





# AN OPEN LETTER TO THE DETROIT NEWS

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THE DETROIT NEWS  
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Kind Sirs:

Your story of the Metropolitan Spelling Bee appeals to an optometrist in that the fatal word to the runner-up was "Octagon." Octagon is a word written a thousand times a year in our profession. It is almost routine in style and technic to us. That it should be difficult to others does not seem possible. And then when we learned the result of the National Contest, not only were we proud of Detroit's National Champion, but we felt that the contest was a triple victory for Detroit. The winners of second and third places were sponsored by papers published in Akron, O., and Miami, Fla., by John S. Knight of The Detroit Free Press.

In the span of 68 years of outstanding leadership in an ever-changing and growing metropolis, countless thousands have expected and accepted the manifold contributions of The NEWS as part of their daily routine. The NEWS to them is as much a part of the day as the sunrise and as essential and as appreciated as the water in the tap. Just an expected tradition and daily habit that few reflect upon the great part The NEWS fills in our daily life.

With an ever broadening recognition of the ordinary individual, ready pen for the heroism of the commonplace, and the unsung hymn of praise for kindness, whether in places high or low, The DETROIT NEWS finds time to point the way and light the pathway. One friend pointed out that the real underlying policy of The NEWS was spoken by Shakespeare: "Be just, and fear not, let all the ends thou aimest at be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth." Detroit is a better city today for having thus interpreted the motivating ideal of The DETROIT NEWS.

In reviewing the many child and youth activities unselfishly sponsored by The DETROIT NEWS, I wonder how many of the thousands of readers ever pause to give credit to that greatest of home newspapers for its broad scope of encouragement to the youth of Michigan. As in no other metropolis in the nation boys and girls, and the coordinating of heart and hand, have positive aid in character building. With no attempt to chronicle all, or even place them in order of evaluation may we just mention . . . the Spelling Bee . . . the Soap Box Derby . . . Bird House Contests . . . Handicraft Clubs . . . Hiking Clubs . . . Camera and Outdoor Groups . . . Cooking Schools . . . Young Writers' Clubs and Home Makers' Helps.

Under the stress of war time interest many religiously follow the daily interpretations of events as they flow from the pens of S. L. A. Marshall and Russell Barnes. In their columns, opinions, current events, history, and personal experiences vie with each other in giving meaning to the news of the day, and find grateful appreciation. W. K. Kelsey, in his daily commentary found on the editorial page goes back of the news to find out the whys and wherefores. To lovers of poetry, the poems of Ann Campbell strike home in rhythm and thought. Sport hounds, great and small, veteran or rookie, all find time to follow the great master, H. G. Salsinger, and more and more the pictorial story of current situations as drawn by Mr. Thomas receive approving nods. Dr. Crane aids in perking up the old I. Q. with his daily mental setting up exercises; while inspiration rides cold type as Dr. Jones speaks in mild tones of religion and the inspiration of the hour.

Through all the manifest contributions to the social and cultural life of the city there runs an ever visible thread of unselfishness. There is an apparent willingness to share the opportunities and benefits of urban life with folks outside the city. Those outside the city are allowed to enjoy and participate in the special events sponsored by The NEWS, thus building for the future and welding rural and urban ideas into ideals of unselfish sharing of interests and opinions. The obvious willingness of your staff to carry the facilities of a great newspaper into the social and civic life of neighboring communities and help make lesser occasions successful, stand out as an unexcelled contribution to civic conscientiousness in many a small town. This outstanding service we attribute to the wise helpfulness and understanding of Lee A White and his associates.

Through the year great headlines have chronicled graft exposures, criminal revelations, war, peace, civic movements and a thousand and one things have passed through the slot. Applause and censure, approval and criticism, have been part of the daily menu. With all the great scoops, all the feature writers, syndicated articles, the true greatness of The DETROIT NEWS as attested by 68 years of service lies in the quiet dignity of its acceptance as a great public service. For in the quiet, expected acceptance of a public service lies an inherent trust and approval far more genuine and sincere than the loud outbursts of applause.

In conclusion, somehow we think of The DETROIT NEWS and its mission in the great metropolis of Detroit and the people of eastern Michigan in the words of Grace Holmes when she wrote:

"It is just the little homely things,  
The unobtrusive friendly things  
The 'won't you let me help you' things,  
That make our pathway light."

Sincerely,













