

Can Hall Survive Showdown Tuesday?

August 4, 1970, will mark the end of the toughest political battle engaged in by Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall.

When votes are tallied, Curt will either suffer his first political defeat or confirm he is unbeatable and will continue in office until he chooses to retire.

FOR THE PAST DECADE, Hall has been re-elected because the opposition has never mustered a real strong candidate.

It has always been said by his foes that Curt remains in office only because a good candidate cannot be found to run against him. A review of Hall's opposition seems to confirm that claim.

If Curt wins Tuesday, he'll join the ranks of Orville Hubbard and Richard Daley as political kingpins who would remain in office and leave voluntarily.

But if Earl Teeples is successful in defeating Hall in Tuesday's primary, the myth will burst. Not only will a myth burst, but it is likely also that a dynasty will end and a political machine break down.

Most observers around Farmington agree Teeples has as good a chance, if not better, to unseat Hall than any of Hall's past opponents, but that's not saying a whole lot. Earl didn't file for supervisor because his chances were better than five previous losers. Teeples filed to win.

CAN EARL TEEPLES WIN Tuesday? Yes, he certainly could win, but it's not making any predictions. I won't even predict a close race with certainty. There are too many unknowns in this campaign and the man who picks a winner with confidence is a fool.

Teeples has a lot of push on his side. He's a long-time resi-

dent of the township, liked by most and loved by many. His barn is a popular gathering place, his swimming pool has been filled many times with teens, and Earl has counseled as many teens as most high school counselors.

Earl is a good cop and township residents know it. He's befriended persons in trouble and has gotten through when necessary. He's a professional cop and there are township policemen who'll admit that.

This editor has talked with Teeples enough to know he is an honest man. I believe what he says because he's never crossed me once. Others have chosen to challenge his integrity during the campaign. I cannot. I'm bewildered by the charge and have seen nothing hinting of deceit in the man.

Teeples is not only a good cop, an honest cop and a beautiful kinsman but an intelligent person. He takes a logical approach and thinks things out far in advance before acting. I have watched Earl arrange his thoughts on paper in an orderly manner, point after point. He's a thinker, a practical thinker.

As a result, Earl is seldom surprised by the consequences of his actions because he's moved every bit plotted out with alternatives considered and priorities given.

DID THE TEEPLES trial board hearing a year ago have anything to do with his appearance in the race against Curt in August? Yes, it had to.

There is one pure fact which stands out amongst everything else about the Teeples hearings - Teeples was charged and fully acquitted. A number of charges were made against Earl but each one was dismissed.

Remember, too, that the administration had plenty of time to investigate before the

charges were made. Curt Hall had time to investigate the charges before disciplining Teeples. And the prosecution had plenty of time to file the charges during the hearing.

But when all the time was spent, the prosecution was forced to admit it would be impossible to find Teeples guilty of any of the charges leveled. Our readers can remember Earl was reinstated on the police force with all disciplinary actions reversed.

TEEPLES MUST have been a bit curious as to why the township supervisor acted so quickly to discipline him when the township attorney was completely unable to make any of the charges stick.

Teeples had to feel the pressure of the machine's heel riding on his back. He must have felt the machine wanted to destroy him professionally because he dared talk about something which wasn't cricket in his department.

Teeples would have been a victim, except for once, the machine blundered. He escaped but not without noticing the noose had been hung in place.

It seems to me Earl had no choice last year, after being cleared, except to quit his job (retreat) or remain and attempt to displace the man he felt had hung the noose.

But the race is not a personal vendetta. What Earl really needs with finality is those things which are wrong in the township will not be corrected while Hall remains seated on 11 Mile.

Curt may not foster the wrong, but having placed friends in positions of responsibility in government, finds it difficult to correct some of the existing problems.

Yes, Teeples has a good chance to win Tuesday. He may win by a narrow margin or win comfortably. He may also fall by a wide margin.

Two factors make Teeples' chances unpredictable: 1-He has not been able to make any public appearances and therefore, could not hit hard on the issues or communicate what he feels is a better way. 2-The complainers who are potential anti-Hall votes are apt not to vote at all.

If everyone who is unhappy with Hall votes, Earl will win. But the vocal, anti-Hall complainers likely will be of little assistance to Teeples Tuesday.

EARL HAS ANOTHER big problem too. Hall is definitely not a patsy.

Hall has a lot going for him too and has been in politics long enough to have learned the art of winning.

Curt has a long record of accomplishments to point out to voters. And you can't argue with the record. This editor certainly won't. He's impressed!

