



"If It Fitz..." The nomination hug

By Jim Fitzgerald

Before the recent GOP convention began, one of the men in charge told a reporter: "The whole idea is to make the event into a TV production instead of a convention."

Ken Rietz said that. He was assistant to the chairman of the GOP convention Program Committee. The chairman was California Lt. Gov. Mike Curb, who, in the 1960s, led the Mike Curb Congregation, a pop singing group, and was later a recording executive handling such musical artists as Pat Boone, the Osmonds and Shaun Cassidy.

Rietz is a political TV producer from California. He and Curb are credited with arranging for Sammy Davis Jr. to hug Richard Nixon on national TV at the 1972 GOP convention in Miami. Naturally, a lot of people were wondering which star would be designated to hug Ronald Reagan when he was crowned.

It was suggested that Reagan, because of his background, could hug himself. But there certainly wasn't any necessity for a

self-embrace, as there were plenty of other stars in the Detroit area that week who could have hugged Reagan. Jimmy Stewart, for instance. He appears regularly in TV commercials to say, "The most important things Firestone makes is friends." After hugging Reagan, Stewart could have told TV viewers how to drive 50,000 miles without wearing the tread off a steel-belted friend.

Or how about Ginger Rogers? She was starring in a stage show not far from the convention site. Miss Rogers could not only have hugged Reagan on TV; she could also have danced with him, thus greatly improving his chances of marrying a jockey.

Other entertainers in town for the convention were Wayne Newton, Frank Sinatra, Liz Taylor, Tony Orlando and Gerald Ford. (Ford was once a male model; I find that entertaining.) You might wonder why Rietz and Curb didn't arrange for every one of these stars to hug Reagan on TV, which would really have given Jimmy Carter something to play softball about.

Remember, Richard Nixon was an incumbent president at the Miami convention. He didn't need a lot of hugs from the stars. In fact, there are a few people who think Nixon might have been re-elected even if Sammy Davis hadn't hugged him. On the other hand, Reagan needs all the hugs he can get. He has never been elected anything except governor of California, and everyone knows Californians will elect anyone governor just to keep Mike Curb a breath away from appointing Donny Osmond to the state Supreme Court. The problem was that extended hugging would

have increased the length of the convention and decreased the number of TV viewers. A review of past TV ratings indicated that the shorter the convention, the bigger the audience. The first televised GOP convention, in 1952, was on the air for 56 hours. This year it was on about 18 hours. Obviously, convention planners have learned through the years that it's hard to keep the American public from going to the bathroom for 56 hours, and Walter Cronkite can't do it alone. He needs help from Hollywood.

Show biz stars can keep TV cameras focused on the convention podium, where the politicians want it. This is because the networks know the public wants to see a Wayne Newton, not a Barry Goldwater. And, as Sammy Davis proved with Nixon, if a Newton hugs a nominee, the election is won. In political parlance, this is known as the we-give-a-fignewton strategy.

What had to be decided, in the case of Reagan, was whether to choreograph hugs from several stars, and risk making the convention too long, or to stick with only one hug from, say, Liz Taylor, and risk offending Tony Orlando, not to mention Dawn.

I don't know what was finally decided because, when Reagan was crowned, I was home watching an old Jimmy Stewart movie on TV. That's what steel-belted friends are for.

Ubly sets building millage vote

The Ubly Board of Education Monday approved a \$1.295 million bonding proposal to be voted on by the public Monday, Sept. 8.

The bonding proposal will fund a 20,000-square-foot addition which will include a band room, greenhouse, workshops and science rooms, according to Supt. David Landeryou.

The addition will replace obsolete facilities and provide more room in the overcrowded school.

Landeryou said the school has a current enrollment of 1,243 students but facilities designed for only 900.

The architectural firm of Wigen, Tineckell and Associates, of Saginaw, has been hired to design the structure.



A GATHERING OF NATIONS -- Area students in the Lions Club summer foreign exchange program gathered at the Charmont Monday for an informal dinner. Back row from left: Martin Mauser (Austria), Voraver Juergen (Austria), Seppo Rantala (Finland), Juhani Gronlund (Finland), Jaribe Lkonen (Finland). Second row Seiji Suzuki (Japan), Hiromu Watanabe (Japan), Tuomo Tapper (Finland), Isto Porkkala (Finland). First row Sabine Knaus (Austria), Tarja Tellikka (Finland), Auli Laakso (Finland), Florence Bouchacourt (France), Coaroline Boxy (Belgium).

Vandals in cars damage area lawns

Robert C. Dilman reported "extensive damage" to his yard and flower garden at 4612 Kennebec Drive Sunday.

Dilman told police that a neighbor reported hearing a vehicle driving on his (Dilman's) lawn around 2 a.m. but did not investigate or see the driver.

Police believe the vehicle was northbound on Leach Street and missed the stop where the street ended, intersecting with Huron Street. There was no curb to keep him from going onto Dilman's yard.

This is the second time this year a car has missed the stop and gone into Dilman's yard.

A sump pump was stolen from the Thumb Area Commodity Cooperative grain terminal on Cemetery Road sometime between 5 p.m. Friday, July 18, and 7 a.m. July 21.

The pump, valued at \$65, was reported missing by Earnest Cook and had an unknown serial number.

Damage estimated at \$150-200 was done to the Kingston High School lawn last week.

Supt. Robert Cameron reported to Kingston Police Officer Thomas Kolb the afternoon of July 21 that the damage had been done the previous night by a vehicle

driven across the front lawn, which left deep ruts and tore up the grass.

Similar tracks were also found on the Kingston State Bank lawn.

The vehicle had one regular rear tire in back and one snow tire, which enabled Kolb to find the vehicle and its owner later that afternoon.

