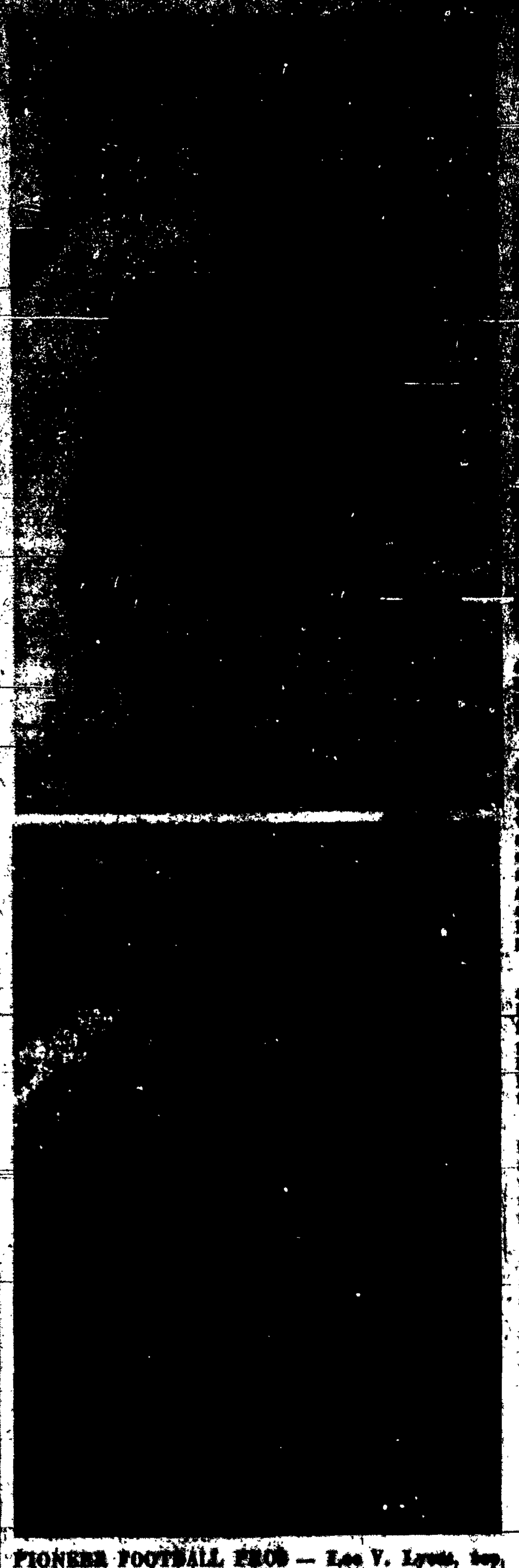
The Story of Pro-Football



PIONEER FOOTBALL PROS — Lee V. Lyons, top, historian for the National Football League, Rochester native and founder of the league and Henry McDonald of Geneva, both members of the Rochester Jeffersons, forerunner of the Bears, Giants and other National league teams of today. Lyons photo is from his playing days. McDonald's was taken but a few years ago and shows his excellent physique today. (Pro Football Picture Service).

...Lee V. Lyons who managed and coached and played and as the Rochester Jeffersons taking the name from a group of youngsters of Jefferson Ave. area who wanted to keep on playing football after leaving.

He kept the team afloat for a dozen or more seasons, losing in the process several large pots full of money, a hundred opportunities to better himself in business and very nearly losing his poor patient wife as well," the account says.

How Lee who always thought in major league terms sought reinforcements for his team by wire, telephone or train rides to the prospect is told in detail.

He tried to get Red Grange, "the Galloping Ghost" of Illinois but the great one was signed up. He did sign up the great Ben Lee Boynton of Williams College whose outstanding feat at the Bay Street Park in Rochester of sailing head-first over a would be tackler's head to land on his feet and run seventy yards for a touchdown is cited.

Elmer Oliphant of West Point was signed by Lyons for the Jeffs. Hunk Anderson of Notre Dame was in the lineup and Big Barry of Pennsylvania.

When Lee's playing days were over in 1916 he continued to promote with energy and resourcefulness at recruiting. There was no draft in the early days of pro-football, even after the league was formed. Lee signed Boynton right out ...

... Alumni Club at ... THE RECORDS of Lee's players ... Fritz Pollard ...

