

editorial opinion

Pearl Harbor remembrance is sobering

Seeing Pearl Harbor for the first time, so very close to the 37th anniversary of the infamous day that affected millions of lives, was indeed a sobering mark in an otherwise fun-and-games vacation.

The Pearl Harbor cruise was marked on our list of options with an asterisk, denoting "a must" for all tourists, amid alternatives of things to do on the lighter side.

Pearl Harbor, on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, was the place where the U.S. Pacific fleet was attacked without warning and sunk by the Japanese air forces on Dec. 7, 1941. The next day, Congress voted the nation into World War II.

The cruise is a popular one. Reservations must be made days in advance. The ship was filled to capacity with sightseers, and because Honolulu is an international city, the sightseers are from all parts of the world.

Our cruise was a good half-and-half mix of Americans and Orientals. The narration for the cruise was done once in English and again in Japanese, Hawaii's second language.

In the three-hour jaunt, we all relived, through narration, not only one day of events which put Pearl Harbor forever in our history, but better than a year of that time.

The narration began by explaining the Japanese strategy a week before the attack and until the 1942 Battle of Midway, which marked the turning point for the U.S. forces in the Pacific.

We cruised through Battleship Row, with its memorials and replicas of ships that succumbed, sooner or later, while the narrator recited names, figures and dates.

THE MAN NEXT to me had to wipe his eyes before he could focus his camera. Some, who thought they were going to get some sun on the boat ride, crunched inside to hear the narration better. The bar wasn't doing any business. Parents responded to children's questions with "I'll explain later."

The "Aloha" in all of us was stilled for that short period, while coffee turned cold in our paper cups. Some of us wondered, "what are the Japanese among us thinking about all of this?"

A few of us spotted the remnants of flower leis floating on the water, a tribute traditionally and regularly performed by the Hawaii school children. A lot of us bought the souvenir book.

One emotional woman asked her husband to cancel their trip to the Punch Bowl National Cemetery. He didn't ask why.

On our return trip I spotted some youngsters who looked as though they were on a shoal, quite far out from shore, and asked one of the crew what they were doing there with no water craft in sight.

"Digging for pearls," he said. "They are probably in the military zone and aren't supposed to be there, but they're here every day and no one bothers them. The catch must be pretty good."

LORRAINE MCCLISH

Leading the spiral

During the election campaign, we argued more than once on these pages that Dick Headline and Bob Tisch were off-base in blaming rising taxes on "politicians and bureaucrats." In recent years, only gross property tax bills have gone up much. These are controlled by assessments which reflect market values, which are determined by what goes on in the construction industry.

The evidence piles up that this is correct. Consider:

1. In October, consumer prices in the Detroit area leaped 1.6 per cent—twice the national average.

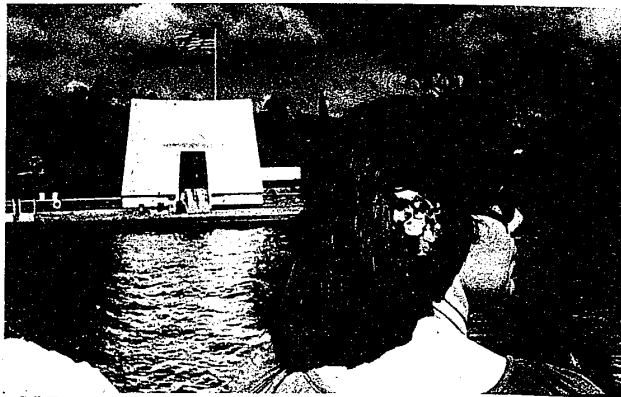
2. Housing in metropolitan Detroit increased by 2.3 per cent. If one could factor out declining areas and isolate the suburban figures, the increase might be worse yet.

3. Housing accounted for about one-third of the total consumer price index rise here.

Tisch was defeated, Headline won—just barely, after leading big in the polls. The Headline amendment attacked symptoms—property taxes—but fails to go after the most important thing jacking up those taxes—construction costs.

The Headline "tax limitation" amendment is aimed at holding taxes to a) whatever voters approve and b) the current level plus a factor for inflation.

Inflation occurs two ways. Too much money chases too few goods—which occurs when Washington pumps \$60 billion more into the economy than it extracts in federal taxes. And it occurs when businesses and workers make conscious decisions to raise prices—with the biggest culprits of all being in construction.



