

O Say Can You A-Flat?

Prof: 'Lower Key To Anthem, Tigers'

Few persons sing the National Anthem at Detroit Tigers ballgames -- or anywhere else, for that matter. And there's a good reason, says Wayne Dunlap, a Tiger fan who also happens to be conductor of the Plymouth Symphony and head of the music Department at Schoolcraft College.

The reason is that the song is played in too high a key for most people to sing. At Tiger Stadium, a recorded band plays it in the key of C, and most other bands use the key of B-flat because it's easy for trumpets.

Dunlap says the recommended key is A-flat, three notes lower. He's at work now helping the Tiger management find a version in that key.

TIME IS AN element.

"The World Series will be broadcast all over the world, and I'd like the singing of the National Anthem to be a good reflection on the city and on the team," says Dunlap.

"I'd offer to make them a recording, but it would take time and money to get a band and train a chorus. I'd rather try to find a recording," he said. Besides the fact that 95 percent of people can't reach the notes of the key of C, Dunlap says other needs in performing the National Anthem well.

ONE IS TO have a band or orchestra. The Tigers used to use an organ, but now have a band on their record. "At Anaheim (home of the California Angels, they play it

on an electric organ, and it's so weak and flaccid I almost vomit. It's disrespectful of our anthem and country," Dunlap says.

"The Yankees have a recording with Robert Merrill, which is good, and Minnesota has a recording that sounds like everyone in the ballpark is singing."

Another problem with America's National Anthem, Dunlap continues, is that perhaps a majority of people don't know the words. He suspects it's not being taught well in school, and the reason, again, may be the too-high key.

DUNLAP is a believer in patriotism and in singing the anthem, but at the same time he points out that, musically,

the U.S. anthem isn't too good.

"An anthem should be short, have a measured quality, inspiring and easy to sing. Musically, the ideal anthem, I think, is Britain's 'God Save the Queen.'"

"Haydn, when he visited England, was so impressed by it that he went back and wrote an Austrian national hymn using it as a model. He was as proud of that as of anything he ever wrote."

A difficulty of America's anthem is that it spans an octave and a half, while the British covers only six notes.

Some stadium Dunlap points out, have found so much difficulty with it that they have dropped it in favor of "America the Beautiful" or "God Bless America."

THERE'S NOTHING historically sacred about America's National Anthem, entitled "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The words come from "The Battle of Fort Mifflin," a poem by Francis Scott Key written in September of 1814. Key, a lawyer, was on a mission to obtain the release of a prisoner during the War of 1812 and was detained by the British so that he observed the bombardment of Fort Mifflin, near Baltimore, from a British ship.

The music was written by John Stafford Smith (1760-1836) and based on an English drinking song, "Anacreon in Heaven." Anacreon was a sixteenth-century B.C. Greek writer of love and wine songs.

President Woodrow Wilson decreed the "Star-Spangled Banner" as this country's national anthem in 1916, and Congress confirmed it in 1931.

Just when the words and music were combined isn't listed. It will never, for example, find a Civil War history or mention it.

Sometimes people talk about replacing it with a better, more significant anthem, but the talk gets nowhere.

If, then, "The Star-Spangled Banner" is to be our national anthem, Dunlap concludes, it follows that it should be sung as well and respectfully as possible. And that means the key of A-flat and a good band.

today's hot line observerland

PLYMOUTH—The long awaited unification study has been completed by the Citizens Research Council and will be presented to the public at the annual Leadership Conference sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce at Schoolcraft College, Saturday, September 28.

PLYMOUTH—Plymouth Township has taken an option on a 63-acre site on the north side of Ann Arbor Trail near Hilltop golf course for possible use as a recreation park. Approval also was given for establishment of a Building Authority to handle the venture.

LIVONIA—The City Council upheld Mayor Harvey W. Moeck's veto of their own resolution passed two short weeks ago to widen Newburgh Road to a five-lane width of 60 feet from Schoolcraft to Six Mile. Only two councilmen voted to override the mayor's veto, and the motion failed by a 5 to 2 vote. The mayor and Council are scheduled to discuss paving plans further following tabling of the project.

