

[December 16, 1952]
[By Herschel S. Stephan]

KIT-KAT THROUGH THE YEARS

Over a period of two hundred and fifty years, from the beginning of the eighteenth century and on two continents, there has been a Kit-Kat Club. At about the turn of the century, or close to 1700, it originated in London, with a distinguished personnel of literary men, men in public life, and members of the nobility.

In Spence's "Anecdotes", as quoted by Leigh Hunt, something of this trans-Atlantic version of our own club, is told. It met in Shire Lane, one of the off-sheets from Fleet Street, and the master of the house where the club met was Christopher Katt. He excelled in making mutton pies and on account of their excellence they were dubbed Kit-Kats. The club consisted of (quote) "39 distinguished noblemen and gentlemen, zealously attached to the Protestant succession of the House of Hanover." (unquote) And they were content with the winter meetings in town, but had summer sessions at a tavern, the Upper Flask, on Hampstead Heath.

Lord Mohun, who caused some consternation at one meeting by breaking off the gilded emblem on the top of his chair, the Duke of Marlborough, Lord Stanhope, the Earl of Essex and the Earl of Berwick were members and so was Sir Robert Walpole, whose distinguished son, Hugh, was born less than a decade after the club broke up in 1709. The literary lights of the group included Steele, Addison and Congreve. One Mainwaring, whom I have not been able to identify, could not write much, but he was said to be "the ruling man in all conversations."

In an Edinburgh professor's sketch on Joseph Addison, in the Brittanica, it is said that 1704 marked the beginning of his public life in taxation positions, as an undersecretary of state and as a

rather silent member of parliament. He was on the Continent for a while and had met many diplomats and men of rank. "On his return," says the author of the Brittanica article, Professor Spalding, "he was enrolled in the Kit-Kat Club, and brought thus, and otherwise, into communication with the gentry of the Whig party." (end quote) Doubtless the conversations of the Kit-Kat Club flavored much of the Tatler and Spectator papers which Addison and Steele wrote within the next decade.

We have our own humble photograph album, but Sir Godfrey Kneller painted pictures of the original Kit-Katters, a uniform three-quarters length, which gave rise in artist circles to the designation of this type of portraits as "Kit-Kat pictures."

The Club met in other and higher places than Christopher Katt's place on Shire Lane, but, as Leigh Hunt points out, the place matters not. "The refinement," he says, "consists in the company, and in whatever they choose to throw a grace over, whether venison or beef. The great thing is not the bill of fare, but, as Swift calls it, 'the bill of company.' "

Almost two centuries later there was employed as a packer for the Central Ohio Paper Company a man named Delta C. Sapp. He had no ambition to be rich. His earnings were for food, shelter, clothing, and, most of all, books. He did his work well but his greatest joy was his reading of 18th century literature and the collecting of first or early editions of authors of that period. His knowledge of such men as Addison, Swift, Steele, Johnson and others was so thorough that he could write of them with rare intimacy and seemed to imitate their style.

I sometimes wonder if, back in 1898 when he started a small 16 page monthly known as (quote) "The Honey Jar; a Receptacle for

Preserves" ^{Sapp} he had any idea of eventually organizing a group later to be known as The Kit-Kat Club.

Major Harry P. Ward, a member of Champlin Press, took his printing seriously, particularly the art of printing. Because of this, his friendship for Sapp, and his thorough interest in Sapp's writings, he edited this monthly regularly, sometimes at a great cost to his firm.

The magazine continued under the original name until 1905 when Mr. Sapp attempted to carry on alone. He was about to give it up when Osman Hooper, later to be Kit-Kat's first president, Alfred H. Leaman, and Mary Louise Clark, an outstanding literary woman of that day, came to his rescue and carried on its publication through Lea-Mar Press until 1911, when it finally was discontinued. Charles C. Pavey, an attorney and regular reader and oftentimes contributor, insisted on its continuance or at least the publishing of a magazine similar. But since they could not continue under the name "The Honey Jar," how should it be described or named? In one of the last issues of "The Honey Jar", Judge Tod Galloway had contributed an article "A Night at the Kit Kat Club," meaning, of course, the old Kit Kat Club of London. Recalling this, Mr. Hooper suggested the adoption of "The Kit Kat Magazine," whereupon, Mr. Pavey immediately called together a number of men to underwrite the new venture. The meeting was held at the old Ohio Club atop the present 8 East Long Street. The date was October 11, 1911.

The men who were present at that first meeting were James Boyle, who had been secretary to Governor McKinley and consul to Liverpool; Herbert Brooks, a very likeable banker, whose grandson, David Westwater, is a member of our present group; Colonel W. L. Curry, much honored in his day; Joseph V. Denney and William L.