During Hall's administration, the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park was started and finished and stands today as the finest park of its kind in Michigan. That's an asset for the community and something to brag about.

2 Receive NMU Degree

Two Observerland residents will be conferred degrees today (Saturday) at Northern Michigan University's summer commencement.

James Edward Mitchell, of Farmington, will be awarded a BS degree in arts and science, and Allan Lowell Miller, of Livonia, will be given a BA degree in arts and science.

Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

During Hall's decade, water lines have been installed throughout the entire township. The few artesian wells that now exist are used as flower planters.

Likewise, the task of supplying sanitary sewers is nearly completed. Laterals have been laid down all the mile roads and although septic still exist in areas they are diminishing.

The police department has not only doubled during Curt's reign but has modernized and now boasts some good law enforcement equipment and a grand fleet of patrol cars.

The township is near the point of enacting what appears to be a sound master plan (the 701 and, at this point, only a skeptic would know how well it will be enforced, if I'm a skeptic.)

Hall built the new township hall and can be quite proud of that accomplishment. Many areas of the township are developing as commercial centers and scattered industrial belts reinforce the Freeway Industrial Park.

A large number of apartment units have been built and, just last year, attempts were made to provide housing for senior citizens.

A LIST OF accomplishments over the last 10 years has to be longer than the one just tabulated. I probably left some major accomplishment out, but not purposely.

But, can we agree that Curt has accomplished enough to present a convincing argument to voters on why he should be elected?

We should be able to agree, also, that there are convincing reasons why Curt should not be returned to office. He's not infallible and has erred.

Probably one of the first problems is Curt himself. He's sensitive to criticism and has a short fuse. Some residents complaining about conditions in their neighborhoods have been met by an angry scowl. Unfortunately, there has been some angry moments when Curt closed his ears and dismissed his critics as conspirators instead of sincere citizens troubled by a bad road or flooded yard.

of government depends crucially on political leadership.

Another problem Curt has been unable to cope with is the deplorable condition of many residential roads in the township. Likewise, Curt has been unable or unwilling to develop any kind of meaningful recreation program for the township. He has not tackled this problem and still is content to shift responsibility for recreation to individual subdivisions and the school district.

WHOM DO I recommend as the best choice for supervisor? I don't.

THOSE WHO ATTEND township meetings are aware that often the buck passes from 11 Mile to Shiawassee or Liberty St., Pontiac or Lansing. Critics are often answered that the township's hands are tied and the solution lies with the city, schools, county or state.

This buck passing occurs in part because of the inability of township government as a form to function in a metropolitan area. Often, however, it occurs because the supervisor isn't sensitive to criticism or doesn't spell a political job or be-

cause the machine has been challenged. Buck passing may be a reliable defense but does not get the job done.

I've driven on roads an ox shouldn't have to travel upon. I've been in neighborhoods with raw sewage lying stagnant in ditches and have inspected several homes unfit to live in. But I know, too, about the many good things Curt Hall has done.

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Teeples More Qualified Than Hall, Say Readers

EDITOR: Our letter is a statement of disagreement with Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall. He publicly criticized Earl Teeples, saying that he is not qualified for the office of Supervisor.

As a well known, conscientious, educated, respected police detective with real concern for the needs of Farmington residents, particularly the youth, Earl Teeples is as qualified or more qualified than we our present supervisor when he was elected to office. We took a chance on Mr.

Hall 12 years ago. We believe Mr. Teeples should have the same chance. It's time for a change, a re-evaluation of priorities, an improvement of policies. Let's have some fresh, new thinking and action regarding the problems of Farmington Township.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN F. HENIGE
Farmington

Overhead Sign Missing

FARMINGTON The Farmington Founders Festival Committee is looking for a sign.

Mrs. Barbara Benya, a member of the Festival Committee, says one of the new above-the-street signs used for the Festival disappeared before the City Department of PublicWorks could remove it.

The 30-foot-long sign, made of Fiberglas, was hung across Farmington near Nine Mile before it vanished Saturday night or Sunday. Ropes holding the sign appeared to have been cut.

The committee asks that the sign be returned to the Chamber of Commerce office at Farmington Rd. and Grand River or to Glendale Auto Supply at 2323 Orchard Lake Rd. Mrs. Benya said no questions will be asked.

Thank You

EDITOR: Our friends from Detroit had such a wonderful time during the Festival. The parade was delightful. Please thank everyone.

Sincerely,
(Mrs. J.) Harriet Slater

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the Farmington Observer

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