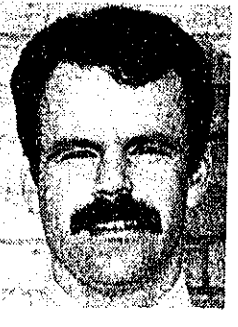


PEDALING AROUND

Our next president

By Mike Eliasohn



The next four years are going to be very interesting. Ronald Reagan's candidacy was very much like that of Jimmy Carter's of four years ago in that both made a lot of promises.

Carter was going to make the federal government more responsive, reduce inflation and create a balanced budget. One reason he lost was because he didn't, or wasn't able to, keep all of his promises.

Reagan has made as many and maybe more promises. He is going to cut taxes, increase military spending, reduce inflation and revive the economy. He is going to have to do that despite the economy being in much worse condition than when Carter took office.

Reagan is also going to have to prove that the conservatism that he has espoused so long — the philosophy of less government and individuals assuming more responsibility — is what is needed to solve the nation's problems.

I have never cared for the Hubert Humphrey-Edward Kennedy liberal philosophy that all problems can be solved by spending enough government money on them, but I am also suspicious of the conservative philosophy.

Conservatism has too often meant not spending money on programs to help people, that is, for "poor people," but instead spending it for military weapons and dams out west.

I won't quarrel with those who argue we need to spend more for defense. Our 25-year-old B-52 bombers, for instance, should have been replaced years ago.

But too often, military spending is accompanied by tremendous waste, of manufacturers getting contracts not because they have the best product but because of the influence of the congressman in whose district

the plant is located, of huge cost overruns and failure to admit some projects are failures.

Increased military spending won't help Michigan. The defense plants and most military bases are in the south and the west. They will get the jobs. Michiganders will help pay for them.

Reagan has proposed returning welfare control to the states, though apparently with the federal government still providing some funds. What that will mean is that Mississippi will pay \$50 while Michigan pays \$100, so we will get the welfare recipients and Mississippi will attract employment.

Having said that, I must add that it will be fascinating to see if Reagan can do all that he wants to. I don't see how he can cut taxes, spend billions more for the military and balance the budget, but he says he can do it.

It will also be interesting to see if Reagan chooses to be pragmatic or stick to his conservative philosophy when those are the choices available to him. When he was governor of California, he chose to be pragmatic.

Will he, for instance, choose to sign bills passed by Congress that only give him some of what he wants, or will he only approve that which follows his conservative beliefs?

If he chooses the pragmatic route, I hope he passes that philosophy on to his fellow conservatives.

For instance, as the present Senate minority leader, Howard Baker should become the majority leader when Republicans take control of that body Jan. 1.

Apparently he will get that job because he has the support of Reagan. Without it, he might not because some of the conservatives in the Senate would rather have one of their own as majority leader. Baker has sinned in their eyes because he is a moderate who has done such terrible things as voting for the Panama Canal treaty, which Republican President Ford (and I believe Nixon) had supported.

Even Reagan may have trouble with the ultra-conservatives. According to an article in one of the Sunday papers, some of the leaders of the "New Right" have already warned him that if he moderates his conservative stance, they won't support him in 1984.



EMPLOYEES WITH 20 years of service were among a group feted at a party honoring workers at Hills and Dales General Hospital last Wednesday. The 20-year veterans each were given a gift certificate.

From left, first row: Reva Silver, Beverly Rockefeller, Isabelle Seeley, Dolly Tracy and Duane Witkovsky.

Second row: Janet Sticken, Esther Buehrly, Mary Kerbyson, Theron Middaugh, Earl Hendrick.



EMPLOYEES COMPLETING 10 and 15 years of service at Hills and Dales General Hospital included, from left: Maxine Loney, 15 years; Catherine Fox, Virginia Hartwick and Clare Leitch, all 10 years. Not pictured are Phyllis Little, 15 years, and Jean Juhasz, 10 years.

15-year employees were given a necklace and 10-year workers received pins. In addition to the recognition of service, the party was in honor of Mrs. Hartwick, who is retiring.

Commission on Aging provides many services

According to Ronald Cassie, executive director of the Thumb Area Commission on Aging (TACA), the agency in the fiscal year which ended Sept. 30, continued to provide needed services for the elderly of Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties.

The six major services which were provided were information referral, outreach-ombudsman, transportation, socialization, newsletter and meal program.

Sixty-eight percent of the monies used to provide these services came from the federal government, through the Older Americans' Act with 11 percent from the boards of commissioners in Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties, 12 percent in donations for services from senior citizens, and 9 percent from state government.

Through the service of information-referral, senior citizens can get help and information on a variety of concerns. Last year, TACA received 4,663 calls and walk-in requests for assistance. "We were able to help people find answers to questions concerning Social Security, transportation needs, health problems, financial concerns, to name a few," Cassie said.

The major concern of outreach is to help senior citizens obtain services they need. Last year outreach workers made 2,635 home visits.

TACA provided 7306 trips in 1979-80 to the doctor, food shopping, drugstore for prescription drugs, and other appointments. The average trip was 12 miles long and 84,368 miles were logged, mostly by volunteer drivers.

Last year, 144,000 issues of the Thumb Area Senior

News were printed by the Commission. The monthly newspaper, covering items of interest and concern to senior citizens, was printed at a cost of 20 cents per issue. Currently 18,000 senior citizens receive the publication.

The largest program is the meal program. The commission operates 13 meal sites in the three counties and last year served 103,301 meals.

In Tuscola, there is a double home delivered meal program operating within a 10-mile radius from Caro, Mayville and Vassar.