Graves, both distinguished professors of English literature at Ohio State University and very lively and enduring contributors to the club; Osman C. Hooper, first president of the club and secretary for many years, editorial writer and literary critic for the Columbus Dispatch, and, we are told, almost the ideal Kit-Katter; Ivor Hughes, a gifted lawyer; George W. Knight, professor of American history at Ohio State; Joseph S. Kornfeld, rabbi of Bryden Road Temple, and later Ambassador to Persia; A. W. McKenzie, British-born banker and patron of the arts; George H. McKnight, professor of English at Ohio State; Charles C. Pavey, lawyer, litterateur and partner of Ivor Hughes; Dr. William King Rogers, notable physician, at whose home the early club met many times; Delta C. Sapp, who was one of the enthusiastic and gifted early members of the club and frequent contributor to the magazine; Walter J. Sears, printer; his partner, Warner P. Simpson, who became a noted figure in the community; Christopher E. Sherman, professor of engineering and in a literary way one of the most versatile men--older men assure me--in the club's entire history; and Maurice S. Hague, majestic white-haired gentleman and gifted landscape painter, whose epicurean tastes made him, for many years, the Club's invaluable Christopher Katt.

At this first meeting, not all assembled were in favor of the magazine project. However, they were of one voice that a club should be formed and, if financially possible, support should be given the magazine. A committee composed of Mr. Hooper, Boyle, Denny, Pavey, Kornfeld and Dr. Rogers was appointed to formulate plans and report to a meeting one week later. Simplicity and informality were particularly desired so the committee did not

offer a constitution or set of by-laws, but suggested that traditions be the back-bone of the organization. They did suggest the name Kit Kat Club, and that the membership be, as in London Kit-Kat, ~~be~~ limited to 39, unless otherwise desired by the Club membership. The object of the Club was to be "the promotion of social intercourse among congenial men who are interested in literature, art, and other matters of ^{BROAD} ~~board~~ human concern."

According to Hooper's history "The Kit Kat Club", "It was tacitly agreed that question of politics and religion should not be discussed." As you know, both have found their place on our program many times. The publication of the magazine was to be of secondary concern, subject to the decision of the members. The cost of the magazine which first appeared in January of 1912, was underwritten by the Club. After two years, club sponsorship came to an end, and the magazine then was edited and published by a few members and their friends. Its final issue was in October of 1919.

Osman C. Hooper was first president of Kit Kat, followed by Charles C. Pavey who probably, more than any other, kept the magazine alive. James Boyle, secretary to Governor William McKinley, was the first secretary of Kit Kat. The following year he was succeeded by Osman C. Hooper who continued to serve in that capacity a period of 27 years until 1939 when ill-health caused his retirement as an active member. He was succeeded by our own good and faithful Jay Crane. Alexander Mackenzie, Banker, was our first treasurer and served until 1920 when he moved from the city. His successor was Herbert Brooks, the grandfather of our present member, Dave Westwater, who served until his death in 1925. It is said of him, "If payment of dues was inconvenient when he called, he was prone

to advance the amount so his books might be straight." Being a banker, he knew how to collect loans.

Maurice Hague, known to even recent members of Kit Kat, was named Christopher Kat, a position he held until the end of a beautiful and fruitful life in 1943 at the age of 80 years. Of "Mauri", as he was known to his intimate friends, it can be said, he never served mutton pies, nor did he even have anything stronger than coffee on his menu. For many years, he resisted the idea of ice cream for dessert, saying that it shocked an already well-filled stomach and slowed up digestion. If a member or guest had anything intoxicating, he got it at the bar. Mr. Hooper in his book, "The Kit Kat Club; Its Origin and Early History" said: The only evidences of intoxication that I have ever seen at our meetings were in the conduct of a guest speaker at one of our open meetings, and on another occasion, in the drowsiness and audible breathing of a guest during the reading of an important paper. Our own members have always been able to pass the severest test of a prohibition officer."

Another tradition of Kit Kat is the open meeting closing each year's program when wives and friends of members join to hear an imported speaker.

It was 1914 that the first of the annual open meetings was given at the then popular Hartman Hotel, now a state office building, and the speaker was the late great Dr. George W. Crile, founder of the Cleveland Clinic and ^{ONE} of the great clinicians of his era. You will find a list of these in your annual members' programs under the heading of guest speakers. The second was George B. Harvey, writer and prominent public figure of his day; another was Dr. Talcott Williams, one of the early directors of

the school of journalism at Columbia University. Dr. Charles L. Williams, professor of English at Denison University years ago, gave the Club a fine paper on the life and writings of Charles Lamb. Edwin Markham, author of "The Man with a Hoe" and other notable poems, was one speaker, no doubt arranged by his friend, Claude Meeker.

Among the celebrities heard, sometimes in speeches that Kit-Kat members felt that their own members could have improved upon, were physicists, historians, diplomats, astronomers, linguists, religionists, political scientists, journalists, drama and music critics, botanists, artists and art critics, novelists, poets, and surveyors of modern business.

Some of the more notable addresses--veteran members of the club tell me--were given by Dr. Archibald Henderson, official biographer of Bernard Shaw, who spoke brilliantly on the great British dramatist; Dr. Sigmund Spaeth, the noted "tune detective," who spoke on various phases of music; the late Sir Wilmott Lewis, for many years Washington correspondent of the London Times, an ambassador without portfolio, who discussed Anglo-American relations; Louis Bromfield, the novelist and publicist, who spoke authoritatively and entertainingly on international affairs; and Dr. J. Lewis Morrill, a former Kit-Kat member, who came back from the University of Minnesota to the memorable meeting at the Lancaster Country Club to speak on the life, vicissitudes, and problems--serious and humorous--of a college president. Philip Rhys Adams, another former Kit-Kat active member, came back from Cincinnati to give a vivid illustrated address on his experiences and his acquisitions as director of the Cincinnati Art Museum.

