100 YEARS AGO

Lexington, Mo., Taken In Horror-Filled Siege

By LON K. SAVAGE
Special Writer

Seldom in the Civil War was a Union army so out-numbered as in the Battle of Lexington, Mo., 100 years ago this week.

As Col. James A. Mulligan, the Union commander at Lexington, put it, the Confederates "came as one dark moving mass, their guns gleaming in the sun, their banners waving, and their drums beating—everywhere, as far as we could see, were men, men, men, approaching grandly." In all, Mulligan's 3,500 men did battle with 18,000 Confederates and Missourians fighting under their beloved Gen. Sterling Price.

IT WAS THE morning of September 18 when the Confederates opened their siege of Lexington, following a Northward march that had started in late August. Mulligan fully aware of the advance, had spent more than a week digging earthworks around the town, pleading by messages with his superiors for reinforcements and pledging to "hold out to the last." Then on the 18th, as the chaplain made his rounds, the Union soldiers uncovered their heads for his blessing and turned sternly to the earthworks, cocking their muskets.

PRICE BEGAN with cannon fire from all sides of the circular Union position. Then the first troops started forward. By noon, the unguarded Union hospital had fallen into Confederate hands and was retaken temporarily in a double-time charge by a Union company through heavy fire.

All that day and the next the siege continued, and the Union troops found themselves running short of water. In the hospital, dying soldiers drank the water with which their wounds had been washed; out on the fields, thirsting soldiers charged the Confederates not so much to drive them off as to capture their springs. Hoped-for reinforcements never came.

On the morning of the 20th, Price used a new weapon that broke the Yankees' spirit.

Dousing heavy bales of hemp with water so they would not catch fire, Price's men pushed them forward in a long, rolling breastworks, behind which hundreds of armed men advanced in relative safety. The federals hopelessly poured the last of their cartridges into the rolling bales and then gave up.

THE SURRENDER was unconditional, and Price released his 3,500 prisoners on parole, keeping only Mulligan (and his wife, who had watched the battle from the town) as prisoners. (Mulligan and his wife received gracious treatment, and he later was exchanged.)

The Union loss was 39 killed and 120 wounded; Price lost 25 killed and 72 wounded. And Price continued roaming western and southern Missouri unchecked.

THE VICTORY for the South was more than made up for that week in Kentucky, however. On the day of the first attack, the Kentucky legislature passed a resolution asking the federal government's help in expelling Confederates from the state and, when the state's Governor Beriah Magoffin vetoed it, the legislature over-ride the veto.

Next week: Jefferson Davis goes to the front.

Michigan's major public research effort for industry is centered at the Institute of Science and Technology at the University of Michigan. Wayne State University is conducting research into health, science, education, atomic energy and other subjects. At Michigan's other colleges and universities there are research projects which will bring beneficial results to industry and better living in the years ahead as we go forward to the new horizons.

Oh, Heck! *Might as Well* *Put on a Smile*

Kids will tell you it's no fun to settle down when summer's done, but teacher says there's books to read and lots of work to do, indeed. At Greenfield school, one can perceive, a certain tendency for kids to grieve—about the fact that they must sit and study readin' 'n' 'rithmetic. While some are glad and some are sad, they'll learn a lot and even add, that two and two make four. What's more—some will find that school can be, a place to ponder history, or subjects that will give their lives a richer meaning. And, they'll thrive as teachers work to help them know that school's the place where small minds grow. But still there's one thing to be said, a thought that's found in all small heads: "School is fun, but can't we play—and put off work another day?"

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Two Weeks in Africa 'Hard—But Worthwhile'

By JULIE CANDLER
Special Writer

A slim blond girl from Birmingham shoveled cement and carried rocks alongside her black-skinned co-workers in Kenya, East Africa this summer.

A dark, well-mannered youth who lives near her gouged sand from a mountainside and plastered cinder blocks in the independent West African nation of Guinea.

Neither received a cent of pay. The girl got chiggers and both got tired of the food.

Yet 21-year-old Jo Frederickson and 20-year-old George I. Squibb say they would give similar ventures "the solid sell" to other young Americans.

In vestiy different nations, the two gained similarly rich rewards for their volunteer efforts at hurrying the dawn over the Dark Continent.

JO VOLUNTEERED for African service through the World Council of Churches. The daughter of the W. Ogden Vogts of 515 Puritan, the Mt. Holyoke College senior went to the British colony of Kenya directly from Paris. She had spent her junior year there studying at L'Ecole de Science Politique.

The vivacious, blue-eyed political science enthusiast has known George Squibb since she attended Kingswood School while he was a Cranbrook student.

