

Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northwest Wayne County and South Oakland County Suburban markets with a group of six related newspapers: Farmington, Redford, Garden City, Westland and the Township of Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

Memories of 25 Years Ago

This week marks the silver anniversary of Pearl Harbor and the passing years have done little to erase the memory of that horrible act of the Japanese in the far off Pacific that broke the peace and quiet of a Sunday afternoon.

Years ago, they stated that the shot fired by the Minute Men at Lexington and Concord that launched the Revolutionary War was "The Shot Heard Round the World," but it was nothing compared to the bomb that fell across the United States telling us that our once proud Navy was lying in shambles in the harbor close by Honolulu.

Pearl Harbor! Just the mention of the name—even today—is enough to stir the patriotic blood of an American, regardless of how far he might have been from the scene on that fateful day.

But to visit there—and get the story first-hand is an experience one never could forget.

We were seated on a U.S. Navy boat in the Harbor several years ago and had the privilege of listening to that fateful day. He told us of the sneakiness of the Japs, hiding in the hills overlooking the harbor. And he pointed toward the not too distant hills, the chills raced up and down one's spine.

He told us of the despairful feelings laid by the Japs and how the attack really took Uncle Sam's sailors by surprise. Then, we headed out into the Harbor—Pearl Harbor—to live those moments of destruction.

First, we came to the Battleship USS Utah, its giant hull still sticking out of the water. The young sailor looked at us and then at the sunken hull and remarked,

"Had this happened just a bit later, it is possible that the hull would have sunk in the mouth of the harbor and would have resulted in much greater losses."

We had much the same feeling when

we came to the scene where the USS Arizona went down with 1192 boys aboard. There, in the bright Hawaiian sun and the blue waters of the Harbor, it seemed almost like a dream. The sunken hull is only a short distance from shore and one was forced to ask, "Why couldn't they have raced for shore?"

The young sailor looked straight ahead and answered:

"One never leaves his ship, sir, and furthermore the bomb went down the stack. They never had a chance."

Later on, one of our guides on a trip around the island explained that he, too, would never forget Pearl Harbor.

"I was one of the men assigned to go down and try to rescue some of the boys in the ship," he said, "and those moments still cause me to just about freeze in my tracks—even on the hottest day."

"We could hear the cries of those young sailors trapped in the sunken hull, and we could hear them hammering away on the young sailor's radio. Then he added, almost tearfully,

"But there was nothing we could do for them. We had to leave them there to die." He hesitated a moment or two, then shaking his head in almost disbelief after all these years he said:

"It is those dying young sailors who haunt me all the days of my life."

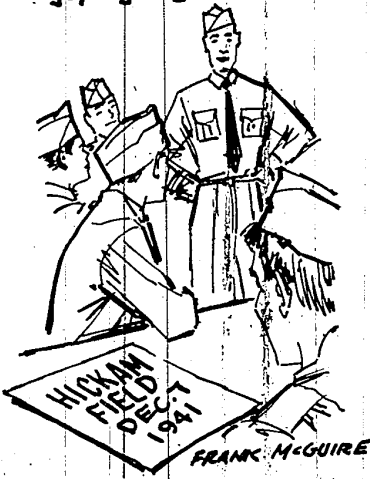
That's Pearl Harbor—and even the erection of a national monument on the deck of the USS Arizona, won't take away the memory of that day or the cries.

And during this week of the silver anniversary the words of President Roosevelt are still true when he told the Congress:

"This Day will live in infamy."

—W.W. EDGAR

I don't know... what are you guys going to do today?



Letters to the Editor:

Let's Face Facts on Millage

Editor: I support the millage request of the Wayne School Board as the only realistic approach to our present school finance crisis.

Our community must continue to support good schools if it is to make progress in attracting new business and to keep desirable citizens who are helping to build a better community. If our educational standards are reduced, this cannot help but adversely affect property values and the "image" of our community.

Investment in education is the best long range investment that we can ever make. It comes back to us many times in increased earning power for our children and in a more attractive community.

Some have said that "reform" at the state level in the vain hope that this will result in more state aid to education and lower total taxes. I say that this is a vain hope and people who believe this only delude themselves. First of all, there is very little evi-

dence that fiscal reform can be achieved in time to help in the next fiscal year. Furthermore, the local facts are that the average taxpayer will pay more, not less, in a general tax revision, because the financial requirements for education and other necessary public purposes will not decrease with a growing population and the demands of a complex society growing more complex every day.