The shortest address ever made at an annual meeting was delivered by the Ambassador to the United States from the Argentine Republic, Honorio Puerredon, in the middle 1920's. The longest is not recorded in the club minutes, and the most bore-some would be variously designated by the literary members who look somewhat askance at science, or by the scientists who are especially interested in their own particular microcosms. It seems to be the general sentiment of members that one paper out of each year of member contributors could be safely entered in a quality contest against the visiting troubadours.

And so has gone Kit-Kat through the years.

It is one of the oldest clubs of its kind in Columbus and one of the most--in the best sense of the word--venerable.

There may have been some lively arguments on policies in its earlier days, but meetings of the general membership once a year; sessions of the executive committee, and operations of the membership committee have been marked by a judicial calm for many and many a year.

The reason for this may not be far to seek: the fact that a member has a great love and respect for his club and for its constituent members. No one seeks preferment and no one expects recompense. Every one who is given an office is surprised--I know I was--and delighted, just as he was pleased when notified of his election to membership.

And so, in peace and war; through Democratic and Republican administration; in and out of depressions, with the respectable but never large bank balance at the end of the year; in one host hotel and various clubs; from one Christopher Katt to another, Kit-Kat goes on, enjoying each other's research, professions,

From those upon Life's higher rungs
And those on rungs below
Come wishes like a benison,
The choicest man may know,

And what shall I to them return
For all they've said and done?
There's nothing better than the prayer.
"God bless us everyone!"

December 16, 1952

YOU COULD EASILY OPEN THIS PAPER BY MERELY SAYING THE ORIGINAL KIT KAT CLUB WAS ORGANIZED IN THE LATE 17TH CENTURY AND WAS ACTIVE UNTIL ABOUT 1720. IT IS MY OPINION, SINCE THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL CLUB AND OURS EXISTS, WE SHOULD SPEND A FEW MINUTES REFRESHING OUR MEMORIES ABOUT THE ORIGINAL KIT KAT CLUB OF LONDON.

IT WAS THE MOST FAMOUS OF THE MANY CLUBS WHICH GREW UP IN THE LATER 17TH AND EARLY 18TH CENTURIES, WHERE GENTLEMEN WOULD MEET IN THE EVENING TO DISCUSS POLITICS, LITERATURE, OR THE LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS, WITH FRIENDS OF SIMILAR INTERESTS AND POLITICAL VIEWS. JACOB TONSON, A FAMOUS PUBLISHER IN THE LAST YEARS OF THE REIGN OF WILLIAM III, PLAYED A LEADING PART IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE KIT KAT CLUB, OF WHICH HE LATER BECAME SECRETARY. THE CLUB INCLUDED MANY OF THE LEADING WHIGS OF THE DAY; STEELE, ADDISON, WALPOLE, STANHOPE AND OTHERS WHO WERE TO BECOME THE LEADERS OF 18TH CENTURY ENGLAND. THE MEMBERS MET AT FIRST AT A TAVERN, OFF FLEET STREET, KEPT BY A MR. CHRISTOPHER CAT. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, THE TAVERN WAS FAMOUS FOR ITS MUTTON PIES, KNOWN AS "KIT CATS", AND FROM THESE THE CLUB TOOK ITS NAME. INCIDENTALLY CATS WAS SPELLED WITH A "C". IN TRUE TRADITION, EVEN TODAY, OUR GOOD CHRISTOPHER KAT GENE REA OCCASIONALLY OPENS OUR YEAR WITH MUTTON PIE. EVEN THOUGH I PERSONALLY DO NOT CARE FOR MUTTON PIE, I STILL RESPECT HIS GREAT LOVE FOR THAT TRADITION.

TONSON, THE FIRST SECRETARY OF KIT KAT BOUGHT A HOUSE AT "BARN ELMS", WHERE HE SET ASIDE A SPECIAL ROOM FOR THE KIT KAT MEETINGS. A NUMBER OF GLASSES WERE INSCRIBED WITH THE NAMES OF THE LADIES WHO WERE FAVORITE TOASTS OF THE CLUB, WITH VERSES COMPOSED BY MEMBERS IN THEIR

HONOR. THIS IS ONE OF THE TRADITIONS WHICH WAS NOT CARRIED DOWN TO OUR CLUB, I'M HAPPY TO SAY. THE CLUB MET EVERY WEEK, IF NOT AT TONSON'S BARN ELMS, THEN IN A LONDON TAVERN OR, OCCASIONALLY, IN THE SUMMER MONTHS, AT FLASK INN AT HAMPSTEAD. AFTER THE ACCESSION OF GEORGE III, THE MEETINGS BECAME LESS FREQUENT AND CEASED ALTOGETHER IN 1720. AS A POST MORTEM, VANBRUGH, ARCHITECT, DRAMATIST AND MEMBER OF THE CLUB, WAS WRITING TO TONSON ABOUT THE CLUB AND ITS SUPPERS AS A MEMORY, AND EXPRESSING HIS WISH AND THAT OF OTHER FORMER KIT KAT'S TO HAVE ONE MEETING THAT WINTER, QUOTE "NOT AS A CLUB BUT AS OLD FRIENDS THAT HAVE BEEN A CLUB, AND THE BEST CLUB THAT EVER WAS." ITS FEW YEARS OF EXISTENCE APPARENTLY STOOD OUT AS A BRILLIANT STAR IN THEIR ACTIVE LIVES.

ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS LATER, 1898 TO BE EXACT, DELTA C. SAPP, A PACKER FROM THE CENTRAL OHIO PAPER COMPANY, STARTED QUOTE "HONEY JAR A RECEPTACLE FOR LITERARY PRESERVES". IT WAS A 16 PAGE MONTHLY, CONTAINING LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOME LOCAL WRITERS, AND EXTRACTS FROM SOME OF SAPP'S FAVORITE AUTHORS AND HIS OWN IMITATIVE PEN. BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR THE WRITING OF STEELE, ADDISON, JOHNSON AND OTHERS WHOM HE READ TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THEY SAY HIS STYLE SIMULATED THEM. THE "HONEY JAR" CONTINUED, NOT SUCCESSFULLY FINANCIALLY UNTIL 1905 WHEN ALFRED LEAMAN OF LEA-MAR PRESS AND OSMOND C. HOOPER, LATER TO BECOME THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE LOCAL KIT KAT CLUB, CAME TO HIS RESCUE AND CONTINUED THE PUBLISHING UNTIL 1911. ONE OF THE LAST ARTICLES TO APPEAR WAS "A NIGHT AT THE KIT KAT CLUB," MEANING OF COURSE THE OLD KIT KAT CLUB OF LONDON. RECALLING THIS, HOOPER SUGGESTED THAT THE NEW PUBLICATION

BE CALLED THE KIT KAT MAGAZINE.

CHARLES C. PAVEY, WHOM SURELY SOME OF YOU KNEW AND MANY OF YOU RECALL BY REPUTATION, CALLED TOGETHER A GROUP OF 19 INTERESTED MEN TO FINANCE THE PROJECT. THE DATE--OCTOBER, 1911; PLACE, OHIO CLUB ATOP THE ATLAS BUILDING, LONG AND HIGH STREETS. 6 O.S.U. PROFESSORS, 4 NEWSPAPERMEN AND AUTHORS, 2 BANKERS, 2 LAWYERS, 1 ARTIST, 1 CLERGYMAN, 1 PHYSICIAN MADE UP THE GROUP.

A COMMITTEE, WHICH I THINK SHOULD BE NAMED HERE, JAMES BOYLE (SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR MCKINLEY), JOSEPH V. DENNY, (HEAD OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT O.S.U), OSMAN C. HOOPER (DEAN OF JOURNALISM AT O.S.U.), JOSEPH S. KORNFELD (RABBI), CHARLES C. PAVEY (ATTORNEY), AND DR. WILLIAM KING RODGERS MET AT DR. RODGERS'S HOME ON EAST TOWN STREET. THIS RESIDENCE IS STILL STANDING, I AM TOLD, AND IS LOCATED JUST EAST OF THE TOWNLEY COURT APARTMENTS. THE RESULT OF THIS MEETING WAS THE ORGANIZATION OF A CLUB TO BE KNOWN AS KIT KAT CLUB, SO NAMED AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF MR. HOOPER, FOLLOWING THE "HONEY JAR" ARTICLE BY MR. PAVEY ABOUT THE KIT KAT CLUB OF LONDON. SIMPLICITY AND INFORMALITY WERE DESIRED, SO, INSTEAD OF A CONSTITUTION, THE COMMITTEE PROPOSED A PLAN OF ORGANIZATION TO WHICH WERE ADDED, NOT BY-LAWS, BUT TRADITIONS. THE PURPOSE OF THE CLUB TO BE, QUOTE "THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INTERCOURSE AMONG CONGENIAL MEN WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ART, LITERATURE, AND OTHER MATTERS OF HUMAN CONCERN." I SUPPOSE IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS LAST CATEGORY (HUMAN CONCERN) THAT FORMER PREXY, CLARIS ADAMS, CAME UP WITH HIS DESCRIPTION OF THOSE IN BUSINESS, ETC. AS BEING QUOTE "LOWBROWS." CLARIS

WOULD CLASSIFY THE LOWBROWS AS, IN ADDITION TO HIMSELF, LOWRY SWENEY, DAVE WESTWATER, DON WEAVER, GEORGE SMALLSREED, GEORGE ROUDEBUSH, GENE REA, HARRISON SAYRE, AND YOUR SPEAKER. NOT SO LOWBROW AFTER ALL. JUST GOOD BALANCE, I WOULD SAY!!

THE CONTINUATION OF THE KIT KAT MAGAZINE WAS TO BE OF SECONDARY CONCERN; HOWEVER, IT CONTINUED TO BE PUBLISHED UNTIL 1920. TO HERBERT BROOKS, GRANDFATHER OF OUR OWN DAVE WESTWATER, GOES MOST OF THE SUCCESS OF SUSTAINING THE MAGAZINE BECAUSE OF HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS IN RAISING THE MONEY. FROM WHAT I HAVE READ OF HIM, I AM OF THE OPINION THAT MANY TIMES MUCH OF HIS OWN MONEY WENT INTO THE VENTURE.

