

Romney, Yes; Higgins, No

The primary election on Sept. 1 will put before the voters more candidates than ever before in the history of Michigan. This results from the new Constitution, which abolished spring elections and forced the election of township officials, judges of the circuit court and the new Court of Appeals to take place at this time.

On the state level, only the Republicans are faced with a contest for the governorship. Frankly, we do not see much in the candidacy of Oakland Countyite George Higgins to replace Gov. George Romney. Democrat Neil Staebler has no opposition in his party.

THE CHANGE in the financial condition of the state alone would merit Romney's return to Lansing for two more years. When he was elected two years ago, the state had a deficit of 86 million dollars. Today, the state has an estimated surplus in its treasury of 62 million dollars.

In addition to this striking reversal, so many state programs have been started or enriched that state services have reached an all-time high.

Truly, this is a remarkable record. Mr. Higgins, on the other hand, bills himself as the original "Mr. Conservative." If he were consistent, this would be a great quality for a state official; but we happen to remember that he fought very hard for Gov. G. Mennen Williams in 1958—and "Soapy" was never considered a conservative.

FOR THE STATE legislature, we are faced with complete changes in districts and many new faces because the incumbents, Sen. Farrell E. Roberts and State Rep. Henry M. Hogan, Jr., are not seeking re-election.

The largest segment of our circulation area is now in the new 16th Senatorial District. Again, there is no contest among the Democrats.

Three persons are vying for the Republican Senatorial nomination. The front-runners, we feel, are Robert Huber, mayor of Troy; Robert Patnales, a Royal Oak city commissioner; and J. Bruce Donaldson, a tax attorney from Beverly Hills.

There is no question that Huber has had the most local government experience. Yet, we question whether he should be our senator in Lansing.

SINCE HE has been mayor of Troy, that city has had one internal squabble after another, and Huber has always been in the thick of it. And he has been relatively ineffective on the county board of supervisors.

He claims to be independent of the regular party organization and campaigned as a conservative two years ago. We have seen people of this political philosophy in Lansing before, and they end up fighting programs instead of solving them.

Romney needs help in Lansing and we don't believe that Bob Huber is necessarily in his corner.

Our County Preferences

Both the Republican Party and the Democratic Party have contests for Oakland County positions in the Sept. 1 primary election. Also, there are seven candidates in the nonpartisan race for three circuit court judgeships.

For prosecuting attorney, the Democrats have two contenders for nomination: S. Jerome Bronson and Odlin H. Johnson; whereas the Republicans have three: Jerome K. Barry, William E. Lang and Robert L. Templin.

Our choice would be Templin, who, we feel, would make the best prosecutor because of his interest and participation in county politics and his fine record as a lawyer.

THERE ARE two Democrats and two Republicans seeking their party's nomination for county clerk-register of deeds. Doris M. Beck and John D. Murphy are the Democrats. The two Republicans are Daniel T. Berry and appointed incumbent David R. Calhoun.

Based on his experience to date, we would like to see Calhoun returned to the county clerk's post. As for the two Democrats,

Of the other two, both attorneys, we feel that Bruce Donaldson is more attuned to the way of life we have in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area. He is a political moderate, and Patnales is a political liberal, in his own words.

IN OUR HOUSE district, which is now the 65th, there is no contest among the Democrats; but there are four Republican hopefuls.

In our opinion, neither Stanley M. Brown nor Denton Hassell have the backgrounds that make a legislator great. William Brownfield (not to be confused with Cong. William Brownfield) is Birmingham's city planner and thus has had some local government experience. William Hampton is a young attorney with a lot of political but no governmental experience.

Based on a combination of facts, including that our present representative is one of only nine lawyers in the House and recognizing that political and legal knowhow are very important, we believe that Hampton would offer the most as legislator for this area.

IN THE NEW nonpartisan Court of Appeals race, we find the following four candidates have outstanding qualifications (unfortunately, only three can be elected from this district): Farrell E. Roberts, now our state senator and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee; Circuit Judge Timothy Quinn of Caro; Circuit Judge Howard Carroll of Macomb County; and Circuit Judge Louis D. McGregor of Flint.

As for national offices, the Democrats have a contest in the race for congressman from the 19th district; whereas the Republicans have contenders for both the Senate and House of Representatives.