It is generally accepted that the text fiscal year now has a \$100 million deficit and cannot be balanced without substantial new taxes, even on the basis of simply continuing present spending levels.

Those of us who believe strongly in the necessity of quality education under local control with a minimum of state and federal control have an opportunity to demonstrate our beliefs by the ballot box on Dec. 19th, by voting "yes" on the school millage question. Another rejection of the millage will result in half day education for our children. It is unrealistic to expect substantial help from

the State unless we are prepared to pay higher State taxes, with a corresponding decrease in local control.

JOHN R. RYAN
Westland

Editor: On behalf of the Farmington Democratic Club and its candidates for Township offices, let me express thanks to this newspaper for the coverage you have given our activities and our proposals for solving major community problems.

At the same time we wish to congratulate the electorate in turning out in such large numbers to participate in the recent elections. We accept the decision of the voters and extend our wishes for a successful administration to the re-elected Township officials.

Our only regret is that with the recently merged ballot which places Township candidates together with national and state candidates there is a danger of submerging the local election.

ALDO VAGNOZZI
Farmington
Democratic Club

OBSERVING the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

Like racial issues, or the Golden Rule, little can be accomplished by passing laws if the hearts of men are not penetrated by desire for goodness.

Despite the fact there are a few of us standing constant vigilance over the new Federal laws prohibiting discriminatory practices against women—despite the fact that we beat our chests and bleat the sad facts looking for public support—nothing will be accomplished as long as the dedication to the cause is missing—no matter how many laws of the land are passed.

We shall continue to point a finger, however, whenever we see discrimination against women, regardless if it accomplishes anything or remains status quo as in the Draft Board situation where no woman is allowed to serve.

And now it has hit close to home. The distaff members of the fourth estate are barred from climbing to the heights of their profession—cannot gain recognition by their fellow reporters. Even if they are reporters of the stature of Dorothy Kilgallen, who covered every top crime trial of our century—or Margaret Higgins, who landed with the Marines (like first on two Jims, or Pauline Frederick's or Ruth Montgomery of Chicago.

Even they are barred and unwanted.

By a vote of 21 male members of Sigma Delta Chi, the National Journalism fraternity, turned down a move to bring females into the professional organization. Those motivating the move argued that 35% of news staffs consist of women and they should have a place in the professional society. Antiquated thinking—men rising to give a lady a seal on a street car—or steeled ears themselves, for that matter.

Geography enters into the picture. For instance in the South there is a dual scale of pay for men and for women teachers. This is so in the Northern states—and they tell me the gentle sex in the deep South have about had it and are planning a mass exodus back to their kitchens and the luncheon circuits if something is not done about it. Teacher organizations are trying to work out the problem.

Please let me be the first to admit the recognized difference between men and woman should be ever encouraged—and I would be the last to suggest women don the khakis and take up arms—no more than men should have babies and rock the cradle. All physiological differences must be encouraged.

However, when a woman enters the world of business, or the professions and does a job equal to a contemporary in the work of men, she should receive equal respect, pay, and recognition. This has nothing to do with sex.

Objects To Movie

Editor: During the past Thanksgiving holiday weekend I took our two preschoolers to see what was featured as a "children's movie" at a local theater. "Santa Visits the Magic Land of Mother Goose," that promised to be entertaining.

However, I was alarmed at what I saw.

Several scenes showed a magician doing his usual tricks of putting swords or knives into a box which supposedly held an individual. An almost brutal scene displayed a "bad" witch being rolled into a coffin-like box and being set afire. Flames could be seen rising inside the box and when the box collapsed a burning skeleton was viewed!

This might constitute medical entertainment for an adult but what about the young, impressionable audience. If this is kiddie entertainment I don't want any part of it in the future.

It would be interesting to know other parents' views on this particular movie.

CONCERNED MOTHER
Livonia

Debates Editor on Union Editor

That spewer of venom and distortions is blowing again! I refer to the New Bloomer in the Nov. 30 Observer produced by Bill Gail, the Gale man.

This person has an obsession against the man who labors either physically or mentally for a living. It has to be an obsession, a warped

JOHN MATIKA

It Is The Ideas That Count

Next Monday, Dec. 12 holds a special meaning to The Observer family and to many of the readers of this newspaper. Two years ago on that date, Paul M. Chandler, the founder and first publisher of The Observer, died.

To those of us who knew him personally, Paul left a rich heritage in his qualities of diligence and craftsmanship in the way in which he let himself be taught up in a story, a cause, and a principle in which he believed.