George, a junior studying mechanical engineering at Yale University, is the son of the George N. Squibbs of 1369 N. Glenhurst. Fun-loving, yet sincerely concerned about the African problem, he applied for service there through Operation Crossroads last fall.

Shortly before that he had heard Dr. James H. Robinson, former Harlem minister, tell Yale students about the "Crossroads" project for Africa which he now heads.

OPERATION Crossroads sent 18 groups of young Americans to 12 African countries this summer. Each group lived at a work camp. Its members joined with African volunteers to build schools, dispensaries and the other buildings needed to speed progress.

George and other "Crossroads" volunteers provide $900 of their approximately $2,300 in costs. Like the others, George was urged to raise his share of the costs by obtaining contributions in his community.

"People become more interested because they feel a personal involvement when they give financial assistance," George said.

Robinson believes his "Operation Crossroads" idea will spread as volunteers like George return and tell donors how their money helped.

GEORGE REPORTED back Tuesday to the women of Christ Church Cranbrook, whose members responded to his appeal for funds. Since his return Sept. 2, he has also reported to the United Church Women of Birmingham and the Women's Missionary Union of First Baptist Church.

Jo returned Sunday. She and George got together Monday at her home to discuss their experiences.

Jo told about hauling cement and rocks at a work camp. She was helping build a dam, along with 17 European and African volunteer members of the Christian Council of Kenya.

"It was the hardest two weeks I ever spent," said Jo, "and yet the most worthwhile."

SHE AND HER co-workers often sang in rhythm as they worked.

"You really felt a tremendous camp spirit of unity because you were giving something to these people who need help so desperately," said Jo.

At a second work camp, Jo said, she cooked and catered for 21 volunteer bridge builders, all of them African. For weeks, she was the only white person there and saw only dark faces around her.

"You get so that you don't notice skin color anymore," she said, "and you feel at one with the Africans in terms of the Negro problem that we have here."

GEORGE SHARED her opinion.

"After you have been there a while," he said, "white people look strange to you."

Both Jo and George made what they believe will be lasting friendships with young Africans.

Said George, "There was a tremendous satisfaction in getting really close to people with a fantastically different background and discovering a heck of a lot of commonness."

He found excitement in getting acquainted with young African intellectuals who are the avant garde of the newly independent nation. (Guinea is a defecting French colony which, George says, turned to the Eastern block for aid after it was refused by the United States).

FOR GEORGE, there was satisfaction in proving to his African acquaintances that not all Americans are racially biased, that many Americans are interested in helping them.

"Americans are so misunderstood," said George.

He, too, liked working with his hands. At George's work camp were 30 African volunteers and 14 Americans (six girls) from Operation Crossroads.

They used a pick to scrape sand off a mountainside a five-hour truck ride away. They returned with the sand, mixed cement and spread it on cinder blocks for a reception center.

"You feel close to a country," George said, "when you go out and start to lift bricks."

BOTH JO and George dream of returning to Africa to teach after graduation. But first, Jo wants to get a master's degree in African affairs.

George expects to be back in Africa next summer, this time through a program in which he would exchange vacation jobs with a South African college student.

Noting that Guinea's summers are cooler than Birmingham's, George said, "There's no better way to spend a summer than working in Africa. It's something I so much wish that more Americans would do."

Compare Notes

Jo Frederickson and George I. Squibb of Birmingham, who recently returned from two weeks summer work in Africa, get together to compare notes on their experiences. Miss Frederickson, 515 Puritan, a senior at Mt. Holyoke College, volunteered for work in the British Colony of Kenya in East Africa through the World Council of Churches. Squibb, 1369 N. Glenhurst, a junior at Yale University, served in the West African nation of Guinea through Operation Crossroads.

Michigan Facts

The University of Michigna is the oldest state university in the country . . . was first to admit coeds . . . first to admit qualified high school graduates without an entrance examination . . . established the nation's first university hospital and chemical laboratory . . . has the largest college owned football stadium in the U.S. (it seats 101,000) . . . established the first schools of dentistry, pharmacy, speech and forestry . . . operates the only major airport in the country that is not tax supported.

Among the major industrial states, Michigan has the highest birth rate and the lowest death medical science.

Michigan ranks seventh in the nation in milk production . . . and eighth in number of dairy cows!

Three of America's billion dollar industrial corporations and 16 of its 100-million dollar businesses are headquartered in Michigan.

In Michigan, the House of David, Christian Reform, Reformed and Mormon religions in America were founded.

Michigan leads all other states except two in the value of its manufactured products per worker!

WEEKLY VISIT

She Hears Voices—On the Job

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Staff Writer

A switchboard operator should be resourceful, intelligent, courteous. She should have a sense of humor, a memory for names and places, a pleasant voice and infinite patience.

