

'If you run into trouble, call'

Press gets royal treatment

Lorraine McClish, who is the Farmington Observer & Eccentric's suburban life editor, was visiting friends in Kansas City during her vacation this week, but she just couldn't pass up a good story.

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

As we stood under the Crown Center Hotel marquee waiting transportation to Kemper Arena Monday morning, we saw cab after cab filled with persons on their way to Ramsdale Inn East.

Many wore press badges. There a chartered bus marked "White House Press Corps" stopped under the

marquee, and about 18 persons got out and asked for calls to the same motel.

Meanwhile, only a handful were doubling up in the cabs headed for the convention's opening session.

A QUICK CHECK into the tote bag handed out by the Kansas City Republican Women's Club revealed that the Mississippi delegation—the one with the bulk of the uncommitted votes—was staying at Ramsdale Inn East.

The bag is my instant information packet, telling me what is going on, when and where.

This barbie tote bag, decorated with an

elephant and filled with a half-dozen pieces of informational literature and so many invitations, is but one of the many courtesies the press has been afforded at the convention.

If you don't make connections or get the information you need, it isn't because the hotel, the host delegation or the Michigan headquarters isn't trying.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS go out of their ways to take messages and get names spelled right.

Pages anybody for anything is prompt and often.

The Michigan headquarters bulletin board is open to anyone who wants to use it.

Hotel security is heavy, but persons

stopped in any area are invited to use the house phone. On one occasion, a friendly Michigan face from the headquarters came personally to usher this reporter from one arm to another.

One of the most prestigious gifts to the press this week was a badge. I've worn it since I've received it. It means nothing official at all. A small bar that says "Press" is connected with a grainy ribbon to a brass plate saying "Republican National Convention 1976."

It was passed on this reporter by Mike Miller, of the National Republican Press Department, when he handed me my credentials and another batch of information pamphlets.

"If you run into trouble, call," he said. His statement set the tone for the entire week.

Lost and found— GOP chief's spirits

Bill McLaughlin, Michigan Republican chairman, lost his voice Sunday night as the GOP gathered in Kansas City, but he was back in form Monday morning keeping the troops in line.

The Michigan delegation acted as hosts for the welcome given to President Gerald Ford on his arrival in Kansas City Sunday afternoon, so it fell upon McLaughlin to turn cheerleader and warmup man for the elbow-to-elbow crowd of 1,300 waiting in the Crown Center Hotel lobby.

The delegate from Northville turned hoarse and could barely be heard after

three hours of leading the crowd with "This is Ford country" and yelling "How do you spell Ford?"

McLaughlin played against a background of bands, banners, flashing cameras and a noisy crowd infiltrated by Secret Service men, hotel security guards, Missouri state highway patrolmen and Kansas City police.

An hour later, Ford and his family, with Vice President and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller, thanked the welcoming committee at an invitation-only reception for the Michigan delegation.

Convention holds 'no surprises'

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Peter Fletcher, delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention from Ypsilanti, has been re-elected Republican national committeeman by a 54-30 vote of the Michigan delegation.

Fletcher, whose opponent was Byron Crosse of Kalamazoo, retains the position he won last year after the resignation of Creighton Holden.

Quite predictable. No surprises here," said George Kettunen, a Reagan supporter from the 3d Congressional District.

"The Ford and Reagan consequences are running pretty consistent."

Robert Law, a delegate-at-large from Livonia, echoed Kettunen's "no surprise" statement after the Michigan delegation

voted Sunday in caucus to defeat the Reagan camp's move to change the rules on vice-presidential nomination.

"I voted my conscience," said Law, chairman of the Michigan Federation of Young Republicans, "but the question was put by the Reagan people, and nobody is surprised at how anyone voted."

BOTH DELEGATES believe that similar votes and similar splits were going on in hotels all over town among delegations which were meeting prior to the Sunday afternoon arrival of both President Ford and Ronald Reagan.

Kettunen said the only exception to the consistent vote would be on the platform issues of the Equal Rights Amendment and abortion. "Then it is a very personal, emotional issue," he said.

County facility stops care of TB patients

Oakland County recently ended its care of tuberculosis patients with the transfer of one Oakland County resident to a private facility.

Four Macomb County TB patients were also transferred.

Daniel T. Murphy, Oakland County executive, said the county's recently completed medical care facility was not intended to house TB patients.

"This Oakland County TB patient will receive superior care and treatment by the medical profession in Oakland County," he said. "For us to modify the medical care facility for such a limited number of TB patients would be a classic case of over-government. Government should not spend tax dollars on services that can be better provided by the private sector."

Converting skilled-care beds to a TB bed makes even less sense when it is remembered that we have a waiting list for skilled-care beds and no waiting list for TB beds," he added.

Confused?

No, you don't need a new pair of glasses. Through a technical error the results of major party vote totals given in the Monday Aug. 18 issue of the Observer & Eccentric were scrambled.

Below is the chart of primary results with two counties in the state left to report as it was meant to be.

| Party | Oakland County | Wayne County | State Total |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Socialist Workers | | 88 | 132 |
| Socialist Labor | | 63 | 115 |
| Communist Labor | | 62 | 498 |
| U.S. Labor | | 43 | 119 |
| Libertarian | | 176 | 319 |

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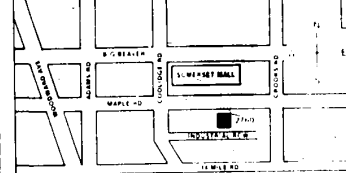
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Calling the signals

U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin, who is President Ford's national floor leader for his nomination bid, shows Weidon Yeager of Bloomfield Hills which direction he hopes Ronald Reagan's candidacy for president is headed. They sit under the Michigan standard in Kemper Arena, site of the National Republican Convention in Kansas City this week.



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