

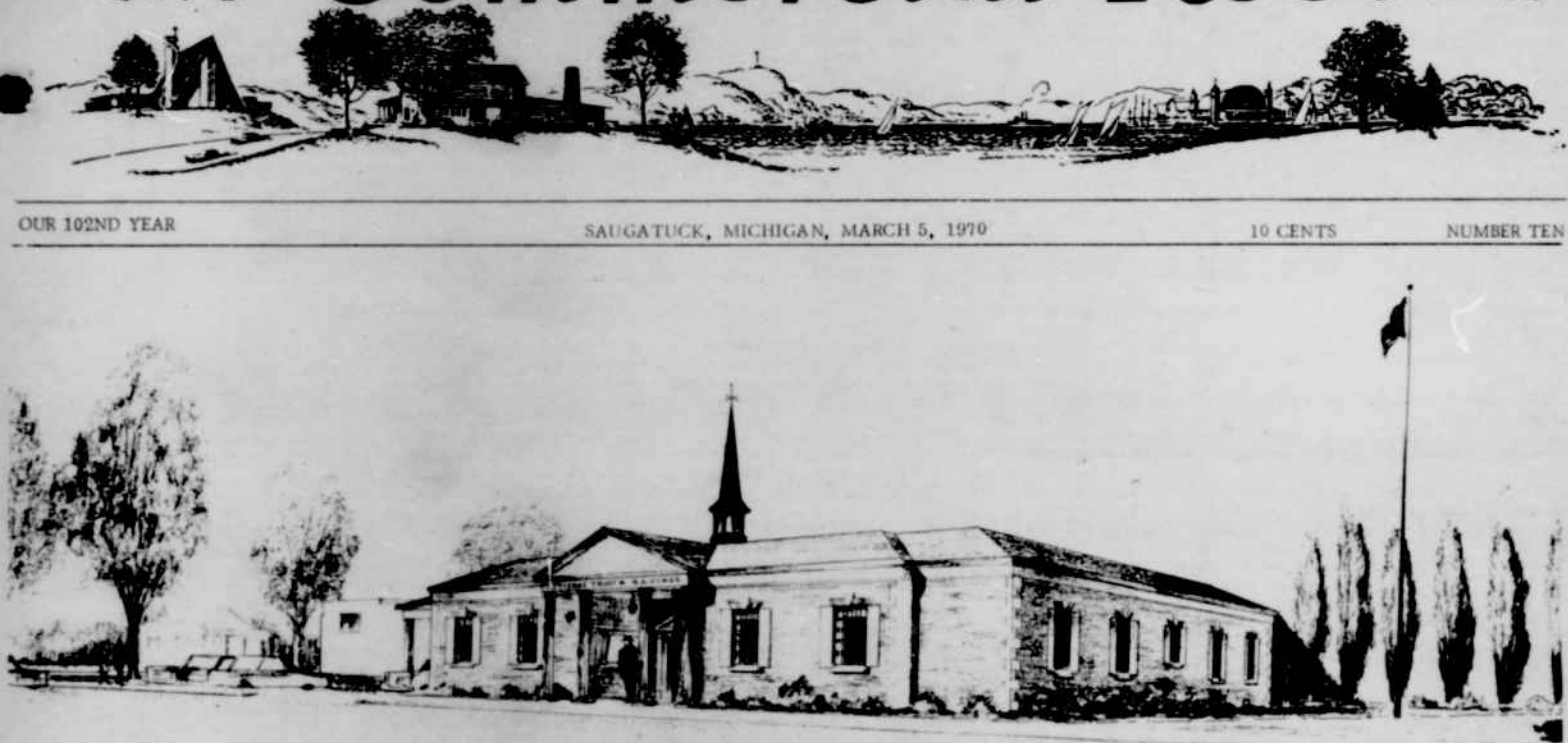
# The Commercial Record

OUR 102ND YEAR

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN, MARCH 5, 1970

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Mason Street view of new Citizens Trust and Savings Bank

## Bank to Start New Building in Saugatuck



Breaking ground for the new Saugatuck office of the Citizens Trust and Savings Bank are Milton E. Stahl, vice president of the Saugatuck bank, left, and Saugatuck Village President Lynn McCray. Observing the ceremony are, from left; Terrence Bennett of Trend Associates, Kalamazoo, architects; Roy Van Dragt, of the bank's advisory board; Arnold Toering of Pheasant Hills Construction Co., Grand Rapids, general contractor; Carl Walter, advisory board; James Christenson, advisory board; James R. Pence of South Haven, president of the bank, and Lewis E. Quade, a bank director.

