

## Just Chattin'

Beware of those star rookie yarns from baseball camps

By W. W. EDGAR

DOWN IN THE SUNNY southland the major league baseball teams are engaged in their annual spring training and it won't be long until the public prints are filled with glowing accounts of rookies who have all the appearances of "another Ty Cobb" or "another Mickey Mantle" and who are ready to etch their names in the baseball history.

'Twas ever thus. Never a Spring goes by that some young player doesn't catch the eyes of the writers and they, in turn, start building him into a hero — only he fades when the season gets underway. Some of them don't even survive the training camp.

Each year as these stories come streaming out of the south I can't help letting my memory take me back to the late '30's when I toured the sunny climes with the Detroit Tigers as they prepared for their futile attempts to recapture a pennant.

IT WAS IN THE SPRING OF 1937 — when the world champion Tigers of 1935 were beginning to fray a bit at the edges and Mickey Cochrane, the fiery manager, knew it.

On the day that I reached camp at Lakeland — and before I ever got to the ball park — I was told of a young fellow who was trying out at third base. "He looks like the goods," the critics told me.

Each morning he would go out to the "hot corner" and take his place, while Marv Owen, the regular third baseman of the champions, remained on the sidelines — and wondered.

To all questions about him Manager Cochrane just smiled. He'd sit in the dugout and talk to the youngster — like a father — and the rumors spread that the Tigers had one of the best infield prospects in the majors.

FOR A TIME the writers patiently watched the young fellow — a quiet sort of lad who was willing to let his feats speak for him.

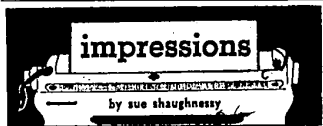
Then came the opening game of the Grapefruit Circuit and, to the surprise of everyone, Mickey started him at third base. Little attention was paid to the game in the early innings. Most of the writers were engaged in sending back reports to their papers that the rookie had displaced Marv Owen at third base — and that the Tigers' pennant winning combination was breaking up.

The rookie did nothing to change the writers' opinions during the game. He did everything that was asked of him.

That night at the hotel, Cochrane was deluged with questions. Who was the kid? Where did he come from, etc?

Finally, Mickey reached in his pocket and brought out a letter. It was from Charles Fisher, one of the famous Fisher brothers, telling Mickey that his "stable boy" was coming down for a vacation . . . that he loved to play baseball, etc. and would Mickey give him a chance to exercise with the team.

The secret was out. In two weeks the kid was back in Detroit.



Periodically one reads a book which strikes an especially responsive chord. The interesting thing is the fact that the book is never the current best seller or "in" book.

Every spring I have the desire to get on a tramp steamer and start around the world or to hop a freight and start across this huge country of ours. Unfortunately in our society girls just can't do this.

This year the feeling is stronger than ever, but the wish is to set off by car and explore not only the big cities of the United States of America, but the back roads and small towns and villages.

I keep telling myself that I really must settle down and that I am not an 18-year-old any longer and have to put down roots. "Mature" I admonish myself when the urge becomes almost too strong to resist.

Thus, when I picked up a Steinbeck book, which I had somehow never gotten around to reading before, and found much of the same feeling expressed, it was an uplifting experience.

The book is "Travels With Charley" and is an account of John Steinbeck's journey throughout the United States in 1960.

Steinbeck's opening words are: "When I was very young and the urge to be somewhere else was on me, I was assured by mature people that maturity would cure the itch. When years described me as mature, the remedy prescribed was middle age. In middle age I was assured that greater age would calm my fever and now that I am 58 perhaps senility will do this job. Nothing has worked."

Steinbeck offers a theory, however, that is interesting and, I think, has merit. He says:

"Could it be that Americans are a restless people, a mobile people, never satisfied with where they are as a matter of selection? The pioneers, the immigrants who peopled the continent, were the restless ones in Europe. The steady rooted ones stayed home and are still there. But every one of us, except the Negroes, forced here as slaves, are descendant from the restless ones, the wayward ones who were not content to stay at home. Wouldn't it be unusual if we had not inherited this tendency? And the fact is that we have."

All told it's a thoroughly enchanting idea.