The owner subsequently admitted doing the damage. Further action in the case was pending issuance of a warrant by the prosecutor's office.

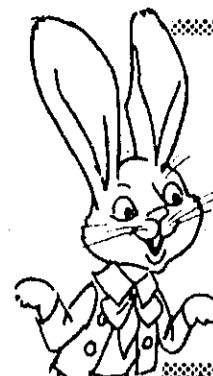
The individual also admitted breaking some windows in Kingston, but a criminal charge was not made depending on his paying restitution of \$97.

Mary Miracle of 6825 Gilford Road, Kingston, reported to Caro state police last Thursday that a Gamble's 5 horsepower rotary tiller was stolen from her garden some time since Monday, July 21. It was worth \$350.

A Gagetown woman reported to the sheriff's department last Wednesday that there was a hole in her kitchen window made by a BB gun.

The suspected youth, she said, also had shot holes in several windows of the home of a neighbor, shot at cars and killed birds.

Gagetown police and the Department of Natural Resources, because of the birds, were notified of the youth's actions.



Rabbit Tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The story about Jim Brooker that appeared in the Chronicle last week was of particular interest to the Fritz Olsons of Cass City.

The reason is that the Olsons and the Brookers were friends when they lived in Bay City. Mrs. Brooker still lives in Bay City.

Another footnote to the Brooker story was provided by Jim Patnaude, a student at Owen-Gage. He had the records. Brooker vaulted 12-9 9/16 at the Paris Olympics. The year Brooker won the bronze was one of four times that the United States won all three places in the pole vault.

Finally, DeHart Hubbard's first place in the long jump was 25-5 at Paris, Patnaude reports.

Patnaude's best vault during this past season was 13-4, the best of anyone in the upper Thumb.

Sometimes it's hard to be a leader. Just ask Earl L. Warrick. Warrick, of Midland, is district governor of Rotary.

He was trying to impress officers of local clubs with the importance of turning in reports. If they are late, he warned one officer, I'll call your secretary at 2 a.m. to get them. Well, the officer responded, I won't have them then, but I'll be sure to have them when I return your call the next morning at 2 o'clock.

In the last several weeks the Chronicle has published two stories about \$5,000 winners in the Michigan lottery.

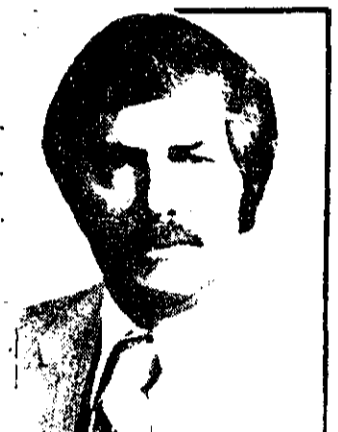
Papers are continually accused of publishing "bad" news and leaving out "good" news.

This is a switch because the good is published and the bad ignored.

The bad news in this story is the hordes that buy tickets and never win anything.

I'm sure that success stories like that of Isabelle Seely encourage many to plunk down their hard earned dollars for a chance at the pot at the end of the rainbow.

That makes me uncomfortable because the odds are greater than two to one against getting your money back. Every buck that goes for tickets returns something less than 50 cents in prizes.



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Having sold our farm, we will sell the following items at public auction located 1 mile east of Cass City on M-81, 1 1/2 miles north at 5283 Schwegler Road on

Saturday, August 2

1:00 p.m.

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- 8 ft. field cultivator
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- 2 matching swivel, gold rockers
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- Noritake china service
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TERMS - Cash. Everything settled for day of sale. Not responsible for accidents.

CLERK - Hillaker Auction Service

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Phone 517-872-3019 Cass City

The Haire Net



It would be great if we could vote "none of the above" on the three tax proposals that will face us in Michigan and substitute a cut in spending law instead.

On the tax proposals we can all vote no and perhaps that's the way to go.

There could be merit in voting no on the Tisch and Smith-Bullard tax proposals and not voting at all on the Milliken proposal.

The Tisch amendment would be disastrous and the Smith-Bullard option would remove local control of our schools. If they both passed, perhaps the Milliken proposal would pass, too, and the resulting confusion delay implementation long enough so that complete breakdown of government wouldn't result.

In case you missed it, Tisch wants to assess property at 25 percent instead of 50 percent of actual cash value. The state would be required to fund the shortage caused in assessment and special exemptions for senior citizens to the tune of about \$2 billion. In addition any state tax increase would require a 60 percent voter margin to pass.

The Smith-Bullard option backed and financed to the tune of over \$60,000 already by the Michigan Education Association would establish a maximum of 7 voter-approved mills for schools and a statewide property-tax levy limit of 24.5 mills.

The object, of course, is to shift the financing of schools from the district to state

level. The MEA has had trouble getting local voters to approve increases in operating millage.

The Milliken proposal shifts the tax burden from property tax to sales tax. It doesn't promise the moon like the Tisch amendment.

Owner-occupied homes would have a \$7,100 reduction in assessed valuation, not a great deal for farmers paying huge property taxes. Renters would receive an average \$140 rebate.

To make up the difference the sales tax jumps to 5.5 percent, a tax that is regressive. Lower income persons pay as much as higher income citizens. There are exceptions in necessities that help the poor.

What all these tax proposals signify is the growing revolt against a tax burden that is becoming oppressive, especially now when wages simply haven't been able to keep up with inflation.

Everyone knows the real answer. It's not a shift in taxes, but a reduction in spending that makes the taxes necessary.

Everyone knows what needs to be done. No one knows how to do it. Tisch, Headlee and Milliken haven't been the answer and there is no solution in sight.

Special interest groups and the politicians always manage to stay a step ahead of the ordinary taxpayer.

The options open to us Nov. 4 make it difficult to see any improvement in the years ahead.

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