

# Area Youth Participates In Civil War Program

Editor's Note: Following is another in a series of articles on the Civil War Centennial provided by the Birmingham Civil War Centennial Commission.

Donald (Skip) Johnson, a Groves High School senior who is the youngest member of the Birmingham Civil War Centennial Commission, is participating in an interesting and controversial by-product of the Civil War known as the North-South Skirmish Association.

In recent summers an increasing number of people have been shattered by the thunder of antiquated artillery and muskets manned by equally antiquated looking soldiers. It is in this manner that most of us first come to hear of the North-South Skirmish Association, one of the most important national organizations dedicated to the preservation of our Civil War heritage.

UNFORTUNATELY, it is also one of the most misunderstood organizations. One of the nation's largest newspapers recently editorialized on the association: "The NSSA is reviving old hatreds, making ancient wounds bleed again... and otherwise doing a great disservice to the memory of those who fought and died in the war of 1861-1865." NSSA members feel it their duty to defend their position with vigor.

The North-South Skirmish Association was founded in 1950. Today it is comprised of 42 Federal and 31 Confederate member regiments in 12 eastern states and total membership around 5,000. Each regiment in the association derives its designation from a regiment which actually saw action in 1861-65.

Members of a regiment are required to research thoroughly the history of the unit whose name they bear and to uniform themselves exactly as the original had done. Don Johnston, 4 Hickory Hollow Drive, Bingham Farms, is regimental historian for the 15th Virginia cavalry.

IN THEIR SPARE time the member units skirmish with others in the area. At least one such skirmish will take place each weekend from May through October somewhere in the country. NSSA members relive the lives of Civil War combatants at shooting matches in which old-fashioned black powder is used to fire hand cast lead bullets from authentic muskets of the 19th Century.

Skirmishes also feature parade ground competition, outdoor picnics, and large cookouts for skirmishers and their families.

All in all the NSSA members have good fun at their outings, but they are serious of purpose. The long hours devoted to historical research and to reconditioning and caring for arms and equipment has

produced historically invaluable documents and artifacts which might otherwise have ended up forgotten or on the junk heap.

THE NSSA NATIONAL COMMISSION said recently, "We're not just playing soldier. We honor the great generation of men who stood on both sides of the line in Civil War. We fire their weapons as they fired them and we keep alive some of the great traditions of the most tempestuous era of United States history."

The association is cooperating with the United States Civil War Centennial Commission and several state commissions for the centennial year. Last July many of the member regiments participated in the re-enactment of the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run). This mock fight has received wide public attention and it is expected that NSSA will be a major factor in re-enactments of all the war's major engagements.

## 6 Area Residents Receive Ford Co. Service Awards

Six Ford Motor Co. employees from the Birmingham area were among 101 Ford employees honored last Thursday for community service.

Receiving community service award plaques at the company's third annual banquet were: E. Ross Hanson, 906 N. Glenhurst, Birmingham, of the Ford Division, who served on the school board and Parent-Teachers Association in Birmingham; Gordon C. Henderson, 2745 Lathrup, Lathrup Village, of Lincoln-Mercury, who served on the school board in Southfield; Richard S. Miles, 2901 Twilight Hill Court, Walked Lake, of Engine and Foundry, who served with Rotary and the school board in Walked Lake;

THOMAS P. SAKS, 1810 Greenwall, Southfield, of Hardware and Accessories, Product Engineering, who participated in civic and political affairs in Southfield; Richard T. Schliskey, 1910 Dawn Ridge, Walked Lake, of Metal Stamping, Division, who worked with the YMCA in Walked Lake;

Teddy M. Szfranc, 1120 Michigan, Rochester, of the Tractor Plant, who worked with handicapped children in Oakland County. The awards are presented annually to Ford employees for outstanding voluntary community service.

DETROIT MAYOR Jerome P. Cavanaugh was principal speaker at the awards banquet.

# Civil Defense Lists Supplies For Shelters

LANSING—Michigan Office of Civil Defense has received frequent inquiries concerning the supplies to be placed in public shelters now being surveyed, according to William C. Powell, operations officer. Supplies for these shelters will include food, medical kits, radiation monitoring kits, water containers and sanitation equipment," he said.

The food package contains a surplus of biscuits similar to a granular cracker in taste and appearance. The crackers will provide each person with 10,000 calories. A food package consists of six cans of biscuits, each weighing six pounds.

THE MEDICAL KITS will be provided in three different sizes: Kit A for 50 persons; Kit B for 100 persons; and Kit C for 200 persons. Besides the Medical Self-Help Manual and the Public Health Service Instruction Book, the kits contain such items as bandages, adhesive plaster, gauze pads, absorbent cotton, thermometers, and forceps.

Among the medications are aspirin, ammonia inhalant, bismuth subcarbonate tablets, calamine lotion, cascara sagrada, surgical soap, sulfadiazine tablets, eugenol, surgical jelly, tetraamine ointment, isopropyl alcohol, chlorpromazine hydrochloride tablets, ear drops, eye and nose drops and elixir tetrin hydrate.

