

Michigan Flag

Heritage Day

Yesteryear's Hero A Civil War Vet From Bloomfield

By WM. PRICE and WM. NEWMAN
Birmingham

As we move toward our commemorations of the Civil War, we are sobered by the realization that none of the participants in the struggle will be with us to share the experience.

As the years have passed, it becomes all too easy to remember only the columns of statistics and the numbers of the brave, rather than the brave people on both sides who endured the hardships and hardships of the nation's most trying experience.

It is the intention of the Birmingham Civil War Centennial Commission to retell the story of the war in terms of the people who answered their country's call to duty during the desperate years of 1861 to 1865.

John Allen Bigelow was born in 1839 on a farm in West Bloomfield Township. He was the eldest son of a farmer and a miller.

HE WENT back to school and became a teacher. He taught school in Lapeer county for one year.

He was dissatisfied with teaching and came to Birmingham that same year. Bigelow then worked in Orin Poppleton's store, located at the time on the northeast corner of Saginaw and Middle Streets.

Later, he bought a part interest in a store in Frankfort, but sold out for health reasons in 1861. He then joined the Union Army after Fort Sumter.

At first, the Army would not accept Bigelow because of his crippled hand but he prevailed upon a high officer to swear him in for limited clerical duty.

In August 1861, while making up a list of men called for active duty, Bigelow wrote his own name into the list as a member of Company C, First Michigan Cavalry.

Bigelow was among many of the First Michigan Cavalry men captured and sent to Libby prison, Richmond. He was later paroled by the Confederates, as was the custom in that war, and returned to his home in Birmingham.

While he and a few comrades were making their way north, they were captured at Martinsburg, W. Va., apparently thinking it belonged to the Confederates. Instead, it belonged to the Union.

Ignoring his parole however, Bigelow enlisted again in the Union Army in August 1862, using the name of John Allen and was assigned to the Fifth Michigan Cavalry as bugler. He was promoted to chief bugler in November.

This UNIT, together with the First, Sixth and Seventh Michigan Cavalry regiments were welded into the famed Michigan Cavalry brigade, under the command of an illustrious native of Michigan, General George A. Custer.

Captain Bigelow's Civil War equipment and documents are on display in the Lake Jewelry Building. The commission hopes that the exhibit and this story together will help to set a theme for our four-year commemoration which, we believe, should be that of the brave deeds of dedicated men rather than the glory of great battles and victories.

The brigade was hurried into the field in June, 1863, to meet Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania. At Gettysburg on July 1, 2 and 3 the brigade met and fought with Confederate cavalry commanded by "Jeb" Stuart and netted out the first serious defeat of the Southern mounted troops had experienced up to that time.

THE DEFEAT of Stuart's cavalry was a prime factor in the Union victory at Gettysburg; the battle itself ended the last threat of Southern invasion of the North. John Allen Bigelow was promoted to second lieutenant following the battle.

Happiness Is Here in Michigan

By CHARLES STEEL
In an address before the Birmingham Toastmasters Club, during its annual speech contest, on Jan. 31 of this year, Bloomfield, V. Y. resident Charles Steel had this to say about his new "home state":

ARE YOU HAPPY in your own backyard? Happiness is a state of mind, an elusive intangible. Happiness must be actively sought; it will not seek you. Different people find happiness in many different ways. I think, however, that real happiness is largely dependent upon experiencing new things and avoiding the provincial rut.

When we were leaving California three years ago, we wondered if we could find happiness in Michigan's backyard. Michigan has no mountains towering in the distance, no sun-drenched beaches by time, no huge sequoias, no ocean surf breaking on the rocky shore or desert

stretching moodily toward the distant sky. To "wander" "how to find happiness in your backyard" could have posed a problem.

WITH MY FAMILY it was no problem for we discovered that we could tour the "west" and never leave the state. Have you ever seen Holland at Tulip Time? You can at Holland where the Dutch people hold an annual festival. The people dress in authentic costumes, the bulb farms are a blaze of color and the tulips line the streets.

