

During WWII, many of the players of the National Football League were "caught in the draft" and somehow were assigned to play in Service Teams - Great Lakes being the most powerful, by far.

At a pep rally across the Red Cedar on a cold Friday night, Coach Bachman reluctantly opined that he could walk on water should the Spartans prevail over Great Lakes on Saturday afternoon.

Sunday morning, students gathered in front of Charlie's home on Albert St. to escort him to the Red Cedar where he attempted unsuccessfully to cross on foot, but he tried!

P.S. MSC won when our 140-1b tail back

"ran for his life".

AN AMBIGUOUS HOLIDAY

Although the pictorial record of the Miller Road Overpass at Ford received the most national coverage, the emergence of Labor Unions of Oldsmobile at Lansing MI had some interesting moments.

The start of civil insurrection occurred when, without prior notice, the local Labor Union Leaders decided to flex new-found political muscle by proclaiming an overnight "Labor Holiday" on the following week day. A walk-out by union members at Oldsmobile and Motor Wheel furnished the men and cars to blockade ALL major street intersections while small groups of men convinced downtown merchants to lock their doors in honor of this holiday. Unless within walking distance, salary attendance was nil at local factories and businesses.

Michigan's Governor Murphy had to deliver a speech from the State Capital steps to gain entry to his own office. (His nickname was Fragile Frank). By mid-morning, having shut down Lansing, the crowd decided to include E. Lansing in their festivities. At first, all the stores along Grand River closed, including the State College Book Store ¹ but news of this intrusion spread to Dem. Hall whereupon Sgt Atchison dismissed the ROTC classes. With student intervention, the stores reopened, while in Lansing a car cavalcade was being organized

Construction supplies from an incomplete Woman's Dorm near the Union Bldg. furnished 3' long concrete reinforcing metal rods which were available for any car that dared to stop. The car cavalcade went east to Okemos, then back to Lansing with college students lining Grand River Ave.

Obviously annoyed that a small town 1/10 the size of Lansing had refused their labor "Holiday", Lansing Labor Union Officials contacted their counterparts at Flint for assistance. Wildcat strikes closed both Chevrolet and Buick operations at noon.

With the possibility of an escalating incident, many of the Fraternities at MSC contacted their brothers at Ann Arbor for assistance.

Meanwhile, at the State Capital, officials realized that Fire Insurance became null and void for most buildings and dwellings in Lansing because Fire Equipment could not respond to fire alarms. Further confrontation did not develop because the Michigan State Police blockaded all westbound traffic at Brighton while other police units halted all westbound traffic at M78 at Durand.

In the following days, some boys sported union buttons at the Bailey Grade School and rumors persisted that many union men had to return to Lansing by wading the Red Cedar River.

This incident may have been caused because of an insult to a working secretary who was the wife of a Lansing Union leader.

¹ Years later, the Manager verified this information to the writer, then a clerk at the State College Book Store.

THUNK . . pause . . THUNK . pause

During the Spring and Fall Quarters at MSC before 1950, if the weather was balmy, canoes could be rented on the Red Cedar from the canoe racks near the future Band Shell. As you might expect, many couples took advantage of this facility for an upstream evening paddle.

Sometime called the River Rat Patrol or worse, the nightly Canoe Herder guided his motorized 1 HP canoe upstream armed only with a flashlight. After he turned around, he then "herded" his corralled canoes back to the canoe racks in time for the girls to make curfew without penalty.

Note: At low RPM, a 1 HP outboard motor has a very distinctive pause between detonations - - hence the title.

Handover Crossing

Before a pedestrian walkway across the Red Cedar River was available, the MSC Phys. Ed. Dept. devised a truly Spartan answer to this transportation problem.

During WWII, a 1" thick rope was anchored on each side of the Red Cedar about 7' above ground level. Located upstream of the duck colony, this catenary also had a deep bend in its middle quite near the rushing water. Instructions to the male gym class students were simple.

- * Face away from the water.
- * Grasp the rope in both hands.
- * Throw both legs over the rope.
- * Go hand-over-hand to the far side like a giant sloth on a jungle vine, only faster.
- * Don't fall off!

Being downhill, the first half was relatively easy, but the final traverse was all uphill with a prankster on shore swinging the rope back and forth.

P.S. Most students preferred the Abbott Rd. bridge.