A member of the early Jeffersons ... Henry McDonald ... of Geneva ... is said to be the first Negro pro. He was an outstanding ... as well as one of the greatest in pro football history. (Henry is a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus in the Geneva assembly).

Henry first played football at Canandaigua Academy and East High School before joining the Jeffersons. An incident in which the great Jim Thorpe, then with the Canton Bulldogs, ... an altercation between a Southerner and McDonald by stepping between them and saying "Let's play football" is cited as eliminating the taint of Jim Crow from the budding league.

Every team eventually had Negroes on its roster the book said. "And because every Negro star had big tough white players on his own side too, the roughhouse did not develop along racial lines."

Other Rochesterians are cited in the 1911 Jeffersons' lineups. Lyons of course is in as a player. Billy McCarthy later to become Aquinas and Niagara basketball coach is listed from West High School. Edward F. Burke formerly with the City Police Department and Eastman Kodak appears as does Former City Fire Chief Jack Slattery. Photo was taken at Sheehan field, family home of City Court Judge James Sheehan.

In the other photo, showing the 1935 team, appear Harold (Butch) Clark of Cathedral High, now in the office at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery; Lee Lyons and outstanding college stars of the era. The team played in the Polo grounds, Green Bay, Detroit, Cleveland, Providence, Pottsville, Pa., Atlantic City and Washington, D. C.

Copies of the book Pro Football are obtainable at Sibley's, McCurdy's, Scrantom's and other leading book stores.

Channel 13 Elects New Station Head

Richard C. Alden, president and general manager of Stecher-Traung Lithograph Corporation, is the new chairman of the board of directors of Channel 13 of Rochester, Inc. Les Halperin, Rochester realtor, succeeds Alden as vice-president of the corporation, interim operators of WOKR (Channel 13), Rochester.

Our Town

... to come, as the will the spirited march of The Victors long be on the minds and the lips of all who ... or hear ...

... were High Noon and The Bridge on the River Kwai.

Just as movie fans whistled and hummed the themes from those great movies for weeks ...

... records have been ... in advance of the movie's opening due to the tremendous impact that the film will make and because the score contains so many songs.

Charming treatment is ... Miss Morgan ...

... piece of compelling music. It is a ... emotional wallop and contains two vocals.

Miss Morgan's record has the emphasis on her superb vocals with excellent support from the orchestra. Perhaps the choice between the two will depend on your preference for fine vocals or impressive instrumentation. But I am sure there will be many like myself who will want both of these splendid recordings from what is sure to be one of the most memorable pictures of all time.

Theater News

Marathon '33

By EUPHEMIA WYATT

MARATHON '33: The terrible part of it is that during the great depression of the '30's, couples entered a dance marathon because they were actually hungry or homeless and it meant food and a roof for weeks even if they were allowed only ten minutes sleep an hour which is four hours sleep in 24. June Havoc has staged her own experience with a marathon and called it a play but what it really represents is just another marathon in meticulous reproduction.

That it has tempted the talent of Julie Harris has given it an importance it doesn't warrant as drama. Of course Miss Harris plays the adolescent June supremely well but to permit one of our best actresses to consume so much time and physical effort in a panorama of pretty sordid realism is worse than our customary American extravagance especially as Miss Havoc has made no attempt to infuse any drama into her spectacle.

"Baby June" has just run away from the chronic infancy to which her Mother's vaudeville act had condemned her and was looking for a job as an entertainer when she wandered into the marathon. She was hungry and homeless, carrying all possessions in one brown paper bag and before she knew it, she was linked in partnership to the official comedian who was hired to brighten things up for the dancers and spectators.

Once she had started, she was not the girl to stop, even though it meant ... around the dance floor for days and weeks and months. One sees her with a mirror round her neck carrying a tray with soap and razors so her partner may shave as they keep moving. One sees him tie her wrists together with a towel and put her arms around his neck as he carries her on his back after poor June had been persuaded to paste quarters under her insteps to lame her.

Then one sees her frantically trying to pull him to his feet and stand him up after a rival had put sleeping pills in his cola and finally one sees her staggering to the finish with a new partner with only another half awake couple on the floor. But when she has won second prize and ... she finds $34 for four months of agonizing effort ... has gone for food and laundry etc for which she gets the vouchers.

