

# Boycott Olympics? That Wouldn't Be Joe's Style

By W. W. Edgar

If Joe Louis, the former heavyweight champion of the world, had his wish, there would be no more thought given to the proposed Negro boycott of the Olympic Games, and every able bodied young person in the world would be urged to bid for a place in the competition next August in Mexico City.

"The people who are talking about boycotting the games," the immortal Brown Bomber said during one of his infrequent visits to his home town last week, "don't know what a big thrill it is to be winning something for your country, and it is a privilege just to get the chance."

Peering out of the window of a Boulevard office building and casting his eyes toward "Paradise Valley," the East Side neighborhood to which he

## 'Eddie' Films Show With Joe

"Eddie" Edgar, editor of the Plymouth Mail & Observer, covered the youthful Joe Louis 30 years ago for the Detroit Free Press and knows the champ probably better than any newspaperman. Edgar will appear with Louis between scenes of the movie "The Joe Louis Story" Friday at 11:30 p.m. on channel 2.

While taping the program, Edgar talked to America's foremost Negro athlete about the proposed Negro-black African boycott of this summer's Olympic games, and got this exclusive story for the Observer Newspapers.

He sprang to world prominence by the use of his fists, Joe recalled some of his thrills on the way up the pugilistic ladder.

HE WAS BACK home to visit his boyhood haunts again as part of the side features to promote the showing of the "Joe Louis Story" on Channel 2 on Friday evening, March 8, at 11:30 p.m.

"To bad," he said, "that they couldn't put some of the thrills

I had in the picture. The picture shows what I did. But it doesn't show how I felt after winning some of those fights."

Still looking toward the "Valley" and trying to recognize such places as Brewster Center gym, where he boxed the first time, and Bronson School, where he was in the vocational class, Joe recounted some of his biggest moments.

"I always got a thrill from winning," he said, "but it was bigger when I fight a man from another country. When the referee raise my hand at the finish and the crowd cheer, I feel I did something for my country. I was helping to make it the best."

HE HESITATED for a moment, then turned away from the window and went on—

"If the young people only knew what a thrill it is to stand and be cheered as a winner for your country, like I stood many times in the ring, they would know it is a privilege, and they wouldn't listen to those who are talking about boycotting the Olympics."

While he didn't mention any of his victims by name, he had no doubt was thinking of the fights he had with former champion Primo Carnera, the giant Italian; Paulino Uzcudun, the "Bastard Woodchopper"; Arturo



HAPPY DAYS of the past are discussed by former Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis and Plymouth Editor Eddie Edgar, who was one of the first to write stories about the rising young boxer back in the mid '30s. The two have been close friends ever since.

Godoy, the big Argentinian; and Max Schmeling, the beet-browed German, who once knocked him out only to fall a victim to Joe's fists in a second meeting.

In each of these fights Joe felt he was fighting for his country's prestige and, as he pointed out the other afternoon, "it was a privilege."

"If YOUNG ATHLETES today only knew how it felt just to be in the Olympics—even if they don't win—they'd never listen to anybody about a boycott."

"And if you win—and stand there on the platform with the

band playing and the American flag waving, when they pin the medal on you," he continued, "in a rare talkative mood, 'you won't even be thinking of whether South Africa had a team in or not. It will just be a privilege to be there.'"

The Brown Bomber should know, for he came on the fight horizon at a most unusual time, for such thrills, it was at the end of the depression in 1934 when he won the Golden Gloves and then turned pro. At the time he was "mountain" sales at Ford's for a comparatively few dollars a day. His family was on the welfare and World War II was in the making.

"IT WAS ALMOST like war the night I fight Carnera," he recalled, "Italy was fighting Ethiopia and it seemed like big Primo and me were fighting part of the war that night." It was much the same in his bouts with Schmeling. Prior to their first meeting in 1936, Schmeling let it be known that he had been promised a big job by Adolf Hitler—if he won. And after he conquered Louis with a knockout in the 12th round, Max was expected to minister of recreation in the Nazi government.

It is no secret that Louis' pride was hurt just as much as his body that unforgettable night. It is no secret, either, that Schmeling is the only opponent for whom Louis ever harbored resentment.

That's why Joe was so determined and vicious in their second meeting in 1938 when he stopped Max in 2:04 of the first round.

JOE CONFIDED the other afternoon that he was fighting two fights that night in 1938—one to regain his pride and the other to bring prestige back to his country.

"Sure, it was a thrill," he admitted, "and it's the kind of a thrill these young athletes could get in the Olympic Games in Mexico if they don't listen to the fellows who are talking about a boycott."

"They could have the privilege of doing something for their country—and the thrill of being part of it."

# No Complaint About NSH New Budget

Northville State Hospital stands to get a 7 per cent service improvement in its budget—including a much-discussed new X-ray machine—if Gov. Romney's new budget is approved by the Legislature.

So says the NSH superintendent, Dr. E. Gordon Yudashkin, and his smile tells year is in great contrast to his unhappiness over last year's budget.

A year ago there was a dollar increase in the NSH budget, but it was more than eaten up by a pay increase. On balance, Dr. Yudashkin said, NSH suffered a 6 per cent service cut in that budget.

THE NEW \$4.6 million budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, was proposed by Gov. Romney several weeks ago, but it wasn't until the last few days that details of the Northville State Hospital proposal were spelled out.