# Officials Answer Vietnam Soldier's Plea

The following is a plea from a soldier, in the opinion of *The Observer-land*, editorial staff, and is being sent to elected officials of the district for their opinion.

Following is the letter from W. K. Krig, 4th Infantry Division, Lai Khe Vietnam; prompting the action and the answers:

I am a 1965 graduate of Bentley High School. Shortly after completion of school I enlisted in the United States Army and served a short tour of Germany. After which I was further assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam, where I am at the present. My unit is the 6th Artillery, base camp at Lai Khe in the middle of a large rubber plantation about 30 miles northwest of Saigon near the northern tip of the Iron Triangle.

I read in the papers everyday about the world's opinion of our role here in Vietnam and am very discouraged with their opinions. It seems that too many people "are not with us." I'm not referring to anyone there in Livonia, which puzzles me because I never really hear much in either direction. I would appreciate it very much if you would possibly write an article, or should I say editorial on the subject after personal discussion of the topic with the city's citizens. I subscribe to the *Observer* and am constantly looking for opinions.

This war isn't something to pass by lightly, people don't really seem to realize how it affects them until it does, its then too late. I'm sure there are many families in Livonia and the surrounding areas that do have sons stationed in Vietnam and would be very interested in knowing more about the local opinion. We seem very neglected when we hear everyday that people are against us being here.

We are here and we want very much to end the war as you must know, yet the problem is that too many people are against us. I should say our government. These people are against us by committee, because that's what we're fighting here, not a civil war as they might have us believe. Support must start out in communities, and grow, its not something the just happens. I urge everyone to stand up now and support us in the best way possible. Not with material things but with speech and support of our government's policies.

Probably the best article ever written that I have read, was by John Steinbeck, the author, and he was recently over here and knows a lot more than people who sit back there in the states and believe the opinions of communist indoctrines. Its not the people fault, for they only know what they hear or read. Yet why did the communists hear and mock Steinbeck? Because he wasn't afraid to express what he saw.

Walter Krig

Answer From:  
Rep. Louis Schmidt  
36th Representative District  
A copy of your letter to Mr. Power of the Livonia *Observer* was forwarded to me for comment.

As a veteran of World War II, and as a previous school man, (Superintendent at Clarksville when you were in high school), I have been concerned about the same type of reaction of people. I think one must keep in mind that a "cold minority" is always heard. They, however, do not speak for the majority of citizens who are quite concerned.

It is tragic that most people do not have a concept of what is involved in war, and what certain actions mean in the final outcome. For example, I was in Korea when provisions had been made to allow the Russians to come into the north part of Korea. At that time, many of us felt it was wrong, but certain people permitted this to happen. Emotion often confuses not reaching a proper conclusion as to the best procedure.

Walter, most people, and especially veterans, know what is involved, and I can assure you that after the early effects of emotion, people are convinced that we are doing the right thing in Vietnam, and that we have a task to perform, which means that we cannot sell out, nor can we settle for anything less than the result which means we have achieved our goals.

You must keep in mind that

reports received are quite often a release regarding a position of the minority, and this should not mean that all the people, either in our country or in our government, are failing to support the fellows in Vietnam.

One of the things you are fighting for is certain basic freedoms. By the same token you must realize that people in our country, then, have a right to exercise these basic freedoms, even though you and I are very much opposed to their point of view.

In closing, may I assure you that the large majority of us do not consider party politics in the carrying out of the Vietnam commitments.

Answer From:  
GEORGE W. KUHN  
Senator 15th District  
SENATOR 14TH DISTRICT  
I received a copy of your letter from Mr. Power. Publisher of the *Observer News*, about which I requested my reaction.

First of all I might indicate that I have been connected with the Navy since I first enlisted back in 1943. I served as a Supply and Finance officer in the Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet and at two Naval Air Stations in the late fifties at the time of the Korean War. I left the service in November, 1952, and am still active as a Lt. Cmdr. in the Navy Reserve and subject to recall if the President or the Congress so deem it necessary.

From my studies in Naval Reserve classes, this conflict or war is most unique and not like those of the past. For the first time in our history we are trying to win the minds and hearts of the people. There are no fixed battle lines, no clearly defined enemy, and no land objectives to speak of. Consequently, today our American G.I.'s are facing the toughest challenge ever faced before by American military men.

