



Two Happy Splashdowns

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when the second pair of astronauts—Frank Borman and James A. Lovell—splashed down safely Saturday morning.

In all likelihood, a goodly number shed a few tears of happiness and relief when all aspects of the record two-week flight were wrapped up and the two heroes were safely ensconced on the aircraft carrier Wasp.

There are so many areas where something can go wrong that everyone waits with trembling to learn that the various parachutes have opened, the space ship is in the water, the inflated collar has been attached, the men are safe.

What a triumph the world has witnessed with the two twins; in orbit at one time followed by their return to solid ground without mishap!

Let us salute Borman and Lovell, Walter Schirra and Thomas Stafford and all the others who were involved in this monumental achievement.

The years ahead will see the present spacecraft looked upon with awe as we look upon the first airplane flown by the Wright brothers and wonder how they did it.

It is amazing at all the intricate parts that have to function from blistoff to return: the computers, radios, the human beings, radar, the rockets, . . . ad infinitum.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's what's what and with great optimism, engendered by what has just been accomplished, we eagerly await bigger and better things in 1966. BILL GAIL

It's Up To the Community

The coming year will be a momentous one for the entire suburban area — but especially for Farmington Township.

A question of great importance for the entire community of Farmington will be decided upon in the coming year. That is whether or not Farmington Township will incorporate into a city.

Last week the Township Board appointed 10 of the proposed 12-man committee to study the incorporation question. This committee would serve to determine the citizen's views on whether or not they wish to incorporate and what kind of a community and form of government they wish.

Under the proposal the committee would meet twice a month in open study sessions plus discussing the issue with all segments of the community.

It faces a big task between now and the election on incorporation which will probably be held in the spring.

The citizens also face a hard task. That of determining their own personal thoughts on the issue and translating it into action by informing the committee of what you think.

Out of this — and only out of this — will come the consensus necessary to lay the groundwork for a cohesive community and an efficient and workable form of government.

This is a task facing not only the study committee and the Township officials, but the community as a whole. The Observer is confident that the community will meet it and the end result will be something to point to with pride. SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Fantastic Fireball

That explosion in the sky we heard a couple of weeks ago was not meteoric or meteorological.

No, sir. It was concentrated cataclysmic vest-popping, an auditory phenomena that builds to a deafening roar every now and then.

Whose vests are popping? Millions of parental "vests" across the land are losing their buttons and the accompanying explosion of our figurative seems burst asunder as we observe the many fine performances of our young folks.

The youth of today are performing nationally and locally in a most high and mighty fashion. Their contributions are awe-inspiring in the bloody Viet Nam conflict. A local Nankin youth recently gave his life to make the world a better place for all of us.

Forgotten are the gaudy follies of yesterday as we read about the college kids that recently gave up their weekend to pack boxes of goodies for the guys slugging it out in Viet Nam this Christmas.

Locally, our 14 and 17 year olds have been performing in top-drawer musical productions with all the finesse of professionals. Larry Parks had Livonia players spouting long-forgotten superlatives after his two hour command of the Bentley High School.

Yes, sir that loud sound had nothing to do with a fireball. Our young folks are still fired up and ready to prove to the older generation that these chunks of creative energy lying around in the community press are the coming of great things in the swirling Seventies. WALLY ROBERTS

Thanks to City Hall for Sewers and Merriman Paving

EDITOR: This isn't the thing to do and our area of Livonia. We need it may even shock some of our young people. But we would like to be of work and planning had say thanks to our City Hall. be done before the sewers I believe someone said 34 were even started. Thanks

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Two Stars Cover Bethlehem?

(One of Paul Chandler's finest Facts and Opinions columns first appeared in The Observer at Christmas time in 1957. Entitled "Two Stars Over Bethlehem?", the column won a National Editorial Association award and many plaudits. In this hour of strife and confusion The Observer staff thought it might be worthwhile to rerun.)

By PAUL CHANDLER
Christmas in 1957 is coming to the world with a Soviet-made sputnik flashing in the sky over Bethlehem. It is a dangerous time for America. The glittering globe of magnesium was thrust into the sky by men — and, as it so happens, by a particular nation of men who discount the existence of God and who scoff at the first Star in the East.

