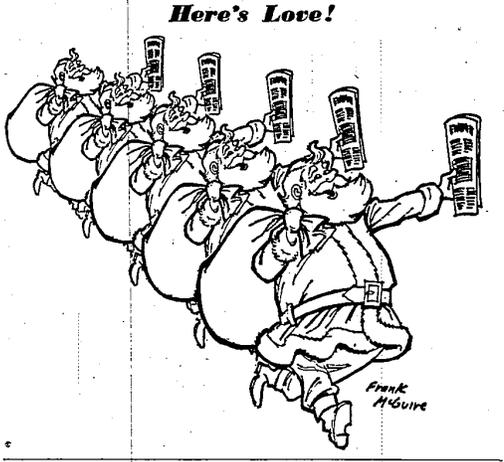


No Hollow Monuments

There's a current spate of what some people call "civic pride" floating around Livonia. You'll find it manifested mostly in buildings. Today, you can enter a brand new school office on Merriman. Ground will be broken Friday for a new library. Last week, a new high school opened. Senior citizen housing is on deck; plans for a "downtown Livonia" are making the rounds; and they're starting to talk about a high-rise city hall. Anyone trying to "sell" the "Livonia Image" would have little difficulty with all this at his fingertips. But what do these grandiose buildings and plans stand for? Are they symbols of a community with strong moral convictions? Or are they simply hollow monuments? The answer is complex. Livonia has had its "Goals Conference." The Chamber of Commerce is in the midst of a grass-roots program to define and solve community problems. We have pioneered a Youth Employment Service. The schools have taken a reasonably strong position against book censorship. In the area of planning for the future, no community matches the zeal with which our Planning Department moves toward its goal of a balanced cosmopolitan city. But is our moral growth keeping pace with our physical growth? Too often new buildings create the kind of shiny, provincial pride that keeps insulated from the problems of our neighbors in nearby Detroit. It can't be forgotten why many people moved here: to escape the racial integration that is coming to Detroit. It can't be forgotten because it wells up time and again, you heard his echoes when an Army Training Center came to town. You heard his echoes again when the Parks bond issue was defeated. And you heard it two weeks ago when residents protesting an auto wash on Plymouth Rd. warned of the "unrestables" it would bring. All of these, the whippersnappers would bring Negroes to Livonia. Well, they've got some; they are coming. And Livonia had better be prepared. The City Council today has a proposal before it to establish a Human Relations Commission. Well, we've got some; they are coming. This 15-member board's one duty would be to promote harmonious relationships among all groups in the city, of all races and all creeds. And it would have the city's strength to back it up. It could stop the rumors. It could, when incidents like the recent letter describing anti-Semitic vandalism happen, step in and investigate. It could work to halt violence when minority groups move here. Its existence might give the cautious members of the Board of Education enough courage to integrate the teaching staff to bring our children in contact with people of all minority. But more, it could match the city's physical growth and pride of civic accomplishments with something deeper. It could set the map as a suburb which says, "We aren't another Dearborn." Already, Plymouth, both city and Township, have done this. Last week, the people of Farmington Hills voted the ball rolling for an official commission. Human Rights Week, which marks during the month of December the anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Human Rights, can be appropriately observed with deeds as well as words in Livonia. The Council and the Mayor can do what is right, not what is politically expedient, with a unanimous "yes" on the issue before them today. —DAVE ELSHIA

What Say You?

