



By C. J. RISAK

# That little ol' April ice storm had our C.J. running scared

The lights flickered on and off, and the ice-coated trees scraped against the house causing a strange, unnerving noise.

The western sky lit up with eerie orange lightning. Ice crashed onto the porch from the roof. The house creaked, doors blew open.

Sound like the "Amityville Horror"? Nope, just the Riskak Terror of last Sunday night.

I'm not ashamed to admit it. At first I was scared of all those noises and strange flashes in the skies. When you're all alone in a big house, your imagination can run wild. I thought it was a nuclear attack.

The end of the world, I remember thinking. One week before Easter Sunday. How appropriate.

With three candles in one hand, hot wax dripping everywhere, and a flashlight in the other, I carefully crept up to my bedroom. I was praying the electricity would come back on. With every strange noise I started, and bravely braced our dog with a dog treat to go downstairs and check it out.

"You sent Casey down to see if anyone had broken in to your house?" my outdoorsman friend, Don Key, said the next day after I told him about my holocaust.

"Gee, that thing's barely a dog —

what is it, a toy poodle, isn't it?"

He was right, of course. Sending a poodle down to do a man's work. Now I felt ashamed. I didn't have the nerve to tell Don I hadn't slept all night, first because of the noises, and also because I had a candle going and was afraid it would catch my bed on fire. And I certainly wasn't going to blow it out and sleep in the dark.

"I'M TELLING YOU, C.J., you just aren't tough enough. You gotta get out into nature and rough it a bit. Like I do," Don said between sips of his beer.

It's true. I may be a sports writer, and I might even know something about the major sports, like football, baseball, basketball. But as an outdoorsman, well, forget me.

But Don Key is just the opposite. A true man in the frontier mold. Every summer he spends weeks in the forests, getting back in touch with nature.

Frankly, before this latest episode with no power, I always thought Don Key was somewhat of a diard. But I'm beginning to see his point. Whenever a power failure comes along, like this last one, he's always ready, toughened by years of experience dealing with Mother Nature.

When power went out at my house, I covered in my bedroom and sent our poodle down to look for intruders. But not Don Key. He's a stubborn cuss, nev-

er willing to give in. He did the same thing he does when he goes on his camping trips.

Just like a father bear, his first thought was to protect his family. Flashlight in hand, he calmly went out in his backyard and, with a voice of authority, yelled to his six hunting dogs in the pen.

"You all right?" he screamed over the crash of ice falling from the trees. He received a couple of feeble yelps in reply, so he threw in half a bag of dry dog food and walked back into the house to collect his things.

As everyone should have in an emergency, Don had a checklist. He carefully went over it to make sure he had everything.

"Beer?" he asked himself. "Two cases — check. TV? Check. Portable stereo? Check. Tapes? Check. Beer nuts, crackers, cheese? Check. TV Guide? Check. Well, I guess I'm all set."

With his camping gear intact, he left his blacked-out house and walked into the garage. After loading his necessities into his Winnebago van, he started the reserve power unit and calmly sat down for the night, seemingly unaffected by the hardships inflicted by the storm.

DON'S ALWAYS BEEN that way, able to take the punches and roll with

them. As I sat with him in his Winnebago Monday, he retold the stories of his camping trips. Even though I'd heard them all before, I listened again with renewed interest.

As I left his van, I felt small in comparison, me, so dependent

on Detroit Edison, while Don Key was a true American sportsman, relying on no one.

Illusions of Abe Lincoln reading by candlelight flashed through my mind. No wonder he wore glasses, I thought. He probably ruined his eyesight.

## Call in best track times

The Observer & Eccentric sports section plan to run the best Oakland County boys and girls track listings for teams in the area. This service will not be possible, however, unless area coaches call in times.

Bob Stark of Birmingham Brother Rice has agreed to keep records of all the boys times and distances for track teams in the Birmingham-Bloomfield, Southfield, Farmington, West Bloomfield, Troy and Rochester areas.

Boys track coaches from these communities are reminded to call Stark

Sunday night with their best times and distances. Stark can be reached at 646-1019.

Girls track coaches from these areas are asked to call Detroit Country Day coach George Prosperi with their listings. Prosperi will take calls every Tuesday and Friday night from 7:30-9 p.m. at 689-1911.

The cooperation from all the area track coaches is appreciated to help the Observer & Eccentric bring you weekly track listings.

### CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS April 2, 1979 (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held Monday, April 2, 1979, in the Council Chambers, 2300 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M. by Mayor Richard L. Tupper.

Present: Councilmen Bennett, Buckler, Harstock, Tupper, Yoder. Absent: None.

City Officials Present: City Manager Deadman, Director Byrnes, Director Billing, Attorney Kelly and City Clerk Viane.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The minutes of the Public Hearing, March 19, 1979, regarding Federal Revenue Sharing Proposed Use were approved as published.

The minutes of other boards were received and/or filed. A letter was received from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission regarding the transfer of license at 35151 Grand River.

The following Resolutions were adopted:

—Establishing a Public Hearing on Amended specifications and Special Assessment Roll No. 78-71 Whitaker Street Improvements.

—Opposing implementation of the Plan for Air Pollution Control proposed by the Department of Natural Resources.

—Authorizing the City Manager to hire a Consultant for Water Loss Survey.

—Supporting the improvement of Orchard Lake Road as proposed by the Oakland County Road Commission.

—Accepting agreement with the Farmington School System for repair of tennis facilities at Flanders and Cloverdale Schools.

—Authorizing expenditure not to exceed \$300.00 as Farmington's share in the cost of intervention in the Detroit Edison Rate Increase.

