

# Angry residents besiege Savage city hall

**By DAVID EARLY**  
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

Things are getting a little savage in Savage.

The suburban community south of Minneapolis has become a veritable war zone thick with rumors, accusations, meetings and, finally, intervention by a state agency.

While there are many unofficial reasons for the rankled emotions in this Scott County city of 4,100, the official declaration of war came when a recent, unexpected city assessment for a sewer and water project led to charges that mismanagement by city officials was "driving the city to pot."

A petition, bearing the names of

210 townspeople and requesting that the state help angry residents fight city hall, was hand-carried to the state auditor's office a week ago.

On Monday morning, a state auditor, Jerry Prins, opened the Savage city books to begin the investigation that citizens say is desperately needed.

Tuesday night more than 80 persons met and organized a citizens' group to formally challenge the city's government. Across town that same night, the city fathers peddled the first \$15 million in municipal bonds for the sewer and water project that is at the core of the dispute.

**S**AVAGE, for many years a rural-flavored town of water wells and septic tanks, has been financially jerryed into the 20th century by the costly suburban process of utility expansions.

Residents recently got the word that it would take approximately \$7.4 million worth of bonds to finance the municipal sewer and water system scheduled to be installed by 1980 in a 2.25-square-mile area called the Credit River improvement project.

Until 1969, Savage, about 23 miles southwest of Minneapolis, was a tiny 1-square-mile city with modern facilities. But then a 10-square-mile area, called Glendale

Township, became part of the city of Savage. No part of that area has a municipal sewer system. The disputed installation is the first step to updating the rest of the city.

For the owner of an average 100- by-150-foot lot, those proposed improvements will cost an estimated \$5,200. Many of the 230 families in the improvement area say they can't foot the bill, which they say is too much, too sudden.

Disgruntled residents accuse the city of speeding up sewer and water installation in the area to accommodate an 86-acre housing project called Canterbury Square. The housing project, they say, would not be built unless it

planned 600 housing units could be connected to a modern municipal water-sewer system.

"Folks feel like the city sold them out to a developer," said one organizer of the citizens movement, who like others asked not to be identified. "I mean we knew it (a municipal waste system) had to come some time. But young kids who moved in the last few months were told it would be five years or so before it would come. Now they hit us like this. There's no way a lot of families can pay it."

**B**UT THE organizers of the movement also are expressing other concerns including possible conflict of interest on the part of city authorities because at least one city official, the mayor, recently bought land in the Credit River area.

They also are complaining about what they consider to be unintelligent spending of city funds and poor city management policies, which, they say, are killing business in Savage. They point to a troubled municipal liquor store and a privately owned variety store that is shutting down as prime examples.

"There is no way to separate some of the financial truth from some of the rumors until the auditor makes a report. But until then, city officials are not sitting back and taking the attacks lightly. They said their work is not killing Savage, but repaving it."

"The city was in pretty bad shape three years ago," said Mayor Cleve Eno, "pretty deeply in debt, facing a lot of lawsuits from the liquor store and got a bad name after a frat was shot and killed at Dan Patch (a defunct annual city festival known statewide for its unbridled atmosphere)."

Tom Markus, the 21-year-old city administrator, said the city had in recent years developed an ironic—considering its name—reputation of "being a little wild."

But that (the killing of a 21-year-old Bloomington man in August of 1975) was before the present city council got started and before I was hired," said Markus.

**M**ARKUS SAID "no deals were made and nothing of the sort" was involved in the almost simultaneous arrival of the new municipal system and the Canterbury Square development.

"The city has been pursuing putting sewer and water in that area for years since 1972—long before Canterbury came along," Markus said. "The real problem is that nobody wants to pay assessments. They are not cheap but they are necessary."

Markus said the city can now install the municipal system because the Metropolitan Waste Commission, at a cost of \$200,000, is doubling Savage's sewer plant capacity to 720,000 gallons a day.

"The mayor has been accused of a conflict of interest because last fall he bought 30 acres of land in the Credit River area and this year voted—along with the rest of the council—for the Canterbury Square development."