THE EARLY MEETINGS OF KIT KAT WERE HELD IN THE HOMES OF MEMBERS. IN 1914 IT WAS AGREED THAT MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD AT THE CHITTENDEN HOTEL, WHERE THEY CONVENED REGULARLY UNTIL 1928. FROM 1928 THROUGH SPRING OF 1938, MEETINGS WERE HELD AT THE ATHLETIC CLUB. SINCE SEPTEMBER OF 1938 WE HAVE BEEN HERE AT THE COLUMBUS CLUB.

OF THE NINETEEN ORIGINAL MEMBERS, I AM SURE MANY OF US REMEMBER A FEW, AND A CHOSEN FEW REMEMBER MANY, IF NOT ALL. THEY WERE:

WALTER J. SEARS

CHARLES E. PAVEY

DR. WILLIAM KING RODGERS

HERBERT BROOKS

COLONEL W. L. CURRY

IVOR HUGHES

DELTA C. SAPP

ALEXANDER W. MCKENZIE

JAMES ROYLE

WARNER P. SIMPSON

E. O. RANDALL

DR. GEORGE W. KNIGHT

DR. JOSEPH KORNFELD

PROF. H. F. HARRINGTON

PROF. C. E. SHERMAN

DR. J. V. DENNY

MAURICE S. HAGUE

OSMAN C. HOOPER

I'M SURE OUR GOOD FRIENDS, ED THOMAS AND DR. LEROY JOHNSON REMEMBER DR. DENNY, PROFESSOR SHERMAN, BILLY GRAVES, "MAURI" HAGUE AND OSMAN HOOPER, AS THEY WERE STILL ACTIVE AT THE TIME OF THEIR ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP. THERE WERE MANY OF YOU IN THE CLUB WHEN THE LAST OF OUR CHARTER MEMBERS, MAURICE HAGUE AND BILLY GRAVES PASSED IN FEBRUARY AND AUGUST OF 1943. THE LAST PAPER BY PROFESSOR GRAVES WAS "CLOUDS OVER SHROPSHIRE", READ IN 1941. PROFESSOR SHERMAN'S LAST PAPER, "IN DEFENSE OF BOSWELL", WAS PRESENTED IN 1936. OSMAN HOOPER READ "SAMUEL SEWALL, PURITAN DIARIST AND SEER" IN NOVEMBER, 1934. DR. DENNY, WHO PASSED IN 1935, READ "THE NEW BIOGRAPHY" FOR HIS LAST APPEARANCE BEFORE THE CLUB. MAURI HAGUE'S LAST PAPER, "SOME PROBLEMS IN ART" WAS GIVEN IN OCTOBER, 1933.

OUR GOOD OLD STANDBY AND SENIOR MEMBER, ED THOMAS, SURELY CAN REMEMBER HIS FIRST PAPER IN OCTOBER, 1928, "THE MYSTERY OF BIRD MIGRATION". THAT ONE INTRIGUES ME. I AM SURE I COULD ENJOY A NEW EDITION OF THIS SUBJECT. DR. LEROY JOHNSON CAN REMEMBER, I'M SURE, HIS MAIDEN PRESENTATION IN DECEMBER OF 1931. HE MUST HAVE HAD AS KEEN AN INTEREST IN ART THEN AS HE HAS NOW, FOR THE TITLE OF HIS PAPER WAS "CURRENT TENDENCIES IN ART".

ALMOST 25 YEARS AGO, MARCH 1935, OUR GOOD FRIEND AND EFFICIENT SECRETARY, JAY CRANE, TOOK HIS BAPTISM BY PRESENTING "THE CHEMIST KEEPS INFORMED". SENATOR BRICKER ALSO GAVE HIS FIRST PAPER, "THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW", IN DECEMBER OF 1934. DID YOU KNOW SENATOR BRICKER GAVE THE PAPER AT THE OPEN MEETING FOR WIVES AND GUESTS IN 1939.

CONGRESSMAN JOHN VORYS, ALSO OF THE CLASS OF '34, CAME THROUGH THE FOLLOWING YEAR WITH HIS FIRST PAPER. "AS A MATTER OF FACT" WAS HIS SUBJECT.

WHO ELSE, BUT THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF OHIO'S HIGHEST COURT, WAS ELECTED IN 1935. JUDGE WEYGANDT'S PAPER GIVEN THE FOLLOWING YEAR WAS "GOVERNMENT--UNCONSCIOUS". AT TIMES, EVEN NOW, IT SEEMS TO ME THIS IS TRUE. MAYBE THE CHIEF JUSTICE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE US A PAPER SOON USING THE SAME SUBJECT.

IT WOULD SEEM OUR GOOD FRIEND "DESCH" (CLASS 37) WAS IN LINE FOR ELECTION TO THIS FINE CLUB, AND SO HE PROBABLY STARTLED THE MEMBERSHIP WITH HIS FIRST. IN CASE YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT, THE SUBJECT WAS "THE CULT OF THE IRRATIONAL". PHILOSOPHICAL? WELL, ASK "DOESCH".

IN THE SAME YEAR THE CLUB BROUGHT IN, WHAT CLARIS ADAMS LATER CALLED A LOWBROW, ONE OF THE BOYS DOWN TOWN, GEORGE ROUDEBUCH, WHO OF ALL THINGS TOLD US QUOTE "WHAT IS RIGHT WITH THE SCHOOLS"; NOT WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THEM. A GOOD PAPER, I'LL BET.

