

# Just Chattin'

Baseball's Squabbles Over Contracts  
Lack Color of Old Days

By W. W. EDGAR

IN A FEW MORE DAYS the major league baseball teams will be heading toward their training camps and out of the sunny southland will come the inevitable stories of last minute hold-outs and bickerings over salary terms.

These stories will be interesting only from the standpoint of cold, hard facts of negotiations among "business" men. They will lack the color and the humor of what we now have a right to call "the good, old days" of baseball when college players were few and far between in major league circles.

And this time of year never comes round but that I don't recall the story often told by Davey Jones, the old time Tiger outfielder, who, as a young man, Crawford, one of the Tigers immortals, attempted to team up on Frank Navin, the colorful owner of the Tigers, to get more money.

"We had won the pennant in 1907," Jones used to tell with a broad smile. "I had the most runs and Crawford had driven in the most runs. We figured we were entitled to a raise."

"So, in the early spring Crawford came to Detroit for a visit. We decided we would prepare a 'double barreled shot' for Mr. Navin, who only shortly before had been head of the club."

"Both Sam and I practiced our stories and headed for the ball park and Navin's office. When we got to the corner of Michigan and Trumbull Avenues we tossed a coin to see which of us would enter first. I called the shot, and bracing myself I went to the office."

DAVEY CHUCKLED every time he got to this part of the yarn.

"Mr. Navin seemed surprised, but glad to see me even though I told him I had come to talk about my salary. After he invited me to sit down I pointed out that I had scored the most runs—that runs win ball games—and winning ball games had brought Detroit the pennant."

"Mr. Navin looked at me and nodded his assent, then opened a drawer and pulled out a record book. Searching it for a while, he turned to me and said:

"Davey, you're right. But I wonder how many runs you would have scored if you didn't have Sam Crawford hitting behind you and sending you around the bases."

"I didn't expect anything like this," Davey would recall, and finally admitted Mr. Navin had a good argument. "So I signed a new contract for my same old salary."

The story ever remained fresh in Davey's mind and he continued.

"Outside, Crawford was waiting for me and asked, 'How did you do?'"

"Not so good," I told him, but you are going to be all right."

So Crawford went in. He quickly got down to facts and told Mr. Navin that he had topped the league in driving in runs and that was the important part in winning the pennant."

"Mr. Navin again opened the record book and said, 'Sam, you're right. You did lead the league, but I wonder how many runs you would have batted in if you did not have a fast man like Davey Jones on the bases ahead of you.'"

"And you know," Davey recalled, "he signed Crawford to his old salary, too. Our best laid plans had gone astray. Oh, what a shrewd fellow Mr. Navin was."

Baseball could use more of his kind today.

## impressions

by sue shagnessy

How does one learn to appreciate fine literature, good music, the theatre and the ballet.

This is a problem facing many parents, who have discovered that their move to suburbia for the children often lacks something.

Local communities have made the effort. The Plymouth Symphony, the Livonia Youth Symphony, the Farmington Players and the Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild are a few of the local efforts.

These groups and other groups like them still don't enjoy community wide support. Partly this is due to the quality of some of the programs. Mostly it's due to an apathy on the part of the public.

If the Royal Ballet were to visit the area the tickets would be sold out. If Carol Channing were to journey the northwestern suburbs with the road company of "Hello Dolly," people would be hanging from the rafters.

Maybe it's the name that's the trouble. Maybe it is only after people start at the top and work down can they appreciate the community theatre and the local efforts.

That's why Councilman John Allen struck a responsive chord last week at the Farmington City Council session.

In a discussion about the Michigan State Council for the Arts he proposed that a citizen's group be formed to take advantage of this program and be advised of the Council's support. From what the Councilman said we had the opinion that he might even like to see the Council back such a venture financially.

The next day's mail brought reams of material from the Michigan State Council for the Arts (7310 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202).

According to this material the programs and services will be made available on a financially participating basis. "This policy is founded on the hopeful assumption that, in each instance, the local sponsor will be in a position to underwrite the cost of presenting the Arts Council attraction in their community on a matching basis," the Council explains.

