

The Observer Newspapers

INCORPORATED

MYRA CHANDLER, President

Serving the rich Northwest Wayne County suburban market with a group of affiliated newspapers in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

LIVONIA OBSERVER
FARMINGTON OBSERVER

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER
REDFORD OBSERVER

Published every Wednesday by the Observer Newspapers, Inc.
and delivered by supervised carrier boys
to over 30,000 homes.
EDITORIAL & BUSINESS OFFICE, 33050 FIVE MILE, LIVONIA
TELEPHONE GA 2-3169
Retail & General Advertising GA 2-3169 Classified GA 2-0900
Circulation 474,7025

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First Federal Building
Plymouth — GL 3-0038

Page 10-A ★ 27 Wednesday, January 6, 1965

THE BEST OF PAUL CHANDLER

Death of a President

(Editor's Note: This column appeared in November, 1963, following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.)

"Silence that dreadful hell!" shouts one of Shakespeare's characters in a tragic play. And that is the mood of this somber observer today... silence if we can, for the hell tolls, we fear, for time and me. America has been going to Hell for a long time; slowly by some standards, but surely. Hate is in the engine room, stoking our fires, churning and emerging the scarlet shield of national scandal. The plastic shapes of our people, capable of so much else noble and better, for years have been changing into even forms, barren of humane thoughts, void of love, numbed by hate and sensuality and self-indulgence. America has been losing its soul, the only thing that elevates men toward Heaven and away from Hell.

In offering these thoughts today, I am thinking of our own particular suburban audience of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Northville, Canton, Redford. It isn't some distant "them" who are guilty, it is us; the problem isn't abstract, it is personal to thee and me. There is hate in the suburbs, more intense in some ways than it can be found anywhere else in America.

There is debauchery in our suburban towns, more pronounced in some ways than anywhere else in Michigan.

There are strange and broken, snarling and snapping, horror-filled homes in our suburban areas in greater numbers possibly than any comparable geographic place in our State.

Our suburban homes are jammed with children—half the population in school, or younger—growing up with no better goal or objective than the futile attempt to accumulate the maximum amount of material goods, and then to spend these "riches" in sensual permissiveness.

To an uncommon degree, suburbanites particularly live among hate peddlers, get-rich-quick guys, hedonists, fascists, and intellectual cheats.

There was a paragraph in Justice Warren's remarks over President Kennedy's bier which brought into mind to many local politicians and an infamous local tabloid newspaper:

"It is too much hoped, asked Warren, 'that the martyrdom of our beloved President might even soften the hearts of those who would themselves recoil from assassination but who do not shrink from spreading the venom which kindles thoughts of it in others'."

From our experience here, we sadly would have to give Justice Warren an opinion, "alas, it is too much to hope... these are hard people."

We have among us some who use Hate, dividing neighbor against neighbor, for no greater reason than cheap, short-term political advantage, or even less important commercial purposes.

Hate killed President Kennedy, and Hate compounded the murder two more times within 48 hours.

Death and murder are the inevitable, ultimate destiny of Hate, for the total objective is to remove one's subject of hatred. If there is resistance, murder is valid by the credo of Hate. And Hate, sufficiently refined, removes all formal fear, even as does love.

Hence, murder, assassination, violence.

In the lifetime of most of us the gunning-down of John F. Kennedy created a sense of loss, of void, of confusion unequalled heretofore.

It is our theory that this was felt so keenly because so many feel so weak, so confused, so guilty and so misdirected... with a sense of despair and fear within, we have placed uncommon trust in the President, the "father" of our country.

We do not regard it as coincidental that the man who was our President and the man who is our Governor each have a strong measure of philosophy in their make-up. They appear motivated by ideals, by theology, by a sense that man's destiny can be mapped in intangible thought in the core of mind to peace and happiness is of spirit, rather than material.

A majority of the voters thought they detected these qualities in Kennedy and Romney and sent them to high office. America is starved for idealistic politics produces precious few; but the people do sense the need and elevate them when they can be found.

For this reason, Facts and Opinions regarding the President's death with exceeding alarm. At this dangerous hour, with our national morals so cancerous and our purpose so confused, we needed Kennedy like never before. For a nation, we are operating in extremely close quarters.

To have his life taken by a sneering young man, still in his 20's and without a career; and to have in turn a sadistic Chicago hoodlum, good buddies in the confidence of the police and the journalists, get his gun into the act thereafter; is all too typical of American society as it exists today. And to have the murder televised "live" into most living rooms is incredulity.

If God is seeking to warn Americans as to where they are headed, and doing it in a way that mortals here can understand, he could have chosen no more effective communication means. It is almost as if His hands were upon the billions of television sets.

