling title. Jim Peterson signs professional

baseball contract with Kansas City Royals. Peterson, Jim Rowley, and Chuck Lovelace make all-state in baseball. Tom Lick quits American professional basketball, heads for Italy to play ball there. Mrs. Ray Stanncliff places third in Womens National Trapshoot. Community honors Jim Mongeau in Mongeau Night celebration. Dieterle quits at St. Mary, heads for Alpena. Bill Dewey was made the new coach.

1974

Vanderbilt to get new gym. Johnson hits for 44 points twice but still is one point short of a new school record. Fran Malindzak wins regional ski championship, all-state for third straight year. GHS girls win MHSC ski championship.

St. Mary wins fourth straight district cage championship but lose in regional finals to TCSF. Vanderbilt's Jeff Schlaack state wrestling champ in his weight class. Dutcher seeks and finally gets reinstated as GHS football coach. Jim Wilhite the interim coach steps down

to take JV job. Terry Conklin hired as new GSM coach.

GHS tennis team goes 11-4, best record ever. GHS baseball team has 13-2 record but loses in district. Stan Solokis hired at Johannesburg.

Ken Ames makes all-state and All-American, heads for NMU. Joburg's Bush joins Ames at Northern.

Wilhite finally gets GHS grid job. Dutcher resigns. Tom Johnson new Vanderbilt coach. GHS football freshmen go undefeated,

good crop coming up. GHS starts a wrestling program. Scott Upton scores 47 points against Gaylord for new conference scoring record.

1975

Johnson shatters GHS and Northern Michigan scoring mark, nets 55 against Rogers City. Wins MHSC scoring title for second straight year. Makes first team all-state. Malindzak on US National Ski Team. GHS frosh basketball team goes 12-1 under Coach Jim Mongeau.

Larry Haight resigns as basketball coach, Mongeau comes out of retirement to take GHS job for one year.

Johannesburg wins first district basketball tournament in 18 years. Ken Ames wins Michigan Pentathlon. Dave Johnson signs a \$32,500 baseball contract with the St. Louis Cardinals on graduation night, leaves immediately for minor league in Sarasota, Florida. Gaylord wins first MHSC baseball title. Herald Times County Track Meet a big success.



VANDERBILT'S Western Union Telegraph office and staff in the 1890's.

Johannesburg's early development was rapid

Johannesburg was once the center of activities which held the dreams of lumberjacks.

In 1901, the Johannesburg Manufacturing Company, a lumber firm controlled by the Salling, Hanson and Michelson families, was established with the intention of building a town around the company soon to be known as Johannesburg. It was named after Johanna Hanson, wife of the Company president.

Before the actual lumbering operation could begin, there was much work required. Laborers had to build a mill, and construct houses for their families. In order to make digging water mains a little more appealing, the crew of workmen divided into two groups. One group began at the south end of town while the other began at the shore of Johannesburg Lake. The progress of each group was measured every Saturday night and the most advanced group was rewarded with a keg of beer.

In the town square, buildings began to appear. The brick block, an early mall which contained a drug store, bank, theater and doctor's office, was one of the first buildings

erected and was owned by Frank Michelson. In the small theater silent movies were shown and during intermission spectators were entertained by a pianist. The upstairs of the brick block featured a large dance hall and several apartments.

Groceries, dry goods and other merchandise were sold at the company store located across the street from the mill. Many of the mill's employees were paid in a manner which required them to purchase goods at the Company store only, something they opposed. Will Woodburn was the first manager of the store and was succeeded by Andrew Larson in 1916. From 1926 until 1929 when the mill closed, A.J. Pearsall managed the store.

As the town prospered John Rasmussen built a hotel which featured a kitchen, dining room, saloon, barber shop and pool hall.

SATURDAY NIGHTS were known as "lumberjack's night" and while waiting their turn for a haircut by barber Roy Bentley, the men entertained themselves by playing cards and pool.

Other shops and businesses were

established in the rapidly growing community. Soon a post office, church, butcher shop, jail, and school were erected to supply the needs of the growing population.

The railroad was often referred to as the "Johannesburg life line." The daily passenger train brought in new settlers while freight trains carried merchandise and hauled lumber to its destination. If the train did not run, like one winter when a blizzard blocked the track, the people of the area suffered shortages of food and merchandise.

Among some of the luxuries provided by the company, was electricity. It was available in every home from 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from late afternoon until 10 p.m. unless, of course, someone was throwing a party or dance for the entire town, then it was available until midnight.

When the town was finally well enough organized in 1902, the hard labor of the lumber trade began. Lumberjacks slept and ate in camps located on the edges of the village, approximately 5 miles from town. They worked cutting and hauling trees from early sunrise to late sundown. The company

downed more than 30,000 feet of timber daily with the mill alone employing between 70 and 80 men.

Once the lumber business developed, more people were attracted to the area. One of the first and last doctors to set foot in Joburg was "Old Doc Morgan." Stories say, "when called upon to deliver a baby, he would tie the cord with a string he carried for the purpose in the button hole of his coat lapel. When treating a wound he would wash it with his handkerchief which he dipped in a dirty wash basin." If a patient felt he could not trust Doc Morgan, Mrs. Alex Reush was usually available to offer expert care.

THE REV. PASTOR AUKEN served as pastor of the Congregational Church, the first church erected in the area, but in 1954 the building was taken over by the township for use as a community building where elections and other projects are held.

Another business which prospered with the growing community was the drug store, owned by Walter Nelson, the founder of Nelson's Drug Store of Gaylord. Otto Roesar served as the area pharmacist.

The position of postmaster and postmistress was handed down generation to generation in the Vern Welch family. When Welch died, his wife Dora became postmistress and she was succeeded by her son Stewart, who served in the position until 1974.

The most lively time of year in the present Johannesburg is undoubtedly the Fourth of July. Likewise, Independence Day was the big celebration when the town was first founded. The festivities attracted folks from miles around and contests and parades throughout the day were highlighted by the dusk firework display.

But then in 1929, just as people were settled and businesses were established, the once thought abundant and infinite lumber supply was exhausted and the town died.

More than 300,000,000 feet of timber had been cut during the 27 years the Johannesburg Manufacturing Company was in operation. Five years before its closing, the company looked to the future, saw the quickly dwindling lumber supply,

and announced its closing to the men. To help ease the pain of losing their jobs, the company divided a \$12,000 bonus among the men and also offered to let the employees purchase company property for \$5 an acre, half the price other residents would pay. Company owned houses were sold to employees for anywhere from \$50 to \$90. The majority were either moved or torn down and only a handful of them still stand.

When the lumber industry died, so did the dreams and accomplishments of the men who helped to build the town. The hotel was torn down, the railroad station was converted into a restaurant which no longer serves, and the jail was moved to a farm to be used as a chicken coop. The once thriving brick block became the townhall and eventually part of the school system.

Henry Ford bought a log camp outfit complete with bunks, blankets, axes, saws, neck yokes and other equipment for his Dearborn Museum in 1929. Hartwick Pines now displays sleighs and other logging equipment donated to the Park Division of the State by the company.