

Cecil Hayward retires in Lamotte township

36 years as supervisor 'long enough'

Thirty-six years is a long time, Cecil Hayward admits. "Long enough, I can say without hesitation."

But after 36 years as supervisor of Lamotte township, that isn't the main reason why he decided to not seek re-election.

At age 73, his health isn't what it used to be. He is only now recovering from an operation a year ago.

For a man who missed only two meetings in 36 years, health was reason enough to step down.

Hayward was first elected supervisor in March, 1945 as a write-in candidate, after having lived in the township only a couple of years. "I was a newcomer. I know that."

He was not a newcomer to the area, however. He grew up in nearby Flynn township, where his father had been supervisor for 17 years. His wife's father has been township clerk there.

He and Olive were married in 1925 in Pontiac, when both were 17 years old.

They moved to Hemans in 1942, where Hayward's brother, Russell, was manager of the Harper Elevator.

For a couple of years after that, Hayward continued to commute to Pontiac, where he worked as an electrician at Pontiac Motors.

After that, he farmed his 140 acres, divided by M-53 and rented acreage.

Hayward and his wife have five children: Ruth Bailey, Port Huron; Ethel Parker, Harrison; Bernard,

Pontiac, and James and Ronald, both of Lapeer.

The retiring supervisor was honored at an open house Sunday afternoon sponsored by the township board, firemen and Fire Department Auxiliary. More than 150 persons attended.

In addition to numerous cards and gifts Hayward received, state Sen. Alvin DeGrow presented him with a certificate from Gov. Milliken, commending him for the services he has performed.

FROM 1953-65, HAYWARD was assistant sergeant of arms at the Michigan House of Representatives in Lansing. He was first recommended for appointment by Dr. George S. Tweedle, a Sandusky physician who in 1953 was chairman of the Sanilac County Republican Committee.

Hayward stayed in Lansing during the week and went home on week ends to take care of his supervisor duties and his farming. The legislative job was easier in the beginning because the state's lawmakers only met three months a year. Now they meet most of the year.

The job included guarding the door to keep unauthorized persons off the House floor and rounding up stray representatives for roll-call votes. He gave it up in 1965 to return to farming full-time.

DURING HIS 36 YEARS as supervisor, there have been lots of changes.

One which he and his wife noted — as has everyone else — is that taxes have increased tremendously.

They bought their 140 acres in Hemans in 1942 for \$2,500 total and their first

year's taxes were \$100.

They own 51 acres now, worth about \$1,000 an acre, and their last tax bill was \$1,200.

Hayward subdivided about 15 of his acres starting about 10 years ago. There are now 15 houses there. Seventy-five acres were sold for farmland.

Hayward still grows some hay and wheat on his 51 acres.

Another change over the years has been in assessing. "Today, there is just so much more work. The whole structure has changed."

When Hayward started, assessors didn't have to be certified and they had a lot of discretion in deciding how much property was worth.

With the aim of making the system fairer, state law was changed. Assessors, who now must be certified, must follow the state manual, which specifies how much each type of property is worth.

LAMOTTE TOWNSHIP has undergone a lot of progress in the 36 years.

The population of 1,061 is about double what it was back in 1945. There are fewer (but larger) farms, but more homes.

Seventeen miles of township roads have been paved and about seven years ago, the township hall was constructed.

The township fire department was started about the same time and Hayward feels township taxpayers are getting a bargain. Contracting with area fire departments, which Lamotte did before organizing its own, would be more costly.

"We're a lot farther ahead to have our own depart-

ment."

When asked, Hayward couldn't say how many hours a week he devotes to the job. Hardly a day goes by that he doesn't get at least one telephone call from a township resident, "sometimes even on Sundays."

"After you're in there for years, they rely on you for information." Few calls, he

said, are complaints.

HIS LAST DAY ON THE job is Nov. 20, when he turns over the reins to Jack Gillig.

But Hayward will still have lots of jobs to keep him busy. He is chairman of the Thumb Area Commission on Aging board, vice-president of the advisory council to the 14-county Area Agency on Aging and is a member of

the Marlette Ambulance Board and Sanilac County Board of Appeals.

"I can't sit down. I just cannot sit down," the soon-to-be ex-supervisor said. "I think I can still do a fair job in certain categories."

Even though he will still keep busy, he said he is going to miss his duties as supervisor. "I sure am."

Letters to the Editor

Miller hooked on Cass City

Dear Mr. Haire,

Your article on small town living, and what happened to me last winter, plus with all the depressing lay-offs Cass City is going through... has prompted me to write you.

I'm from the big city of Milwaukee, so before we moved here four years ago, I was warned by many ex-small-towners to be careful.

"Everybody knows everybody else's business and it can be like a 'Peyton Place!'"

So... I proceeded with caution.

When I'd walk downtown and strangers would smile and say, "Hi," I would think they are too good to be true, but when I'd get home, I'd find I'd have such a friendly feeling. When I joined outside activities, I'd always feel so welcome. When I went with my husband to that first Christmas party the company gave, I left feeling like a part of them.

When our daughter joined the little leaguers, I was overwhelmed at how many parents cared. When I'd go for a walk in the evenings, it was such a free feeling to not be afraid. I actually knew my neighbors' first names by the end of that first year!

But... I kept waiting... where is all this awful Peyton Place business?

Sure, I'd hear about who's getting a divorce and whose child did something wrong... BUT, the people working together for the good of the community far out-weighed the normal "happenings" any place has!

The cautiousness left me when last winter I ended up in the hospital for six weeks... I had visitors every day... I had phone calls galore... 62 get-well cards... 27 letters... eight plants, etc.

When I was released from the hospital, the ladies actually took turns bringing in our food every single day for one whole week!

That did it. I was hooked for life on Cass City.

This is my 29th house I've lived in. My parents moved a lot during World War II.

NO WHERE else have I ever felt that "love your neighbor" feeling as I have right here!

Thank you Cass Cityans and may I be half as good a neighbor to you as you have been to me!

Sincerely,
D.J. Miller
3299 E. Cass City Road

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Until we meet again!

With best wishes and love always,
Caroline Swart
Heerhugowaard
the Netherlands

Final rites for Mrs. Striffler held Nov. 6

Funeral services for Mrs. Stanley Striffler, 75, of Detroit were held Nov. 6 in the Verheyden Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe. Rev. Myron Everett, pastor of the Outer Drive U.M. church, officiated and burial was in Elkland cemetery.

Mrs. Striffler, the former Marjorie Fisk, died Nov. 3 in the Cadillac Nursing Home in Detroit.

She is survived by her husband, Stanley, formerly of Cass City, who is a patient in the Cadillac nursing home, and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Farmer!

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