LIVONIA—A former Livonia couple accused of forging her death certificate to avoid paying two traffic tickets was bound over for trial in Wayne County Circuit Court. Charles S. Bone and his wife, Harriet Jean, also face felony charges of obtaining money under false pretenses in the sale of their Livonia home.

REDFORD—Township Board members voted unanimously this week to inaugurate a municipal sanitation department for door-to-door rubbish pickup. The current commercial contract expires Dec. 31, at which time the township hopes to have its operation ready to go.

What's Inside

THE AUTO is more than just a way of life in suburbia—it's also a form of art. See what the 1969 models will look like on Page 1B.

A LATE FLOOD of entrants will assure contests in nearly every Wayne County Charter Commission primary race in Observerland. A roundup of the local races is on Page 8B.

A STRIKE of liquor warehouse employees is threatening local supplies. How it will affect this area is told on Page 10A.

FOR LACK OF \$700, the Livonia Board of Education eliminates soccer program from high school athletics. Page 4B.

AREA PAROCHIAL footballers open play Sunday. Page 4B.

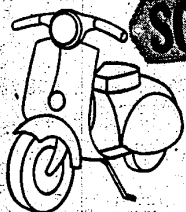
CRIPPLED Detroit Lions meet Dallas in opener. Page 5B.

COLLEGE TEAMS ready for grid opener. Page 4B.

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up coming

SOME YOUNG people may be fighting for "Youth Power," but youngsters are actually more apathetic than the older folks when it comes to exercising their political rights at the polls. A special Observer Newspaper study will show the voting patterns of suburbanites by age groups and explain the "whys." See the Public Affairs Page in Wednesday's edition.



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IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS — this is the 1915 Model T station wagon that took the family out for Sunday jaunts. The vintage car belongs to Robert Witt, 31528 Marblehead, Farmington, who took a blue ribbon with it at the annual Old Car Festival Sept. 7-8 at Greenfield Village.

Slain Marine, 25, Gets Military Rites

A former Farmington resident, William F. Pepper, died Aug. 30 in Vietnam as a result of mortal wounds. Dead is William F. Pepper, the son of Dr. and Mrs. James N. Pepper formerly of Farmington and now residing in Honolulu, Hawaii. At the time of his death, Pepper held the rank of Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. The Peppers resided in Farmington from 1954 to 1964. At the time Dr. Pepper was Superintendent of the Oak Park Schools, while Mrs. Pepper was a teacher in the Farmington Schools.

Pepper, 25, attended Farmington High School and Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He entered the Marine Corps in March, 1967. A military funeral was conducted Friday, Sept. 13, in the Thayer Funeral Home. Rev. Robert Kenneth Foster of the United Presbyterian Church in Oxford, Ohio, officiated and burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

Survivors in addition to his parents are: two sisters, Mrs. Sandra Dunham of Armada, Mich., and Mrs. Lydia Richmond of Kansas City, Mo.; and two brothers, Fred Pepper of Roseville and Carl Pepper of Honolulu.

Consideration of an ordinance to govern operation of automobile "tandems" and a progress report on the study of Bel Aire subdivision flooding conditions are expected to highlight Monday night's Farmington City Council meeting.

In regard to the latter, City Manager John D. Dinan and Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall met Thursday with engineers of the Oakland County Drain Commission.

Their purpose was to explore ramifications of the idea that the county might build a new drain through the area to relieve storm runoffs. Dinan also expects a report

large. Witt spent hours and hours restoring the car which travels 22 miles an hour and features oak and ash woodwork and a brass radiator. Greenfield Village owns the only mate to the car.

Board Alerts 18-Year-Olds

In an effort to insure timely legal registration of young men on their 18th birthdays, Local Draft Board 328, 22504 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington, is requesting the cooperation of school officials and youth agencies in publicizing draft registration requirements.

Eligible youth failing to register can be declared delinquent and scheduled for priority induction. Young men are required to register for the draft at any local board office within five days after their 18th birthdays. Those away from home at this time may go to any local board and register.

