



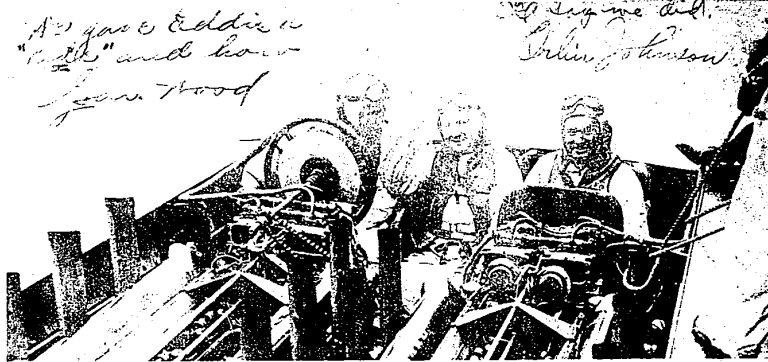
ONE OF THE MOST cherished trophies awarded for many years in Detroit was the Bud Shaver memorial trophy "for outstanding contributions to sports." It was a creation of the now defunct Sports Guild, and its 1957 recipient was W. W. Edgar.



JOE LOUIS -- Detroit's "Brown Bomber" -- one of the greatest heavyweight fighters who ever lived, had great help along the way from one of his "discoverers" and closest advisers, Eddie Edgar. Eddie was instrumental in starting the Golden Gloves in Detroit and covered every one of Joe's title fights.



WALTER HAGEN revolutionized the status of golf professionals as he swept to one championship after another and it was in 1944, at Red Run, that a photographer caught "The Hag" confiding in Eddie how it was done.



AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS of W. W. Edgar's versatile reporting of all sports were the chronicling of the world record shattering feats of motorboat racer Gar Wood. Here is Eddie (center), still able to wave as though "it's all in a day's work."

after riding at 124.58 miles per hour in Miss America X on the Detroit River. At the wheel was Wood (left), aided by mechanic Olin Johnson.

It's No. 75 For Eddie, 'And Still Going Strong'

By FRED DeLANO

Seventy-five years seems too short a period for any one man to have lived so completely, so enjoyfully and to have done so much for the pleasure of others as W. W. Edgar.

Yet, when Eddie reached what he called "the three-quarter pole" Sunday, the most frequent phrase which crossed the minds of the many who knew of the milestone and extended best wishes was framed in the words, "and still going strong."

Scores of civic organizations, community governmental units and sports organizations have paid tribute to Eddie throughout his long and fascinating journalistic career for his participation and many personal contributions of time and effort in their support.

OBSERVER NEWSPAPER employees, who have come to know and revere this round emigrant from the Pennsylvania Dutch country since he became a colleague in 1907, paid Eddie their own "Happy Birthday" tribute Friday when he was joined by his wife of 42 years, Leona, for the occasion.

And in Eddie's typical, twinkling way, his response to his party was one that looked to the future rather than the past -- as he called it the "spirit of '76."

It is doubtful whether many ever have been so lucky as to be so in love with his life's chosen pursuit than W. W. Edgar.

Michigan knows him best for the many years he has devoted to the cause of sports, and while Observerland shares this respect for Eddie, it also knows the many other civic avenues of his interests.

A member of the charter commission whose work led to the incorporation of the City of Livonia, Eddie served as vice president of the first Livonia City Council and through the years his work in strengthening the municipality has known no limits.

The warmth of the yarns he spins in his personal column, "The Stroller," have brought him award-winning recognition from the Michigan Press Association. ONI readers know, too, that often his columns and features have penetrated the sores of government and of society in general as, again typically, he seeks to make this

a better place to live -- not content with past successes or the status quo.

ALTHOUGH A MAN who serves others, for which there is no greater reward than the tribute of his fellow man, Eddie would disdain being labeled a saint. In so doing, he might point to the fact that at the age of 12 he was the pool shooting champion of the Lehigh Valley.

Unsuspecting Detroiters, in later years, were to learn that his mastery of the cue was an ability with which they hadn't reckoned.

It was in 1924 that Eddie came to Detroit to begin work on the Free Press where he stayed for 24 years. Several years in the machine shops of the Bethlehem Steel Works, after having to leave high school to help support his widowed mother and the family, were not to his liking, and almost by accident he stumbled into newspaper work. First this was in his hometown of Catasauqua, Pa., and then at Allentown.

His career at the Free Press, which saw Eddie ascend to the sports editorship, was a love affair with one of the greatest eras of sports.

He rubbed elbows and became great friends with the likes of Gar Wood, Joe Louis, Ty Cobb, Mickey Cochrane, Gus Dorais, Walter Hagen, Fielding Yost and many others.

The University of Detroit awarded him a variety "D" for his outstanding reporting on the exploits of the unbeaten 1928 Titan football team, and the present day list of awards and citations keeps growing.

RETIRING FROM the Free Press in 1948, Eddie became executive secretary of the Bowling Proprietors Assn. of Greater Detroit and in the 16 years that followed he probably was more responsible than any other one person for the boom bowling experienced in the metropolitan area.

Eddie's hand still is highly prominent in bowling affairs as he continues to give his weekly bowling report on the Bob Reynolds sports show at WJR every Friday -- a broadcast he has missed only five times since '64!

In 1964, at the age of 67 when most men already are in retirement, Eddie Edgar joined Observer Newspapers and has continued to distinguish himself both journalistically and in sports and community activities.

If anything, "still going strong" is an understatement. May it long continue.



HE'LL WEAR "OI 75" only once, but when he did there was Mrs. Wilson W. Edgar -- Leona -- there to share the joys, and maybe a few tears of happiness, with Eddie.



AT NOTRE DAME, about 1926, as the former Irish great, Gus Dorais, who then was coach at U. of D., watched a Notre Dame triumph from the sidelines, who else would you expect at his side but Eddie?