

# People and things fodder for column on communities

IT WAS SUE Shaughnessy, then editor of the Farmington Observer, who picked the name of "Through Bifocals" for this column back in '68, capitalizing on my split-level spectacles and perhaps even a split-level mentality although the delightful and capable Shaughnessy lass never put it in quite those words.

After several interruptions, it was reborn just a year ago and for 52 successive Thursdays has been available to the current crop of editors throughout the Observer & Eccentric chain with a publication average that would be the envy of some of Sparky's alleged hitters.

It was written last May 8 that this column would concern itself mostly with people and things, leaving the deep thinking "to the pundits of the political realm, of whom the O&E has several, all highly skilled."

**LOOKING BACK**, I think I have stuck to my guns for the most part and for a refresher course am about to present a roster of many whose names have been in these paragraphs the past 12 months. Some are alive, some deceased, some real, some fictional. They represented the passing scene as I have viewed it:

Harry Nederlander, Billy Martin, Bill Veecik, Adnan (Eddie) Hegazi, President Ronald Reagan, Russell and Annette Kirk, William F. Buckley Jr., Esther Hulsing, Lee Iacocca, Michael Maguire, John K. Johnstone, Gerald and Linda Marcis.

Russ Thomas, Chuck Long, Nick Ker-baw, Al Ackerman, J.P. McCarthy, Guy Fawkes, Hugh and Tim Ross, Gov. James Blanchard, Chuck Walby, O.J. Scherschligt, Harold Arnold, Jack Saylor, Bettelou Peterson, Bud Guest, Bud Stevens, Ron Bowling.

**HORACE AND MARY** Rackham, Tom Healy, Judge Fred Mester, Eddie Edgar, Jack Morris, Rev. David Strong, Sam Hudson, Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Mel Blunk, Doug Jaskierny, Harvey Kuenn, Fred Hill, Dorothy Packer, Jeffrey Archer, Carol Teegardin.

Ben Crech, John Madden, Willis Ward, Jeannette Schryer, Jack Sells, Lionel Jay Coffin, Marvin Criger, Bob Wisler, Pete Green, Tom Draper, Tom



through bifocals  
**Fred DeLano**

my Armour, Tim Richard, Bob Waterfield, Jane Russell, Lord Alfred Tennyson, George Gipp, Carla Potter.

Leonard Widman, Fred and Ron Buesser, Msgr. Edward J. Hickey, John Hayes, Edgar Hayes, Margaret Dunning, Betty Childs, Karl Hyslop, Bill Waun, Wendell Wagner, Wendell and Margaret Smith, Dwight Ireland, Alex Dandy, Pat Nowak, Terry West.

**U.S. REPS.** Carl Pursell and William Broomfield, Jim Bunning, Ian Fleming, James Bond, Dr. No, Judd Arnett, Lance Parrish, John McMurray, Sonny Elliot (CQ), Mrs. M.A. Mellor, Leona Edgar, O. Henry, Marie Farrell-Donaidson, Ed McNamara.

Tony and Angelina Slica, Alexander M. Haig Jr., Gerald Ford, Edwin Meese, George Bush, Pat Robertson, Jack Kemp, Robert Dole, George Will, Grantland Rice, Knute Rockne, Bo Schembechler, Fielding Yost, Bennie Oosterbaan, Frits Crisler, Harry Kipke, Paul Brown, Chick Harley, Hopalong Cassidy, Tom Harmon.

Coleman Young, Muriel Rumsey, Lee Sales, Lewis Cass, Fred L. Mandel Jr., Gus Dorais, Alexander Francis Wojciechowski, Frank Szymanski, John Grene, Lew Cromwell, Katie Monahan, Scott Nederlander, Paula Inman, Julie Bacon, Amy and Andrew Cross, Ian Millar, Joe Fargis.

Sarah and Phil Power, and of course Mother Goose, the grandmotherly type who is the culinary queen of our household, daughter Betty Smith and husband John, and baby Dave, just one year and eight days old today.

Hopefully in these 52 weeks there have been more laughs than tears or anger, but we'd be dull people without some of each. Meanwhile, as a friend has been known to say, "Onward and upward, damnit."