## Regulations Closing in on Veteran Fisherman

by Kit Lane

Rube Sewers, 75, perhaps the oldest commercial fisherman on the Great Lakes, is fighting for his license.

And even if he gets it restored, under new Department of Natural Resources rules for commercial fishermen he won't be able to catch the kind of fish he prefers, use the nets he is, or be able to fish in the water where the fish are most likely to be.

Sewers, whose present gill netter, the Joann, has been sailing from Saugatuck since (Continued on pg. 10)



Sewers knots a float to a net about 1937.

Photo courtesy of Paul F. Ring, St. Louis, Mo.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Saugatuck office of the Citizens Trust and Savings Bank were held Monday with vice president Milton E. Stahl in charge.

Construction will start immediately. The bank hopes to be in its new quarters by the end of the year.

Plans for the new Early American style building have been three years in the making.

The bank first purchased the Wilson property at the corner of Mason and Griffith streets in 1965, intending to place the new bank building on that site. As a preliminary step the bank converted the site into a parking lot. Because of the need for the parking spaces developed there, the bank last year purchased the Soda Lounge building adjoining the present bank and has demolished it.

The new bank will face Mason street directly behind the present bank building.

It will be 77 feet wide on the Mason Street side and 62 feet deep. Compared with the present banking quarters the main floor of the bank will be 50 per cent larger. The building will have a full basement, more than half of which could be converted into a community room, should the need develop. The basement will have a storage vault, mechanical rooms and an employee lunch area.

The sidewalk on the Mason Street side will contain electric panels to keep it free of snow and ice in winter. There will be a wallup window which can be open before and after banking hours. There will be a night depository with an envelope dispenser for persons wishing to make after-hours deposits or loan payments.

Cars will enter on Griffith and exit on Mason in approaching a drive-in window on the east side of the building.

Facilities lacking in the present building and provided for

in the new building include an expanded safe deposit area with four individual booths, and a conference room. A new rectangular vault door will be installed, as well as the most modern protective devices.

Estimated cost of the equipped building will be in excess of \$300,000, according to the bank.

After the move to the new building the present bank will be razed and this area will be landscaped to provide a small parklike area in downtown Saugatuck.

Those participating in the groundbreaking included President James R. Pence of South Haven and area directors and members of the bank's advisory board.

## Hearing Planned on Variance

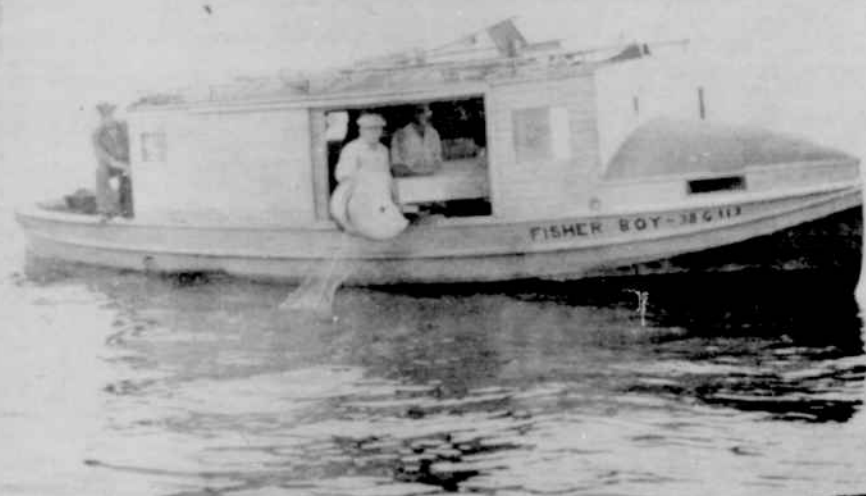
A public hearing will be held on a request for construction of a house on a long, narrow lot on Lake Michigan in Douglas.

The Douglas Village Council, acting as the zoning board of appeals, will hear the proposal. The tentative date is April 6.