They may have read, but they do not believe.
"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?' For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."
"Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared, and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, 'til it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him!"

Russia, on this anniversary of the birth of Jesus, worships another light in the sky.
The threat to the rest of the world, and specifically to America, is that many peoples are becoming so entranced by a metallic ball that they too no longer see the Star in the East. There is a conflict in the skies and in the hearts of men.
The Christmas hope of this newspaper, then, is that our readers spend quiet time during the holy season thinking inwardly about the meaning of the birth of Christ and from this introspection, to come to a personal evaluation of the relative value of the competing gleams in the heavens.

Frankly, the writer of this column has a rather cheerless view of the future of the real plan and the people. We have no real plan; little basic purpose to our personal or national lives.
A word often used to describe purpose is "ideals." America thinks it has some, but an honest critic knows that what few ideals there are today are fragile and always subject to change without notice.
We admire two-cars-per-family, buccaneer quarterback, violence in the arenas, electrical appliances, discordant music, and disorderly paintings.
We boast constantly about "freedom" and "leisure" and "dignity of the individual" and "abundance" and discover that every year nine millions of dollars and more dozens of tears must be spent to reconstruct individuals who couldn't cope with the "freedom" and the new leisure time.

We acquire goods — better living standards — with a sensation of a ringing ache in the breast. At the same time we proclaim to the rest of the world that this "higher standard of living" makes us superior, we wonder in secret what it brings so little satisfaction to our personal selves, why it does not satisfy our hungers but instead stirs new and greater anxieties.
And, to gain these self-styled material "comforts" we, as a people, stand ready to make virtually any compromise with our much-publicized ideals. This is an age of expediency. It is enough to get the promotion; capture the election; surpass the neighbor; win the game — the method by which the goal is achieved is whatever it happens to be. The end justifies the means.
Discipline is fast disappearing from morals, art, homes, science, schools, politics and health.
We are "free" but there is little self-restraint in use of the freedom.
We are a scared, easily-shifted society of materialists and sensualists.

So what about sputnik, the second star?
We don't mean to dwell on it excessively, because it is part of our thinking at this Christmas time that sputnik has been given too much wrong emphasis already. But it provides a case in point to illustrate our pessimism.

Sputnik is the latest triumph of mundane science. It is a notable accomplishment by the brains and hands of men. It is a threat to our national defense.

In terms of the billions of unexplored miles of the eternity of the universe it is nothing. The light it sends from the sky is no light at all, beside that of a star. Sputnik simply is close at hand, and looks bright — as do most earthly inventions. It is an illusion of perspective.

When sputnik was in the air, America was shocked. Why weren't we there first? Who's to blame? What do we do now?

Our schools were picked out quickly. So were the government and "scientists" in general. They were scapegoats immediately available.

But instead, we the people, are individually to blame.
Schools, politicians, or any other institution does no more in a free society than to act in the image of the people. They are created by the citizens and can be changed by the citizens.

The public never told the schools that there should be intensive, "crash" emphasis on scientific research. The public was neither willing to worship scientists, nor to give them medals, nor pay them big incentive salaries. If anything, scientists have been regarded as somewhat of an "odd" segment of society.

Instead of scientists, we have chosen lately to worship state and left halfbacks, chesty stage ladies, certain politicians, disc jockeys, gui-

tar-players and the odd hypnotic evangelist. We also enjoy an occasional infatuation with military leaders.

Nor was it made known to the government officials that we were willing to pay, even sacrifice, for "crash" scientific research. We have been pretty darn well satisfied that our country was the smartest in all history and would prevail somehow over all, no matter what, in science or anything else.

The lesson in sputnik is one of humility. There are people today in this world more dedicated than we are — dedicated to something. In Russia's case it is scientific research.

To what are we Americans dedicated — really dedicated — today?
Sputnik by itself is a passing thing, soon to be overshadowed by other inventions.

Far more significant in terms of American survival is the complacency and expedient philosophy of our people.