IN 1939, ANOTHER LOWBROW FROM DOWN TOWN PUT FORTH WITH HIS FIRST. HARRISON SAYRE GAVE THOSE ASSEMBLED, QUOTE "BLACK MAGIC OF WORDS" WHICH, I DARE SAY, HAS MADE HAL'S EARLY RETIREMENT A PLEASANT ONE. WAS YOUR COMPANY THEN KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN EDUCATION PRESS?

YES, THESE MEN WERE PARTICULARLY SINGLED OUT BECAUSE THE YOUNGEST OF THEM HAS BEEN IN THE CLUB SINCE 1939. TWENTY YEARS AT LEAST, WITH TRUE KIT-KATTER AND PAST PRESIDENT (1939-1940), ED THOMAS NOW OUR SENIOR MEMBER.

LONG MAY HE ENJOY THE CLUB; FOR AS LONG AS HE, OR EVEN WE, CAN ENJOY THE CLUB AND WHAT IT STANDS FOR, SO WILL WE CONTINUE TO GROW AND ENJOY LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY.

SHORTLY AFTER "CHERRY" DIED, HARRIET, HIS WIFE, GAVE ME WHAT KIT KAT MATERIAL HE HAD FILED AWAY. SURELY, WE ALL AGREE CHERRY WAS A TRUE KIT-KATTER IN EVERY SENSE, SO I DON'T HESITATE TO GIVE YOU SOME OF WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE YEARS OF HIS ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP. HE SAYS, AND I QUOTE FROM HIS OWN NOTES "AMONG MOST NOTABLE PAPERS":

DR. DENNY "SHAKESPEARE AS A BUSINESS MAN"
DR. RIGHTMIRE "THE BRITISH EMPIRE"
DR. SHELLABARGER GIVING A PREVIEW OF HIS NOVEL "THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE"

ALMOST ANY ONE OF BILLY GRAVES OR HARLAN HATCHER'S ONE OR TWO BY CHRIS SHERMAN, ONE OF THE TRULY IDEAL KIT-KATTERS LEROY JOHNSON ON THE HISTORY OF THE THEATER "NOTES ON A FABULOUS INVALID"

GENE REA'S HUMOROUS AND RICHLY DESERVED EXCURSION INTO "THE ANATOMY OF BOOKSELLING"

THE GREAT TRADITION OF THE RYAN-RANDALL-HOOPER ERA AT THE CHITTENDEN (1914-1928)

LANDON BELL AND HIS INTRODUCTION OF ARCHIBALD HENDERSON. AT THE ATHLETIC CLUB--DR CROTTI--PAPER ON CANCER (1931)-- MORE THAN 25 GUESTS--USED MAIN DINING ROOM ON SECOND FLOOR. GEORGE SPAHR--THE ONLY "LISTENING MEMBER"

SHORTEST ANNUAL SPEAKER--AMBASSADOR HONORIA PUERRYDAUN MERELY GREETINGS FROM HIS COUNTRY--LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES.

INCIDENTALLY YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING "CHERRY" WAS ELECTED TO THE CLUB IN 1922. HE IMMEDIATELY BECAME A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN 1923. HE SERVED UNINTERRUPTEDLY THROUGH 1937, WHEN HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT. MAURICE HAGUE DID EVEN BETTER. RECORDS INDICATE HE SERVE IN SUCH A CAPACITY FROM 1915 TO 1943 WHEN HE PASSED ON. HE WAS PRESIDENT IN 1924.

OSMAN HOOPER SERVED AS SECRETARY FROM 1911 UNTIL HIS DEATH, SOME 27 YEARS. JAY CRANE ACTED AS SECRETARY DURING MR. HOOPER'S LAST ILLNESS. JAY WAS ELECTED SECRETARY IN 1938 SO YOU SEE HE, LIKE SOME OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE CLUB, HAS SERVED US LONG AND WELL.

IN READING MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES, ALL SO BEAUTIFULLY CATALOGUED BY JAY, I THOUGHT ONE OR TWO PARTICULARLY INTERESTING, AND, WITH YOUR INDULGENCE, I WOULD LIKE TO READ THEM TO YOU. REMEMBER, THE CLUB WAS MEETING AT THE CHITTENDEN HOTEL AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE KIT KAT CLUB.

OCTOBER 5, 1926

THE KIT KAT CLUB MET IN ANNUAL BUSINESS SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:- MESSRS. BEAN, BELL, CHERRINGTON, DENNEY, FRENCH, GRAVES, GRIEVES, HAGUE, HOPKINS, HOOPER, HUGHES, JOHNSON, KNIGHT, ORR, POMERENE, SATER, H. G. SIMPSON, SOWERS, SPAHR, STARK, WILLIAMS, WILSON - 22.

THE TERMS OF MR. HAGUE AND MR. BELL AS MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAVING EXPIRED, THE CLUB VOTED TO REELECT THEM AS FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

MR. STARK, THE TREASURER, REPORTED TOTAL RECEIPTS

FOR THE YEAR INCLUDING BALANCE FROM LAST YEAR \$1783.53;
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR \$1247.27; AMOUNT ON HAND \$536.26.
A COMPLETE REPORT PRESENTED BY THE TREASURER WAS ACCEPTED,
APPROVED AND ORDERED FILED.

