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Old ideas need to be swept out

THE REALIZATION that reading is feared by many and considered wasteful by others was a real shock for me as a youth. Initially, I thought such an attitude odd, one to be disregarded out of hand.

Not until I was much older did it sirthe me that in many cases those who hold such a Paleolithic view often are the same persons in control of society's institutions. In recent years, this group has become even more frightened. Libraries are becoming much more efficient and relevant to a larger portion of the population. Because of computers and video technology, persons are more easily able to make their own decisions.

Some experts and professionals feel insecure. Their elite station in life is being threatened. More and more people are saying, "Who needs them?"

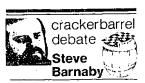
KNOWLEDGE IS power, and libraries are providing more of it every day to many more people.

But libraries must be freed from the economic harness insposed on them by those who would restrict spreading this power to the people.

Money speat on complete community libraries is money well spent. But it will take a heek of a lot more than the Farmington system has been allocated to make the took of the took potential to the control therary it ought to be.

It the top-notch library it ought to be.

The status quo is unacceptable. But the change will only come about if those who care speak out and force community lead-



ers to change their attitudes

UNFORTUNATELY, for the future UNFORTUNATELY, for the future generations of this community, the attitude prevails that because something is in Farmington or Farmington Hills, it already is the best and improvements are unnecessary.

But a lot of institutions in this community need to be improved, and the library system is one of them.

Reading really irritates some people. Even more of an annoyance to those same persons is the necessity of paying for libraries.

For some inexplicable reason, a seg-

For some inexplicable reason, a segment of America has taken to the notion that reading is an extra — something that may be done after every other possible option in life is taken — and I mean every

CULTIVATING THE MIND for many persons comes after mowing the lawn, watching sports and situation comedles and even smoking cigarettes or eating junk food.

Military vets remember the smoking break — 10 minutes to "light 'em if you got 'em." But the military trainee who tried to pull out a book and read for those 10 minutes quickly learned the definition of an individual exercise session.

Take a break at many workplaces and feel free to drink as many cups of coffee and fattening foods as possible and nobody

really cares. But try to read a book and watch the stares and glares.

RECALL THE advice you might have run across while preparing for a job interview. Many manuals tell you to avoid mentioning that your hobby is reading of any serious type.

Talk about golf, the softball team, Johnny Carson. But don't mention books. You rarely will hear business persons talking about what they did at the library

this week. You should, but you won't.

Acceptable reading for this bunch is browsing through a memo or delviag into the sports pages. It's something you do while on vacation. Libraries, to them, are for kids, older folks and bored housewives.

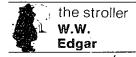
These cave men and their antiquated ideas properly belong on the shelf — in the prehistoric history section and listed on the computer so future generations can muse in wonder at what once was in Farmington.

Memories of great winners and losers

ONE PRICE a fellow pays for growing old is that he becomes of member of the Do You Remember class. People get the idea that because he has been around for a long time, he becomes a human encyclopedia. At least that has been the case with The Stroller. Scarcely a day goes by that he isn't asked, "Do you remember...?" The questioner asks about some happening of long ago. Offtimes the questions are surprising.

FOR INSTANCE, the other day when the group was discussing the rise of the Tigers this year, one member asked, "Do Jyou remember who the manager was when the Tigers won the pennant in 1934 and how many years had they gone with-

This question was a stunner. The troller thought no one ever could forget



Mickey Cochrane and the way he drove the Tigers to the pennant.

They had been a rather poor team. When Cochrane took hold, he changed their thinking in a hurry.

When he was introduced to the players by owner Frank Navin, he greeted them with "It's great to be with a champion." And that's the spirit he instilled until they won the pennant. There never has been another manager who did such a great tokher manager who did such a great

ANOTHER MEMBER of the group cut in with "You've been around a long time and you possibly remember some great winners, but who was the best loser you ever met?"

That was a good question, but the answer was easy. The bost loser was Joe Louis, the morning after he had been knocked out by Max Schmeling in their first light in 1936.

He stood in the office of Mike Jacobs, the fight promoter, with a face swollen out of shape. He had been hit with 57 right-hand punches before being counted out. Louis was asked, "What happened?"

While it may have been a bit patiful for him to answer, he managed to utter these famous words: "He fight me sideways." What Louis meant was that Schmeling fought out of a crouch — a style Louis never had seen.

There was no alibi on Louis' part. He just admitted that Schmeling had outsmarted him. And to the day he died. Joe Louis gave the German credit for his stunning victory.

ANOTHER GREAT loser was Jack Dempsey. On the night in 1926 when he lost the heavyweight title to Gene Tunney in the Philadephia rain, he was shocked. But he had no alibi.

When asked, "What in the world hap-pened?" Dempsey simply answered, "I just forgot to duck."

Most often in the world of sport, the losers come up with alibls. Some are strange, but they are excuses for defeat.

But all these happenings are brought back to The Stroller now that he has been

placed in the Do You Remember class in his long journey through life. And it is in-teresting to hear the questions.

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discover Michigan by Bill Stockwell

Pols pull together

THE AGREEMENT between legislative Dearcerats and Repub-licans to cut the personal income for rate Cept. I should be applaud-

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