

# Political pro and novice lead way to Kansas City

By TIM RICHARD

Both women are from the Farmington community. Other than that, the two delegates to the Republican national convention couldn't be less alike.

Mary Lou Barth, a prominent party regular, will back President Ford for renomination in August in Kansas City. Hanna Fritzele, a newcomer, is strong for Ronald Reagan.

They were elected last weekend in the 17th Congressional District caucus at the GOP state convention in Grand Rapids. The other district delegate post went to Denny Hammond, district chairman and a resident of northwest Detroit, he supports Ford.

The three alternates from the 17th are John Rutledge of Detroit (Ford), Della Wright of Farmington (Ford) and Joe Burdinski of Southfield (Reagan). Bedford Township got none of the six positions.

MRS. FRITZELE is a party in GOP politics—a person who ran for precinct delegate committed to Reagan.

Although the former California governor got one-third of the Michigan vote in the May 18 presidential primary, the number of pro-Reagan precinct delegates averaged less than one per community in the suburbs.

"I've been fighting legislation in Lansing for three years," says Mrs. Fritzele, who opposed a sex education bill, wears a

"Stop ERA" button and belongs to the anti-19th Happiness Of Women organization. It's extremely rare for a total newcomer in politics to land a national convention seat, but there were so few elected precinct delegates pledged to Reagan that she was a shoo-in. In a bit of organizational confusion, Burdinski was named delegate and Mrs. Fritzele alternate in an early caucus, but Burdinski backed off afterwards because he had been only a write-in candidate for precinct delegate.

"I STILL FEEL like an outcast. I feel I'm on the outside, looking in," said Mrs. Fritzele as the convention drew on. Convention procedures frankly mystified her.

"I'm interested in Social Security because it's a rip-off. I've been a widow. I worked in a Dodge factory. My first husband died at 44, and my daughter (now 17) collected social security for one year. The 25 years of social security he paid in was gone."

"Stop and think. If we could have put that in a private trust, it would earn interest, and you wouldn't need social security."

She lives now in Farmington with her husband Robert, an experimental mechanist. She has worked for a data process training firm and for a credit office but takes care of her home now at her husband's request.

She looked around the convention floor

"I wasn't a social butterfly. I worked for a living," she said.

MARY LOU BARTH, of Farmington, is also a first-time delegate, but the honor came after 16 years of activity.

A merry-eyed grandmother, she is a descendant of Continental Congressman Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

"I don't like to get into women's lib," she said. "I was born liberated. They can go on and on about it."

Her list of party offices reads like a charter: President of the Republican Women's Federation of Michigan, alternate-at-large to the '78 convention, Oakland County executive board president of the Farmington Republican Women's Organization, three terms on the Republican State Central Committee, current vice-chairwoman of the 17th District organization.

She first met Gerald Ford when he was a young congressman from Grand Rapids. Their last encounter was last winter in Florida, when the president conducted a quickie handshaking tour of a beach. "I was in a bathing suit," Mrs. Barth chuckled.

THE BARTHS have lived in the 17th District for 30 years, first in northwest Detroit, the last six years in Farmington. Husband Philip is a real estate broker and owner of J.L. Mooney Co.

Sen. Dan has a start in politics at Alma College. Republican politics, naturally.

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## VA hospitals now provide drivers ed

Allen Park Veterans Administration hospital has been designated to provide driver training for severely disabled veterans and military personnel, according to Albert Zamberlin, director.

Eligible for this special training are veterans and military personnel with service-connected disabilities who receive VA grants for purchase of an automobile or van.

Special authorizations may be extended to other personnel eligible for VA medical care if it is determined to be medically justified by VA standards.

Veterans may apply for the training at the VA regional office in Detroit or at any VA hospital. A member of the armed forces must be referred to VA by an authorized official of his branch of service.

Forty VA hospitals recently were designated driver training centers. Some have cars with special adaptive equipment for use in the program. Others will be receiving them. Driver training simulators are being evaluated at a few of the centers for possible use at all 40.

Eighteen hospitals have already been providing such training, but Allen Park hospital is one of the 22 new facilities to join in the program.

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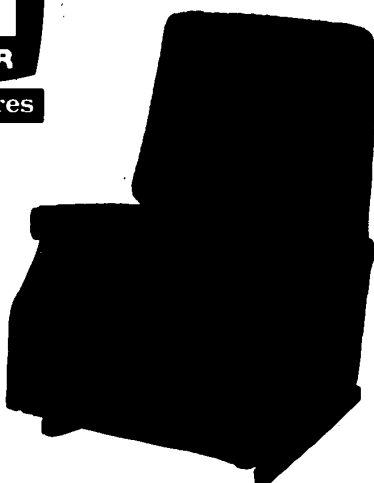
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