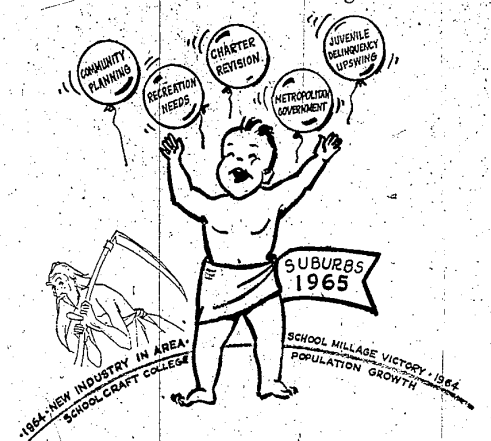
What now?

There is one course, to scramble back to the original mortal purpose: to serve humanity everywhere; to correct injustice where we find it; to direct our gaze outward rather than inward.

In the emergency of the hour, the words of President Lincoln serve well, when he urges to proceed:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Can He Meet The Challenge?



READERS SPEAK UP: 'Grateful for Observer'

Dear Myra and Members of The Observer Staff:

I am deeply saddened by the death of Paul Chandler. He was a responsible journalist, dedicated to the noble purposes of reporting facts in a well-written and factually accurate manner and analyzing news so that his readers could make intelligent decisions concerning issues, people and events.

In Paul Chandler's political career as a State Representative, he unselfishly committed himself to the interests of Redford Township and made the needs of our community known to the State Legislature. His untimely death cut short a political career destined for greatness.

Paul Chandler was a gifted and talented person, which was proved by the esteem in which he was held by his fellow newspapermen. Paraphrasing Doc Greene of The Detroit News, Paul Chandler would observe a situation with another newspaperman and then write the story of that event in a more descriptive and penetrating manner than his fellow newspaperman.

I have regularly read The Redford Observer since 1958, when I became a resident of Redford Township. The Redford Observer, under the direction of Paul Chandler, established certain standards of journalistic excellence. These standards are:

- (1) A style of writing wherein readers could clearly distinguish between fact and opinion.
- (2) Printing in The Redford Observer, the letters and opinions of readers who disagreed or disagreed with the newspaper coverage or opinions of The Redford Observer.
- (3) An honest attempt to probe into and understand the meaning of issues and events.

In short, The Redford Observer has effected a policy of intellectual honesty in its approach and means of disseminating news.

Grateful as you and the staff of the Redford Observer are by Paul Chandler's death, I am, together with most citizens of Redford Township, grateful that The Redford Observer shall be continued in accordance with the standards

of journalistic excellence established by Paul Chandler.

KENNETH E. PRATHER

Resolution

Editor:

This being the time for resolutions, I have made the following resolution for 1965:

I resolve to continue taking the "Redford Observer" weekly, and feel that it presents the local news in an unbiased way and in its editorials is not afraid to stand up for high principles: that it strives to build up civic pride rather than to stir up dissension, discrimination and hatred. As so many other readers feel a personal loss at the untimely passing of Paul Chandler and have been greatly moved by the thoughtful reminders of his journalistic ability and his sincere feelings towards his fellow human beings.

I feel that the editor of the other Township newspaper could also make a New Year resolution—that he remove from the head of his newspaper the statement concerning his non-affiliation with political organizations and gambling interests. The person to whom this was obviously pointed is no longer with us. But, more important, I prefer to know with what and whom a man (and a newspaper) is affiliated. It is more important to know what a man believes than what he does not believe in. It is easier (and seems more popular these days) to be "anti-guy" to destroy rather than to build. As long as the newspaper carries such a banner I do not intend to purchase, or even read it, and I shall do my best to persuade all with whom I come in contact to do the same. There is enough hatred in this world now—I do not intend to be a means of spreading it.

COPERNICUS.

Yule Appreciation

Editor:

Please share with your readers our kindest appreciation for the responses to our Christmas appeal in behalf of our forgotten patients. The interest on the part of individuals in your community certainly was widespread and genuine.

Clubs and groups which regularly support parties on behalf of our hospital added the spirit and decorations of Christmas so effectively into the December activity. Caregivers, and those planning special programs let all of us know that Christmas time truly is a season for sharing.

LOUIS J. SCHULTZ

Northville State Hospital

Killer of a Pet

Editor:

To the INDIVIDUAL who shot the little, brown dog in the head and chest with a shotgun on Wednesday, December 30, around 8 a.m. in the vicinity of Eddies and Schoolcraft: Your aim was excellent. The little dog died Wednesday afternoon.

READER

Protest in Verse

Editor:

AN ODE TO THE TRASH MAN
I'm a little trash can, my owner keeps me clean
Until the trash man visits me
my posture is serene.

