

# Milestones

Bustle of life marks start of column

WHATEVER A MILESTONE is, I just passed by three of them.

The first was a birthday ending another decade, making me older than you but not as wise. Next came our daughter's delivery of her first child, which meant that henceforth I would share the matrimonial mattress with a grandnephew.

Then there was a decision to accept the offer to return to this journalistic font of information, ending a self-imposed seven-year exile after 12 previous years of mostly delightful toil. Reasons for the extended sabbatical are nobody else's business.

Milestones, yes; but none should be confused with a headstone.

IF MY WEEKLY essays provoke an emotion — a chuckle, a moist eye, even anger — from any who enroll as Thursday readers, my mission will be accomplished.

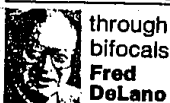
What I have to say will not change the world. Deep thinking I leave to the pundits of the political realm, of whom the O&E has several, all highly skilled. Bifocals will rarely attempt to steer public opinion. There will be no deliberate name dropping to impress the peasants. I will reminisce only occasionally, but today will be one of them.

You see, I prefer to compose paragraphs that entertain, that tell of people and things, now and then relating something you didn't know.

I am a creature of habit. Like day behind yesterday, when Mother Goose tried to catch a few extra winks while I was in the shower. She wondered aloud why I disturbed her by turning on the bedroom light when I came back to put on my socks, humming, "Oh, What A Beautiful Morning."

"Your socks are in the same drawer as always, next to your side of the bed," was her next riposte.

"For most of the 20th century you have put your right sock on before the left. Both feet are where they've always been. My God, do you also have to turn the light on when you go to the bathroom?"



through bifocals  
Fred DeLano

"Only when I shave," said I, smirking. I almost broke into "Hall to the Victors," but subtleties don't go over too well in dawn's early light.

SO LET'S GET back to the night, reminisce occasionally. We'll start by pretending it's Thanksgiving Week, 1945. Right here I'll insert that the following was inspired by the luck of the Detroit Lions in being able to make quarterback Chuck Long of the University of Iowa their No. 1 draft pick last week.

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22, was bitterly cold, but you may have been among the 40,017 humans who filed into what then was called Briggs Stadium to watch the Lions play the then Cleveland Rams in the pivotal game toward determining the Western Division championship of the National Football League.

Chicagoan Fred L. Mandel Jr. owned the Lions. Gus Dorais was head coach and Lew Cronwell was general manager. I was publicity director. This was so long ago that Nick Kerbawy hadn't even come to Detroit yet.

To emphasize that point, consider that this also was the season before Russ Thomas made his debut as a rookie tackle with the Lions. Now, of course, he's general manager.

In fact, two days after the Thanksgiving Lions-Ram game in question, Russ was the starting left tackle for Ohio State as the Buckeyes lost in the fourth quarter to Michigan, 7-3, before a frozen crowd of 85,132 at Ann Arbor. You may have been in that throng, too; many of us. If you're curious, the 1945 Big 10 title was won by unbeaten Indiana.

BACK TO BRIGGS Stadium: At quarterback for the Rams that Thursday was a first-year star out of UCLA named Bob Waterfield, an adroit ball handler and all-around standout who

already had married his high school sweetheart, Jane Russell. This was a fine Lions team, on that day still in the running to meet the Eastern Division titlists, who a week or so later would prove to be the Washington Redskins.

Detroit's roster was dotted with such names as Bob Westfall, Ed Frutig, Johnny Greene, Dave Diehl, Andy Farkas, Bob Keene, Tippy Madarik, Jack Matheson, Bob Cifers, Chuck Fenebock, Elmer Hackney, Bobby Nelson, Cotton Price, Dave Ryan, Frank Szymanski, Bill Radovich, Stan Bialinski, Ivan Tretobich, Emil Uremovich and the inimitable Alexander. Francis Wojciechowski.

Cleveland won the game 28-21 and wrapped up the divisional crown when Waterfield scored late on a bootleg around left and going toward Briggs Stadium's left field seats. He also led the Rams to the league championship with a 15-14 playoff victory over the Redskins.

To this day, if I'm not mistaken, the late Bob Waterfield stands as the only quarterback to have been chosen the NFL's most valuable player in his rookie season.

It would be absolutely miraculous if Mr. Long were to match Waterfield's first-year exploits, but he has turned on the light at the end of the tunnel, so to speak. And even if a championship isn't in the immediate offing, 1988 can always be remembered as the 40th anniversary of Russ's first Lions paycheck.

If you think he has taken some lumps in his years as Lions general manager, some day ask Thomas to tell you the saga of 46 . . . 10 defeats against one victory (that by a 27-7 count over Pittsburgh sparked by an 88-yard touchdown pass from Ryan to Greene), travel plans that went awry, and in general an autumn of mass confusion. Al Ackerman could have had a ball.

