

residents has been the voice of Walt Dibble reading the news over the radio. During this time of the day where so many people are rushing around, Walt Dibble's calm presence served as a soothing influence that made each morning more pleasant. Sadly, the mornings in Connecticut will never be the same, as Mr. Walt Dibble died last week at the age of 65.

A lifelong Connecticut resident, Walt Dibble was loved by all of the people in the state who listened to him. It didn't matter if they worked as a school teacher in Manchester, in the Inventory Control Division of Pratt & Whitney, or as a financial analyst in Hartford, all of Walt Dibble's listeners felt that he was a man whom they could relate to and whom they could trust.

Walt Dibble was an institution in Connecticut radio. For the past 20 years, Mr. Dibble was the voice of WTIC news in Hartford, where he was the News Director and Managing Editor. Hartford was familiar with Walt Dibble even before he came to WTIC, since he had worked for 10 years at Hartford's WDRC radio station. Before coming to Hartford, Walt had been the radio voice of the news in New Haven and Bridgeport.

Throughout his career he was always quick to pick up a microphone and hit the street to cover a breaking news story. And it was in these situations that Walt Dibble flourished. His colleagues always marveled at his ability to deliver extended live coverage of major news events without any script as a safety net. Whether it was covering the collapse of the Hartford Civic Center roof, Hurricane Gloria, or the debate over the state income tax in 1991, he always kept his cool and offered a professional news report that, in many cases, he made up as he went along.

People may have wondered why Walt Dibble always seemed more sincere than other newscasters. The reason probably stems from the fact that Walt Dibble reported the news in his own words that came from his own mind and his own heart.

Walt Dibble loved his profession, and he was a father figure for hundreds of Connecticut broadcasters. He treated the interns at the radio station with the same respect as lifelong colleagues, and he would always encourage them to embark on a career in radio. Mr. Dibble brought a similar approach to the classes he taught at the Connecticut School of Broadcasting and Southern Connecticut State University. He did not need to teach, but he did so because he wanted to pass the torch on to future broadcasters.

In this day and age where most people get their news from television, and more and more radio stations are broadcasting nationally syndicated radio shows, Walt Dibble was a throwback to an era when the radio was the place where people went to get their local news. While it will be difficult for anyone to deliver the news with the

style and grace of Walt Dibble, I only hope that somebody will carry on his tradition of excellence in broadcasting to ensure that Connecticut residents will still be able to receive local news, on local radio stations, from local broadcasters whom they know and trust.

Walt Dibble lived a truly charmed life. He interviewed Presidents of the United States, he saw his son pitch in the World Series, and for more than 40 years he got to go to work to do a job that he loved. But in the end, it is the people of Connecticut who are charmed for having known this great man. ●

CELEBRATING OLDSMOBILE'S CENTENNIAL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to honor Oldsmobile on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. On August 20, 1997, Oldsmobile and its employees will celebrate 100 years of outstanding achievements.

Few things have become so entwined with American culture as the automobile. Since its creation, cars have fascinated us. While the ability to travel has changed drastically in the last 100 years, one tenet has remained: the desire to go further and faster.

Helping fuel this desire is Oldsmobile. This company and its workers have been central to the development of the automobile. From Ransom E. Olds' Curved Dash to today's Intrigue, Oldsmobile continues to innovate and revolutionize the industry. Every individual involved with the organization strives to create a better product. In doing so, the company has given Americans the ability to do more, to see more, and to pursue new experiences. The vision of R.E. Olds has stretched far beyond Lansing. His legacy will be forever remembered.

This celebration is especially personal for me, Mr. President. My father worked on the production line in Lansing for nearly 20 years. Oldsmobile gave my father the chance to provide for his family. During his tenure at Oldsmobile, he demonstrated to me the importance of hard work, dedication, and a pursuit of excellence; values I am proud to emulate.

Again, I extend my most heartfelt congratulations on this momentous occasion. ●

THE ROMA RESTAURANT

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, spring has always been known as a season of rebirth, but, sadly, the Spring of 1997 saw the passing of one of the true culinary landmarks of Washington, D.C. as the Roma Restaurant closed its doors after 77 years.

In the days since the Roma closed, the local newspapers have been filled with articles and letters to the editor paying tribute to the Washington institution. All of the writers had different memories of what made the Roma so special to them. For some it was the

outdoor courtyard with the elaborate garden and grape arbor. For others it was the unique experience of dining amongst stuffed tigers, lions, and other wild game that Roma founder Frank Abbo had killed on safari. For some people it was simply the linguine with clam sauce.

But for everyone who frequented the Roma, there are fond memories of the wonderful people who worked at this restaurant and made it such an enjoyable place to spend an afternoon or an evening.

Patrons of the Roma have described members of the Abbo family, who owned and operated the Roma since it was founded in 1920, as having the biggest hearts in Washington.

While most restaurants are closed for Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Roma was always open, as the Abbos cooked countless turkeys and prepared thousands of meals over the years for unfortunate people who could not afford to buy a warm holiday meal.

The Roma was not just a business. It was more like a club where friends would meet regularly to get together and enjoy some good food and have a good time.

Whenever I dined at the Roma, it felt like going to dinner at a friend's house. In a sense, it was, since the Roma's owner, Bobby Abbo has been a friend of mine for many years. But while I know that my friendship with Bobby will persevere and I will continue to see him, I will surely miss the many friendly faces that I may no longer see now that the Roma has closed. It would be impossible for me to remember all of the people whom I befriended at the Roma. However, I would specifically like to mention Maria Amaya, Hugo Terzi, and John Squitiero and thank them for the kindness that they extended toward me over the years.

In closing, I will miss the gardens, and I will miss the food. But, most important, I will miss the people that made the Roma such a special place. I wish all of them well, and I thank them for all of the wonderful memories they have provided me and so many others. ●

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLEVELAND-CLIFFS, INC.

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Mr. THOMAS Moore, CEO of Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. and its outstanding employees on behalf of the company's 150th anniversary. I am honored to join them in celebrating this significant milestone.

For over a century now Cleveland-Cliffs has been a leader in North American mining operations and has served as a model for other companies to emulate. It comes as no surprise that this mining company has survived in a market where competition is fierce and the work extraordinarily difficult. Since 1847 when its founders first began mining iron ore in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the company has relied upon one