

# Good Morning

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(Editor's Note: Sports Editor Jack Senn is on vacation. During his absence Good Morning will be written by members of The Times sports staff.)

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## Henry Page Fetes Were Once Season Highlight

**T**HE APPROACH of local high school football banquet occasions brings to mind days when the late Henry A. Page was the "angel" in feting Toledo's entire schoolboy gridiron setup in the Chamber of Commerce feast room atop the Richardson Building.

Mr. Page, no stinter in backing amateur athletes in several phases of sports, always endeavored to better past banquets and left many memories with today's citizenry thereby.

As the various schools go through their festive functions there's gaiety and friendship but no opportunity to weld players, coaches and general supporters into the citywide comraderie Page affairs afforded after weeks of "dog-eat-dog" competition.



Art Gratop

Celebrated coaches and others noted in the speaking realm were brought here to entertain Page diners from 1925 through 1936. For several years Mr. Page treated University of Toledo teams to the same fare.

The cost to Mr. Page must have been "terrific" even in those days of modest prices. De Vilbiss wasn't in the early guest list because the school wasn't opened until 1931. Waite, Scott, Woodward, Libbey, Central Catholic and St. John's came in for Page hospitality, each team

with attaches numbering around 50 to 60 persons each. St. John's was closed about the time De Vilbiss entered the scene.

Mr. Page also included as guests Board of Education officials, school heads, civic office holders, clergymen, industrialists, newspaper staffs, band players, trainers and others—the entire cast taxing C. of C. culinary facilities to the utmost.

Art Gratop, now city welfare director, was assistant secretary of the commerce group in those days and his work in setting up Page dinners was in large part the measure of today's memories.

Gratop was Mr. Page's "Man Friday" in the annual carnival and Art's fame, stemming from managership of the old Toledo Maroons, helped entice many of the nation's leading figures as chief speakers.

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## Rockne, Willaman, Elder, Others Left Imprints

**T**HE first Page outlay in 1925 was supposed to be featured by presence of Notre Dame's Knute Rockne. Gratop recalls that Rockne was called east at the last moment and a Notre Dame assistant, Tom Lieb, spoke in the slot.

Gratop says the next year's chief spokesman was Congressman Dan Reed of New York, former Cornell coach. In 1927 Rockne appeared and left a solid impression on over 500 diners.

Major John L. Griffith, Western Conference commissioner of athletics, and world-famous "soldier-of-fortune" Irving Hays were headliners in 1928.

The next year was marked by two speakers who captivated their audience from diverse approaches. Sam Willaman, Ohio State coach, came up with a masterful talk.

He was followed by Jack Elder, the Notre Dame backfielder who had startled 85,000 fans in New York two days earlier with a touchdown jaunt that broke Army. Elder was idolized and about wore off fingers in autograph chores.

Harry Kipke of Michigan was 1930's message bearer, says Gratop, and in succession thereafter came Dick Hanley of Northwestern, Jim (Sleepy) Crowley of the Michigan Aggies, Charles Dorais who was University of Detroit athletic director, Francis Schmidt of Ohio State, Don Peden of Ohio U., and Lynn Waldorf of Northwestern.

Gratop remembers the dinners as extravaganzas, Mr. Page sparing no expense. The benefactor also spared no earnestness in imparting the value of straightforward living. Modest in his business success, "old Henry A." stayed spiritually young by boosting youth. Often he helped strugglers on the road to business fortune.

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## Henry Page Message—'Gentlemen, Be Yourself'

**T**YPICAL of a Page message to assembled players is the following:

"Gentlemen of the gridiron, I salute you as sportsmen, as athletes of character as well as athletes of skill. You, the youth of today, will graduate into prominence of Toledo leadership or enlist in the ranks of the silent army marching toward civic good. I salute you for your modesty in victory, for your fortitude in defeat.



Henry Page, Jr.

"It is an honor, gentlemen, to have you as my guests. Tonight you may toss aside the aggressiveness of combat, the suspicion of rivalry. You have discarded the harness of the field. Do likewise with the seriousness of strife in later life. Be yourself. Have a good time.

"Do not bank heavily on today's applause. Cheers are fickle. Return to your glorious youth for the moment, then accept the heritage of your years. May they be happy, full of the joy of living."

Such was the makeup of a Toledoan to be remembered for his unselfishness. Mr. Page lived to see his words transposed into stalwart examples of worth citizenship. Many of the players honored in Page testimonials are part of the current city backbone.

It's not easy for one individual to carry on Page gestures in this time of awkward costs. Yet, to prove the fiber of the clan, today we have Henry Page, Jr., taking another slant at assistance to high school athletic graduates.

Young Henry, assuming his father's dairy interests, lately announced the awarding of yearly Page scholarships to seven boys, the recipients to profit while attending University of Toledo or, in the case of Central Catholic, attendance to a Catholic institution.

TIMES