"Through Bifocals," a column which focuses on tidbits of daily life in suburbia, will appear each Thursday beginning today in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

The column is written by Fred DeLano, a former editor of the Plymouth Observer.

## Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

## Loyalty Day now official

To the editor:

On Sunday, April 27, at approximately 2 p.m., Loyalty Day arrived with a bolt of lightning in our area.

Oakland County Council Commander Frederick Collet told us that the "bolt" was delivered by the principal speaker, Col. Lawrence R. O'Grady, USMC, who serves as chairman of the U.S. Delegation to CIOR/NATO.

Col O'Grady stated some hard-hitting facts about our people and our country. Further, he indicated that while the professional military people are not interested in a new war, they still would be willing to fight in one in order to give our young people the same freedom of choice that previous generations have enjoyed.

This was a flag-waving, old-fashioned bit of patriotism that shook the auditorium at North Farmington High School, and was enhanced by the excellent selection of music provided by music director Douglas R. MacQueen and his symphony orchestra. This is a great group of young adults and a credit to our community.

The Oakland County Council and its auxiliary sponsored the program. In addition to the council posts and auxiliaries present, the following were in attendance: Senior Vice Commander Hal Kirby and Junior Vice Commander Ted Hetherington from the Fifth District; Commander Dale Brubaker and his Senior Vice Commander, Robert Wolf, from the Fourth District, accompanied by two of their posts.

The political segment was represented by Farmington Hills Councilwoman JoAnn Soronen and our 69th District state Rep.,

Wilbur V. Brotherton, who presented the council with a House resolution designating May 1 as official Loyalty Day in Michigan.

Oakland County Council Senior Vice Commander Walter Gooden presented Americanism Coloring Book Awards to the following third-grade students: First place, Sarah Laitz, Post 2502 South Lyon; Second place, Angie Bates, Post 9507 Madison Heights; Third place, Becky Ashburn, Post 2269 Farmington.

Council Commander Collet and President Joan Simonson want to thank all who attended and helped to make a great day for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Frederick Collet, VFW Commander, Oakland County Council

of the wonderful accomplishments of our young people. Three cheers for the super kids at North.

Joan Char, Farmington Hills

## Pass child cruelty laws

To the editor:

The League of Women Voters of Birmingham/Bloomfield urges our state senators on the Judiciary Committee to support HB 4633 and companion bills HB 4561, 4562, 4563 which provide protection for children who are victims in cases of alleged child cruelty, torture, commercial exploitation or criminal sexual assault.

By the use of videotaped statements, children who may be victims in such criminal cases are protected from intimidation or unspoken threats. The rights of the defendant are also protected. Defendants and their attorneys have the right to view the testimony at least 24 hours before it is offered into evidence to ensure that any inaccuracies may be challenged.

Other important provisions of these bills include:

- Permitting the use of anatomically correct dolls.
- Providing support personnel for an alleged victim.
- Limiting access to the court room.

We urge our state senators on the Judiciary Committee (Alan Cropsey, Richard Fessler, Rudy Nichols, Jerome Harp, John Kelly) to vote these bills out of committee with a favorable recommendation as soon as possible.

Barbara Moorhouse, president, League of Women Voters of Birmingham/Bloomfield.

## Cheers for super kids

To the editor:

On April 18 and 19, approximately 70 students participated in North Farmington's first volleyball marathon to help fund a playground for Cloverdale, a school for the handicapped located in Farmington.

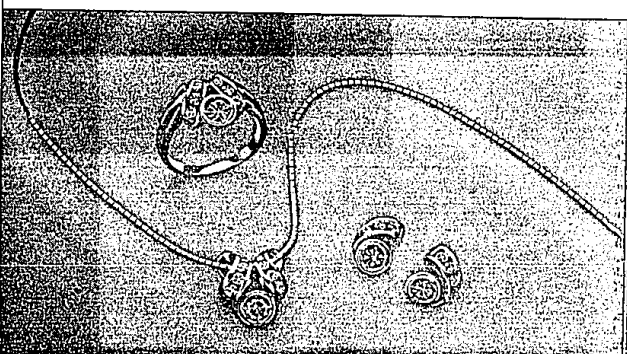
It was the first effort of its kind at North, and the 22-hour marathon raised approximately \$3,165.

The marathon was organized as a joint effort of the Student Council and National Honor Society. All the food and prizes were donated by local establishments, too many to mention individually, but very much appreciated by all.

The event was chaperoned by teachers of North and Cloverdale, and by parents on a two-hour rotation basis around the clock.

As a proud parent it gives me pleasure to share with you some

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LAST THREE DAYS

CHARLES W. WARREN

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SATURDAY POSITIVELY THE LAST DAY OF SALE