The local draft board currently has a total of 17,666 registrants, including all males born after Aug. 30, 1922. The board registered 1,588 men during the past 12 months, compared with 1,444 registrants for the previous year.

Members of Reserve and National Guard units are required to register. Only persons on active duty in the armed forces are not required to register until they are separated from service.

Full information on registration requirements may be obtained at the local board office.

All registrants are required to keep this office informed of changes of address or changes in educational, occupational or marital status.

Liquor Is OK'd In Quakertown

One of the last remaining "dry" spots in the area bit the dust Tuesday when voters of the Village of Quakertown voted 116 to 10 to permit the sale of hard liquor by the glass within the Village. Previously only beer and wine could be sold in the village limits.

Impetus for the change in the village ordinance is the proposal for a 160-seat Machus Restaurant on the southeast corner of Farmington and 12 Mile Rds.

Approval for a liquor license still must come from the Village Council and the State Liquor Control Commission.

Land for the restaurant is currently owned by the Thompson-Brown Company. A spokesman for the company said that the restaurant would be constructed and operated under the terms of a 20-year lease.

Board At Odds Over Grid Tilt

Although the high school football season is barely under way, the scheduled November clash between the gridiron forces of Farmington and North Farmington already has stirred agitation in high places.

A request this week from the Board of Commerce to link the so-called "Old Yule Log" game with downtown Farmington Christmas lighting plans provoked a debate within the Board of Education which brought from Herbert R. Neal the declaration:

"We don't need this game at all. It's exploitation to help business in this way." Neal, a past president of the board, was joined by Newcomer Gary L. Lichtman in opposing

a split in gate receipts between the schools and the Board of Commerce's lighting fund.

"If those decorations help business, we shouldn't be part of it," said Lichtman.

When it came to a vote, however, Neal and Lichtman lost a 5-2 decision on a resolution which approves of the Board of Commerce promoting sale of game tickets for \$2.50 each. Students, who buy tickets in advance through their schools, will pay their customary game prices.

Board President John M. Washburn expressed the majority's thinking when he said, "This game engenders great community spirit and is not a bad thing."

Youth Brings 'Sister' To Visit

Bill Orr, who recently returned from a 14-month stay in Valence, France, thinks that turnout is fair play.

He and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Orr, of 2504 Farmington Rd., Farmington, returned the Garlin's favor by having Sylvie, his French "sister," as their house guest for 10 days.

Sylvie, who didn't know she would be coming until three weeks before she left, has been in Grand Rapids visiting an "exchange" friend during the summer.

Both agreed that food and language difference were minor problems that are faced when living in a new country. But, according to them, these are easily overcome.

Although she and Bill were only able to become acquainted during the week-end since she went to a girl's school, she said that he had been wonderful for her family since her older brother was gone and her younger brother was the only child at home.

Bill, who will be attending Middlebury College in Vermont this fall said, "It's very difficult to get to know a French person, but once you do, you have a much closer friend than you have here."

Sylvie, when asked about America, said the major difference was that Americans live. There is less formality here, everything is so much more casual and friendly.

"The thing that impresses me the most," she said, "is that you can speak to anyone here, in France, you don't."

Both agreed that the major reason for this was the long tradition of class differences which exist in France.

Sylvie, lapsing into French and having Bill translate for her, said, "Most Frenchmen think that Americans behave like children. It seems like they always waste a lot of money and are frivolous."

She added, however, that his view depends on the people, their class, and whether they know or have known Americans.

Bill, enthusiastically speaking of his visit, said, "I would have given up two years of college to go. It was worth that much. For the first time, I was able to sit back and study my own society, and how other countries view us."

Although Sylvie, who will return to France on Sept. 16, has no definite plans to return to the U.S., she says she would like to since "it's been fun." Bill says he plans to return to France, that is, in typical brotherly fashion "what Sylvie gets married."



HOSTING — Bill Orr, recently returned from France, hosted his French "sister," Sylvie Garlin, during her ten-day stay in Farmington.