Charles Ferguson and his lawyer outlined the request Monday to the council. Ferguson purchased a lot from a friend, Kenneth Schuham. He made plans to build. Then he discovered that among the zoning requirements is a 70-foot frontage for the lot. The tract has 38 feet frontage. The proposed house meets other requirements for square footage and setback from lot lines.

Ferguson said houses nearby are so situated that his house will be farther from other homes than many nearby homes are from their neighbors. He has letters indicating the neighbors

(Continued on pg. 5)



Rube Sewers reels a net aboard the Fisher Boy about 1937. The other two men are not identified.

Photo courtesy of Paul F. Ring, St. Louis, Mo.

(Continued from pg. 1)

1948, first began fishing on his dad's boat when he was six years old.

The boat was a sail-powered Mackinaw of the old style but was maneuvered into position by the six year old boy on the oars. Later he recalls peddling fish to the fancy hotels at Macatawa.

The elder Reuben Sewers moved to Fishtown, across from the present site of Oxbow, and first began fishing in about 1890. After the new harbor was pushed through he moved away from Fishtown but continued his fishing activities until shortly before his death in 1937.

Young Reuben W. went on with the family trade in Lake Michigan. The Joann, his present boat, was built in Holland in 1948. It is the sixth fishing vessel he has owned.

Now, after 69 years on Lake Michigan, the Department of Natural Resources has refused him a license on the basis of new rules which went into effect this year.

Under the new order to get a commercial fishing license as a gill netter Sewers would have to have fished 50 days or more in any two of the past three years.

Sewers says he is clear for 1969, having been out the required number of days. Due to illness he did not fish sufficient days in 1968, but he put in "over 200" days in 1967. He said this figure was not accepted by the department because he did not file the proper papers claiming the full number of days out.

"We were never notified in 1967 or 1968 that we had to be on the lake a certain number of times," Sewers said. They didn't bring that up until this year.

Even if he is granted a variance by the department, or obtains an injunction to allow him to fish while the case is heard, Sewers would not be allowed to use the large mesh gill nets he has.

Formerly a perch and whitefish fisherman, even if he obtains a license he could fish this year for chubs only in this area of Lake Michigan.

Perch are on the protected list as far as commercial fishermen are concerned, and whitefish are seldom caught in the

smaller mesh nets, gill net fishermen are now required to use to protect trout and other game fish.

"You catch more trout in a small mesh net than the large mesh," Sewers said. "But the conservation boys don't believe that."

"The lake is zoned by depth and no gill nets are allowed inside of 30 fathoms. You can't go where the fish are to get them."

The end result of all of the new rules, according to Sewers is to put him out of business and take away his livelihood.

"If they take a man's orchard to put through a highway," Sewers said, "They would reimburse him. Nothing has been said about paying us."

Sewers said he has contacted a lawyer to discuss legal action which might be taken against the Department of Natural Resources. Several of his friends have started raising money for the case. Harry Dekker, the captain of the Thora Ann, the

only other gill netter in Saugatuck harbor, also was refused a license this year. He is appealing the case.

Ned Fogle, Great Lakes specialist with the Department of Fisheries, Department of Natural Resources, in Lansing said the new rules were created as part of a program to replenish the fish population of Lake Michigan.

"The fish belong to the public," Fogle said. "Not a certain group of fishermen. The point is not to put people out of business but to manage the resource."

Gill net fishing has depleted the various fish stocks, Fogle said. "I can understand these people's feelings," he said. But we must protect our resources."

Fogle said the Department of Natural Resources is supporting legislation that would provide cash compensation to fishermen whose equipment is outlawed under the new rules. The bill is still in legislative committee.



Drying nets, 1969

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## NOTICE

### SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP

### VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS

### VILLAGE OF SAUGATUCK

### BOARD OF REVIEW ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Saugatuck Township and Saugatuck and Douglas Village Board of Review will meet at the following places and times for the purpose of reviewing the 1969 assessment rolls.

At these times any interested taxpayer will be heard.

Monday, March 9 - - - - - Saugatuck Village Hall

Tuesday, March 10 - - - - - Douglas Village Hall

HOURS 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

F.M. HEATH  
Saugatuck Village Assessor

DOUGLASS BRYAN  
Douglas Village Assessor

RALPH CARTWRIGHT  
Saugatuck Township  
Supervisor