

Rural Areas Suspicious of Any Move To Modernize State Government; Farm Bureau Takes Lead in Opposition

By GENE ALLEMAN
Michigan Press Association

Home rule for Wayne county (Detroit) and a state constitutional convention are two propositions which will appear on the November ballots.

The proposed reapportionment reform failed to obtain sufficient petition signatures.

Home rule for Michigan's most metropolitan county and a state constitutional convention are two separate, distinct issues. Yet they will be inevitably linked together in the public mind because each seeks to accomplish the same thing: Reform of local government.

The Wayne county amendment to the state constitution would effect government reforms for Wayne county, with the permission of the rest of the state. The constitutional convention would tackle the same need on a state basis.

You can't talk about reform in government without stirring up the old, old urban vs. rural controversy.

And there are signs at hand that rural interests, as represented by the farmers and small town residents, are downright suspicious about any announced plans to streamline their own home government.

The rural viewpoint was stated this month by Stanley M. Powell of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Because it illustrates well the issues involved, we are quoting some excerpts of Mr. Powell's statement as follows:

"Late in 1941 Governor Van Wageningen appointed a commission of 32 men and women to study our present state constitution and to issue a report advising the people of Michigan as to whether or not the commission would recommend the calling of a constitutional convention to propose a new constitution, or whether there were certain specific amendments which they desired to propose and recommend to the voters.

"Among the 32 members of this commission, there were only a few having a rural background. Those definitely rural in interests were Clark L. Brody, executive secretary of the Michigan State Farm Bureau, and W. G. Armstrong, manager of the Michigan State Game Commission. The other members of the commission were from Detroit, Grand Rapids, and other urban centers.

"The commission held its first meeting Jan. 6, 1942. Twelve committees of five members each submitted reports or recommendations on April 7. The final meeting of the commission was on June 23.

"Continuing the Farm Bureau statement: 'The whole structure of local government in rural areas would probably be drastically re-modeled if the commission had its way. The present structure of the Constitution all reference to Justices of Peace, it would permit the government to merge, dissolve, or disorganize counties in the more sparsely settled sections of the state.

"It would empower the legislature to reorganize, to create, to dissolve townships. Wide latitude as to optional forms of county government was favored by the commission.

"Elimination of the uniformity clause, which has often stood in the way of attempts to modernize our Michigan tax system, was favored by the commission. The commission favored retention of the 15 mill limitation with amendments to facilitate the increased forms of permanent improvements. It recommended that the time limit in the provision increased from five to twenty years, and that the two-thirds majority in the provision for the calling of a constitutional convention be changed to a simple majority. These changes might be rather drastic and dangerous if they coupled with other recommendations which propose elimination of the property voting qualifications for voting on school issues.

"A provision that the legislature be empowered to enact a graduated income tax was approved.

The commission also recommended, so the Farm Bureau spokesman explains, 'a complete take-up of the Michigan election system.

"Spring election would be abolished entirely, and even school elections would be forced on to the November ballot. Rural spokesmen attempted to explain that this plan does not seem workable in the farming areas. There are several school districts in most rural townships and the situation is further complicated by fractional school districts.

"The annual school meeting seems the ideal time and place for the election of local school officers. Even if these officers were elected in November, there are other items of business which would properly be transacted at a school meeting.

Terms of most elective state and local officers would be doubted. The governor, lieutenant governor, auditor general and state highway commissioner would be elected to serve four-year terms. The governor would appoint the secretary of state, state treasurer, and attorney general.

A state board of education would select the state superintendent of public instruction to serve a six-year term. Elective state officials would be elected in the November elections mid-way between presidential elections in what is known as the 'off' years.

'Substantial increases in salaries for state officials were recommended.' Says the Farm Bureau leader. 'For instance, the salary of the governor would be raised to not less than \$15,000 per year instead of \$5,000 a year plus \$5,000 for expenses, and that of the other administrative officials (lieutenant governor, secretary of

Tackles Tanks Messerschmitt In Pontiac Display

The famous Messerschmitt 109, Nazi fighting plane that was shot down over the marsh lands of the Thames river, goes on exhibition in North Saginaw street Thursday night. It will remain there through Friday and Saturday before starting a Michigan tour of a dozen other cities.