Most great civilizations have gone under at just the wrong time when the people — and the leaders — were wallowing, without discipline, without purpose, without belief; pursuing material goods and sensual experiences; laughing off mistakes; covering weakness with a skin of sophistication.

I recommend a thorough study of the history of Athens. The Greeks at their zenith placed great value on almost the same things as Americans — the rights of individuals, personal freedom, national pride.

But the Athenians lost their personal self-discipline, which is the only possible hope of unpoliced people to succeed, and near the end of Athens, Isocrates noted:

"Once, he said, Athenian citizens were 'men schooled when young to be industrious and frugal . . . accustomed in their early days never to regard public office as a chance for private gain,' who 'considered poverty among their fellow citizens as their own disgrace' and 'measured their well-being not by being able to outdo each other, but by the soberness of their daily life and the absence of want among the whole people, the only standards which are not vulgar.'"

But now, Isocrates noted dismally, "young men no longer trained to hardihood are wasting their youth in soft living"; 'lawlessness is looked upon as liberty, license as happiness. The state has become a means to satisfy selfish desire.'"

Where do we Americans go, if the shoe fits?
On this anniversary of the birth of Jesus, we quietly recommend a turn with disciplined uncompromising belief to morality and an absolute faith in a set of values.
We urge that none allow sputnik to outshine the Star of Bethlehem in their appreciation of what is important in this universe.
We plead for a retreat from complacency, expediency and unquestioning conformity.
"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife . . . for she will bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

The Readers Speak Up

Happy With Bentley Musical

EDITOR: That you have brought me and my wife and an looking forward to your Spring Concert on April 22 and 23.

JOHN MOLNAR,
Livonia, Mich.

Water Rates
EDITOR: On Dec. 15, we attended the meeting at Bond School for the discussion of having Detroit Water. I'm wondering if the residents of Kenilwood have bothered to figure out just what this will mean on their water bill.

First there is a capital charge of \$75.00 per house — this is payable at \$3.75 per month for the period of five years. Then a \$5.00 per quarter charge for the period of twenty-five years on the bonds. This would be per thousand cu. ft. goes up .74 cents per hundred cu. ft. sewer and meter charges stay the same.

Using my bill for Oct. 1, 1965 I figured out what the bill would be with Detroit water. (We have sewer) \$57.00 to \$105.05 for a total of \$15.75. To this I added the \$3.75 charge. \$5.00 charge, \$4.44 extra .74

Kenilwood residents paid for the present water and sewer system when home and lots were purchased. Then we had the big assessment when they connected our system to the Road, and everyone concerned that the builders, land developers, real estate people etc. can advertise Detroit water to their potential customers — Kenilwood residents are being asked to pay for another water system by practically doubling our water bills.

KENILWOOD RESIDENTS — they have a vote at this meeting by having the people raise their hands whether they were for or against having Detroit water. NO ONE was asked to give their name or address to be sure that it was residents voting. It was just assumed they were residents.

If you don't want this new water system — it will take 51% of the residents to sign a petition.

WAKE UP KENILWOOD — at least before this is assessed on to you — figure your water bill out and see if Detroit Water is going to be that much better — at these new rates — we can give up watering flowers, grass, trees and the big beautifiers will be the new subdivisions that won't have to pay twice for a water system and can brag about having Detroit Water.

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Builder Comments Please Pay Newsboys

EDITOR: I would like to express my feelings regarding the Board of Appeals in Farmington Township. This Board is to be commended on the way my appeal was handled by them, namely, Mr. Bassett, Mr. Guardhouse, and Mr. Dunn. Their gentleness and Mr. Dunn's attitude, men came into Detroit and met me at my client's building, Johnson Tool & Die, on Hubbell Avenue, north of Puritan, after working hours. They did on my suggestion on their own time.

I want it known that Mr. Johnson, the purchaser of the industrial land on Haggerty Road, and everyone concerned in the appeal appreciated the manner our case was handled by the Board. I can further assure you that the building being planned for this site will be an asset to the community.

EARL STECHER
Farmington

LIP SERVICE
Some people can talk more religion in a few minutes than they practice in a lifetime.

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