—Authorizing the use of computerized punch cards for the Special Election May 8, 1979.

Proclamations issued:

"Youth Art Month" March, 1979

"Operation Cleanweep" April 14-May 14, 1979

"Muscular Dystrophy Month" May 15-June 15, 1979

City Manager Deadman submitted the proposed 1979-80 City Budget.

Budget Study Meetings were established for April 11 and April 18, 1979 at 7:30 P.M.

The monthly bills were approved for payment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

RICHARD L. TUPPER, Mayor  
NEDEA VIANE, City Clerk

Published: April 12, 1979

**It's the 1950's again this weekend!**

This weekend and every weekend you'll hear nothing but the 50's on Honeyradio. Listen!

**HONEYRADIO AM 56**

**ALL OLDIES**

**TELEVISION**

**SERVICE SPECIAL ONLY \$5**

We will pick up your television set, bring it to our shop and have it checked by our TV experts. You will then be notified by telephone of the cost of repair. If you decide not to have it repaired we will return it to your home. All for only \$5

**USED COLOR TV'S FOR SALE**

**STA-RITE TV**

28915 JOY RD. WESTLAND PHONE 525-5450

**LIVONIA BUILDING MATERIALS CO.**

1277C Farmington Rd. S. of Schoolcraft Rd.

937-0478 421-1170

**DRYWALL NOW AVAILABLE**

	4x8	4x10	4x12	4x14
3/8"	3.56			
1/2"	3.73	4.66	5.59	6.52
5/8"	4.76	5.95	7.14	8.33

**INSULATION**

**FOIL FACED ROLLS**

4' x 23" 6 1/2' x 15"

6 1/2' x 23"

**CALL FOR A QUOTE**

MON.-FRI. 8-5 SAT. 8-12

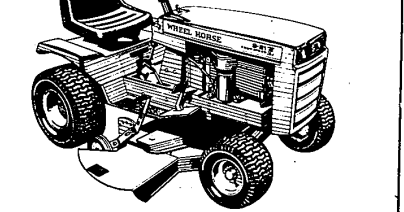
**WHEEL HORSE**

**lawn & garden tractors**

**The little tractor that could—**

Now Only \$825<sup>00</sup> (For Less \$) **SAVE \$120<sup>00</sup>**

**B81-Tractor Only**



B-81 / 8-horsepower Lawn Tractor

- 8-horsepower Syncro-Balanced Briggs & Stratton engine
- Turf-Saver tires
- Optional full-floating 36" side or rear discharge mowers available
- Optional 42" snow blade available
- Handles all lawn care chores

**WHILE SUPPLY LASTS!**

- ANDERSON'S VEHICLE SALES Farmington
- KING BROTHERS, INC. Pontiac
- MARK'S SMALL ENGINE Northville
- MILATZ LAWN & LEISURE Romulus
- MR. MOWER OF FARMINGTON Farmington Hills
- NUGENT'S HARDWARE South Lyon
- R & B TRACTOR Warren
- WEINGARTZ SUPPLY Utica
- WHEELS AND BLADES West Bloomfield
- MR. MOWER OF SOUTHWEST Southfield

**House of Dentures**

28350 Grand River Farmington Hills

Free Consultation and Exam

**BOTH ONLY \$300<sup>00</sup>**

Partials • Relines • Repairs

Insurance Accepted

For Appointment Call 478-1495

**TRUNKLOAD WOOD SALE!**

Equip. to 1/2 Cord Reg. 15.90 Mixed Hardwood **\$988**

**BULK KEROSENE \$125 GAL**

**KENTUCKY CHUNK FIREPLACE COAL \$288** 25 lb. bag Reg. 3.49

**American HOME CENTER**

31245 West 8 Mile at Merriman in Livonia 478-8240

**DISCOVER... BARGAINS GALORE**

**NEW CARS & TRUCKS**

1979 VOLARE—2-Dr. 5/50 Protection Plan, Automatic Transmission, No extra charge <b>\$5359</b> Stock No. 535	1979 CHRYSLER LeBaron 4-Dr. 5/50 Protection Plan, No extra charge <b>\$6372</b> Stock No. 103
1979 VOLARE—2-Dr. 5/50 Protection Plan, Automatic Transmission, No extra charge <b>\$5313</b> Stock No. 537	1979 PLYMOUTH Voyager 5/50 Protection Plan, No extra charge <b>\$6643</b> Stock No. 602

**USED CARS & TRUCKS**

1972 MERCURY—2-Dr. H.T., less than 35,000 miles <b>\$1695</b> Stock No. 423A	1978 VOLARE—4-Dr. Driver training car <b>\$3943</b> Stock No. DE6036
1977 VOLARE—4-Dr. Less than 14,000 miles <b>\$3295</b> Stock No. 303A	1978 CHRYSLER LeBaron, 4-Dr., air, stereo, more <b>\$5331</b> Stock No. 8000
1977 DODGE PICKUP 3-ton club cab <b>\$4495</b> Stock No. 351A	1979 VOLARE WAGON Air, luggage rack, 6-cyl. <b>\$5388</b> Stock No. 9004

**NEW 1979 VOLARE SAVE \$318**

**AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION NO EXTRA CHARGE**

WHEN YOU EQUIP YOUR VOLARE WITH THE A07 VALUE PKG.

**SAVE \$232**

No charge on our 5 year, 50,000 mile protection plan if you purchase before May 10, 1979, a Plymouth Volare, Trailduster (2WD), Voyager or Chrysler LeBaron.

**624-8600**

**THE CAR STORE**

142 E. Walled Lake Dr. Walled Lake

Mon. & Thurs. 'til 9 p.m. Open 9 a.m. Week Days