Observing all the city rules I sit upon my hind
And when I'm full I patiently await a helping hand.

Then suddenly the scene is changed by methods very crude
A truck pulls up beside me
and occupants so rude.

They grab me from my pedestal and beat me on the ground
And dig my cup into the mud
and my face is full of dents
They toss me on my little perch
or up against the fence.

The way I see it in my book,
I'm subject to foul play
When you don't follow your own rules which you so strictly lay
if my owner keeps me neat
and takes good care of me
Why do you not reciprocate
and we'll all happy be.

Taxpayer and Trash can buyer.

KEITH HALL

Appreciate Coverage

Editor:

Our Nov. 18 East Side Social was a huge success. We sincerely appreciate the publicity and consideration you have extended to the Moms and Dads Club.

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Observing the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger Men!
Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks.

These words were underlined in one of Paul's favorite and oft-referred-to books.

While down for the count I did a lot of reading, trying to find an answer to the pain and emptiness that comes from losing a loved one in death. There isn't a letter written, a place marked in a book, a scribbled note that doesn't indicate that the eye of Paul Chandler was on the future of these communities with faith in their growth; that he hoped for accomplishments for educational legislation, toward assisting the communities which he served. I took the above quotation as my own private message.

The many, many letters received from all over the state of Michigan indicate that people were aware of Paul's dedication to serve, his honesty and personal integrity. This is comforting.

There is no doubt, if we listen hard enough, we can find those who do not mourn the silence of Paul Chandler and his column Facts and Opinions. You know them, the politician with more ambition than qualification the character assassin, the business wheeler-dealer—against whom Paul stood guard.

After nine years of being pounded over the head with the importance and public trust of being a forthright and honest journalist, there are several among us who are dedicated disciples of Paul's philosophy.

The style will not be as effective but the message will remain loud and clear.

Go rocked the boat, but we ain't down yet!

The most important event looming in the future to me is the election to replace Paul Chandler in the 14th Senatorial District.

Edward McNamara, Livonia Councilman, has filed as a candidate on the Democratic ticket. This is probably the first time in Edward McNamara's political history that he has committed himself so decisively. This is indicated by his popularity. No public official, to be effective, can be so beloved.

But Ed has the qualifications to become a statesman once he learns the importance of commitment. He has the background, ability and brains.

On the Republican ticket Farrell Roberts from Oakland County has filed and is considered one of the "young Turks" or enlightened Republicans—is a Romney supporter, a liberal—and in one case in the Senate where he previously served, stood up for eight hours to be recognized by the opponents of a bill he was sponsoring. One opposing him claims to be a protest candidate because he resents "a handful of men" picking a candidate. Five Republican party leaders from Wayne and Oakland County committed themselves to Robert's election. This is not "a handful of men." They are Republican Party officials, informed, responsible men of the community with an obligation to fulfill. In their opinion he was the most highly qualified person on the scene.

Had my husband lived into this new year he would have been overjoyed by the great athletic triumph of his alma mater, the University of Michigan. On New Year's Day, our football team won the Rose Bowl. On the following day, the U of M basketball team went to the finals in the Holiday Festival Tournament at Madison Square Garden, and remained one of the top teams of the nation.

Paul knew that in sports, ability is what counts—not race, creed, or religion. His beloved alma mater has proved that.

The All-American star of Michigan's football team, Bob Timberlake, is a candidate for the Presbyterian ministry. The All-American star of Michigan's basketball team, Cazzie Russell, is a Negro.

Yesterday's Headlines

20 YEARS AGO

"Destroy Voted Food Stamps" was the chief headline of the January 3, 1945, Livonian, reminding readers of wartime rationing while the U.S. was still engaged in World War II. The other front page article urged citizens to take good care of their autos and to keep them running for another year to prevent a transportation crisis.

5 YEARS AGO

Headlines from the January 6, 1960, Livonian reported that the Seven Mile-Farmington area would soon have a postal substation. Several articles on the front page were concerned with the upcoming incorporation election for Livonia to be held in its own company on Township Feb. 6.

10 YEARS AGO

The first Livonia of 1955 told of a City Council investigation into municipal affairs and the conduct of all departments, officers and offices of the city. Other front page news included a police report showing traffic deaths down and crime up in Livonia during 1954.

"Old Ashcroft-Livonia Drain Returns to Start Arriving About February 1" was the cheerful headline that greeted readers of the Jan. 7, 1960, Redford Observer. Another front page story stated that a Redford man would soon have a postal substation. Several articles on the front page were concerned with the upcoming incorporation election for Livonia to be held in its own company on Township Feb. 6.

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