THE SECRETARY REPORTED THE RESIGNATION OF DR. W. E.
HENDERSON FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLUB. ACCEPTANCE OF
THE RESIGNATION WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED WITH REGRET.

A COMMUNICATION FROM MRS. RYAN WITH REGARD TO THE
TRIBUTES TO HER LATE HUSBAND, DANIEL J. RYAN, WAS READ
BY THE SECRETARY, AND, ON MOTION, THE CLUB VOTED UNANI-
MOUSLY TO HAVE THE TRIBUTES WHICH WERE MADE AT THE MEMORIAL
SERVICES, GATHERED AND PUBLISHED IN BROCHURE FORM. THE
SIZE OF THE EDITION WAS LEFT TO THE DETERMINATION OF THE
SECRETARY AFTER HE HAD COMMUNICATED WITH MRS. RYAN TO
LEARN HER PERSONAL DESIRE FOR COPIES. IT WAS FURTHER
DIRECTED THAT THE BROCHURE SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A
BROCHURE CONTAINING THE TRIBUTES TO MR. RANDALL.

THE SECRETARY REPORTED THE DEATH OF COLONEL H. P.
WARD, A MEMBER OF THIS CLUB UNTIL HIS REMOVAL FROM THE CITY,
AND THE SECRETARY WAS DIRECTED TO EXTEND TO HIS WIDOW THE
SYMPATHY OF THE CLUB IN HER BEREAVEMENT.

MR. BELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE,
REPORTED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD MADE A TENTATIVE LIST OF
CANDIDATES FOR THE FOUR VACANCIES IN THE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP,
AND INVITED SUGGESTIONS OF OTHER MEN FROM THE MEMBERSHIP
OF THE CLUB. THOSE WHO WERE MENTIONED WERE:--DR. GEORGE F.
ARPS, DR. ROYAL D. HUGHES, DR. GEORGE W. RIGHTMIRE, JUDGE
BENSON W. HOUGH, MR. HOWARD DWIGHT SMITH, MR. JOHN M.
VORYS, MR. CLARENCE SULLIVAN. THE COMMITTEE ALSO REPORTED

ITS CONCERN THAT MEMBERS OF THE CLUB HAD BEEN ABSENT SO FREQUENTLY FROM THE MEETINGS.

DR. WILSON MOVED THAT A NEW TRADITION BE FORMULATED TO THE EFFECT THAT THREE ABSENCES WITHOUT EXCUSES SHOULD CONSTITUTE A WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MEMBERSHIP. THIS WAS DISCUSSED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH, THE FEELING BEING THAT MEN WERE ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP FOR THEIR ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROGRAM OF THE CLUB AND FOR THE COMPANIONSHIP WHICH THEIR PERSONALITIES SIGNIFY. THE SENTIMENT WAS SEVERAL TIMES EXPRESSED THAT MEMBERS WHO REPEATEDLY ABSENT THEMSELVES ARE DEPRIVING THE OTHERS OF ONE OF THE PLEASURES GUARANTEED BY THE CLUB. THE MATTER WAS FINALLY REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER, AND REPORT LATER.

GENERAL EDWARD ORTON, ON ACCOUNT OF CONDITIONS IN HIS HOME, WAS GRANTED A YEAR'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAYMENT OF DUES.

IT WAS MOVED AND CARRIED THAT THE WIDOWS OF DECEASED MEMBERS SHOULD BE ACCORDED THE STATUS OF MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL "OPEN MEETING" COMING THEMSELVES WITHOUT CHARGE, AND WITH THE PRIVILEGE OF INVITING GUESTS AT THE USUAL CHARGE.

MR. JOHNSON CALLED ATTENTION TO THE NEGLECT OF THE COMMITTEE ALWAYS TO ARRANGE PROPERLY THE LIGHT AND MANUSCRIPT REST FOR THE SPEAKER. THE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. SATER MADE A PLEA FOR BETTER SPEAKERS AT THE ANNUAL OPEN MEETING, AND THE CLUB UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO SET ASIDE \$150.00 AS A MAXIMUM OF HONORARIUM AND EXPENSES.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 16, 1926, CHITTENDEN

PRESENT:

MESSRS. POMERENE, SHERMAN, HOOPER, BELL, HAGUE,
JOHNSON, WILSON, CHERRINGTON.

THE SECRETARY PRESENTED FOR CANVASS THE BALLOTS
THAT HAD BEEN CAST IN THE ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES IN
THE MEMBERSHIP.

TOTAL ABLLOTS CAST, 28

J. CLARENCE SULLIVAN, 25YES, 3 NO

DWIGHT SMITH, 28 YES

GEORGE W. RIGHTMIRE, 28 YES

HENRY L. SCARLETT, 25 YES, 3 NO

MR. SMITH AND DR. RIGHTMIRE WERE DECLARED ELECTED,
AND THE SECRETARY WAS INSTRUCTED SO TO NOTIFY THEM.