DEMOCRAT PHILIP A. Hart, incumbent U.S. senator, is unopposed in his party. However, three Republicans seek nomination: Edward A. Meany, Jr., James F. O'Neil and Elly M. Peterson. Mrs. Peterson, we believe, has the best background because of her service for the Republican Party on both the state and national level.

The three Democrats in the running for congressman from the 19th district are John H. Burke, Billie S. Farnum and Paul J. Rabault. Farnum with his four years as state auditor general has the most experience and appears to us to be the best qualified.

Republicans vying for the nomination are William W. Brashers, James P. Dickerson and Richard D. Kuhn. We favor Dickerson because of his moderate political philosophy.

For congressman from the 18th district, Democrat Frank J. Sierawski is unopposed; while Republican incumbent William S. Broomfield is opposed by Robert L. Mott. In our opinion, there is no question but what Mr. Broomfield is better qualified and should be renominated.

Doris M. Beck is the better qualified.

Incidentally, Daniel T. Berry is not to be confused with the Daniel W. Barry on the ballot for drain commissioner.

The Democrats have a contest for the county treasurer nomination between Lucille D. Marshall and George F. Reutter; and for drain commissioner between Stanley F. Dunn and Howard A. Stites. We have no recommendation.

REPUBLICANS Charles A. Sparks for treasurer and Daniel W. Barry for drain commissioner are unopposed.

Democrat Ruel E. McPherson and Republican Frank Irons are unopposed for nomination for sheriff.

In the nonpartisan race for circuit judges, we believe the three appointed incumbents—Arthur E. Moore, James Thorburn and Phillip E. Pratt—have earned election to their posts. All three were considered outstanding members of the county bar before their appointments to the bench. The other contenders are James Clarkson, Allen C. Engle, John E. McGrath and Gordon S. Smith.

Better Than Watching Television



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Judge Emery Explains Traffic Court Policy

To the Editor:
This is a copy of a letter sent to John D. Peterson, 148 W. Lincoln, Birmingham, as a result of his letter sent to this court and the newspaper.
Dear Mr. Peterson:
I want to thank you for your letter of Aug. 4. We wish to operate a good court and appreciate someone taking the time to advise the shortcomings he observes.

The policy of the court is to take each person in the order of his appearance that morning. An exception is made in the cases of attorneys who have to appear in other courts. This is traditional with our courts in this state.

If anyone with a pressing time problem requests an early hearing, the judge will, of course, consider the request and the reasons for it. With regard to the police department to ascertain why he was given priority treatment.

I DO NOT know the commissioner personally, and I did not know he was coming to court as he came in like anyone else on the morning assigned to him without any prior request for preferential treatment. With respect to the "four cases

with circumstances nearly identical to mine," I would like to examine the files of those cases in order to answer your question specifically.
However, you should understand that the policy of our court is to dismiss a case against an alleged violator only in such instances where the offense was relatively minor and the person has a perfect record of many years driving in Michigan according to the transcripts received from the office of the secretary of state.

A SUSPENDED sentence is given where someone has an excellent record of many years driving in Michigan, marred only by one or two minor violations in the dim past.

(SEE POLICY, S-B)

Candidate Lauds County Clerk

To the Editor:
As a candidate for judge of the Court of Appeals, I have received and carefully examined a copy of the proposed nonpartisan ballot.
I would like to publicly compliment your county clerk, David R. Calhoun, for the excellent format of the ballot. This is an extremely difficult task. The ballot is one of the best I have ever seen.

HOWARD R. CARROLL
Circuit Judge
Macomb County

Yesteryear Happenings

56 YEARS AGO
August 21, 1914
Many loyal fans in this little city of ours know that Birmingham has one of the best amateur ball teams in the state. This summer has seen many very fast games staged on Bannum field and our boys have won their share. Even when losing, the scores have been close. The grounds have been put in excellent shape and a bleacher stand built, which will shortly be moved to a position under the tree. New uniforms have been purchased.

That Village Band of ours is a regular band. The finest thing in the world may be said about it—it is improving. Last Wednesday evening it was the easiest thing in the world to imagine one was listening to a concert on Belle Isle. This spring the band was trying all right, but there were several instruments that had not been exactly conquered. Now there is peace and harmony. We may well be proud of our band.

