

Just Chattin'

You'll find Great Characters
Along River of Printer's Ink

By W. W. EDGAR

PADDLING DOWN the river of printer's ink, one doesn't have to go very far before encountering some unusual characters.

For some strange reason, never fully explained, the world of journalism attracts a breed of humans far different than any other profession—and many of them have become legendary figures.

During the few decades that I have been paddling, I have had the pleasure of knowing such outstanding characters as Ring Lardner, Damon Runyon, Grantland Rice, Paul Gallico, Westbrook Pegler, W. O. McGeehan, O. O. McIntyre, and a host of other writers whose names have graced some of the best news stories ever written.

And along the way I have served under several outstanding editors, among them the late Malcolm W. Binzay, whose characterization of "Uffey the Dopester," during the Tigers Golden Days in 1934 and 1935, made a figure that will live forever in the annals of baseball.

He was the second great editor under whom I served and while I have many memories of him, he didn't compare to the old gent back home who started me along the stream of Printer's Ink.

HE WAS A fellow named Charlie Weiser and he was the last of the "Brown Derby Set." For a time he shared the honor with the late Al Smith, colorful Governor of New York who became famous in politics for his constant cry of "Let's look at the Records" every time he was challenged.

But with the political defeat of Brown, Derby Al in his race for the presidency he faded from view. His Brown Derby was seen no more and my old editor, Charlie Weiser, reigned alone.

Despite the fame and glamour of these two it is another who furnishes me with some of my fondest memories. It is his family he and Hal had in mind, but it was just plain paddling along the river of Printer's Ink he was just plain "Hal." He was the night news editor for years and his sharp mind, his keen judgment of a story, and the manner in which it should be used endeared him to the "boys." And his kind handling of their stories brought many of them a great portion of fame.

But Hal had an unusual side, too.

HE WAS A graduate of Oberlin College in Ohio and all he ever would tell you about this institution of higher learning was "If you want to get saturated with religion, that's the place to go."

Hal didn't get saturated. But he never used a cuss word—which made him unusual in his profession.

He was a white-haired man, given to wearing his fedora hat while at work, and he never was without his spectacles as these were known in those days. What's more, they were "nose-pinchers" and he wore a chain over his right ear.

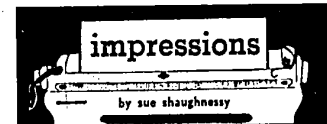
Even tempered most of the time, he did get upset on occasion, but never enough to swear. He would sputter something in rage and no one ever could recognize any words. I made it a point to try to decipher the "code" and listen night after night as he muttered words like "TLNI." Every time he became disturbed with anyone he would toss his pencil on the desk, turn to the perpetrator and mutter "TLNI."

It became quite a guessing game, trying to figure out what he was saying. Finally, at night, when the paper had "gone to bed," we got to chatting and he admitted that TLNI meant "Told Lads with No Insurance."

And that's as bad as you can get," he explained.

What a character!

I'll never forget him.



by sue shaughnessy

It seems to be the fashionable thing these days for politicians to call for a restructuring of their party.

Senator Robert F. Kennedy did it before a group of Michigan Democrats last week.

Not too long ago Congressman Donald S. Reigle from Michigan's Fifth District did the same thing before a convention of the Wayne County Young Republicans.

Friday night's gathering for the annual Jefferson-Jackson Day fund raising affair was my first exposure to the Democrats.

The speech wasn't the only similarity between the Republicans and Democrats though.

In spite of the valiant efforts on the part of those who were in charge, the affair was late in getting under way. This is normal in GOP circles too.

As usual, the entire program had to be re-arranged and the featured speaker was moved to the front of the program. (Maybe all this means is that program planners should take note of busy schedules in today's jet society.)

Another similarity is that nobody really sat down and ate a calm and peaceful type meal. Political gatherings are always noisy and confused. Everyone mulls around and talks while the dignitaries are introduced, the speakers pontificate, and awards, if any, are made.

There was also a cross section of the population present. Cars in the Cobo Arena ranged from the small economy size models to Cadillac and Lincolns. The only thing that proves is that the Democrats are no more the party of the poor than the Republicans are strictly big business and big management.

Kennedy was mobbed after the speech by a collection of autograph seekers which included the very young ladies complete with flowered hats and even some men who had that slightly rumpled look that long-time party workers have attained.

The most interesting sight of all, however, was a man who was probably in his 70's leaving the hall after the speech. The gentleman hobbled along with the help of a cane with his coat open to show the collection of campaign buttons he wore on his suit coat. On top of the row was a "J.F.K. for President" button.