Do you like an island kingdom? Go to Mackinac where cars aren't allowed and horse-drawn carriages turn back time a century or so. True, Michigan has no deserts but the dunes near Traverse City almost make you believe that it has. They slope steeply down to what could be an ocean, for the distant Wisconsin shore lies below the horizon.

PERHAPS YOU'D like to feel like an Indian, yaddling through uncharted land? Acquire the proper spirit at the Indian ceremonial dances on Chapel Lake; then try a canoe trip on the Au Sable River. Make that trip in the autumn and find color such as you've never seen before.

Make a stop in Frankmuth at a 100-year-old farmhouse for a Bavarian chicken dinner that leaves your sides bulging. If wild game is more to your liking, journey to Africa at the Safari-Land Restaurant, in Detroit. How about an appetizer of baby turtles in butter or steamed caterpillars followed by home-made African ostrich soup, and then, lion steak or roast monkey with fingers or broiled alligator tails and, perhaps, chocolate covered ants or grasshoppers for dessert? Or are you most of a Canadian brook trout-type gourmet?

WE LIKE TO GO "south of the border" to the Mexican Village for tacos, enchiladas and tamales and then across the street to the bakery for Mexican pastries.

Are you an art lover? Did you know that the beautiful Detroit Art Institute had the world's largest collection of Flemish Art last year? It is only 50 miles or so to Toledo which also has one of the nation's leading museums. If history is your forte, browse in the justly famed Village and Ford Museum.

Michigan's people are certainly one of her biggest assets. They come from many states and many countries and, with each new friend made, new vistas are opened.

Man's brain is a fertile machine meant for endless processing of new knowledge and with this open eye, open ear, and open heart, you can find happiness in your own or anybody's backyard.

Michigan Week will find Birmingham's students participating in a variety of class and school activities which will focus on the state and its people. The program is directed by Walter Piel, administrative assistant and Education Day chairman.

Scheduled or suggested plans for the week were developed by a committee of 25 teachers and principals representing all schools in the district. Follow-up in individual buildings will involve most all students and staff in some way.

A NUMBER of special activities have been planned for all schools. Promotional materials will announce the occasion to all pupils. An extensive collection of information and suggested printed and audio-visual resources has been made available to teachers who have requested them.

The instrument music department is preparing tapes of the march "Michigan March" for schools desiring to use them.

Education Day, Thursday, will be highlighted by two special events. All members of the profession who have served in the profession for 10 years or more will be honored at a tea to be given by the American Association of University Women. It will be held in the Maple Room beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Education Day

Students, School Officials Plan Wide Variety of Class Activities

children to take part by requesting each child to bring a Michigan flag for the school's auditorium. The program will be emphasized in the homeroom period. Topics will be the daily lives of Michigan Week.

The series will begin with the presentation of Mayor Florence Willet to the city by the Rev. Hugh Hudson, followed by Charles Mortensen, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce; Otis M. Dickey, superintendent of schools; and Owen Manchester, Director of the Birmingham YMCA. Appropriate Michigan music will be highlighted during the broadcast.

DISCUSSIONS and projects in many social studies classes, particularly in the ninth grade Michigan history, will emphasize the broader role of the state nationally and internationally, particularly as regards the industrial and economic potential and contributions of the state.

School newspapers will include features and editorials on Michigan Week themes and Michigan Week features will find expression through the work in many art classes.

SEVERAL SPECIAL activities will be carried out. Bernum industrial art students have made keys to the city to be presented to the visiting Mayor James Winters by the Birmingham Student Council. The keys will be made by Barnum student David Payne.

Members of the school staff who contributed to the overall planning include: Jean Hrn, Adams; Margaret Morrison, Baldwin; Erik Laska, Barnum; Robert Gilley, Beverly; Marsden Wilson, Blount; Ed Cory, Derby; Jane Willett, Edinboro; Jeanette Greenfield; Arthur Kersjes, Groves; Ray Heeki, Harlan; Paul Andrews, Midway; Dorothy Egan, Pembroke.

