

Observer-land

FEATURES

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Just Chatterin'

Here's an unusual character along life's highway

By W. W. EDGAR

STROLLING down life's highway you meet some most unusual characters. Some leave you laughing with their attitude on life. Others cause lumps to form in your throat as you listen to their tales of woe. And then there are some who leave you in a state of utter amazement.

The other evening, for instance, I was sitting in a group, chatterin' about one thing and another, when one of my hosts remarked, "If you think you have met some characters in your travels, wait 'till you meet a fellow who is coming over tonight. He's an 'Aganister'."

This was a new one on me, so I casually asked, "What is an 'aganister'?"

"Wait 'till you see," was the only answer I received. But, I didn't have to wait long to find out.

Within a short time, a rather well-dressed fellow joined the group. He didn't seem different than any other until a few minutes later, he turned to me and, very seriously, asked:

"You're one of these fellows who thinks so-called modern times are wonderful, but tell me—How long would it take you to get from Plymouth to Pontiac today—if you didn't have a car?"

AFTER a moment of thought we answered, "We don't know how long it would take—but we'd have to take a bus from Plymouth to Detroit and then transfer to one that would go straight out Woodward to Pontiac."

Our friend sat and chuckled, then shut back. "My grandfathers could have made it that quick in his horse and wagon—so what's so great about being modern?"

His retort brought a few chuckles and the incident was forgotten until later in the evening when the conversation got around to topics of the day—the economy, the war in Vietnam and the possibility of a tax raise or tax reform.

Then, during a slight lull, our friend left us aghast when he asked:

"Can we afford peace?"

He didn't wait for an answer. Instead, he poured his thoughts out in what seemed like a never-ending stream.

"What would our economy be like, he asked, 'if peace was declared tomorrow and the 400,000 men we have in Vietnam were added to the work force?"

"Don't forget," he emphasized, "our auto plants are so-garaged that we could make all the autos and trucks we need in six months. Why do you think Walter Reuther is asking for a guaranteed annual wage and a shorter work week? He knows there is not enough work to go around. So, what would it be like if we had another 400,000 men dropped into the labor pool?"

BEFORE we could muster an answer, he shot back—"I tell you what would happen—we would have the greatest unemployment problem we have ever known. We'd not have a recession—or a depression. We'd have a panic!"

With your type of thinking, we chorused, this is a fine kind of world we live in when we must be at war, killing thousands of our young men, just so that there won't be a mammoth unemployment problem.

"Well," he answered, "I don't hear anyone screaming that they can't buy an electric refrigerator, or a freezer, or furniture—even though we are in a population explosion. So, our present work force must be doing a good job of providing them."

"I see a TV antenna on almost every home," he went on, "so there can't be a shortage of TV sets—or radios—or even food processing."

There is a great deal of college fund assistance available for the students in Michigan's private colleges, but unless next fall's sophomores and freshmen get busy the money won't be put to use.

Students have until Jan. 15 to apply for the \$2,000,000 in aid which the State of Michigan has allocated to sophomores and freshmen in the private colleges.

Last year, only 25 per cent of the State Tuition Grants were fund given out. Originally estimated to help 7,000 students, during the first semester of the program only 2,500 were granted.

The program provides grants ranging from \$100 to \$500 per year for students attending private colleges located in Michigan. In order to qualify the student must have lived in the state for at least three years and will enroll for the fall term.

The amount of the grant is determined by the annual "effective income" of the student's family. By this the state counts the total taxable income less \$800 for each dependent, standard or itemized deductions and the federal income tax paid of \$10,000 or less.

The Very Rev. Malcolm Carson, S.J., president of the Michigan Catholic Colleges Committee, said, "Many students apparently have not applied for tuition grants for they are under the impression they are not eligible if their family has an income of \$10,000 or more."

This is not the case, he emphasized.

"The size of the grant is related to family expenses, number of dependents and other variables."

At the time they request the grant from the state, applicants need not have applied for admission to a private university. They need only indicate the private school of their choice, which must be in Michigan.

The grants are not reserved for all-A students. If a student is accepted by an accredited university he qualifies academically for the grant. The grant will not be paid unless the student is accepted.

Application forms are available from the registers of Michigan's private colleges. Some of the local colleges which could supply this form are: Madonna, Lawrence Institute of Technology, Mercy College, Marygrove College, and the University of Detroit.

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We Are On Our Way Into A Computer

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a series by Farmington editor Sue Shaughnessy telling of her experience with the Michigan Scientific Introduction Service in Ann Arbor.)

BY SUE SHAUGHNESSY

It's an unusual experience to walk into the office and be asked "Had any dates yet?" That and all other kinds of comments have been my lot during the past week.

At the office the atmosphere gets away from the Madison Ave. image projected by the two representatives of the firm I first met. Stepping inside the door of the office on State St. one could not forget that Ann Arbor is a college town and that the huge University of Michigan campus was but a five minute walk.

Jo Sinclair, an interviewer, took my finished questionnaire and chatted with me while she went through it. During the course of the conversation she asked questions about how many brothers and sisters I had, where I had attended school, where I grew up, and just generally asked for an expansion on the answers.

All the time she made notations alongside my answers.

Mrs. Sinclair, the mother of five in her late 30's, is the oldest staff member of the organization. She was dressed in a crew-neck sweater and slacks and apologized for her appearance, but explained that an MSIS team had been out that morning talking to people in the registration lines on the campus, seeking new customers.

When she was finished going through the questionnaire I asked to see the comments. They were mostly expansions of the answers which I had made during the conversation. She did note, however, my stated opinion that I had thought one question as slightly stupid.

She explained that under the process she would make notes on the bottom of the form of her general impression of me. She said that the form would then be sent to another department for coding and the information would be transferred to a card.

The buff-colored, index card measures 8x10 1/2. On it is information about height, weight, area in which you live and religious and social preferences as to dates are coded.

In addition a short introduction written by the applicant is placed on the form along with the person's likes and dislikes and the interviewer's comments.

Another staff member, Molly O'Reilly, told me that the information put into the service's sorting system and added that mine would be put through the process that day and I should be receiving it.

Promoted in Germany

Frank H. Ohno, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Ohno, 11850 McClimphie Rd., Plymouth, was promoted to Army specialist fourth class Dec. 1 in Germany, where he is serving with Aviation Company, 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Spec. Ohno entered the Army in February 1966 and completed basic training at Fort Ord, Calif. He arrived overseas in July 1968.

He is a 1963 graduate of St. Ann's Preparatory High School, and also attended the University of Washington, Seattle.

Investing Inquiries

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(Mr. Wysong welcomes all inquiries on investing. Send your questions to THE OBSERVER, "INVESTING INQUIRIES," 33050 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan. The answers are the opinion of Laurence A. Wysong, stockbroker for Point, Webber, Jackson & Curtis, who is considered highly qualified on the subject.)

Open Blood Account Now

Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Livonia on Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Northwest Office, 31228 Five Mile Road between 3 and 9 p.m. Appointments may be made by phoning Red Cross 422-2777.

To start a Red Cross blood account, a person must be between 18 and 59. From the age of 18 to 21, if not married or in the armed services, parental consent is necessary.

They must be in good health. (Women who have become mothers within the past 12 months are not eligible to donate.)

Red Cross health standards are higher than those required by the National Institute of Health in order to insure the greatest protection to the donor.

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