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Freelance photographer Doug Ashley, an old hand at political conventions, shows Michigan Gov. William Milliken the ropes at Kansas City. Ashley and his wife provided this newspaper's picture coverage of the '76 GOP convention. (Photo by Janet Ashley)

Lensman focuses on political scene

By DOUG ASHLEY

For those who have followed the old Ec- centric Newspapers coverage of past political conventions, you may recollect that this photographer has recorded such gatherings since 1968, when I attended my first Republican convention in Chicago.

Conventions come and go, but it seems that some photographers remain on the political scene indefinitely.

BACK IN 1968. I was a real novice at both photography and politics. I had just turned professional a year earlier and went to Chicago carrying letters of introduction and accreditation from the Ec- centric, the Oakland County Republican Party and the Michigan Republican Party.

For an 18-year-old who was eager and somewhat naive, what else could possibly be needed to follow the convention except a handful of "cameras"?

I learned fast. Credentials, I found out, had to be applied for weeks in advance, and only a fraction of those were ever granted. Room accommodations had to be made in the spring, and very few journalists went hoping just to get in.

I was lucky that year I got credentials.

I have covered every national political convention but one since then.

THE REPUBLICAN convention of 1964 in San Francisco stands out in my mind. This time I had credentials well in ad- vance. But still daring, I went without making housing accommodations in ad- vance.

My good friend, Tony Spina, chief photog-

rapher of the Detroit Free Press and a Bloomfield resident, took me in tow, showed me how to really cover a political convention and provided me with a place to stay at the same time.

It was Tony who showed me how to be in two places at once.

The 1968 Democratic convention stands out for a different reason. Observer & Ec- centric Co-Publisher Henry Hogan and I covered this one together. I doubt either of us will forget the civil disturbances, crossing police lines to talk to demonstrators and watching expropriation after con- frontation between police and young people.

IN 1972, BOTH the Republican and Dem- ocratic conventions were in Miami Beach, with all the delegations spread out in a 15-mile hotel strip along the ocean.

The only ways to get around were by car, bus, taxi or motor scooter. You can imagine me zipping along, cameras every- where, dodging Miami showers and politi- cians on a motor scooter.

Since then, another photographer has joined the family. My wife Janet, after several years of study, has turned into a photojournalist.

With the 1976 Republican convention in Kansas City, we have found the ideal way of being in two places at the same time—two photographers. Both Janet and I were accredited to the convention. We had the mobility of a two-person news bureau.

Sixteen years go by all too fast. Conven- tions indeed have come and gone, but for at least the two photographers in the Ash- ley family, there will always be another convention only four years away.

Class offered in drying food

Kitchen Glamor, 28770 Grand River, Red- ford Township, is offering three free ses- sions in techniques for drying fruit, herbs, and vegetables.

The sessions will be at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sept. 17. Of all methods of preserving foods, drying is the simplest and most natural. It is also the least expensive, and is the old- est known means known to man.

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Oakland director moves

Robert J. Jones of Birmingham, execu- tive director of Family and Children Ser- vices of Oakland, has resigned to become executive director of Child and Family Service in Buffalo, N. Y.

Jones' resignation is effective Nov. 1. Family and Children Services of Oak- land is a Torch Drive and Pontiac United Way agency.

Jones was named executive director of Family Service of Oakland County in 1968. The agency doubled in size by 1972 and merged with the Oakland Branch of Mich- igan Children's Aid, with Jones as execu- tive director.

In announcing Jones' resignation, Wil- liam P. Whitfield, Family and Children Services president, said, "Everyone associ- ated with the agency regrets Bob's leav- ing. He has been a tremendous factor in the success and growth of this organization through the years."

Family and Children Services of Oak- land provides family counseling and child care services at three Oakland County loca- tions: Pontiac, Walled Lake and Berkley.

Broughton tours set for Franklin

Members of the Franklin Bicentennial Commission, dressed in costumes of 200 years ago, will conduct tours through the Daniel Broughton House on Franklin Road during the annual village Roundup festival on Monday.

Restoration of the historic structure for use as a community facility has been com- pleted, except for completion of the site work, including a parking area.

Virginia DeBenedictis Rodgers, head of the village bicentennial commission, said the tours will be conducted between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.

The Broughton project is the primary focus of the village bicentennial obser- vance.



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