

editorial opinion

Real-life TV drama chronicles cancer struggle

Just about all of us know someone who has died or will die of cancer. Some of us unknowingly have it.

If you don't yet know someone with the disease, you will.

Cancer is a gruesome reality. Living with it, admitting it's there, may be the most difficult struggle of life.

We remember Hubert Humphrey addressing Congress for the final time. His unforgettable spirit was still intact, but his body was gutted by the disease. We knew the "happy warrior" was going to lose the battle.

We remember John Wayne at the Academy awards vowing to fight on. He had beat the "Big C" once. He would do it again, he pledged. Days later he died.

One of the bravest persons I've ever known was reporter Martha Mahan. She fought, and lived, with cancer for 10 years. But never did she lose heart. Operation after operation she would return to

work, gutsy as ever, never complaining, many times laughing and joking about it — much to the dismay of some co-workers who couldn't understand such spirit.

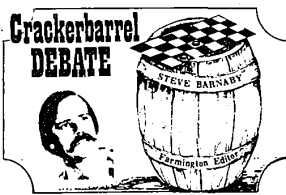
On Jan. 21 you will have an opportunity to meet another courageous person who battled with cancer. That entire week Channel 56 is presenting some of the best television you'll watch this year.

IT'S DRAMATIC, heart-rending, and educational.

The week of programming revolves around cancer victim Joan Robinson.

This very courageous woman resisted the urge to withdraw in self-pity and die. Instead she chronicled her 22-month struggle on film. Titled "Joan Robinson: One Woman's Story," it will be aired twice, at 8 p.m. Jan. 21 and at 9 p.m. Jan. 25.

Each showing will be followed by a discussion with Mrs. Robinson's husband and her physician. They will discuss her battle and the gains made in



the field of cancer research since her death.

Channel 56's new talk show "Feedback" will dedicate its entire week's programming to a discussion of cancer. It airs each evening that week at 7 p.m.

The spirit of the week's programming is exem-

plified in a letter written by Mrs. Robinson shortly before her death.

"It's important for cancer patients to know that life can go on and be rewarding," she wrote.

CHANNEL 56 is justifiably proud of the week's effort. They describe it this way:

"It's as if viewers are guests — welcome guests in the Robinson's home and in the hospital. It's an all-out effort between Joan, her family and friends, the hospital staff and the film crew. And it succeeds."

Cancer Action Now, the Cancer Center of Metro Detroit and the Michigan Cancer Foundation will be working with Channel 56 during the week to help educate the public on cancer.

A telephone line answered by volunteers in the medical field will be available for questions and requests for materials.

Tune in to 56. You'll learn something about cancer — and yourself.

the stroller

W.W. Edgar

When Herbert Hoover ducked

Now that the Olympia, once the winter capital of sports in Detroit, has been abandoned, the public prints have been filled with the recollections of tense moments in what is now referred to as "the old red barn."

They have told of the great feats of Gordie Howe as he led the Red Wings to the Stanley Cup, emblematic of the National Hockey League championship. They've told of the many thrilling boxing matches that have been fought within its walls. They've told of the extravaganzas of Ringling Bros circus, and the never-to-be forgotten smile of Sonja Henie as she glided over the ice as the first of the great figure skaters.

But to The Stroller, who spent many an hour in the press box of the old brick edifice as a hockey writer and an observer of many a bloody fight, none of these recollections compares with the one drama-packed moment he never will forget.

IT WAS THE MORNING, back in 1931, when the late President Herbert C. Hoover addressed the members of the American Legion in their annual convention and then, raising his hands to cover his eyes, ducked to the back of the stage in fear that he would be showered with empty bottles or other type missiles.

When the Legionnaires descended on Detroit that year, it was in the midst of the prohibition era. Rum runners were in their heyday along the river. And the service men who had fought in the war that was to end all wars wanted the Volstead Act recalled.

The drive to end prohibition reached its peak when the Legionnaires arrived and awaited the arrival of President Hoover to tell him so.

It so happened that The Stroller, then on the staff of the Detroit Free Press, was assigned to accompany the president's party from Toledo to Detroit and then stand close to him — just in case.

When The Stroller stepped on the train, the president was still busy putting the final touches to the speech he was to deliver within the next few hours.

It was quite a thrill for a young newspaperman to be assigned to the President of the United States, and especially to watch him prepare for what he knew would be a dramatic moment.

WHEN THE ENTOURAGE left the railroad station and headed for the Olympia, the streets were lined with a mixture of persons who applauded and persons, mostly in uniform, who booed as the president's car went by.

By the time we reached the Olympia, the building — then only a few years old — was jammed with service men. They not only wanted to hear President Hoover speak, but they wanted to convey a message to him, too.

When the time came for him to take the podium the air was filled with excitement. It grew more tense every second. Meanwhile, The Stroller stationed himself in the wings, where he had a great view, just in case.

Beads of perspiration trickled down the president's face as he spoke. He was trying desperately to put a message across. But he realized he was failing. Finally, the speech was ended and as he stepped back from the podium a great yell filled the Olympia.