"Assuming that one never gets all he asks for, I'd say we did pretty well. That's also assuming the Senate and House go along with the governor's recommendations," he said. "This budget will allow us to gain some ground," Dr. Yudashkin said.

BIGGEST SINGLE gain will be \$47,900 for a new X-ray machine. Dr. Yudashkin last year was publicly critical of the state's failure to replace an old machine that "fails to meet State Health Dept. standards as far as the amount of radiation is concerned."

"This is the third year we've tried to get it," he said. "The old one is still in constant use—between breakdowns. It's obsolete—so old that it can't be repaired properly. Our X-ray technicians went to Traverse City to strip a (similar) machine there for parts."

The unhappiness with the old

machine reached the point where the patients' council began a campaign to collect donations of trading stamps in order to save money for a new unit.

The state budget department gave the new X-ray machine a high priority by putting the proposal in the operating budget rather than in the capital budget, which tends to be cut in legislative economy drives.

THE NEW operating budget is \$8,583,000, about \$900,000 more than the current year's appropriation.

More than half of the increase is used in a 7 per cent pay increase for employees that will cost \$468,000. Some \$317,000 is budgeted for improvements in operation. This includes:

- \$251,000 for patient care—25.1 jobs and equipment for attendants, social workers and nurses.
- \$91,000 in community services—10 jobs and equipment for taking care of out-patients, the night hospital and after-care.
- \$11,000 for "other" uses—1.6 jobs and equipment for housekeeping, safety and general work.

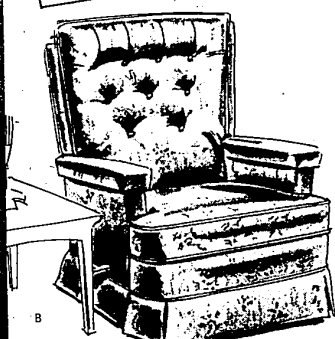
THE CAPITAL budget amounts to some \$320,000. Big items here are roof repairs, brick repair and painting, and electric cable replacement.

Northville State Hospital has a capacity of 2,200 beds. Its population service area amounts to some 1.5 million in western Wayne County.

In addition, there is a "community service" area of some 200,000 population, largely in the Observer and suburbs. It is getting greater and greater attention as mental care shifts its emphasis to treating the patient in the community rather than institutionalizing him.

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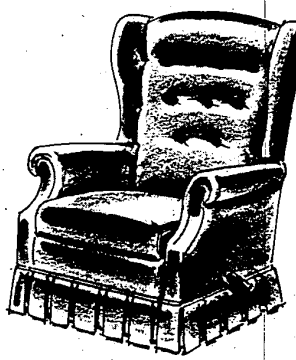
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## College Gets Grant

The vocational technical training program at Schoolcraft College, which was started in the fall on the assumption federal funds would be available on a matching basis, will continue for the remainder of the college year on a grant of \$11,826.

Kenneth Lindner, vice president in charge of business affairs, announced the grant at Wednesday's board meeting. There was a time in late fall when Lindner thought the college would have to bear the entire financial burden since the federal government had denied a grant for lack of funds.

The Trustees' initial refusal to curtail the Schoolcraft program but decided to continue on the present limited scale on receipt of the grant.

THE TRUSTEES approved advertising for bids on the proposed remodeling of the library with the bid opening slated for March 20 at 4 p.m.

The board approved purchase of new furniture for the library at an estimated cost of \$46,000 on the basis of matching funds from the state.

Lindner received permission from the board to look into the matter of having instructors construct six hydraulic benches for the Vocational-Technical Education department.

## DOES YOUR AUTO INSURANCE EXPIRE THIS MONTH?

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the City Council of the City of Farmington, Michigan, proposes to acquire and construct street improvements consisting of deep strength asphalt paving with curb, gutter and drainage structures on the following described street:

CASS COURT FROM FLEMING WEST TO CUL DE SAC

The City Council further proposes to specially assess a part or all of the cost of said improvements against the following described lots and parcels of land:

LOTS 124-126 INCL. ALTA LOMA PARK SUB. NO. 2

The Council has caused the City Manager to have prepared plans and specifications and an estimate of cost of said improvement, and the same together with the City Manager's recommendations and findings concerning said improvement are on file with the City Clerk and are available for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the City Council will meet at the Council Chambers in the City Hall on Monday, March 18, 1968, at 8:00 p.m., o'clock, for the purpose of hearing all persons affected by said street parking improvements.

March 6, 1968 TRENA M. QUINN, City Clerk

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the City Council of the City of Farmington, Michigan, proposes to acquire and construct street improvements consisting of deep strength asphalt paving and drainage structures on the following described street:

MOORE DR. FROM FLEMING TO GILL ROAD

The City Council further proposes to specially assess a part or all of the cost of said improvements against the following described lots and parcels of land:

LOTS 42-46 INCL. ALTA LOMA PARK SUB. NO. 2

The Council has caused the City Manager to have prepared plans and specifications and an estimate of cost of said improvement, and the same together with the City Manager's recommendations and findings concerning said improvement are on file with the City Clerk and are available for public examination.

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ALTA LOMA DR. FROM CASS TO GILL ROAD

The City Council further proposes to specially assess a part or all of the cost of said improvements against the following described lots and parcels of land:

LOTS 1, 2, 7, & 9, 17-23 INCL. ALTA LOMA PARK SUB. NO. 1

LOTS 24-32 INCL. ALTA LOMA PARK SUB. NO. 2

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