MR. JOHNSON PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING FORM OF LETTER
TO BE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS ON THE SUBJECT OF ABSENTEEISM,
AND THE SECRETARY WAS INSTRUCTED TO SEND IT OUT:

"COMPLEXITIES OF MODERN LIFE, GENERALLY SPEAKING,
SERVE TO MAKE MORE OR LESS BURDENSOME ANY FIXED SERIES
OF SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS. THIS DOES NOT, OR SHOULD NOT APPLY
TO MEMBER S OF THE KIT KAT CLUB.

"THE CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP IS LIMITED TO A VERY SMALL
NUMBER OF KINDRED SPIRITS. THE CHIEF PLEASURE AND PROFIT
OF ITS MEETINGS IS IN THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS WHO
GATHER AT ITS DINNER TABLES. ITS CULTURAL SIDE IS OB*
VIOUSLY DESIRABLE.

"WHEN A MEMBER ABSENTS HIMSELF FROM A MEETING, HE BREAKS THE CHARMED CIRCLE. NOT ONLY DOES HE SUFFER THE LOSS OF ALL THAT THE KIT KAT CLUB MEANS, BUT HE ALSO DEPRIVES HIS FELLOW-MEMBERS OF THE PLEASURE AND BENEFIT OF ASSOCIATION WITH HIM. FURTHERMORE, FAILURE TO ATTEND CANNOT BE OTHER THAN DISCOURAGING TO THE SPEAKER OF THE EVENING.

"FOR THESE REASONS IT IS THE WISH OF THE CLUB THAT EACH MEMBER ATTEND REGULARLY, OR, AS SOME DO, SEND TO THE SECRETARY IN ADVANCE A REASONABLE EXCUSE FOR ABSENTING HIMSELF.

AND SO, WE COME TO THE CLOSE OF ANOTHER ENJOYABLE KIT KAT YEAR. YES, WE'LL BE FORTY AND EIGHT YEARS OLD COME OCTOBER. KIT KAT IS PROBABLY THE OLDEST CLUB OF ITS KIND IN COLUMBUS, MAYBE IN OHIO. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST-- IN THE BEST SENSE OF THE WORD--VENERABLE. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY EXCELLENT PAPERS WHICH HAVE EVOKED LIVELY DISCUSSION AND INTELLIGENT COMMENT. THE ANNUAL MEETINGS, FOR THE MOST PART, HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONAL: SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OPERATIONS OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN MARKED BY JUDICIAL CALM.

THE REASON? NOT FAR TO SEEK: THE FACT THAT EVERY MEMBER HAS A GREAT LOVE AND RESPECT FOR THIS CLUB AND FOR EACH OF ITS MEMBERS. NO ONE SEEKS PREFERMENT AND NO ONE EXPECTS RECOMPENSE. EVERY ONE WHO IS GIVEN A RESPONSIBILITY OR AN OFFICE IS SURPRISED--I KNOW I WAS-- AND DELIGHTED, JUST AS HE WAS PLEASED WHEN NOTIFIED OF HIS ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP.

AND SO, IN PEACE AND WAR; THROUGH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATIONS; IN AND OUT OF DEPRESSIONS; WITH THE RESPECTABLE BUT NEVER LARGE BANK BALANCE AT THE END OF THE YEAR; IN ONLY THREE REGULAR MEETING PLACES IN THE PAST 45 YEARS; FROM ONE CHRISTOPHER KAT TO ANOTHER; UNDER A NEW PRESIDENT EACH YEAR--KIT KAT GOES ON, ENJOYING EACH OTHER'S RESEARCH, PROFESSIONS, HOBBIES, AND THE ALWAYS INTERESTING COMMENTS FOLLOWING A PAPER, SOMETIMES SURPRISING THE SPEAKER WITH HOW MUCH OTHERS KNOW OF HIS SUBJECT.

WE MAY NOT BE AS BIBULOUS AS THE ORIGINAL KIT KAT AND MAYBE WE ARE LACKING IN NOBILITY, BUT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO MATCH A MARLBOROUGH WITH A RANDALL, AN ADDISON WITH A BILLY GRAVES, A STEELE WITH AN OSMAN HOOPER, AND A CONVERSATIONAL MANWARING WITH SO MANY THAT A DOZEN OF OUR OWN MEMBERS COME TO MY MIND.

WHEN WE THINK OF THE PLEASURES AND FELLOWSHIP AND THE BENEFITS OF INTELLECTUAL GIVE AND TAKE IN THE CLUB WE MAY WELL RECALL THE VERSES OASMAN HOOPER WROTE WHILE CONFINED TO HIS HOME. HERE THEY ARE RECORDED BY JAY CRANE IN ONE OF HIS SECRETARIAL REPORTS.

very seriously ill at the time and a lesser man could not have
looked at things as he did:

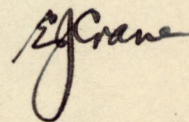
At Four Score

Here at the top of eighty years
In good content I stand,
And give to friends above, below,
Salute with cordial hand.

Earth has no riches that compare
With friendships such as these;
They're of a piece with all that's best
Of heaven's mysteries.

From those upon Life's higher rungs
And those on rungs below
Come wishes like a benison,
The choicest man may know.

And what shall I to them return
For all they've said and done?
There's nothing better than the prayer,
"God bless us everyone!"



E. J. Crane,
Secretary