(The following are excerpts from a talk given by John Herb to the Plymouth Rotary Club at its weekly luncheon-meeting.) In recent years, probably no other subject has had so much copy written about it. It has been the basis of so much discussion that this matter of racial equality. As is true of any subject to which has been devoted so much time, energy and words, this subject of racial equality has become enshrouded in a fog of uncertainty, contradiction and bewilderment. The result has been that, to many, the issues are not as clearly defined today as they were several years ago. It seems to me that if we are to avoid losing completely, in an orgy of blood and hate, those basic goals which, until recently, were so crystal clear, then we must attempt to bring back into focus the major problem areas. I believe there are three, and, as is true of any movement which has gotten out of hand, I believe not all of these problems are on one side. The first problem is the disregard for law and order which has become all too prevalent among the Negro and his supporters. This attitude has, in turn, created a backlash in other areas of our society and creates a condition which, unless decisively checked, can have far reaching results, the consequences of which are not pleasant to envision. Secondly, there is still some prevalence of the doctrine of white supremacy. I say "some" because it is my conviction that this philosophy is not as pronounced today as has been the case in years past. I think a gradual erosion in the foundation of this philosophy has taken place, an erosion brought about by the overwhelming weight of evidence against such a belief. Finally, and I think in many respects this is the major problem, is the reluctance on the part of all too many to take a decisive stand on the basic issue of equality. Too many of us are still trying to hedge, insisting that other problems be solved first. When, in reality, the solution of these problems is inseparable until there is an agreement on the basic issue. Like number one then becomes the rationalization that violence is a permissible means to achieve a laudable end. I say that violence, whenever it occurs and wherever it occurs, is an objective, if indeed it is possible for violence to have commendable objectives, must be dealt with swiftly and decisively. And, I think it is time we raised our voices in protest against those who tolerate such lawlessness. Failure to do so brings us frightfully close to mob rule and its inevitable consequences. I can immediately hear the cry of the minority that I advocate a double standard, deploring, on one hand, the violence of the Negro and his supporters, while condoning violence by the white. To which I would reply that violence by any group should not be tolerated. While both types of violence are to be condemned, violence by the white is even more deplorable because it has its origin in the ancient and more insidious big lie: the myth of white supremacy. This one has been with us for a long, long time. So long, in fact, that it is amazing how much of a "factor of credibility" it has achieved. Because it has been with us so long and has assumed so many shapes, it is admittedly a difficult myth to dispel. On one hand, we have those who unequivocally accept it. While I believe this group is a vocal minority, I think we must realistically recognize that, in all probability, the most we can hope to achieve, as far as they are concerned, is nullum compellimus, and only death can put an end to their cancerous hate. In the opposite camp, we have those who profess varying degrees of acceptance. And, the mightiest division in this army are those who profess to believe in equality; but, whose rationalization as to why equality should not come now, gives one grounds to wonder. Or, to paraphrase Hamlet: "methinks they doth protest too much." For it is this group who say: "I believe the Negro should have every chance, but..." This simple conjunction "but" has become, for many of us, the iron door to the mind's prison. I think much of the confusion which exists today is due to the way such terms as "love," "brotherhood," "equality" and similar terms have been tossed about with reckless abandon. I do not believe, for example, that all men are created equal in the context so many



THE READER SPEAKS UP: Pledge Bigotry Fight

Editor: THE LIVONIA OBSERVER has recently published reports that the past few weeks there have been incidents of vandalism in an anti-Semitic nature to the property of various Jewish citizens in Livonia. The Official Board of St. Matthew's Church is very concerned about the reports of such behavior. Although we do not know who perpetrated these incidents, we wish to express our concern about the members of this church with a fundamental belief of our church, as expressed in its Social Creed, is that all racial, cultural, and religious groups in society should have equal rights and freedom from discrimination in all areas of life. In view of this goal, we speak for the members of this church in exploring all occurrences of an anti-Semitic nature. It is a basic Christian belief that all people should be treated as equals and good neighbors. We feel it is an advantage to the people of our community to have the experience of living and working with a variety of religious, racial, and ethnic groups. We value highly the contributions of the members of the Jewish faith to the life of our city. Our church applauds the expressed intention of responsible citizens of Livonia to perform their duty to investigate these incidents and to enforce the law. It is also our hope that the voices of many other citizens will bring about a greater recognition of the rights of all people of our community so that such behavior will not occur in the future. —WAYNE MIDDLETON, Chairman of the Official Board, St. Matthew's Church, Livonia.

Boys Not Guilty

Editor: My son is an Observer newspaper boy and has served your paper well. In one respect I feel the Observer has not returned this service. There are many business and mechanical reasons why newspaper carriers are unable to meet their deadline delivery. This has happened recently. However, there is never (to my knowledge) a printed "sorry we're late" notice explaining the situation to the subscriber. I believe it is up to the Observer to clarify the situation each time it occurs. Otherwise, you are not doing justice to the hard-working boys who do the best to deliver your papers and are your finest community representatives. —SALLY A. WITTE, FARMINGTON.

Need Light at 7-Mile

Editor: As 'Yeh Winter is finally on its way, it is becoming all too clearly, but never the less, it is coming. Being a driver of an automobile, safety on our streets is very important to me. How wonderful it is that we have crews to clean off the streets so that we have a minimum amount of ice, snow and slush to travel on. But I have found one spot in our City that lacks safety measures for the driver carrying a load. I wonder how many people have tried to make a left hand turn into or out of any corner on Seven Mile Road and Middlebelt. Each time I do, I feel like I am making my life in my own two hands. I have tried every entrance and exit to these parking lots and at each one, I found it must be a matter of minutes, and several minutes, until traffic clears only to have to stop on the spot. The Observer Newspapers have the greatest circulation of any Michigan community newspaper. —86,400

For Town Meeting

Editor: I see by last week's paper a "Reader" had had the audacity to condemn the School Board for its most recent action in the salary adjustment deal. Hereafter this action would have been considered self-righteous, but I believe the taxpayers are becoming more aware of the psychological warfare the Board of Education is conducting. By this I mean they are first create a crisis in every situation and then thru the medium of the Strongest Union in existence, The School Teachers, slowly but surely achieve their goals. There is a campaign on at the present time. I do not question the superintendent's salary. Maybe he is worth it, however I do not condone the method by which it was achieved. This is the second of a number of under the table deals that has been reported. The first was the naming of the new high school. I know that all of us are not in accord with this kind of fear warfare can be eliminated because it is too deeply entrenched, however a Public Hearing is certainly in order. I realize also you have never impugned the Board, editorial-

Facts and Opinions By PAUL M. CHANDLER

(On this, the eve of the anniversary of the death of Paul M. Chandler, Dec. 12, 1964, The Observer reprints the last column he wrote, for the special 1964 Goodfellow edition in Livonia.)