"We want beer. We want beer," the Legionnaires shouted as they arose. For a moment it seemed they were going to storm the stage.

That's when President Hoover placed his hands over his eyes and stepped backward as if to duck in case anything was thrown.

He was still pale while enroute to the railroad station for his return to Washington. He had survived an ordeal, but the echo of the chant "We want beer" was still ringing in his ears.



Our 'fast' lane is blocked

Have you ever zoomed along the freeway and come upon a car traveling in the left lane at about 40 mph?

You didn't know whether to try to pass on the right and gamble that the driver wouldn't decide at that time to cross over to the right, or toot your horn and flash your bright lights, hoping he would pull over.

You don't have to get on a freeway to have the experience. Try any one of our local four-lane roads.

MANY STATES make it illegal to pass on the right on a four-lane highway.

Michigan does not happen to be one of them. In our state, you may legally travel in the fast or left lane as long as you are traveling the minimum speed.

The states which have a no-passing-on-right law have good reasons to have it on their books.

First, cars with right-hand drive (steering wheel on the left) have a blind spot in the right rear corner, and other cars passing on the right are invisible to the overtaken driver for a short period of time. Un-



by HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.

fortunately, this short period could be the difference between safe driving and an accident.

This is not a problem with cars passing on the left because Michigan law requires you to have an outside mirror which eliminates the blind spot on the left.

Second, in defensive driving, you have to anticipate what the driver in front of you is going to do. If he is driving in the left lane, he might be going to turn left, go straight or pull into the right lane.

Two of three choices could lead to an accident if the person behind guesses wrong.

Third, if slow traffic is allowed to travel in the left or fast lane, then drivers are almost forced to cut in and out of lanes if they want to maintain the speed limit.

THESE LOGICAL reasons are above and beyond the emotional reactions that occur when you are forced to travel behind someone who is traveling in the fast lane at the same speed as cars in the slow lane. Their refusal to pull over slows up traffic for miles.

The advantages of a state law requiring slow traffic to travel in the right lane and passing only in the left lane have so much to recommend them that it is hard to believe our state hasn't done anything about it.

With the legislature going back into session, shouldn't some attention be given to this area of safety on the highways as our Washington officeholders seem to think all accidents are caused by defective automobiles?



Tim Richard

The Harpies vs. Romney

George Romney's first mistake was being born a white male.

Romney's second mistake was crossing the Harpies among the supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment.

As a prime mover for a new state constitution in the early '60s and as governor from 1963-68, Romney is one of the most distinguished men in Michigan history. As president of American Motors Corp., he is one of the most distinguished men in industrial history.

Romney didn't simply hold offices. He made changes. He was always years ahead of the pack in his thinking.

A natural, you would think, to fill a vacancy on the Wayne State University Board of Governors.

BUT ROMNEY'S first mistake — his color and sex — raised political eyebrows. For the person he replaced, the late Dauris Jackson, was black and female.

I was taught that if a person is qualified, color and sex don't matter. But that view appears to be old-fashioned. And the fact that he, like Gov. Milliken who appointed him, is a Republican is just part of the political game.

But Romney's appointment caught heck.

Next Romney, speaking as a Mormon on his church's opposition to ERA, made the mistake of giving too much prominence to the role of homosexuals in the ranks of ERA supporters. Homosexuals may be there, but so what? ERA deserves discussion on its merits.

Does the Vatican destroy Michelangelo's art because he was inclined that way? Do we remove "Swan Lake," "The Nutcracker" and the first piano concerto from the repertoire because Tchaikovsky (harrumph) didn't like girls?

I happen to support ERA, and I think Romney made a mistake.

BUT HE DOESN'T deserve what the Harpies, a strident minority of ERA supporters, are doing to him.

They want him to resign, as if he had failed a blood test. They're equating him with Hitler. They're vilifying him cruelly.

This is the man who fought to create a state Civil Rights Commission in the constitution. This is the man who appointed such excellent persons to it that many became judges. This is the man who fought the good fight for open housing legislation. This is the man who took on the Birchers.

He didn't deserve vitriol for his ERA mistake.

Romney said something more important than the ERA remarks at his party's convention last summer. I've been saving my notes for the proper occasion, and this is it:

"I THINK OUR country is in bad economic circumstances. Our exports are declining, our imports are increasing, the value of the dollar is down."

"We haven't been addressing the basic problem of inflation . . . We must rally the forces of the nation if we're going to redirect the course of things."

"The dominant political influence is not either political party. It's special interests — and bureaucracy. And congressmen who get re-elected by taking care of special interests in their state."

"We have to band together as citizens to deal with the problems of inflation."

In Greek mythology, the Harpies were goddesses of storms and whirlwinds. The Romney approach comes from the Socratic philosopher-king. It's no wonder the Harpies disapprove.

discover Michigan

Did you know that the observatory at Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills is the only public astronomical observatory in Michigan? It is equipped with a six-inch refracting telescope with a telescope drive design which has become the model for much larger solar and astronomical telescopes throughout the United States.

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