Was that to show his fondness for the Kennedys in general or was it simply because the RFK buttons are being manufactured at the present time?

Unsuccessful Sky-Dive?



THE OBSERVER will pay \$5 for every picture used on the Feature page. The above was taken by Bill Zirbils of the Parks and Recreation Office showing an enthusiastic rockhound getting prepared for the Livonia Recreation Department's Rock, Stones and Bones Club. The first meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 18 in room F-370, Forum Building, Schoolcraft College.

Time Change Heading for 1968 Ballot

State elections workers today checked through nearly 200,000 petition signatures to determine whether the Daylight Savings Time issue will go on the ballot in November, 1968.

The petition campaign, launched by State Senator Raymond D. Dzendel (D-Detroit) seeks to overturn a 1967 law exempting Michigan from the Federal Time Act.

The Federal act requires observance of Daylight Savings Time from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October.

The filing of valid petitions automatically suspends the state law until the voters decide at the polls.

Opponents of Daylight Savings Time are trying to block the effect of the petition campaign in court.

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The Teachers Speak

Efforts Fail To Upgrade Certification Standards

By ROGER D. STEPHON
Executive Secretary Livonia
Education Association

For the past several years, the teaching profession has been concerned with the low certification standards of the State of Michigan. At the present time, the State Board of Education has proposed a new code, the first real revision in many, many years.

Having seen the original proposal and subsequent revisions, teachers throughout the State of Michigan are alarmed that so little has been done to increase both the minimum qualifications for entry into the profession and the additional requirements for permanent or continuing certification. At a hearing held just last week at the Michigan School for the Blind, State Board of Education members heard teacher groups and Board of Education groups express their views on the proposed code.

Surprisingly, teachers appear to be more interested in upgrading their own standards than do their employers. Some employers contend that should entrance requirements be raised to a "professional" level, many school districts would be hard pressed to find warm bodies to fill classrooms. The fact still remains that the children of the State of Michigan would be far better off on half day sessions with fully qualified teachers manning the classrooms than to attend full day sessions under the guidance of substandard personnel.

The biggest bone of contention is the 90-day special permit which is offered by the State of Michigan after the completion of just 60 hours of college preparation. The Michigan Education Association objects vigorously to the inclusion of any and all substandard permits in the certification code.

Specifically, the Michigan Education Association opposes the inclusion of a half-year special permit in the certification code for a person with 60 semester hours or more of college credit who does not teach more than one semester or 90 days during any school year, especially since this permit is renewable the following year upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools without additional credit.

Also of concern to educators throughout the State is the number of hours beyond completion of the Bachelor's Degree that are required in order to obtain permanent or continuing certification.

The proposed code suggests that such a degree be granted on the completion of 15 semester hours in advanced course of study beyond the Bachelor's Degree. The Michigan Education Association, on the other hand, demands that one of the minimum requirements be the successful completion of 30 semester hours in an advanced course of study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.

A hearing held just last week, at least one State Board of Education member took issue with the MEA in terms of its "demand." When one considers the number of years revisions to the existing code have languished on one person's desk or another, it is small wonder that an organization of 60,000 professionals would not, in fact, demand that the entry and maintenance requirements be improved.

While it must be admitted that there are some improvements in the proposed certification code over that which currently exists, I do not feel we can afford to look back at how far we have come. Instead, we must look forward to how far we have yet to go. As professionals, teachers are taking steps to insure that their profession will be better tomorrow than it is today. The State Board of Education has a responsibility to its constituents through the State to help the profession effect such improvements.

In the final analysis, whether we be State Board of Education members, teachers, or citizens, it is definitely in the best interests of our children to do as much as humanly possible to improve the training and preparation of those who will guide our youth.

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Teams Sign For Westland Slow Pitch Competition

Westland's Parks and Recreation Department has been busy registering teams for its slow pitch leagues.

Up to date it looks like seven teams for the "A" League, and seven teams for the "C" League and only four teams for the new experimental "Ushers-Church" League.

Several managers were up at the first manager's meeting April 26 at the Recreation Center on Dorsey.

League rules, contracts, and fees were given out at this meeting. Another meeting for managers is set for next Wednesday, May 17, at 8 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 32115 Dorsey Road.

This meeting will be the last session before league play begins. All fees are due at the meeting.

If any other teams are interested in participating in one of the leagues, they may contact the Westland Recreation Department at P.A. 2-7620 between 9 and 5 p.m.

It still needs some church teams for the Usher's League. Class A plays on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Class C on Fridays at 6:30 p.m.; and Class Ushers-Church League on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

For further individual or team information, persons may contact the Recreation Department before May 17.

A Special Case



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