Fallout Radiation Monitoring kits: Size 1 for a 50 to 99 person shelter and Size 2 for a shelter holding more than 100 persons. The kits contain instructional manuals, necessary batteries and six different types of radiation detection instruments.

WATER CONTAINERS include fiber drums and plastic bags. Sanitation packages also contain toilet chemicals, privacy screens, toilet seats, water purification tablets, plastic gloves and 20 one-quart water canteens.

## Re-Estimate Library Fees For Budget

Baldwin Public Library Board determined a need for re-estimating revenues from non-resident fees and contract for the 1952-53 budget at its meeting March 22.

The items will be re-estimated and the budget re-submitted. Other business included a report by Miss Jeanne Lloyd, library director, on a talk with Mrs. Lelora Little, Bloomfield Township Board clerk, regarding cooperation in library service.

MISS LLOYD also notified the board of Frederick Wezeman's willingness to meet with the board and other interested officials regarding his possible service as a consultant. Wezeman is professor of the University of Minnesota's School of Library Science.

The board authorized Miss Lloyd to invite Wezeman to discuss the possibility at its March 22 meeting.

# Con Con Report State Legal Organization Changed

The new Judicial Article, forged by the Constitutional Convention after 84 hours of debate in 14 Convention days, left much of the state's basic legal organization unchanged, yet wrought sharp changes in several aspects.

The debate, dominated by the 56 lawyer-delegates, was often bipartisan and always technical and complicated. While there was general agreement the state's legal system now is one of the best in the country, advocates of the new article, for the most part, Republican, insist it is a sharp improvement. The Democratic opposition charge it is a step backward in some ways.

PRACTICALLY unchanged is the statewide method of electing a nine-man Supreme Court (one more justice than previously), although the struggle of delegates who wanted election by districts was bitter and protracted. They came within two votes of winning, 62 to 64.

Power to fill judicial vacancies is taken from the governor. Brand new, but favored by everybody, is formation of a nine-judge court of appeals; this fight, too, was over method of election. Advocates of districting won this one easily and power was given the legislature to draw the districts—each must have three judges—and set election rules and time.

BITTERLY contested was the elimination — after a five-year grace period — of justices of the peace and circuit court commissioners. This is labeled by Robert J. Danhof, chairman of the committee on Judicial Branch, as the most significant and valuable change in the whole article.

The legislature is authorized to set up a system of courts of limited jurisdiction which are to be expected from the general rule that all judges, including probate, shall be lawyers.

"The basic trouble with the JP system is that it has no flexibility," says Danhof. "It works well in the small township, but not in heavily populated urban townships. It is here you have the evil—collection agency justices, as well as the pressure to find defendants guilty of speeding and the like because deputies and police will take their business to the courts where they can win."

"IT WAS TO cure this that we prohibited judges from getting any kind of fee or remuneration proportionate in any way to the work or activity of the court," Danhof explains. "The legislature will have to schedule judges' salaries." William D. Ford (D-Taylor), led a chorus of Democratic criticism on the section which broadened judicial review of the findings of state administrative agencies.

"Unemployed or injured workers, trying to get compensation, will suffer terribly," Ford declares. "Delay on contested cases is already from one to two years; with easy appeal it will go from three to four years. What does a man do while waiting for a jury?"

FORD ALSO attacks giving the

legislature power to control the jurisdiction of the probate court. "It opens the door to the smothering of our juvenile court system," he says, "especially if they want to establish some kind of a super-market family court."

He is contradicted by Danhof, who retorts, "Juvenile court is dominated by the Legislature. I will think a long time before they hurt it. I am sure the system is safe and this way it will be open for improvement when necessary."

"Why meddle with the court system?" Ford asks. "It has been generally admitted Michigan has one of the best legal systems in the country. Now we are ending the right of the governor—a right of more than 100 years standing—to fill judicial vacancies and, I think, the usually high-type men appointed in the past will be replaced by men who are just good campaigners."

DANHOFF AGREES only that Michigan does have excellent courts. "But one of the faults is the appointment system that, along with ballot designation has resulted in the governor practically naming all the judges. Incumbents, however they get the designation, are re-elected about 99 per cent of the time."

Under the article, judicial vacancies can be filled only by election set by the Legislature. The supreme court is limited to appointing retired judges to work until their successors can be elected.

To insure political independence of all elected judges, the convention approved a section allowing superior court justices to become candidates for re-election merely by filing an affidavit six months before the expiration of their terms.

CIRCUIT AND Probate judges can become candidates in their primaries by filing declarations of intention. The supreme court must, upon request, give advisory opinions on the constitutionality of legislation after passage, but before effective date. This court, also, is ordered to establish and simplify procedures in all courts and to abolish the office of master in chancery.

City commissioners voted Monday night to accept his resignation "with regret" and with a certificate of appreciation.

Americans are eating about six pounds more potatoes per person now than they did five years ago, reversing a trend that has continued for more than a generation. The increase in consumption has come from processed potatoes. Americans now use a total of twenty-six pounds of potatoes each year in frozen, dehydrated or chip form.

Out-of-state students at The University of Michigan pay semester fees approximately two-and-one-half times as large as Michigan residents.

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