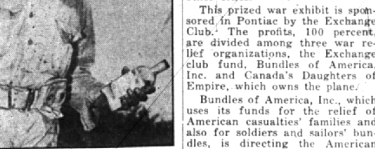
This prized war exhibit is sponsored by Pontiac by the Exchange Club. The prized 109, recently divided among three war relief organizations, the Exchange Club fund, Bundles of America, Inc. and Canada's Daughters of Empire, which owns the plane.

Bundles of America, Inc. which uses its funds for the relief of American casualties' families and also for soldiers and sailors' bundles, is directing the American tour of the riddled plane.

Messerschmitt 109 has shown to more than 3,000 persons on its American tour.

On no other single space are so many autographs of prominent persons. Jack Dempsey and Babe Ruth's signatures attract the most while the women like to discover those of Betty Davis, Mrs. Winston Churchill, Tallulah Bankhead and Louella Parsons.

Also, the spectators may see the actual bullet holes that sealed the fate of the pilot. Opposite the pilot seat door is painted a Tiger's head, insignia of the Nazi air force. Its fangs are bared at the woman who sits to discover those of Betty Davis, Mrs. Winston Churchill, Tallulah Bankhead and Louella Parsons.



Blackfaced night guerrilla fighter Art Ray, of Bell, Calif., is a member of the Army's tank destroyer command at Camp Hood, Tex. The Molotov cocktail in his hand is filled with gasoline and is fitted with an open pencil that ignites gas as the bottle hits objective.

state, state treasurer, auditor general, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction and state highway commissioner) from \$5,000 to not less than \$10,000 annually.

The commission also urged raising the pay of state senators and representatives from \$3,000 a year to \$3,000 a year.

Dominance of upstate by Detroit is feared by farm interests. The commission's approval of the proposed reapportionment (which will not appear on the November ballot) is condemned by the Farm Bureau because it would give practical control of both branches of the state legislature to the senators and representatives from Wayne county.

Such is the case as presented by the State Farm Bureau. However, Michigan is no longer a rural state. Voters of the industrial centers possess majority control; Wayne, Kent and Genesee counties alone have controlled many political conventions and tipped the scales on election days.

The cities may determine the fate of home rule for Wayne county. The convention will be presented at a convention at the November show-down.

(Note: The arguments in behalf of Wayne county home rule and the constitutional convention will be presented in this column in the near future.)

Ward Cruickshank's Work in Display

Included in the annual exhibition of student art at the American Academy of Art, Chicago, is the work of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Cruickshank, 247 Merrill street, Birmingham. Ward, a graduate of this week and most of the work will remain on display during the summer.

"This year's exhibition promises to be one of the most interesting in the school's history," said Mr. Young. "It will give a comprehensive picture of the sort of commercial art work that is being done by students today and will display clearly the high professional finish that our students impart to their work. I consider that the work of Ward Cruickshank ranks among the best exhibits."

Snowshoe Hare Jumps Over Man

CHARLEVOIX.—Surprised and cornered between the fishermen and their dog landing on Hog Island and of the Beaver Island group, a snowshoe hare found the easiest way to safety was a running jump that took him zooming directly over the head of the center man of the five-man party, O. H. Clark of the conservation department's fish division.

If he could have reached fast and high enough, says Clark, he might have pulled that snowshoe rabbit out of the sky. His four fishing companions attest that he is not stretching the story.

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Charles Mott, Huntington, W. Va., wears the crown he won at national marbles champ. He defeated straight-shooters from all parts of the country in contest at Wildwood, N. J.

Summer Theatre Gives 1st Program

The Cranbrook Summer Theatre School presented for its first program on Monday a series of four plays and extracts from plays under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Wonnberger of Cranbrook School.

The featured first on the program which was given in the Greek Theatre on Cranbrook Estate was a short play by Sally Evans with the title "Good Game" with Mary Mahon and Sally Ann Farquhar in the leading roles. Mary Halliday, Lorna Shuck, Jane Deony, Sue Wendell and Nancy Alice Wonnberger followed with a series of short scenes, after which came Alice Shaw, Bobby Levin and Peter Hart, all of the Junior Division of the school, presented "The Tat-Tot," produced by Mrs. Frank Mahon.

The final play on the program, "A Stage in Time" with Jill Craig, Joan Coulson, Nancy Chapel, Malcolm Ommington and Dave Murray, was produced by Peggy Lind.