Nobody talks about it much, but it is a fact nonetheless that in recent years it has become increasingly difficult for Goodfellows to meet their money quotas in the sale of special newspapers.

It also has become more difficult to recruit "Old Newsboys" or "Goodfellows," or whatever title you prefer to assign to those doughy spirits. The ranks have been thinning of those who go out on the street corners (usually on what seems to be the coldest day of the year) and shiver, holding aloft their newspapers, making change with numb fingers, and all of that.

Despite the decreasing enthusiasm of "Old Newsboys" and the slippage in total collections — and also the loss through death of some of the most ardent Goodfellows who foiled in the original years — each year at this time the public still sees a group of devoted and dedicated men on the streets during the holiday season.

After the funds are turned in, they are used to buy a mountain of clothes, food and toys. Canned hams and meat, bags of Christmas candy, dolls, stuffed animals, crates of fruit — all the things which bring creature comfort to some of God's children who for one reason or another would not have the chance to experience the sensations.

Nor does it end on Christmas Eve. In the treasury of the Goodfellows there remain funds for use throughout the year in extraordinary situations where a few fast fellows can avert human suffering of one kind or another. There are families with chronic, incurable illness who sometimes reach the point of not knowing how to make the payments to keep a roof over their heads.

Or it could be a struggling, young family with low income and many mouths to feed, struck with a fire which has ruined their home and furnishings. Not too much of these reaches the public view, because in most cases quiet, anonymous help is what is needed. But the Goodfellows do their good deeds not for publicity or for something else... because the job is there to be done.

Americans basically are a queer breed of folks. Most of the time they subscribe to the idea that the object of life is to accumulate goods. The "harder one works" and the "more talent he shows" are meant to "pay off" in the more wealth... larger homes, bigger cars, busier living room furniture, more electrical appliances, better fitting frocks, fur coats...

Yet, most on Sunday, they take a day off and hear the mystic wain and advise, "Happiness is not to be found in fur coats and colored television sets. Real joy, real contentment, mental stability and a sense of fulfillment come, instead, from doing for others, from giving, from helping those less fortunate than yourself."

Americans endure this advice for an hour or two, shrug on their overcoats, and then go out and renew their striving to accumulate more material things for themselves: to become "successful."

The Goodfellow endeavor, short in duration as it is, is a wholesome move in the other direction. It is the fervent wish of Facts and Opinions that the appeal for funds will raise more money than any before in history.

It is our dream that the ranks of those willing to volunteer for Goodfellow work will double, and triple, and quadruple over the next two, three and four years.

It is our wish today, not just for the children and homes which will benefit from the gifts, but for the peace and pleasure it will bring the volunteers, once they understand the real meaning of life... and Christmas.

A GOOD CAKE A GOOD CAUSE

Advertisement for Benson's Old Home Fruit Cake. Includes text: 'A DISGUSTED SHOPPER Livonia.', 'Treatment for: Whiplash, Low Back Pain, Bursitis, Strains and Sprains.', 'Dr. James R. Watt Chiropractic Physician 24945 West Warren Dearborn, Michigan For Appointment please call: 278-0080', 'Livonia Rotary Club Ask any Member or Call GA 1-5454', 'Dr. George Marston', 'Teste It! So good it's irresistible. Try Benson's Old Home Fruit Cake and help yourself! You'll also be helping our good cause.', '3-POUND \$3.25 CAKE', 'WHAT IS AN ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FERTILE EGG? It is an egg that has been laid by a chicken that has not had antibiotics, stilbestrol or other medicinal or "hormone" added to her diet. Her food has been raised without the use of chemical fertilizers or insecticides. Antibiotics inhibit the blood forming mechanism in the chicken so a "natural" fertile egg has a crest much richer in red color than other chickens. The bones are filled with rich bone marrow. Roosters are kept with natural chickens so that each fertile egg is a completely balanced egg. Our customers say—"When we eat your eggs we seem to go twice as long before we get hungry again." Try Zerbo's fertile egg for a real treat! We have a complete line of dietetic foods. Try Zerbo's famous weight control nutritional program.'

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