Gail Thompson of Livonia was one of the tourists on the Observer & Eccentric's recent Hawaiian trip who found herself in battleship row in Pearl Harbor a few weeks ago. The U.S. Arizona Memorial in the background captured the attention of many passengers of the Royal Prince, who listened to a tour guide recount the Japanese attack on the military port 37 years ago. The memorial, honoring all those who died

that Sunday, was built over the rusting bulk of the battleship Arizona, which went down with more than 1,100 on board. Dedicated in 1962, the memorial is a concrete white bridge above the hull of the ship which is visible in the shallow harbor. A total of 2,402 died and 1,178 were injured according to one account on Dec. 7, 1941, as the U.S. was jetisoned into war. (Staff photo by Lynn Orr)

GOP needs party person

In Michigan political history, Barbara DuMouchelle's name stands out. She is the only Republican besides Gov. William Milliken who won statewide office on the GOP ticket in 1978—in her case, to the State Board of Education.

GOP partisans are rejoicing at Milliken's victory; they ought instead to be shuddering. Compare 1978's win to the George Romney victory twelve years earlier:

In 1966, Romney won his third term as governor—and with a big majority. In 1978, Milliken won his third term as governor, and with a big majority.

In 1966, Romney helped carry freshman U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin into office for a full six-year term against the famous name of G. Mennen Williams. In 1978, Milliken talked Griffin out of retiring, but then didn't do much for the senator, who lost badly to former Detroit Councilman Carl Levin.

In 1966, Romney helped elect six young, moderate Republican congressmen to seats previously held by Democrats—Esch, Brown, Riegle, Harvey, Ruppe and McDonald—giving the Michigan GOP a 127 majority. In 1978, Milliken couldn't save Brown and Cederburg, and the Michigan GOP has a 13-6 minority in Congress.

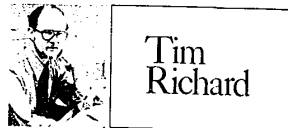
IN 1966, ROMNEY's party won both houses of the legislature. In 1978 Milliken's party gained only one senate seat from the previous election and lost two more seats in its dwindling house minority.

In 1966, you saw "Romney Action Team" everywhere. After running a virtually independent campaign in 1962 and hiding from Barry Goldwater in 1964, Romney became a party man and used his strength to help elect others of like mind.

Milliken has won re-election to the governor's office twice, each time with a growing personal majority and each time with more losses for the rest of the ticket.

Why? A Republican official who is close to Milliken's political philosophy offered this explanation: "Milliken doesn't like strong people around him. He doesn't have a strong staff. He doesn't like a strong ticket."

THIS IS MORE than an election post-mortem. The point is that in mid-winter the GOP will elect a new state chairperson.



Tim Richard

Smiling, silver-haired Bill McLaughlin is retiring. Actually, McLaughlin was almost defeated in 1977 by Bob Edwards, who had just lost his state representative seat in the Flint area and was blaming the party for lack of support.

McLaughlin survived by something like 800-700. He told delegates he had received their message, that he learned they wanted a vigorous party campaign, not just for a few at the top of the ticket.

You couldn't prove it by the 1978 results. Only Milliken and Barbara DuMouchelle won on the state GOP ticket.

Mel Larsen is supposed to be interested in the chairmanship. The retiring state representative from northern Oakland County took on incumbent Secretary of State Richard Austin this year, with a notable lack of success.

BACK IN FEBRUARY, Phil Ruppe said he was interested. Ruppe is the upper peninsula congressman who announced he would run for the U.S. Senate when Romney was planning to retire, then found himself out on a broken limb when Milliken talked Griffin into running again.

At that time, Ruppe made some penetrating comments: "I think the governor is a lot stronger than he thinks he is. . . I think too often we as a party fear open primaries, and that is unfortunate."

"Safety is not always the best policy. Unless we as a party take some risks, unless we open our doors and open our primaries to new candidates, we will discourage fresh, young leaders from participating in the political process as Republicans."

It is not my business to endorse Ruppe or anybody else for state GOP leadership. But it is fair to warn Republicans that if they want Michigan to have more than a 1½ party system, they had better come up with a party person for the No. 1 position and not just a hand-picked Milliken man or woman.

It's 5,000 to 1: U-M in Rose Bowl, 49-0

through
bifocals



But by 49 points over a team which thrashed Michigan State 30-9, two weeks before the Spartans knocked Michigan off 24-15? Never. Privately, the guy who started it all agreed. But he's going to have more than a dollar's worth of fun worrying off Fat Daddy about it the rest of December.