Members of the Bloomfield Hills Country Club are making plans for some very spirited riding to the bounds across the country. The Grosse Pointe Kennel Club English horse show will be brought out among the hills sometime next autumn to give the country side a sample of a real run after hounds, horse blowing, men pulling over the hills and fences. There will be no fox, but the hounds will chase a trail that has been scented with the same old scent.
(SEE HAPPENINGS, S-B)

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



George Romney is going to have to face a very difficult decision before the middle of September which could impact on how effective he is with the legislature next year. Under the new Constitution the lieutenant governor is no longer selected by the people in the primary. He will be picked by the party conventions in September and will run as a team with the governor, similar to the way the President and Vice President are grouped.
This will end a system where the governor and lieutenant governor could be of different political parties, and the chief executive being afraid of leaving the state because a person of different political philosophy would handle the reins in his absence.

THIS IS WHY the governor has a difficult decision. Who should be his running mate? Old war horse Clarence Reid? Moderate Senate Leader William Milliken or Speaker Allison Green of the House of Representatives?
In the old days the governor didn't have to worry about stepping on someone's toes, but at a political convention there is no question but that the delegates will go along with his choice and that choice will disillusion the backers of the losing candidates.
As far as Reid goes, there is no problem. He is backing George Higgins for governor in the primary. Romney can't alienate any of his backers by scuttling this ship because these sailors are not even in the same navy.

BETWEEN MILLIKEN and Green, however, you have two wings of the Republican Party.
Milliken, a Traverse City department store head, as majority floor leader of the Senate, worked hard and long for all of Romney's programs. He was one of the governor's strongest allies.
His shortcoming was that the "Moderates" in the Senate had internal fights with the conservatives and when the chips were down, even though there was a majority of Republican votes in that body, Milliken couldn't deliver them on many occasions.
Green, on the other hand, ran the House with an iron hand. He was probably the only man in Lansing that could bring both the moderate and conservative forces together.

WHEN ROMNEY WANTED something, Green would look it over and if he told the governor he'd deliver, he delivered.
Green, really, Green is acceptable to the conservatives; Milliken is not. Green as a rural farmer would give Romney some support that he is presently lacking.
Milliken would add little to the ticket that Romney doesn't have already. He is bright, young and very good looking.
Green, though, is a pretty handsome man, himself.
Thus Romney's dilemma. Do you alienate some moderate supporters to strengthen the ticket and actually have better relations with the legislature next year, or do you reward an ally with the intention of molding someone for the governorship in the future?
Guess I'm not a lawyer and think this election is more important than the future.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

I should like to see a Community Day established in Birmingham.
Half serious and half fun, it could be staged once a year or once every other year.
My idea of a Community Day involves brief talks by governmental and civic leaders, school officials, business executives and residents not in a position of community leadership.
Following the talks there could be a band concert or a dance or some other such activity.
Community Day could take place at Shain Park or at Seaholm, in which case the activities could be moved inside in event of inclement weather.

THERE COULD be exhibits representing the various facets and activities or our community. I'm thinking of such things as recreation, governmental services (displaying materials and work of the city assessor's and the city treasurer's offices, for example), education, business, products manufactured locally, service and social groups and their programs.
I'd like to see short talks given by people like:
• Dr. John B. Smith, superintendent of Birmingham Public Schools.
• Charles W. Renfrew, Mayor of Birmingham.
• Robert Hanson, president of the Birmingham Board of Education, and Mrs. Kathryn Loomis, former president of that board.
• Virgil LaMarre, president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.
• Charles A. Thom, artist of renown and leader in many community activities.
• Robert Kilpatrick, chairman of the Citizens Action Committee.
• Mary Bowden, president of the Birmingham-Bloomfield League of Women Voters.
• Clarence Vliet, Ruth Shain and others of their ilk whose roots in Birmingham run deep.
• And just a plain resident or two.

PURPOSE of these talks would be to offer inspiration by reminding us of our heritage, our community values, our problems and our assets for solving those problems. And at least a few of them should be spiced with humor—we should be able to laugh a little at ourselves at the same time as we are taking such a serious look at what we are and where we are headed.
In other words, Community Day ought to be a day of serious purpose, but also filled with humor and entertainment.
Community Day once a year or every two years should be a strong force to help us maintain the kind of community that has been molded over the years.
In essence, it would be a community rally.
Why not have one?

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