

7 Trucks Take Christmas Joy To Indians

Indians at Harbor Springs, Sault Ste. Marie, Baraga and L'Anse au Loup received seven truckloads of Christmas presents last weekend from Observerland schools, clubs, businesses and individuals.

The gift list included 3,312 food items, 11 canned hams, and 565 household items such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and wrapped gifts. More food is scheduled to go to Indians in Detroit, Traverse City and Manistee.

Cari Fry and apprentices of the Ironworkers local union in Livonia loaded the trucks and donated their time and gasoline to deliver goods to the Holy Childhood Mission School at Harbor Springs.

Two cartage firms, Laramie and Ivory, donated the use of large trucks for the trip to the Soo.

The effort was organized by Hank Chrusciel's Indian affairs committee of the Western Wayne County Conservation Assn.

Two area stores, whose managers asked to remain

SC Board To Meet In GC Center

The next meeting of the Schoolcraft Community College Board of Trustees will be at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 9 at the Garden City Counseling Center, 2905 Florence.

This is the first time the board will meet at the Garden City branch. The board will meet half an hour earlier than usual for a tour of the remodeled building.

SC Teaches Russian

"Russian for the American Traveler," a new course at Schoolcraft College this fall, will be offered again in the community services winter schedule.

It emphasizes language essential to travel in the Soviet Union and Soviet bloc countries.

SC Will Teach Quality Control

A four-hour credit course in statistical quality control called Manufacturing 208 will be offered at Schoolcraft College on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning Jan. 5.

It is an elementary course to prepare students for the more technical and involved practices that quality control requires. Fees are \$44 for in-district and \$88 for out-of-district students.

\$3,000 Grant To Madonna

Madonna College, Livonia, has received an unrestricted grant of \$3,000 from the Kretschmer Foundation, established by Helen and the late Henry Kretschmer Jr. of Saginaw.

The gift is a memorial to their daughter, Christine, who passed away in her last year as a Madonna College student and was awarded a posthumous degree at commencement in 1973.

The grant will be used for general college development, according to Sr. M. Danatha, president.

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Will Spay Clinics Control Pets?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The first two articles in this series of four told how many thousands of animals are "put to sleep" each year by a throw-away society. This, the third, tells how an enlightened public could reduce the death rate by reducing the birth rate. The writer is a homemaker, graduate student at Wayne State University, and journalism intern at Observer Newspapers.

By JOAN WEAVER
Special Writer

At present, our society "puts to sleep" thousands of animals that are homeless because their populations are soaring out of control.

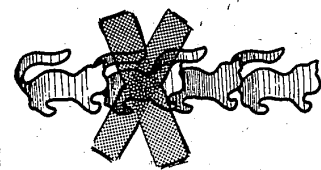
But there are alternatives to pets' lives being ended in such massive numbers.

At Colorado State University, Dr. Lloyd Paulkner has been experimenting successfully with chemical ster-

ilization of dogs and cats. At Michigan State University, Dr. Robert Schirmer, director of the small animal clinic, says the sterilization process, though still experimental, shows great promise as an effective pet population control measure. But he adds:

"The best technology, the easiest and cheapest means of pet sterilization, is worthless if people refuse to use it. Human stupidity has caused the problem, and it will take a drastic reversal of current thinking before anything can be done about the pet population."

"Pet owners allow their animals to breed without giving thought to the consequences. It may be wonderful to have the kids witness the miracle of birth, but what happens to the puppies and kittens when there aren't



enough good homes for them?"

Schirmer noted that certain myths — like the popular notion that a dog must have at least one litter before she can be spayed — will have to be dispelled. Even many responsible pet owners adhere to this myth.

An article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist by Carl Djerasi, Andrew Israel and Dr. Wolfgang Jochle examines some of the psy-

chological aspects of people's resistance toward having animals spayed or neutered. They may see puppies and kittens as substitutes for children, or as an unconscious protest against their own family planning measures. Other reasons are that some human males may unconsciously want their pets to roam and impregnate females as a protest against their own sexual restrictions. Some people regard pets as

"family" and are horrified at the thought of taking sex away from them.

According to Don Mahan in Modern Veterinary Practice, the poor seem to prefer intact animals, and those who most need to take advantage of services offered by municipal spay and neuter clinics seem the least inclined to do so.

Mahan found that most veterinarians are opposed to municipal spay clinics and other forms of government intervention into veterinary matters.

Mahan also says there is some opinion that spay clinics should have been undertaken by veterinarians themselves, and that municipal clinics seem to have had the effect of vets' offering private spaying services at lower costs.

Most veterinarians will spay or neuter animals at re-

duced costs where there is financial hardship. In Wisconsin, DVMs are paid to do spays on pets from poor homes through a private fund called Vet-Aid. The pet owner must be on welfare and possess a medicare card.

Dr. John Richardson, DVM, of Farmington, says that often the private veterinarian sees the bad results of municipal spay clinics because vets end up having to do the medical repair work on animals with post-spay complications which he feels are due to the lower standards of municipal clinics and the lack of follow-up care.

"Spay and neuter clinics don't solve the problem of pet owner irresponsibility or cut down on the number of strays," says Dr. Richardson.

(Last: How the public can behave more responsibly toward animals.)

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