Alfred Purchase, Pierce; Jo Cutler, Quinn; Bob Rifkin and Carol Darling, Seaside; Lelia Hudson, Terry; Nancy Lee, Tilden; Bob Beecher, Valley Woods; Katherine Stephenson and Barbette Cartwright, Westview; Henry Corbach, director of Instructional Materials Center.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Government Day

Events, Festivities Scheduled Monday For Visiting Mayor

When officials of the Village of Edwardsburg, visited Birmingham Monday to assist in the city's celebration of Government Day, a part of Michigan Week, they will be greeted with a full day of programs and festivities.

Mayor and Mrs. James Winters and Mayor Tom and Mrs. Paul Mayhew of Edwardsburg will exchange places with Birmingham's Mayor Florence H. Willet.

THE VISITING mayor's party will arrive Sunday evening and will reside at the Birmingham House Hotel.

The group will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the Birmingham Municipal Building to receive their official greeting and will then take a tour through local municipal facilities.

A LUNCHEON is scheduled at Birmingham to be attended by department heads of the city, the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Michigan Week activities, superintendent of the public schools and Mayor Pro Tem William Ferguson.

Following the luncheon, the group will tour Birmingham Seaholm High School, guided by Superintendent Otis M. Dickey.

FOLLOWING the school tour, the visitors will see Birmingham's business and residential districts.

A 5:30 p.m. dinner is slated with local city commissioners and their wives. At 8, the commission meeting will convene with the visiting officials on deck to get a first hand view of the machinery of government here in action.

ALSO ON the agenda, if time permits, will be tours through the Cranbrook Institute of Science, South Oakland Water Tower, the pumping plant and of the South Oakland County Garbage and Rubbish Authority.

An open house is scheduled all day until 9 p.m. at the city hall and police department, the fire stations and the Department of Public Works which will be staffed by Michigan DPW equipment.

Michigan builds a mile of expressway each minute and a half. A new bridge every seven minutes. You've got an important stake in this aspect of the new horizons. Emphasize it.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Youth Day

Rec Board to Sponsor Annual Carp Carnival

The annual carp carnival sponsored by the Recreation Board will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, at the park and girls under 14 years of age, according to Donald Martin, Youth Day chairman.

All children planning to participate should report to the east bank of Quarters Lake between Oak and Harmon Streets.

First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded to boys and girls in each age classification. The largest fish caught. Awards will also be presented for the smallest fish, most unusual fishing tackle and the youngest and oldesterman participating. Bait will be furnished. Necessary items to include fishing pole, line and hook.

FATHER AND SON baseball games sponsored by Little League will be held at Eton Park from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All major league teams involving 360 boys and their parents will be participating in this activity.

THE BIRMINGHAM YMCA at 400 E. Lincoln will hold an open house program from 1 to 4 p.m. There will be displays and a variety of program activities sponsored by the YMCA and demonstrations of various activities which will be conducted during the afternoon.

Spiritual Foundations Day

Churches Take Part in Event

Michigan history is filled with examples of great faith in God. The first white man to visit this area brought religion. Since then, churches have played a vital part in the development of what is now Michigan.

This is a time for the people of each denomination to recall the help that has been given by their churches in the past.

Drop in, become acquainted with all the communities and religious fellowships in our community.

State Police Invite Public to All-Day Open House at Post

Sgt. Mike Ahlgrim, commanding officer of the local post of the State Police, today invited the public that open house will be held Tuesday at the post as part of the observance of Michigan Week.

"We will welcome the opportunity to have visitors call on us to look over the post and view equipment," he said. "Officers will act as guides and answer any questions."

Hours for open house will be from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Michigan Week observance flag as well as the United States flag will be displayed during Michigan Week.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.

Displaying the Michigan flag, which they believe is altogether too "foreign" to a large number of the state's citizens, are (left), Roblee B. Martin and John H. Carton. They are taking the lead in the display of the state flag during Michigan Week and throughout the year. Carton is general chairman for the 1961 observance and Martin is the newly-elected chairman of the Michigan Industrial Ambassadors.