All the other sites have a single meal per day home delivered meal operating in a 10-mile radius from each of the following sites: Fairgrove, Kingston, Caseville, Port Austin, Bad Axe, Harbor Beach, Port Sanilac, Deckerville, Sandusky and Crosswell. The sites aren't open each day.

The fourth annual Senior Citizens Ball was held last year, with over 600 senior citizens taking part in the gala evening.

TACA provides several additional services which either rely on volunteer help or are self-supporting. Blood pressure testing is done at 20 sites throughout the three counties by nurses who volunteer their services. Last year, 7,235 blood pressure checks were taken.

The senior citizen discount and identification program enabled senior citizens to receive voluntary discounts given by approximately 300 area merchants. More than 6,000 persons currently have identification discount cards.

Two hundred volunteers play a large role in providing services. There was \$27,013 worth of volunteer help given last year.

Help for the deaf

Science took a major step forward on Dec. 8, 1976, when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted authority to broadcasters to televise "closed captions" for the approximately 14 million hearing-impaired persons in the U.S.

"Closed captioning" is a new system of printing the audio portions of programs as subtitles on TV screens. To receive closed captions, viewers must attach an adapter unit to their sets or use a special TV set with built-in decoding equipment.

This system, beginning in 1980, was developed by the Public Broadcasting Service under a contract with the former Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare.

Heavy reading

The most weighty of all publications is probably the 1,112-volume set of *British Parliamentary Papers* of 1800-1900. The complete set costs \$65,000, would take years to read, and weighs 3.64 tons. The total print run was only 500 sets.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	49	14	0
Thursday	53	28	trace
Friday	54	20	.02
Saturday	48	34	.17
Sunday	60	28	.06
Monday	39	24	0
Tuesday	34	9	0

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)

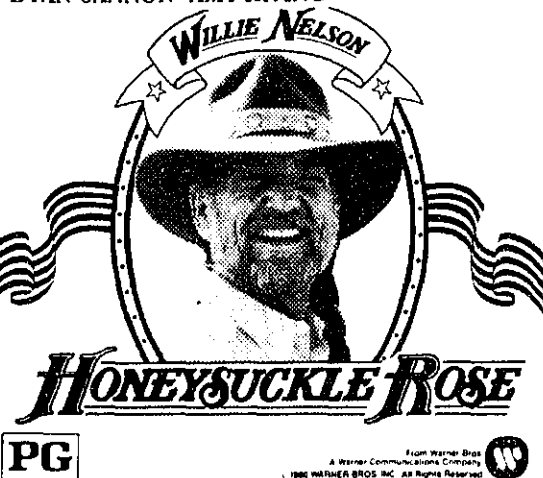
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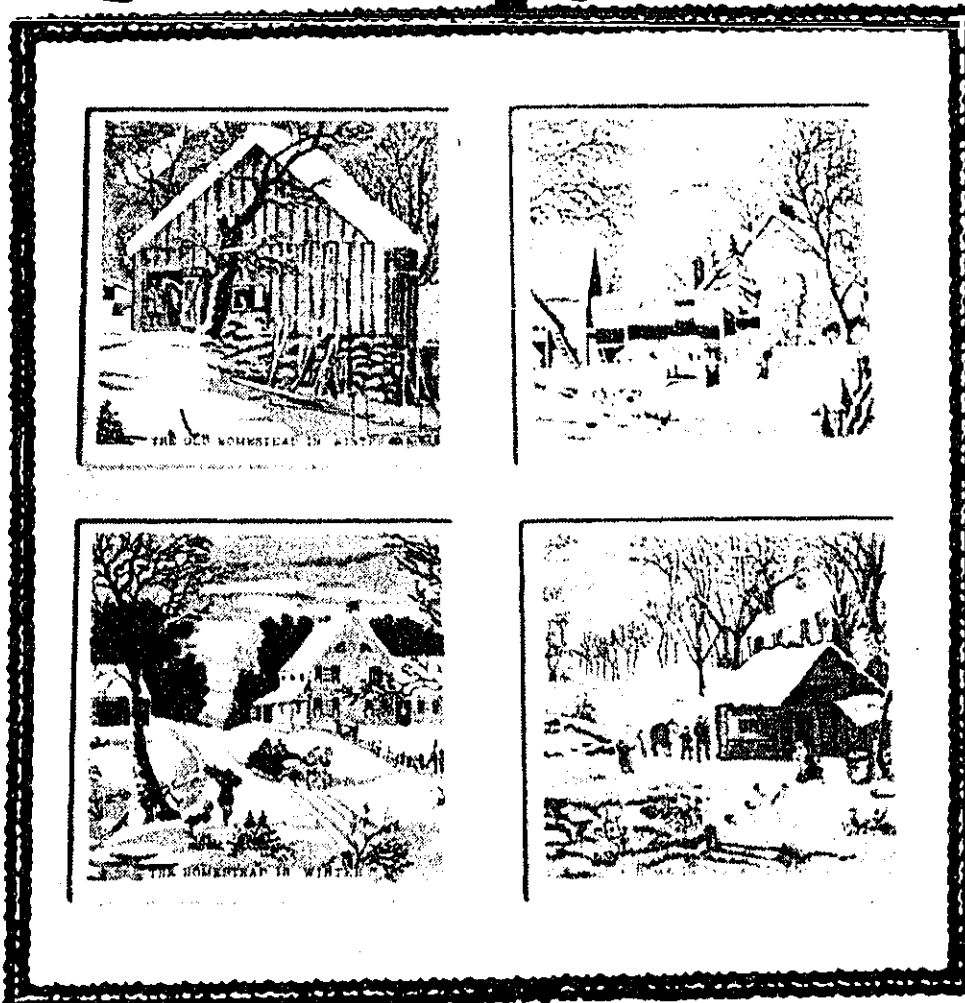
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