

W. W. Edgar Is 'Back Home' In Pages of a Weekly Paper

(Editor's Note: Veteran newsmen W. W. (Eddy) Edgar, a Livonia resident for 27 years, will chronicle the current scene and reminisce about yesterday's events in this new Observer column, which will appear from time to time in this newspaper.)

BY W. W. EDGAR
God, it's great to be back home—back home on the pages of a weekly newspaper after galavanting around the country, battling edition times on the daily papers, running for trains, racing for airplanes and climbing the steps to press boxes for 10, these many years.

SAFE DRIVERS SAVE
With Community Auto Insurance
• Life Insurance
• Home Owners' Insurance
Roy McConall
1547 CAVILL RD.
LIVONIA, MICH.
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
Companies of Michigan

CHRISTMAS CARD EMBROIDING
1 DAY SERVICE
FARMINGTON, SECRETARIAL
82500 Grand River
GR 4-0727

NEPTUNE AQUARIUM
Tropical Fish Specialist
BETTA SALE!
Various Bettas 25¢ ea. Female Bettas 40¢ ea.
New Bettas \$1.00 ea. Male Bettas \$1.25 ea.
SUPER SPECIAL!
Glasswool 1-oz. Box 15¢
2-oz. Box 25¢, 4-oz. Box 40¢, 8-oz. Box 75¢, 16-oz. Box \$1.49
GIARCOLOI, Box 25—Bulk 17¢
AQUARIUM SALE
STAINLESS STEEL — SLATE BOTTOM
10 gal. 4.99 25 gal. 12.99
15 gal. 7.75 35 gal. 19.99
NEPTUNE AQUARIUM
MICHIGAN'S FINEST TROPICAL FISH STORE
2748 Schockert at Inlander — 427-6120
2875 Southfield at 12 Miles — 232-7247
Open 10-6 Daily, Sunday 12-4

For Christmas Ideas - Stop In and See Our Displays
• Ladies and Men's Watches—Engines, Vantage, Hamilton, Elgin
• Ladies' Vantage Pendant Watch
• Elgin Transistor Radios
• Fine selection of ladies' and men's Star Sapphire Rings • Pearl Rings • Diamond Drops • Pierced Earrings by Garde • Selection of Charms • Charm Bracelets • Cuff Link Sets • Lockets & Crosses • Spielend Watch Bands • Diamond Rings.
We Do Special Order Work On All Mountings and Diamond Drops.
USE OUR LAYAWAY PLAN!
ISHAM'S JEWELRY
OPEN FRI. TO 9
WESTBROOK SHOPPING CENTER
13 Mile at Orchard Lake Road 474-8866

Why Not Help Santa Out? Wonderland HONDA Has!
Low Budget Terms
• JACKETS • HELMETS • PANTS • GLOVES
• Saddlebags • Goggles • Mirrors
• Windshields • Covers • Polish
• 1, 2, 3 Bike Trailers • Low Budget Terms • No Down Pmt.
And Even a HONDA for Santa's or his Helpers
FREE DELIVERY
WONDERLAND HONDA
SALES AND SERVICE
31840 PLYMOUTH ROAD
between Merriman and Farmington Roads
Besting in Rear Open 9-9 Daily - Closed Sunday 261-0880
PARKING IN TOWN — FREE PICKUP AND DELIVERY

the land and play a little part myself in the writing of history. Yet, that's exactly what happened.

When the paper finally was put on the press that morning, many years ago, the old editor, who, incidentally was the only other man in the world I knew, outside of the famous Al Smith of New York, who wore a brown derby—and he wore it in the office—came over to me and asked, "How did you like that for a bit of excitement?"

When I told him I rather enjoyed it, he suggested that I drop in every day for a little while and try my hand at it. "You'll find newspaper work the most exciting and fascinating work you can do—and I'd be glad to help you," he said in a rather fatherly tone.

I took his advice. I dropped into the little office most every morning and thrilled at the thought of seeing my work appear in the little four-page weekly paper.

Then, one day, the old editor, his brown derby tilted at a rather rakish angle, summoned me over to his desk and asked, "How would you like to go to work on a daily paper over in the city?"

The city was only four miles away and it seemed like it might be a good idea to try it. Inasmuch as the old editor was going to be the boss—and he had promised to help me.

That was the first step up the ladder. Remember this was back in the dawn of the Roaring Twenties when the city was gay, following World War I and sports boasted many of its greatest stars—Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Red Grange, Bill Tilden, Booby Jones, Walter Egan, Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, Harry Greb and a host of others. With them were some of the greatest managers of all baseball, Connie Mack, John J. McGraw, and in football we had such coaches as Pop Warner, Percy Hinton, Bill Dwyer, and others whose names are enshrined in the history of sport.

It was into this madhouse of activity that I was sent with the old editor's words ringing in my ears—"You've got to get the feel of things to write about them and you've got to get to know these fellows to do a good job—you've got to be with them when they're laughing in victory or tearful in defeat. That's how you get to know folks and the ingredients of good stories."

Little did he know—or me either—the luck strewn path I was going to travel. It was a path that led to chats with all of these legendary names and then to a chance meeting with the famed Free Press poet, Edgar A. Guest, who made it possible for me to come to Detroit and start the climb toward the sports editorship of the Detroit Free Press.

More than that. In the role of sports editor of a metropolitan daily I had the chance to observe the passing parade from a new angle. In the rugged grind of a metropolitan daily and its hungry presses—plus the keen competition of able writers on the other papers.