## 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.

## Help to support local landmark

To the editor:

If the late Eleanor Spicer's family realized their home, which is beloved and used by many in the Farmington and Farmington Hills community, was to be played by the money woe it is, perhaps they would not have bequeathed it with the strings attached. But they did, and we must respond to the challenge.

The purpose of a community center is to foster a sense of belonging and community. Besides the availability of a gracious home for special parties and events, the center has provided programs for all ages and interests for our people.

In the event the funding for the center can be broadened to include federal, state or city funds, controls would be surrendered to outside interests, as has happened in other communities.

It is the responsibility of the citizens of Farmington and Farmington Hills to protect and support their own unique landmark.

Geraldine Tobler,  
Farmington Hills

## Which 'Road Closed' signs?

To the editor:

Why is it when people see a sign, "Road Closed, No Thru Traffic," why do they drive right past the signs?

On April 21, 1987, construction crews started tearing up 13 Mile. I took a walk to see what the construction crews were doing, but instead of watching them I found it more exciting to watch the people who missed the huge "Road Closed" signs.

The cars would be about a quarter of a mile away when they would see those dreaded signs again. The drivers would just lose it, not knowing how to handle it. Some drivers would start to slow down and weave from side to side.

SOME WOULD turn around very quickly as if they were afraid of the

huge signs ahead. Others would keep up a fast steady speed as if they were going to burst right through the signs. But the funniest thing of all was watching them play "follow the leader."

Everyone assumed the car in the lead knew a secret, alternate route around the construction, the cars followed eagerly. After much frustration in trying to find a short-cut, the lead driver eventually found the way out.

Maybe next time the drivers will obey the signs and follow the detour. In the meantime, I had a good laugh watching everyone trying to avoid the "dreaded signs."

Diane Magaddino,  
Farmington Hills

## Get involved, save the center

To the editor:

Your recent article concerning the critical financial circumstances of the Farmington Community Center expressed the deep concern of many of us.

The center, which is a treasured historic landmark, plays a vital and active role in the communities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. The many services, classes, social and learning opportunities it provides are unique — and the source of much envy on the part of other neighboring communities.

All it really needs is for people to get behind it with some financial aid in the realization that the center greatly enhances our community as a place to live. Lacking such support, its days of service could well be numbered.

Don't let it slip away, get involved.  
Kay and Bill Blakeney,  
Farmington Hills

## Tax program real success

To the editor:

I wish to thank the Farmington Observer for helping again this year in making the AARP Tax-Aide Program — Tax Counseling for the Elderly a real success.

We did 500 tax returns for these people. Some taxpayers required their federal plus state returns and credit forms to be done, but many just needed the

Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit and Home Heating Credit.

Those low-income persons who qualified for these were most appreciative.  
Robert Wightman,  
Farmington Hills

## Senator's votes bolstered deficit

To the editor:

You can tell election time is rolling around again, because Don Riegle is suddenly worried about the federal budget deficit.

In the article, "Riegle Zeroes in on Budget Deficit," (4-9-87 Observer & Eccentric) Sen. Riegle stated that the current federal budget deficit is not acceptable. On that point he is correct.

But what the senator does not mention is that presidents don't vote to cause a deficit. Congress casts votes to create debt. And Don Riegle's votes have created the current federal deficit. Since 1983 Donald Riegle has voted to increase spending 175 times by more than \$250 billion. That's the kind of fiscal irresponsibility that caused the deficit.

He has voted for funds of solar-thermal research, construction of the Los Angeles subway, debt payment for Washington's Kennedy Center of Performing Arts and improvement for Washington's National Airport. At the same time, he has voted to increase taxes 16 times since 1983. He has voted against the Balanced Budget Amendment and the line item veto.

Does this sound like a man concerned about the federal deficit? If so, where has he been the last four years?

The votes I am bringing to your attention have not been misconstrued to prove my point. They are stated plainly and simply in the Congressional Quarterly, a listing of Senate and House votes.

So, when Don Riegle comes home to Michigan to "voice his concern" for the deficit problem, he is badly compromising his integrity. It's easy for Don Riegle to worry about the federal deficit now, but why hasn't he been worrying about it for the past four years?

Andy Anuzis,  
chairman, 17th District  
Republican Committee

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