Eno, who characterizes himself as "not a rich man, but one who works for an hourly wage at the airlines," discounted the charges, saying his purchase came long after his support of the municipal system and before the Canterbury Square project came before the council.

Eno said the liquor store was closed three weeks in January because more than a dozen lawsuits, filed in connection with the Minnesota Dram Shop Act, made it difficult for the city to find an insurer.

## Concert debris includes cars

# Crews labor to clean up stadium mess

**By JIM ADAMS**  
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

The monstrous mess left by the largest crowd ever at Met Stadium—more than 85,000 rock-music lovers at the Staples concert Tuesday night—should be pretty well cleaned up today after two days of sweeping, raking and hoisting by a 15-man crew. Two Bloomington street sweepers and two water-spraying trucks.

Keys, empty wallets, scores of muddy blankets, T-shirts and a dozen cars were among the items found in the usual car-and-bottle debris in the concrete walk.

and-found calls, including one from a girl who lost her white pippety at the concert. Cleanup crews haven't even the dog. A dozen cars that wouldn't start after the concert are expected to be removed by today, he said.

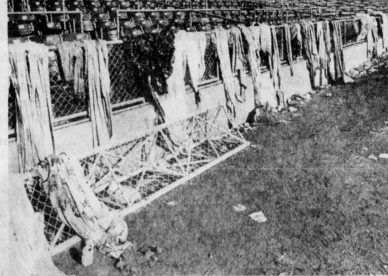
There was no serious damage other than some broken hubroom mirrors, "but all it takes is one

drunk to do that," Bruce said. "Actually, they were a very well-behaved crowd for 85,000. You're bound to get a few nuts in there, but I'd say well over 64,000 were acting pretty damn good."

He said stadium management might restrict the number of tickets sold to future events because "65,000 is probably too many for

the stadium. . . . The building is not built that big."

"Nobody anticipated that many tickets would be sold," he said. "We figured about 45,000, and didn't think to limit the number sold. It scared us a little bit when we heard they had sold 65,000 tickets, and so sales were cut off at that point, he said.



Scores of soggy blankets left by concertgoers were hung out to dry

## 2 Star, Tribune distributors reinstated pending trial

**By PETER ACKERBERG**  
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

Two independent newspaper distributors must be reinstated by the Minneapolis Star and Tribune Company under a preliminary injunction issued by a federal judge.

The company canceled agreements last month with 580 independent contractors who deliver about 15 percent of its newspapers, the Minneapolis Star and the Minneapolis Tribune.

Two contractors, James F. Zenzla and Steven Munns, sued the company, alleging it had violated

federal antitrust laws by trying to convert independent distributors into company employees.

The preliminary injunction, issued by U.S. District Judge Harry H. MacLaughlin, reinstates the canceled contracts until a trial begins Oct. 16 on whether a permanent injunction should be issued.

**I**N A MEMORANDUM filed Monday, MacLaughlin explained that he issued the preliminary injunction partly because of the Star and Tribune Company's "apparent possession of monopoly power in

Henepin County with respect to publishing daily newspapers."

Zenzla and Munns raise "a sufficiently serious question" about possible violation of the federal Sherman Antitrust Act, MacLaughlin said.

He asserted, however, that the newspaper distributors "have not demonstrated probable success on the merits of their antitrust claims."

Zenzla and Munns contended earlier that the newspaper company violated antitrust laws by prohibiting carriers from delivering competing newspapers, setting

a uniform resale price for the newspapers and ending carrier contracts without cause.

The company denies the antitrust law violations and contends it wants to make employees of the independent contractors party to improve customer service and increase newspaper sales.

Zenzla and Munns argue the change would cut their incomes by about one-third.

Zenzla, who distributes papers to 2,300 customers, estimates he will make \$20,000 this year. Munns has 1,900 customers and estimates his 1978 income at \$20,000.

# Sav City Hall Aug 3 1978

Clipped By:



**cdkostik**  
Sun, Jun 28, 2020