To make the task worse, we regrettably have a minority group attempting to make a mockery of the American policy of fighting Communist aggression wherever it appears on the world scene. Should we lose this war it would have far flung impact and possibly mean the loss of

freedom for millions of Asians and Westerners.

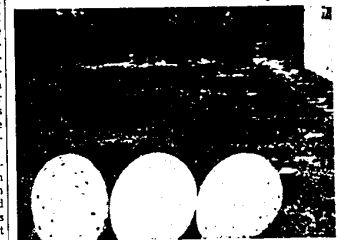
So, Walter, in spite of those vocal few who try to belittle your efforts in this vicious war, the majority of your countrymen are strongly behind you. It is my fervent hope that our government will soon take whatever steps or actions necessary to either win the war militarily, or enter into lasting and binding negotiations for peace. Because in my humble opinion, nothing can be more devastating than war in terms of human suffering and the needless loss of men, women and children of all nationalities.

So, may God's blessing be with you each day, and we pray that some day soon ALL American soldiers will be back on American soil. We all are deeply grateful and thankful for the sacrifices that you and other G.I.'s are making in behalf of freedom for the world.

State Maintains Freeway

LANSING — The federal government pays 90 per cent of the cost of building Michigan's Interstate freeways and Michigan pays 10 per cent, but the state has the sole responsibility for maintaining these superhighways.

## Where Is Bunny



THE *OBSERVER* will pay five dollars for any picture used on its Feature Page. The following was submitted by Debby Soltes, Livonia, in honor of Easter. She took the picture herself in her backyard. You don't believe in giant Easter Bunnies? Well, what do you believe?

# KRESGE'S

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**EASTER BUNNIES**  
3 Days • Reg. 99¢, 1.99, 3.33! **73¢ 1.66 2.88**

Personality pets in appealing poses. Boy and girl rabbit dolls gaily dressed in Easter finery. Soft rayon plush in Easter-egg colors. Cuddly and safe for the tiniest tot.

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Knit, Plaid or Striped Shirts

Shirt, Boxer Pants Set

They're in little-boy sizes but there's nothing babyish about these durable cotton slacks and loads of color combinations — blue, brown, olive, burgundy, many more.

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2-Pc. Suit skirt with double-breasted jacket. Rayon acetate print. 6-18, 5-88. Shift with Jacket: rayon kaleidoscope print; styles in rayon/silk print. 8-18, 6-88.

65% Kodel® Polyester, 35% Cotton  
**3-6X NO-IRON SHIRTS**  
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50% "Fortrel"® Polyester, 50% Cotton  
**1-3 NO-IRON DRESSES**  
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**2.27**

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Like 1st Charge 1st

**Easter Candy Tray**  
3 Days Only Our Reg. 2.99 **2.46**

Twelve, 10 or 6 rabbits or eggs in a tray, depending on size. Dark or milk chocolate. Some foil wrapped.

Like 1st Charge 1st

**Pendant Watches**  
3 Days • Our Reg. 6.96 **4.96**

Designed with the old-fashioned charm of a treasured heirloom.

**Colorful Jelly Eggs**  
3 Days • Our Reg. 2.99 **2.46**

Basket-ful for little egg hunters. In fruit or spicy flavors.

Like 1st Charge 1st

**Chocolate Covered Marshmallows or Cream**  
3 Days • Our Reg. 1.99 **1.44**

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Wayne at Warren Road		7 Mile at Middlebelt		Plymouth at Middlebelt	
PLYMOUTH	FARMINGTON	7-GRAND	8-MILE & BEECH	SHELDEN CENTER	
Main at Ann Arbor Trail	PLAZA	SHOPPING CENTER	SHOPPING CENTER	Plymouth and Farmington	
TELE-CRAFT	GRANDLAND	WAYNE	CHERRY HILL PLAZA	7 MILE at	
SHOPPING CENTER	SHOPPING CENTER	35004 Michigan	Cherry Hill at Inkster Rd.	EVERGREEN	
NOW YOU CAN "CHARGE IT" AT KRESGE'S					