

Setting Is Right As Eddie Graduates



By LEONARD POGER

W. W. "Eddie" Edgar, who spent most of his 75 years writing about and promoting sports, received his high school diploma on a football field.

That's the way it should be.

Eddie formally graduated from high school Thursday night during The West High School (Garden City) commencement ceremonies held on the school's gridiron.

But the awarding of the diploma by West Principal James Niland before a crowd of 430 seniors and more than 3,000 spectators came as Eddie was just continuing his education, not ending it.

The diploma came 63 years after Eddie, *The Observer*, Newspapers Roving Editor, dropped out of high school in Catesauque, Pa., because of family circumstances.

Since that time, he has more than educated himself and others in newspaper work and civic responsibility.

A special platform guest during the ceremony, Eddie donned the traditional cap and gown, topped by the special gold honors braid, and marched with other school officials to the platform

while the West band played "Pomp and Circumstance."

The gold honors braid represented, in part, his outstanding academic record in his high school in eastern Pennsylvania, about 50 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

Eddie recalled that he was "number one" in his class when he dropped out of school at 13, in 1910.

The high ranking came despite the fact he "detested" English and failed algebra. But he continued to maintain a percentage of about 94 during the three months before his departure from public education.

History was his favorite subject at a time when the "Civil War" was only 45 years past and the Spanish-American War was almost in the current events category.

Although his formal education stopped there, Eddie's practical education continued in various fields.

He was Detroit Free Press sports editor in the 1930s and 1940s when Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Gar Wood and Joe Louis were household names in the sports field.

He was a personal advisor to Joe Louis from the time the former heavyweight

champion asked Eddie for a Golden Gloves' tournament application about 40 years ago.

He was there for all of the champion's fights during the 1930s and 1940s.

Although Eddie failed to take an active role in West High's student life, he was listed in the graduation program along with the 430 seniors.

Despite his absence in the classroom over the years, Eddie would have received top grades in a variety of subjects.

Certainly, he would have been a top student in English and journalism classes with a newspaper background of 55 years and numerous awards for his *Observer* columns.

There is no question that Eddie would have been an honors student in political science since he served on the Livonia charter commission and was a member of that community's first city council in 1950.

He would have received top marks in geography since Eddie traveled to 45 of our 50 states and could tell you more things about the towns where title fights are

held than most geography teachers.

Eddie certainly would have no trouble in math since he could figure out batting averages, earned-run averages, bowling scores, and football statistics without hesitation.

Political science would present no problem for Eddie, who has covered Garden City school board and city council meetings for many years for *The Observer*.

But he did have two regrets in telling his fellow graduates that he has mixed emotions in receiving his diploma.

One is that his parents couldn't see him graduate from high school.

The other is that he won't be able to join the seniors on their 50th reunion party.

But there is one area in which Eddie has it over his classmates.

He and his wife, Leonard, were able to celebrate their 43rd wedding anniversary Saturday, June 16, just two days after Eddie's commencement.

That should at least gain Eddie an "A" in any high school's home and family living course.

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W. W. EDGAR wore the gold honors braid over his senior gown during the West High School commencement in which he received his diploma. (Observer photo)

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Students this summer will view "The Taming of the Shrew," and "Othello" after preparatory lectures and discussions on each of the plays.

The on-campus portion of the Shakespeare Institute will include formal lectures on all aspects of the theater in Shakespeare's time, and on modern and traditional criticism. Workshops will be held on Shakespeare songs and music.

Interested persons should contact Billie DeMont, dean of the summer session at Oakland.



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