Communication arts, dance, literature, music, museum exhibits, theatre and the visual arts are all represented in the Council's program.

It could be a step in the right direction. With the emphasis on the local communities and local control the program is available if the local citizens want to make use of it.

It might even be a good project for the PTA. Whatever the outcome, any further talk about the cultural wasteland of suburbia is no longer justified. A solution to this problem can be arranged if people want to make the effort.

# Flowers That Bloom In The Snow Tra La!



The Observer will pay \$5 to any photographer who submits a picture Spring was taken by Lin Lewis and it is printed on the Feature page. Livonia.

## s Investing Inquiries s

Mortgage Payments vs. Investments

(The answers are the opinion of Laurence A. Wyssong, a stockbroker for Paine, Webber, Jackson and Curtis, who is considered highly qualified on the subject. Mr. Wyssong welcomes all inquiries on investing. Send your questions to Investing Inquiries, 13050 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, Michigan.)

Q. We are thinking of beginning an investment program on a monthly basis. My wife feels that the money we would be investing should be applied first to our mortgage balance, then after the house is paid for we should consider stocks. The secure feeling of having my home paid for would be nice but yet I would like to have a list of securities to fall back on. I think I need some sound advice.

A. One solution would be to compromise. If you have \$50 a month to work with put \$25 extra on your house and \$25 in an investment program. Or if you have a 5 or 5 1/2% mortgage I would not hesitate to put the full amount each month into a sound security. The reason being that with each monthly payment on a 5 1/2% mortgage a good portion of money is applied to the principle. On a 6 1/2 or 6 3/4% mortgage the interest portion of your payment is quite large. Therefore it would behoove you to pay off the mortgage as soon as possible.

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# Bogged Down With 450 Pounds of Explosives

So you have been stuck in the snow a few times this winter. How lucky can you be?

Picture this: Three trucks and a jeep recently bogged down on a road in a Viet Cong-infested area north of here. More than 450 pounds of high explosives were aboard the vehicles—a tantalizing cache for local VC.

An armored personnel carrier tried unsuccessfully to move the immobilized trucks. The vehicle would have to remain in position until daylight. Sixty meters of deep mud separated the five-ton truck and the other two trucks and jeep.

Later an infantry squad from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry moved in to secure the stranded vehicles. Lieutenant Pierre Bruner, Livonia, of the 5th Battalion, 18th Artillery, said that he felt a lot more secure when the squad leader came up to him and reported that they would remain with them until morning.

"It was the coldest, most miserable, wettest night of my life," the artillery lieutenant added.

"You know, those guys

don't even have ponchos," remarked a private who was near the officer. The private took off his own poncho and gave it to one of the infantrymen adding: "I just get wet once a year."

The night was uneventful. The rain fell hard and furiously. Lights flickered all night in nearby huts. The artillerymen got wet. The infantrymen sat in a nice pad and got wetter.

At sunrise the artillerymen, APC crew and infantry squad were invited by the local Vietnamese to join them for breakfast.

## Feb. 20 Deadline for Civil Service Tests

State Representative Louis Schmidt announced this week that the Michigan State Civil Service Commission is now accepting applications for several state jobs.

Representative Schmidt said that a Feb. 20 deadline at 5 p.m. has been set for the submission of applications for Institution social workers, Electronic Technicians and Systems Specialist, a Crippled Children Executive and a Housemother. Annual salaries for these positions range from \$6,000 plus for the Housemother to over \$10,000 for the Crippled Children Executive.

Competitive examinations for these positions will be held on March 18, according to Representative Schmidt. He suggested that anyone interested in more detailed information about the positions listed above or about any other state employment opportunities should contact the state employment offices locally or write to the Michigan Civil Service Commission, Lewis Cass Building, Lansing.

## Learn SeamanShip

Private Michael A. Dyer, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Dyer, 27445 Lyndon, Livonia, has completed a seaman's course at the Army Transportation School, Ft. Eustis, Va.

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