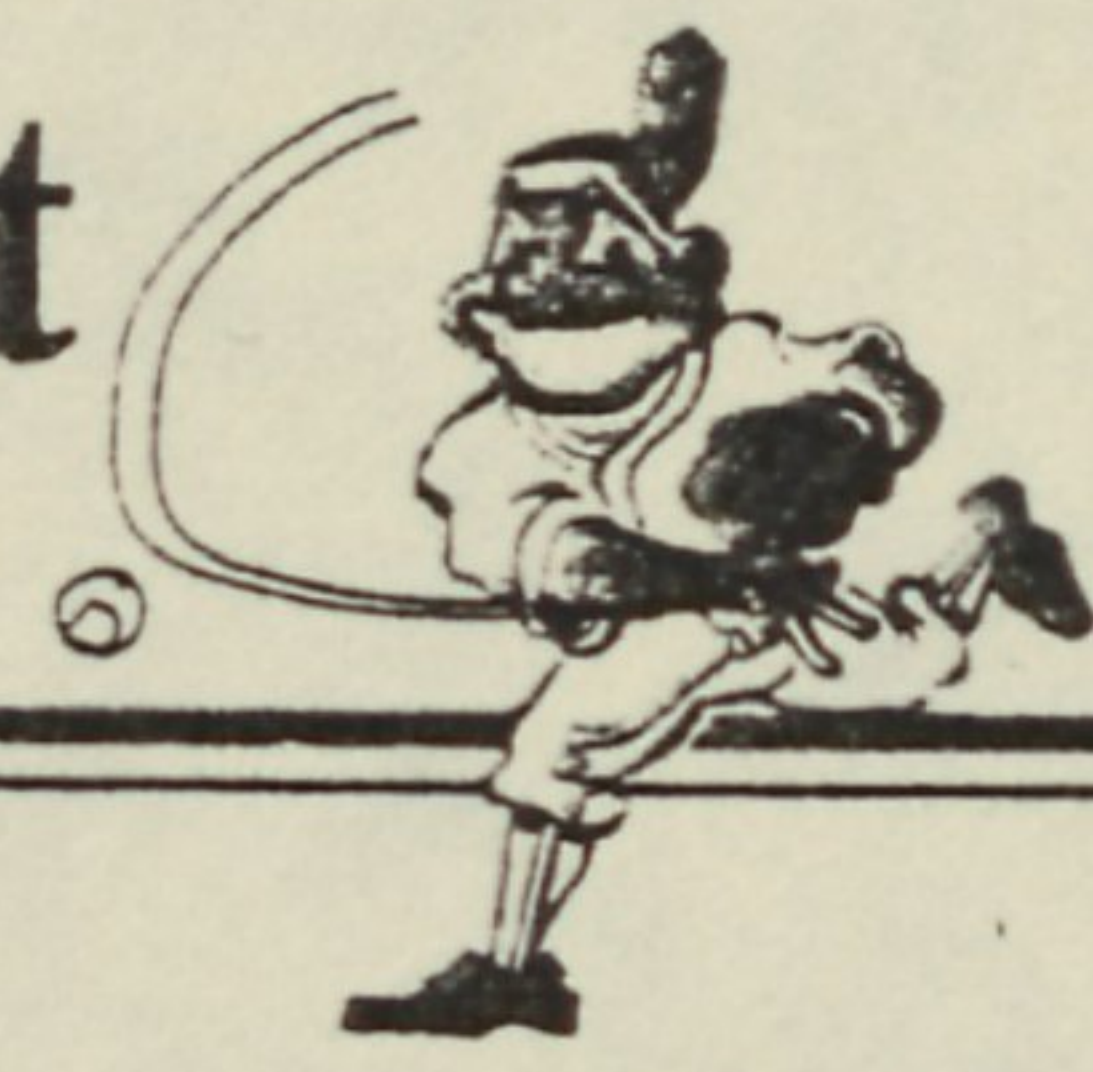


## Indians could clinch division title tonight

Nagy, Baerga lead Tribe to 4-1 win over Seattle; details on Page C-1



# THE REPOSITORY

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### IT HAPPENED 50 YEARS AGO

## Sailors who lit up Manila will gather here

By GARY BROWN

Repository Living Section writer

**JACKSON TWP.** — The light that the USS Wiseman provided 50 years ago to a city in the Philippine Islands will shine again next week in the memories of crew members gathered in Stark County.

About two dozen former Navy men and spouses will spend Wednesday through Sept. 17 at Best Suites of America. They will reminisce about the days near the end of World War II when the 1943-vintage destroyer escort USS Wiseman provided power and water to Manila, after services had been destroyed by the Japanese.

The Wiseman — named after Lt. Osborne Beeman Wiseman, a heroic American pilot from Zanesville who had been killed in action during the Battle of Midway — had been changed to a ship-to-shore power station early in 1945, noted reunion organizer George Dawson of North

Canton.

“They took our torpedo tubes off the boat deck,” recalled Burns, whose job aboard the ship previously had been to oversee the firing of those torpedos at enemy submarines. “Our engines were diesel-electric. Oil burners created heat that turned the turbines, which made electricity, which turned our propellers. They made major revisions to that, to put out enough kilowatts to power a small city.”

On the deck, where torpedo tubes once were, two 10-foot diameter reels of wire were installed. Kapok — life jacket flotation — attached at 10-foot intervals floated the wire from ship to shore, where it primarily powered Allied military operations in Manila.

“In the rest of the city, they put some street lights on in vital areas and used the electricity for various other purposes,” recalled Dawson. Use for homes and businesses, however, was restrict-

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## Sailors

■ CONTINUED FROM D-1

ed to those whose owners managed to “sneak out at night and climb a pole to tie onto the wire,” said Dawson.

Facilities aboard the ship

that took salt out of water enabled the Wiseman to provide fresh water to the city.

The Wiseman served a similar purpose in the Korean and Vietnam wars and was scrapped in 1973, according to Dawson. All that remains of the USS Wiseman are memories pre-

served by the 80 or so surviving sailors, seamen and officers alike, who once called her home.

“We’re in our 70s now,” Dawson said. “When we get together, there are no big wheels. We’re all just buddies.”