But most of all she should have nerves as steady as the ringing of the telephone that sumons you or me from the bathtub.

Ingrid Soderberg, who answers the phone at The Birmingham Eccentric is eminently qualified.

Take, for instance, a series of recent calls that spanned a period of several weeks. At least once a day, usually more often, she picked up the phone to hear the voice of one or another of an endless chain of small boys.

"WE HAVE A FISH," they invariably told her, "it's real big and we caught it in Quarton Lake. Would you like to come out and take a picture?"

The day came when the boys took matters—and the fish—into their own hands and marched into The Eccentric lobby. Fortunately their prize had been quick frozen.

Now Ingrid brought into play her qualities of resourcefulness.

Wrinkling her nose, she dispatched the boys to the news department and the sports editor's desk.

The picture was taken but fast—before the fish began to thaw.

The pretty switchboard operator deals daily with calls that range from requests for cookie recipes to queries on "what to wear to Bermuda."

SHE HANDLES 55 extensions and nine trunks on the PBX board and flicks buttons with all the aplomb of a dispatcher at Cape Canaveral. Her reactions are equally quick and have brought many a citizen back to earth.

Like the man who called to ask what would happen to the Birmingham water supply if Detroit were hit with a hydrogen bomb and its citizens came out here to quench their thirst.

Ingrid tactfully reminded him that, if bombed, it was doubtful many Detroiters would be left to make the trip.

A lifelong resident of Pontiac, this 21-year-old girl's first job was a cashier at a theater in her home town where nothing more exciting than an occasional $100 bill crossed her path.

HER NEXT POSITION was at Sa. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, where she worked as a waitress in the coffee shop. On her first day, she recalls with some regret, she worked the early shift and filled in by cooking breakfast for the chaplain.

"First, I broke the yolks of the eggs. Then I burned the toast and then I bumped into him and spilled coffee over both of us. He left without anything to eat."

While on this job, she worked weekends at an area ski lodge.

In July, 1959, Ingrid came to The Eccentric as a general office worker and about a year later was switched to the PBX board.

Leone Shroyer, secretary to the circulation manager, is posted at a desk adjoining the switchboard.

SHE SAYS, "It's amazing how that girl can remember names and faces. When the telephone company representative came out to show her how to work the board, she expected to take three days to train Ingrid. It only took one."

Ingrid admits she pushed the wrong buttons quite a bit at first but says her worst mistake was "cutting Paul Averill off when he was talking long distance."

More recently, she confesses, she suffered a tongue-twisting mixup when she tried to explain to a caller that City Editor Les Langlois's line was busy.

"I'm sorry," she solemnly intoned, "but Los Linglois' lang is busy."

HER CHEERFUL VOICE reflects the personality of a girl who was secretary of her high school senior class, a member of many clubs and a cheerleader.

With her fiance, Pontiac resident Don Pember, she likes to explore the countryside, attend football and other spectator sports, swim and "window shop for houses."

At home she pitches in with household chores and helps her mother and sister with the cleaning, cooking and laundry. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, "mostly fiction."

She and Don met last summer while he was working during the summer at The Eccentric. They plan to be married after he has finished with his service stint.

MEANWHILE, SHE hopes to take some adult education courses at Wayne State University in news writing and current events and, of course, will continue at her job.

Doubling as receptionist, she will go on greeting callers like the woman from India dressed in native costume or the middle-aged lady who arrived recently, gowned in plaid skirt and checked blouse—and wearing dangling, eyecatching braids. Both the woman and her husband, who accompanied her, were barefoot.

Ingrid will also solace the visitor who attempts to walk through the glass wall in the lobby, will gracefully babysit for mothers who stop in with club publicity.

And she will steer the youngsters down the hall to the news department when they arrive with turtles, fish and pet squirrels.

Sometimes gentlemen (and ladies, too) should prefer bonds . . .

Because of the daily excitement that stocks create with fast-action quotation changes, bonds often go unnoticed. That is unfortunate, for there are attractive bond issues which would fit snugly into the portfolios of many gentlemen (and ladies, too).

There are, of course, many different types of bonds, some of which offer decided advantages for investors. For one thing, bonds usually provide a fixed, regular income. They normally are less subject to fluctuation than common stocks. And there are tax-exempt bonds which can be advantageous for those in higher income brackets.

We have complete information about the characteristics of the many bond issues available to investors, so why not stop in, and talk about bonds. You may find that you prefer them.

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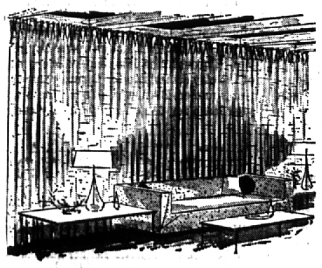

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