Selected for public performance on July 13 have been two full-length plays intended for child and adult audience, the first, Emma Gilders Stern's "The Camel with the Wrinkled Knees" and "The Reluctant Dragon" in the original version in which Disney's immortal mouse was adapted. For the public performance several guest artists will fill the auditorium.

Some one wants that used furniture or equipment? Sell it with a classified ad. Phone 11.

At Traverse City, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Bell, of Bloomfield drive, spent the past ten days at Traverse City. Joe and

Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Tieman and daughter, Joan, returned Saturday from a fishing trip at Mullet Lake. Francis Tieman, left last week for a five week vacation to be spent at Camp Huch on the Hill, Noker Lake, Mich. While on vacation he will be visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hartford at Detroit Hunt and Fish Club in North Michigan.

Mr. Elmer C. Gustafson, of Saratoga boulevard, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Lois of Jamestown, N. Y., this month.

Latrup Townsite News

by LILLIAN DIERICH

Social Briefs

Mr. and Mrs. Hiram D. Gray of San Jose drive, were hosts last week to Miss Irene Triske, of Houghton, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur A. Moran, of Latrup boulevard, and as house guests Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Chadwick and son Jackie, of Shaker Heights, near Cleveland, Ohio. Second week, Jack L. Roby, son of Mrs. Alfred B. Roby of San Diego boulevard, stopped off by Buffalo, N. Y. to visit his mother and relatives, before reporting for duty at Dayton, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Cline, of Saratoga boulevard, entertained for him Saturday evening. Two guests participated.

Mrs. Arthur J. Shumaker, of Quentin drive, was hostess at a tea in honor of Mrs. Roy Drago, of Buffalo, N. Y. Tuesday afternoon. The Dragos were former residents of the Townsite.

Dr. Ford K. Daines and Mrs. Daines will leave for a ten-day vacation next week to be spent at Crystal Lake, Mich., in the Daines' homestead.

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Mrs. Roland Starr, returned Thursday from a month's stay at her summer home at Charlevoix. On Monday she was hostess at a luncheon.

Marriage Licenses

Murvin Boughner, 19 Mile road, Utica, and Vivian Madeline Hiller, 403 Star, Birmingham.

STATE OF MICHIGAN.—The Probate Judge of the County of Oakland, at a session of said Court, held at the probate office, in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 11th day of July, 1942.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of John Schreyer, Deceased.

Oliver H. Kirk, administrator of said estate, having filed in said Court a petition, praying for license to sell at private sale the interest of said estate in certain real estate therein described, and it is so ordered, That the 11th day of August, 1942, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, he and his heirs and assigns, shall show cause why said license should not be granted.

It is further ordered, That public notice of this order shall be published in one of the newspapers printed and circulating in said County, on each week for three weeks immediately preceding the said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Evening News-Post and in the following said papers:

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate
OLIVER H. KIRK, Administrator

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Eight from Here At Band Clinic

With 122 high school musicians in attendance, representing seven states, the Seventh Annual High School Band Clinic is being held at the University of Michigan. Eight from Birmingham are attending.

The Band Clinic is presented by the University's School of Music and is under the direction of William D. Revell, conductor of the University of Michigan Bands and professor of wind instruments in the School of Music. A program of intensive study has been arranged for the clinic which opened on July 6 and will continue until July 25, but time for recreation and organized entertainment has been included in each day's schedule.

The students have been organized into a band which will present three special concerts and make two 15-minute radio broadcasts. The special broadcasts are scheduled for 3:15 p. m. on Friday, July 17, and Friday, July 24, over Station WJR, Detroit. Concerts in Hill Auditorium have been scheduled for 4:15 p. m. on Sunday, July 12, and Sunday, July 19. On Saturday, July 25, a concert by the combined bands of the High School Clinic and the University's Summer Session Band has been arranged.

Attending the band clinic from Birmingham are: Virginia Blinn, 647 Madison; Francis Buckridge, 507 Brookside; Robert Hart, 1208 Villa road; Katherine Kemp, 1055 Farmouth; Robert Marsh, 19681 Saratoga; Jack Mellinger, 820 Sheffield road; Alfred Peabody, 439 Park street; and Nancy Pierce, 470 Westwood.

Jack Mellinger, Francis Buckridge, and Robert Marsh were given the first, second and third chairs in the clarinet section. Alfred Peabody has the first chair in the trombone section, and Jeanne Blinn the third chair in the oboes.

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