

# ARCHIVES

MERRY CHRISTMAS

## THE PEPTOMIST

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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### YELLOWJACKETS DEFEAT BREWERS

**Archivist's Note:** Not those Brewers! While the Jackets did head down to Milwaukee to beat a similarly named team in 1931 the location of play was the Milwaukee State Teacher College's (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) fieldhouse against that institution's team. The baseball franchise so familiar today wasn't established in Seattle, WA, until 1969.



Photo Provided by UWS-Athletics

**Archives Note:** Oluf "Ole" Haugrud was the Twin Port's "Mr. Football." An enterprising individual he formed an independent high school football team in 1919 at age 20, the Red Devils, who played across northwestern Wisconsin. In 1926 he purchased the nascent Kelley-Duluth National Football League (NFL) team which was redubbed the Eskimos. In 1928 he sold the team back to the NFL with the stipulation that he would have an option if the league ever awarded a franchise to Minnesota. In 1960 he would take the option to become a defining part-owner of the Vikings. This story takes place before that demonstrating

the 32 years Ole spent going to NFL team owner meetings without owning a team were part of a long term relationship that would pay off a decade later.



**From the Papers of Jim Dan Hill**  
**Mar. 7, 1946**

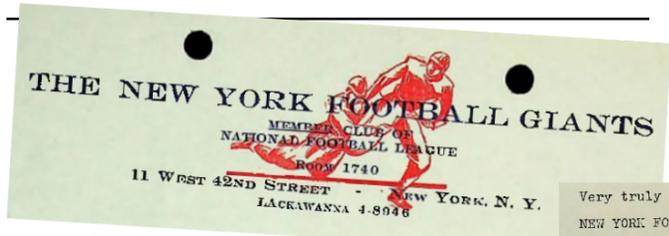
During the Depression Ole established CCC Canteen service, a company specialized in selling food to the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) camps set up during the period. The canteen service continued to be a prominent Twin Ports business after the camps closed. Some of Ole's correspondence was done using company stationary.

I know from my own experience that Superior, located on the shores of Lake Superior, is the ice-box of the United States during the months of July and August, and if you and your team are really seriously interested in getting in condition so that you can grab that championship again this year, there is no better place for you to train.

**From the Papers of Jim Dan Hill | Jan. 30, 1939**

The effort of bringing an NFL training camp to Superior was a community-wide effort. While Ole's NFL contacts led to the Giant's coaching staff touring the city in December of 1938 other teams including the Illinois and Chicago teams were also solicited. There was also competition with other Great Lakes region locations to be the spot for the training camp. City officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and even Wisconsin governor Julius Heil who described Superior's July and August climate as the "ice-box of the United States" courted any franchise they thought might be willing to make the trip.

### TRAINING CAMP EDITION



Very truly yours,  
NEW YORK FOOTBALL GIANTS INC  
*John Mara*  
PRESIDENT

**From the Papers of Jim Dan Hill | Mar. 21, 1939**

Lobbying by Superior's city leaders paid off and the Giants sent a letter to President Hill explaining that they were scheduled to be in town from August 10-30, 1939. Hill and UWS were key to this as the Giants would be using the Gates field and gymnasium facilities while being quartered inside Crownhart Hall. Hill received many accolades from around the state for his support for the project. Privately he had misgivings expressed in correspondence regarding the distraction from the college's educational mission and potential liability issues. Despite this he still appreciated the opportunity to boost Superior in the national eye.

**From the Peptomist**  
**Oct. 11, 1946**

Another important step to getting and keeping the Giants in town, and a source of continual headaches was provisioning them during their

enet. Mr. Dobis is well known throughout the northwest for his splendid cooking. When the New York Giants trained at STC during the summer he served as chef for them. A large variety of foods are

month long stay. As this Peptomist story mentions the chief cook of the campus dining establishment was so capable as to be sought by the Giants during every stay after 1939. Of course, there was a certain predictability to the team's preferred meals, Jim Dan Hill frequently brought up the players ability to tuck away as much as three T-bone steaks a night every night.

**From the Peptomist**  
**Sep. 15, 1939**

The Giant's training camp was often outside the Peptomist's purview as August was the only month where teaching did not occur on campus.

After several weeks of vigorous tennis with Mr. Laney, Harold rushed to the net on one of his famous kill shots and broke his racquet. Mr. Laney, without any hesitation, promptly handed Harold his racquet, saying that he would have more use of it than himself. If you don't think that the racquet wasn't a top around here. try and buy one

Students were still about, Harold Hanson ('42) whose status as resident tennis master of northwestern Wisconsin netted him a racquet from a reporter following the Giants. Other notes mention that a direct wire connection between Crownhart hall and New York were established and that Corky's and Harry's nearby college "hangout" and hamburger joint was popular with local footballers and big leaguers.



A view of Gates field, one of Superior State's valuable additions, is shown above in readiness for a game under the

**From the Peptomist | Dec. 16, 1936**

While the Giants were at the university they would engage in scrimmages that were open to the public on Gates Field. Built in 1929 the stadium could seat 5,000 people, a potentially inadequate seating amount as during 1939 Hill would reach out to as far as Ashland School district looking to see if they had any spare portable bleachers for the university to rent.

3. Jack Mara, the signer of a squawk letter you ave heard about, but whahn no one has had the courtesy to take up with the committee--nor has any committee of the ASSN called on Hill, though you understand late one afternoon a week ago he invited Bill Bolton and such others as are interested to ~~fill~~ meet him somewhere, sometime on the subject. As of last Thur., there had been no meeting. Slip in Hill's regrets again at not being there Monday. Anyway, The ~~Matta~~ Mara who wrote the letter was not in superior last summer and not to our knowledge since the War. He is not on the Athletic staff, all of whom are good friends of Hill and have recently sent him their best regards from Milwaukee, but Jack Mara is a tight fistad treasurer who is always trying to chisel a bill.

**From the Papers of Jim Dan Hill | ~Mar. 1948**

The New York Giants have been owned by the Mara family for three generations today and responsibilities were delegated amongst family branches. While Hill had positive experiences with Wellington and Tim Mara, Jack Mara the team's financial mastermind was another story. The slowness with which the Giants paid their bills led to stiffed merchants complaining publicly to the university and on top of that attempts to keep the stays at cost for the university were rebuffed by a "tight fistad" treasurer who tenaciously clung to prices hammered out during the Great Depression.

**From the Papers of Jim Dan Hill**  
**~Jan. 1950**

One of the factors which led to the Giants and the university parting ways was the large scale reorganization of competition schedules with the merger of the National and American leagues. As Hill illustrated in this rough diagram even professional sports writers who tried to explain things to him could initially understand the implications of the new competitive framework. The Giants came to campus for the 1939, '41, '42, and '46-'48 seasons which all had games that opened with western teams. The new structure saw to it that the Giants would often open their season typically closer to home. From 1952-'53 the team did return to the upper Midwest to train at Gustavus Adolphus which points towards more than just scheduling inconveniences.