THERE HAS BEEN an erroneous impression among football followers for many years that the original Michigan-Stanford game was set up simply because Fielding H. Yost had coached Stanford to a 7-1 record in 1900, and then had gone 10-0 in 1901, his first season at Ann Arbor. That's not quite true.

Gridiron historians know from his correspondence that Yost itched to show off that great 1901 Michigan team, the first of his "point-a-minute" clubs, on the west coast. There was talk of going out to play both Stanford and Washington over the Christmas holidays, but nothing was firm.

You probably never heard of James R.H. Wagner, but he's the man who provided the key. Not only was Wagner president of the Tournament of Roses Association in Pasadena, more important was the fact that he had lived in California for only a short time—having moved there after living 20 years in Michigan! It was he who put football into Tournament of Roses festivities by inviting U-M to send Yost and his team.

Eccentricities

by HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.



Government helps 60,000 out of a job

Ten years ago, 70,000 migrant workers came to Michigan in the summertime to help harvest Michigan's bountiful food crops.

They helped pick the apples, cherries, sugar beets, tomatoes and all the other crops for which Michigan is famous.

These migrant workers—most of whom were Texans of Mexican descent—traveled in groups from state to state in old, beat-up buses and cars as their labors were needed.

They would spend five months a year in Michigan, hoeing sugar beets in May in the Thumb area, picking cherries in Leelanau in mid-summer, picking apples in the fall.

They were not well-paid and lived in tent cities or very crude housing in the farm areas. But they traveled with their families and were expert harvesters.

THEN GOVERNMENT got into the picture.

Some people in Lansing were alarmed by the poor conditions of the labor camps and passed laws requiring farmers to provide adequate housing.

The federal minimum wage laws were extended to farm workers and wage rates were increased steadily over the last few years. From \$1 an hour a few years back, it will be more than \$3 an hour next year.

Through the government's efforts to improve the life of the migratory worker, costs have been so increased that farmers are replacing them with machinal workers.

Last year, 18,000 migrant workers came to Michigan. This year the figure was down to fewer than 10,000.

Because of their limited education and training, most have gone on welfare back in Texas.

IN THE MEANTIME, Michigan farmers have had to change the types of crops they produce.

Machinal pickers are very poor for delicate plants such as strawberries. Consequently, farmers are planting heartier varieties of fruits that stand machine harvesting and which end up in canneries, not on supermarket shelves.

A machine-picked apple is predestined for applesauce.

Since the cost of labor has gone up, so has the price of food.

This is a case where a group of people were happy in what they were doing.

Some other group decided they were being exploited and, without considering the ultimate result, moved forward to help the poor, defenseless worker.

The result is that they are now unemployed, certain types of crops are less available to the public, and the cost of food has been increased.

If government keeps helping people this way, eventually no one will have any problems, except maybe the taxpayer—if there are any left.

The invitation to Stanford to be Michigan's opponent wasn't automatic by any means, despite Yost's former ties at Palo Alto.

The two best teams on the Pacific Coast were Stanford and the University of California. They met on the gridiron at Berkeley on Thanksgiving Day. Wagner already had said he would invite the winner to face Michigan on New Year's Day and Stanford accepted after defeating California, 12-0.

Then came the 49-0 Wolverine runaway. It wasn't the Rose Bowl stadium as we know it today, but it's referred to as the first Rose Bowl game nonetheless. What you may not know is that it was the only one ever shortened by several minutes because it was so one-sided.

THERE ARE MANY who think that when the 1978 regular season ended, it was Michigan State—not Michigan—which had the best team in the Big Ten. They may be right. However, MSU does not regain bowl eligibility until mid-January and can only set its sights upon next year.

The next time the Spartans do go to Pasadena, and you can bet without odds at all that there will be such an occasion, they will be taking a 2-1 Rose Bowl record with them.

MSU beat UCLA, 28-20, in the 1954 New Year's extravaganza under Coach Biggie Munn, and repeated, 17-14, against the same foe two years later with Duffy Daugherty directing the Spartans. The same schools met again at Pasadena in 1966 when UCLA won, 14-12. Duffy still was at the helm and it was State's only loss of the season.

Michigan's Rose Bowl record is 4-4, victories in 1902, 1949, 1951 and 1965 being followed by defeats in 1970, 1972, 1977 and 1978.

One last statistic, and maybe you can sucker someone into a wager on this matter: You're aware, of course, that Michigan and MSU reign as co-champions of the Big Ten. So how many previous times have they tied for the football crown? I'll give you 5,000 to 1 the answer is none.

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