Two of the luckiest steps of all came when I was "induced" to move to Livonia in 1938 and only a short time later met the late Paul Chandler, former publisher of the Observer Newspapers, but then a rising young sports writer on the Detroit News. Becoming a resident of Livonia turned out to be another one of those lucky twists that life sometimes takes.

For when the State Legislature ruled that gambling would be prohibited on state owned property it opened the way for the race track to be built in what was then Livonia Township. I recalled that the racing law (I had covered racing for the Free Press) stated that the city in which the track is located shall share in the betting up to one half million dollars.

So, it was necessary that we become a city back in 1940. And what exciting times they were—the first real political battles in the area. But a city we became and fate would have it that my friend and competitor of sports writing days, Paul Chandler, first came to the race track and then to the Observer. And the irony of it all is that I will try, in some small way, to carry on for him. In these weekly visits I'll tell you about some of the fun and excitement we had in Livonia.

No wonder, I am glad to be back home on a weekly paper.

Turn to the Classified Section for This Week's Crossword

SALEM LUMBER CENTER
DO IT YOURSELF HEADQUARTERS
Home of "Old Fashioned" Service
Mon. thru Thurs. 9 to 7
Fri. 9-9, Sat. 9-6
Open Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
GA. 2-1000

\$ALEM \$AVINGS For Christmas!

GLIDDEN SPRED SATIN
100% Latex. No odor. Dries in 20 minutes. Over 1,000 decorator shades.

\$4.88
Gel.
Ceiling White Only


YOUR CHOICE
STEEL
SNOW SHOVEL
OR
SNOW PUSHER
\$1.88


Imperial DISHMASTER
1/4" DRILL
Model U-100
\$9.95
Now at Salem! A Black and Decker drill at the lowest price ever.


\$39.50
One step dishwashing, you scrape, wash with rich suds, and rinse all in the same motion.




IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY COMPANY ADULTS' FOLDING CHAIRS
Excellent hardwood construction throughout. Walnut or clear finish.

\$3.88
Kidlex Folding Hardwood Chair
\$2.88


CONFIDENCE BRAND NAMES SATISFACTION
Authorized BRAND NAMES RETAILER 1965


30' HOCKEY RINK!
for the backyard
\$99.95


This Coleco 30' rink features all-steel rust-proof Lock-Fram construction, heavy duty vinyl liner, extra thick inside polyethylene bumper-barrier made of sub-zero plastic. Complete with goal nets, line.

BASKETBALL BACKBOARD
3/4" Ext. Pre-Cut Plywood
\$4.95
Regulation Training Size. Metal Mounting Brackets Available. Fits Any Roof.


TABLE TOPS
Big 42" pre-formed table tops, monogrid, white, silver, walnut, maple. Excellent for inside or outside use. Slight second.
Long Tubular PEDESTAL BASE **13.88**
\$11.88

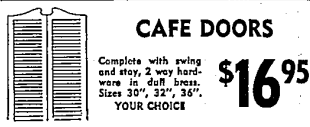

SALEM LUMBER CENTER
DO IT YOURSELF HEADQUARTERS
Home of "Old Fashioned" Service
Mon. thru Thurs. 9 to 7
Fri. 9-9, Sat. 9-6
Open Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
GA. 2-1000

SWISS WALNUT
Prefinished
4x7 **\$4.99**
This paneling made to sell for much, much more.

Unfinished LUAUN
4x7 **\$2.66** Sheet
4x8 — \$2.99
Prefinished LUAUN
4x7 **\$3.99** Sheet
Light Uniform Shade. Site sheet-od. Pre-packaged V-groove.

NEW HANDI PANEL
Mahogany Paneling, V-Groove. Ready to finish — 32" x 84" **\$1.66** ea.


For the Discriminate! New Exotic BURMESE TEAK or BRAZILIAN ROSEWOOD
Reg. \$34.95 **\$23.95**

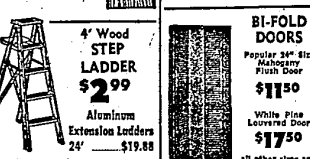

CAFE DOORS
Complete with swing and stay, 2 way hardware in dull brass. Sizes 30", 32", 36". YOUR CHOICE **\$16.95**


STURDY STORM AND SCREEN SASH FOR BASEMENT WINDOWS
EASY TO INSTALL • NO DRILLING • STORMS ATTACK IN MINUTES TO STEEL, ALUMINUM OR WOOD WINDOW WITH EASY TO USE ADHESIVE **\$1.99** ea.
3 Popular Sizes


ALL Aluminum PRE-HUNG COMBINATION DOOR
All standard sizes in stock Left or Right Hinges
\$38.88
QUALITY APPEARANCE
1 1/4" Thick
• PROTECTION FOR ALL SEASONS
Cold, Simple Operation. One Close & Open...
• A LIFETIME OF TROUBLE-FREE SERVICE
Quality Design, Rust Materials and Workmanship
Installs in minutes with a screwdriver
CORNER EXTENSION — The Most Rigid Construction — Absolutely Square • No Sagging


Interior Adjustable Louver Shutters from 69¢
We can supply these finished or unfinished. Installations can be arranged. We custom size to your specifications.


Mahogany FLUSH DOOR
1st Quality 24x80"x1 1/2"
\$4.44
Thick Clear White Pine LOUVER DOOR 12"x80"x1 1/2" Other Sizes In Stock **\$4.99**


4' Wood STEP LADDER
Aluminum Extension Ladders 24' — \$19.88
BI-FOLD DOORS
Popular 34" x 78" Mahogany Flush Door **\$11.50**
White Pine Louvered Door **\$17.50**
all other sizes and styles available


30650 Plymouth Rd.
2 Blocks West of Middlebelt