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just the facts

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You read it here first when

- ♦ **FMC hired a new site manager**
- ♦ **Teamsters struck against Pillsbury**
- ♦ **the Pollution Control Board voted against expanding the local landfill.**
- ♦ **Casey's General Store decided to come to Hoopeston**
- ♦ **the Hoopeston library was awarded a grant from the Balloon Classic**

Lourdine Osborne
editor

just the facts

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Stokely seeks ground for increased pumpkin crop

Stokely U.S.A. is looking for a few good acres - 600 to be exact.

The additional land is needed to increase the company's pumpkin crop for 1994, said plant manager Bill Nicholls.

Stokely usually contracts about 2,000 acres, but that will increase to 2,600 acres this year.

The company hopes to process 1 million cases of pumpkin this year, up from about 750,000 last year.

The increased acreage is needed to make up for growing conditions last year, and also to meet customer demand.

"Growing conditions last year weren't the greatest," Nicholls said. Many areas had too much rain, while other areas got rain at the wrong time.

The weather caused Stokely and other pumpkin canners to seriously deplete their inventory.

The second reason for the is increased demand,

both from customers at the grocery store level to bakeries and other commercial uses. "The sales are out there," Nicholls said. "There's a lot of pumpkin going to bakeries now. Food service is probably growing faster than anything."

Nicholls said the company plans to start processing pumpkin earlier than in years past. Canning usually begins in late September or early October, but "we're looking to start the first week of August, if we can," he said.

Pumpkins are a good alternative crop, with a financial return "as good as or better than field crops," Nicholls said.

Also, the crop does not make extra work for growers. In fact, less work is required. "We come in and do the harvesting," Nicholls said.

The company hopes to have the extra acreage in place by April 10. Farmers interested in growing pumpkins should contact the field production department at (217) 283-5141.

Neither cold nor snow keep strikers from picket line

Mother Nature is fickle - as striking Pillsbury workers know first hand.

The picket line, which resembled a family picnic Saturday, drastically changed yesterday afternoon when the snow began to fly.

Some strikers huddled around burn barrels while others took to their vehicles to keep warm.

"We're standing our ground," said James Cappellano of Clarence. "I'm one of those people who doesn't believe in giving up before the storm."

Strikers said residents and businesses in Hoopeston have been very supportive during the strike.

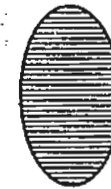
Strikers have received pallet parts from M&N Pallet to burn for warmth. Hot chocolate, coffee, pizza and chicken, donated by both businesses and residents, have also kept strikers warm.

The donations are appreciated. "We'd like to thank everyone for their support," said Mike Henson, a 15-year Pillsbury employee from Rankin.

The strike continues today, the 10th day, despite negotiations yesterday.

The Teamster bargaining unit met Tuesday with a federal mediator in Danville. Local union See "STRIKE" on other side

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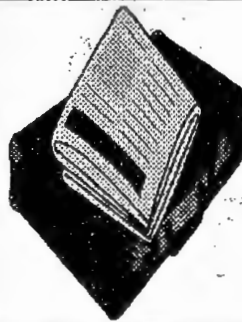
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Strike continued from other side

members would not divulge results of those talks, referring questions to Local 26 Headquarters in Danville. Teamster president Bill Bounds was out of the office, however, and unavailable for comment.

The strike resulted not from wages, but from two issues surrounding insurance.

First, according to strikers, the company wants to change the retirement structure from the current 55 with 10 years' service to 62 with 25 years' service.

Second, Pillsbury wants to raise the deductible for workers' insurance plus have employees pay part of their insurance costs.

Employees have not paid for that coverage under earlier contracts.

Strikers are divided between which they are

Police News

Hoopeston police are searching for a driver who damaged the Palmer Bank drive-up facility on East Penn. The incident happened sometime over the weekend.

James E. Williams, Jr., 25, of 512 E. Thompson, was arrested by Hoopeston police at 8 a.m. Monday. He was charged with unlawful restraint and disorderly conduct (making a false police report) on a complaint by Tonya Petty, 512 E. Thompson, who alleged that Williams would not let her have her child. Police allege he made a false police report when he called police and told them the baby was missing. Williams was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Hoopeston police are investigating a report of criminal damage to auto. Donna Pearce, 508 N. Third St., reported Monday that someone entered her unlocked car and damaged the ignition switch.

Police report a hit and run accident occurred sometime Feb. 19. A pick up truck owned by Carl E. Franklin, 836 E. Elm, was damaged while it was parked at his residence.

willing to give up to return to work.

Cappellano, who has a small son, said he favors keeping no-cost insurance, while Henson and Jerry Rhodes of Danville, another 15-year employee, prefer to keep the retirement package as it is.

New talks have reportedly not been rescheduled.

Meanwhile, members of the Grain Millers union also met with a federal negotiator yesterday. That union, Local 399, is expected to vote Thursday on a company offer. Striking Teamsters do not expect their union to negotiate again until after the Grain Miller vote.

Both unions are trying to negotiate three-year contracts. Both contracts expired about three weeks ago.

Grain Millers continue to work without a contract and have reportedly not taken a strike vote.

Obituaries

CRAYS, Lillian, 87, of Danville, formerly of Rossville, died Tuesday United Samaritans Medical Center, Logan campus. Private funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday at the Wolfe Funeral Home in Rossville. Burial will be in Rossville Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Feb. 21, 1994

Admitted: Jeff Schellhardt, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Cloudy today with a 60 percent chance of rain, possibly changing to snow. High in the mid 30s. Tomorrow, snow showers possible. High near 28, low near 23.

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