

Night baseball born at U-D

DURING the week prior to Memorial Day, night baseball was celebrating its 50th anniversary. It may come as a surprise to learn that the plans for the change from daylight to artificial light was first voiced in the dressing room of the University of Detroit football team. It so happened that on that day, "Red" McPhail, who had taken over the reins of the Cincinnati club in the National League, was getting ready to officiate at the football game. He was a good friend of Gus Dorais, the U-D football coach, and a good football official for the college game.

Sitting in the room waiting for the call to the field and knowing full well that sportswriters were present, McPhail said to Dorais:

"Gus, I have an idea that baseball can be played at night, and it could be a boon to the game. I think I might try it down there on the banks of the Ohio River."

EVERYONE SMILED. But that didn't faze McPhail, who was as stubborn as he was fitted for the official's job.



the stroller W.W. Edgar

No one paid much attention to Red at the time except to figure he had another dream.

But the football season was ended, and he went to Cincinnati to handle the baseball reins, and the thought of night baseball suddenly became a national topic. Many thought it couldn't be done. They didn't know Red McPhail.

Soon came the word that the Cincinnati Reds, of the National League, were going to try night baseball with hopes that it would become a major part of the game.

Time went by, McPhail said nothing until that opening game was a success and there were dreams that baseball was to undergo a radical change.

It took a lot of work and planning, but McPhail's dream came true. One

by one, major league parks ventured into the night game, and the entire structure of the national pastime was altered.

Today only one major league baseball stadium is without lights. It is Wrigley Field in Chicago, and the folks over there are sticklers for the old-fashioned idea.

WHEN NIGHT games proved a success, several great changes were made. Some cities built domes over their playing fields. That allowed games to be played in the rain.

The popularity led to the abandonment of the holiday double-headers, when games were played in the morning and afternoon. This meant two ad-

mission charges and a full day in and around the ballpark.

Now both games are played for the price of one admission to the ballpark. While all this was happening, electric utilities were forced to improve all lighting, just to care for the baseball games. Electricity for homes was improved and even the stadia like the Olympia in Detroit were ideal places to watch sporting events and other forms of entertainment.

A lot has happened since the day at the University of Detroit stadium prior to a football game. Even that stadium is now only a memory. But Red McPhail's dream of night baseball goes merrily on, with prospects for bigger and better surprises in the next 50 years.

It sure was a happy 50th birthday for the national pastime.

Williams gets transit post

Alfonso H. (Al) Williams (left) is the new metro district chief engineer for the Michigan Department of Transportation, MDOT Director James Fitz announced.



Alfonso H. Williams

Williams will be responsible for construction and transportation operations in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties. His headquarters will be on Nine Mile Road in Southfield.

"He has exceptional engineering skills," Fitz said of Williams, a 1957 graduate of Michigan Technological University and a certified professional engineer. Williams will move from Lansing to the Detroit metropolitan area.

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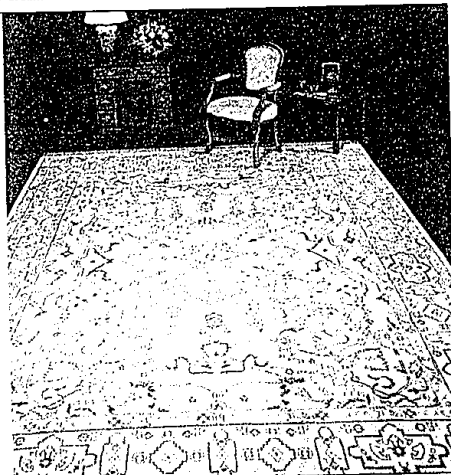
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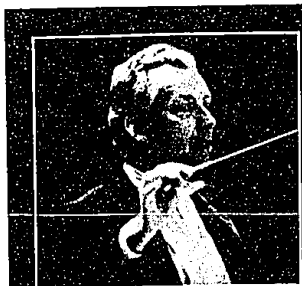
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Gunther Herbig
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The number of subscribers in Maestro Herbig's first year rose by 35 percent, testament to the public's perception that this is, indeed, a conductor of special talents. Backstage visitors have come to know his wit and charm. As he moved about his new home of Detroit he was welcomed warmly. This year he issues his own warm invitation to return: come downtown to hear him, and the Detroit Symphony musicians, doing the work they love.

Critical acclaim

"Herbig's ability to give logical shape and meaningful purpose to sprawling works is his most impressive talent to date, and he used it brilliantly here (in conducting Shostakovich's Fourth Symphony)." John Gullin Detroit Free Press

"Clearly Herbig is getting through to his musicians. It's not just precision he's after, not just playing softly or bow. He's got them listening to each other with an intensity you can almost feel!" Nancy Mallitz Detroit News

"Apparently the reports we've been getting from Detroit are not without foundation. Gunther Herbig, the East German who this season took over the music directorship of the Detroit Symphony, truly is a musician of phenomenal talent... Herbig's performance was not just sensational, but magnificent." James Wierzbicki St. Louis Post Dispatch

"If you are a Beethoven fanatic, you will beg, borrow, or steal a ticket for tonight's repeat performance... Beethoven of this (Herbig's) quality does not come this way very often." Eric McLean Montreal Gazette

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