At one point she had induced one couple and her partner to make a pact to enter no more marathons but at the end they all troop off to another in the next county. Only June is determined to be a legitimate actress. That's all the story. But Miss Harris ... lighted little song and dance which may send the musicals running after ... someone quickly writes her a play. Lee Allen, the ... comedian" was discovered by Miss Havoc at Grossingers and was brought down to the Actors Studio for some work with Lee Strasberg who supervised Miss Havoc's staging. No one can deny its realism.

NOBODY LOVES AN ALBATROSS: This excursion behind the scene in television makes it clear that it's best to stay in front of the screen. The protagonist is a TV writer, Nat Bentley, a rogue with more sense of humor than shame but his incorrigible audacity has its charm; his cook has countenanced his idiosyncrasies for 20 years; his little girl is his enthusiastic fan during her annual visit and the flourishing green bay tree of the sinner seems his symbol.

Bentley, played with full gusto by Robert Preston, has a highly profitable contract which he covers with slave labor, a wan young writer who writes all Bentley's scripts for a pittance in his off hours in the hope that some day he may be given credit. But a crisis develops when a new serial is suggested by Bentley's boss, a woman who is tough as concrete, sharp as a drill and destructive as a bulldozer.

A conference of top writers proves very entertaining for the audience with barrels of ideas. Bentley says he will write it himself, at which point his slave writer resigns and the best Bentley can achieve is a bit of bland plagiarism which he gambles on putting over until the new contract is signed. But his female producer is not that guileless. By Act II, Bentley's career seems decimated but before the final curtain he is deep in another hoax with another producer and a better contract.

The lines are bright, and action rapid, Robert Preston brimming over with vitality. The cast is all up to par with Carol Rossen in an attractive debut with such seasoned players as Constance Ford, Barnard ... Winters, Lee ... Phil Leeds making a ... memorable ... about a man who has invented a laugh machine. Roguery in this case has seemed to pay. All Nat Bentley has lost is his secretary.

Spanish Novel To Be Reviewed

"One Million Dead," Jose Maria Gironella's new novel on the Spanish Civil War, will open the winter series of the Noon-Day Book Review next Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 12:30 p.m. in the Catholic Evidence Library.

Mrs. Manfred ..., Spanish teacher at St. John Fisher College will handle the critique.

The book is a sequel to "The Cypresses Believe in God," Gironella's best-seller of a few years back.

Other titles and their reviewers in the winter series are:

Tuesday, Jan. 28: "Birth Control and Catholics," by Msgr. George A. Kelly. Reviewer: Rev. Gerald Dunn.

Tuesday, Feb. 11: "The Mind of the Catholic Layman," by Daniel Callahan. Reviewer: Herman Weis.

Tuesday, Feb. 25: "God in the Secular Campus," by George Butler. Reviewer: To be announced.

Tuesday, Mar. 10: "Christ, Sacrament of the Encounter with God," by Rev. Edward Schillebeeckx. Reviewer: Rev. Daniel Tormey.

The reviews, which last one half hour each, are open to the public, and are held in the main-floor library at 50 Chestnut St. The library is sponsored by the Monroe County Council of Catholic Women.

Girl Scout Swim Series

The C.Y.O. will offer the first series of swimming lessons for Brownies and Girl Scouts for the year 1964. There is available time for Brownies and Girl Scouts who wish to register. Futher information may be obtained by calling Mrs. Elisabeth Osborn at BA 5-2707.

The C.Y.O. will offer Red Cross lifesaving classes for both boys and girls. Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Boys and girls may register for these classes by calling Mrs. Elisabeth Osborn at BA 5-2707.

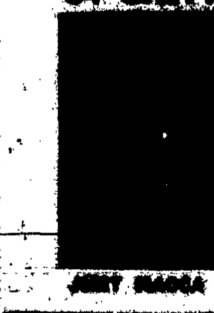
Miss Yartym Nuptials Held

Corning — The marriage of Miss Elizabeth J. Yartym, daughter of Mrs. Pearl Yartym of 8 Wicks Blvd., and the late Stanley E. Yartym and Attorney Myron E. Tillman, son of Mrs. Edgar Tillman of 214 E. High St., Painted Post, and the late Edgar Tillman, was solemnized at 3 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 26 in New York City.

The pastor, the Rev. Koronin performed the wedding ceremony at the Holy Family Altar in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sussek of Oradell, N. J., attended the couple.

'64 CHEVY



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If you will inform me about your donation, I will acknowledge it, no matter how small it may be, and will provide you with further details about our project. My address is:

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