To those who knew him only through his writing, he left an equally rich heritage in the pungent, incisive, journalistic columns which he wrote for each week's editions and which bore significance for most of his readers.

Now, on the second anniversary of his death, a permanent memorial to Paul Chandler has been established in Livonia, and there are a few things other than a library bearing his name which could have been a more fitting tribute. The Livonia community honored him well when it chose his name for the new Adlai Stevenson High School library and materials center.

But—and Paul Chandler would have probably written similarly—it is not the building which houses the library that

makes the real tribute. Just as it is not the man alone, but his ideas and contributions that make the man worthy of tribute.

A school which bears the name of Adlai Stevenson, or a library that bears the name of Paul Chandler, will honor men of this caliber only when they are centers where the searching mind can be stimulated, where the curious can satisfy their desire to learn more about the wide spectrum of ideas, and where all are expected to a variety of opinion.

A library which is simply a storehouse to serve the status quo, or a school where teachers and students are afraid to involve themselves in controversies, are anathema to what people like Stevenson and Chandler believe.

The new school and the new library are marvels of physical planning. But the teachers and students who learn in them are the truly important ingredients. They have made a fine beginning in keeping alive the traditions of Stevenson and Chandler. We have every confidence that they will not falter in the never-ending search for knowledge that was so important to these two men.

DAVID ELSILA

Planner Has a Word on Livonia

Criticism from one municipal official about another community is not found too frequently—but last week Westland was making points with Livonia as its target.

The speaker was Westland's new full-time planning director Eugene Katz who was presenting a detailed report on a controversial rezoning issue involving the Birth Hill golf course.

During his remarks, he stressed the need for a focal point for the city, which the Westland Shopping Center provides now, and a civic center.

In criticizing the "grid" patterns of roads with mile roads used to get traffic in and out of the city, Katz pointed to Livonia and commented:

"When you drive through Livonia, you don't know where you are" pointing out that Livonia doesn't have any "down-town" or center of the city.

"A city center can be a point of identity for Westland," the planner said and the shopping center is a natural center.

He also pointed out that good long range planning is needed and pointed to zoning for industrial purposes, is the location of the General Motors Technical Center, a large Chevrolet and Chrysler plants; Mahon Steel, McLaughlin Steel, and numerous other smaller factories.

But Warren is trying to obtain approval for a \$38 million capital improvements program to cover the next six years and "that is just to keep up with the problem, not to solve it," Katz said.

Since Katz was working in the Warren planning department for some time before arriving in Westland in mid-October, he should know what he is talking about.

But a market survey done by a well-known firm shows that Westland Shopping Center is one of the most successful in the area.

It seems that Westland's planner had something to say and its neighbors had better pay attention.

—LEONARD POGER

OMBUDSMAN

(A special feature in The Observer Newspapers... see it all our best to be a go-between, red-tape cutter as the name indicates. When you have exhausted all other measures on a problem write to us (keep it short, please) and we'll see if we can help. Yes, John Q, you can fight city hall — with your own Ombudsman!

Dear Ombudsman:

Before you buy a pet from a pet store be sure you call a responsible local government agency or the Human Society to check on the store and see if there have been complaints made about it.

I purchased a puppy for my two small children at Puppy Paradise, 28229 Ford Road in Garden City. The puppy got sick and I took her to an animal hospital where the puppy died. The vet said there have been numerous cases of the same trouble, worms and parasites in puppies from this pet store. The owner offers to replace the puppy but not make any refund. Who needs another sick puppy?

I called the Garden City Chamber of Commerce and the Humane Society, the Anti-Cruelty Association, the Wayne County Health Department and the Garden City Police Department and all of these organizations have had numerous complaints about Puppy Paradise to look into the matter and see if a City ordinance could be drafted to upgrade businesses of this nature." He said he would keep Ombudsman informed of his investigation and take whatever steps necessary to eliminate the problem.

Dear Mr. Johnson: Your complaints were checked by Ombudsman...

Dennis R. Johnson
Garden City

including a personal visit to the business mentioned. Following this, the facts were discussed with Mayor-elect Tim Murphy who promised to "look into the matter and see if a City ordinance could be drafted to upgrade businesses of this nature."

He said he would keep Ombudsman informed of his investigation and take whatever steps necessary to eliminate the problem.

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Nine will be glad to give you the recipe for a dainty new treat which is very simple to make. Come in Saturday and taste this new treat while we show you how to make another.

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