

County board left nearly unchanged by election

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Last week's general election proved to be a vote for the status quo, especially in Oakland County.

Voters there turned nearly every incumbent back into office.

For Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, it means more of the same in his dealings with the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. It still means a Republican majority.

But Murphy and his administration will get its share of criticism and scrutiny from the board's members.

BEGINNING IN January, Republicans will hold a 16-11 majority, compared to the 15-12 edge of the current commission makeup. There were partisan changes in only three commissioner districts.

Republican Mat Dunaskiss won in the previously-Democratic third district. Another Republican, Anne Hobart, a former board member, defeated Democrat Patrick Daly in

the fourth district. Both districts are in the northern part of the county.

Democrat Tom Lewand, an attorney from Royal Oak, defeated Republican incumbent James Lanni.

Through the Observer & Eccentric area every incumbent was returned to office. The winners were: John Peterson (R-Rochester), Robert Page (R-Birmingham), Henry Hoot (R-Troy), Lillian Moffitt (R-Bloomfield Township), Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield), Alexander Perinoff (D-Southfield), Ralph Moxley (R-Birmingham), Paul Kasper (R-Bloomfield Hills), Dennis Murphy (R-Novi) as well as Joseph Montante (R-Orchard Lake), Robert McConnell (R-Farmington Hills) and Jack McDonald (R-Farmington).

THE BOARD'S style, according to commission watchers, is not expected to change. The county executive is still expected to win a majority of the battles.

But there will still be commissioners who bridle when Murphy tries to strong-arm the board and there will be Republicans who will vote independent of the administration's whims.

Much to Murphy's dismay, Hoot, one of the board's most conservative members in terms of fiscal policy, won his race going away. Even though he faced a relatively weak opponent, Richard Mills of Troy, Hoot collected nearly 13,000 votes. He was the top vote-getter of the board's candidates.

Hoot, who has served on the board since 1973, has built a reputation as an independent voter and a thorn in Murphy's side. In the primary campaign, Murphy actively backed Hoot's challenger, Marilyn Gosling.

THE ELECTION of Mrs. Hobart, according to Oakland insiders, means the addition of another "independent" Republican.

The loss of conservative Lanni might make Republican regulars breathe a bit easier, but it could make the job of

the professional courthouse watchers, the reporters, a bit harder.

Oakland County's insiders privately called Lanni "erratic," "ineffective," and "inconsistent." Although always loyal to his party, he was not always loyal to his party's leaders.

But to newsmen he was usually candid and always colorful and quotable.

THE DEMOCRATS are expected to again challenge Murphy's game plan for the county.

In the past, Murphy has put a high priority on cost-containment and a low priority to expending services around the county. The Democrats last year, especially at budget time, blasted him. There is no indication that Murphy has moved from his position.

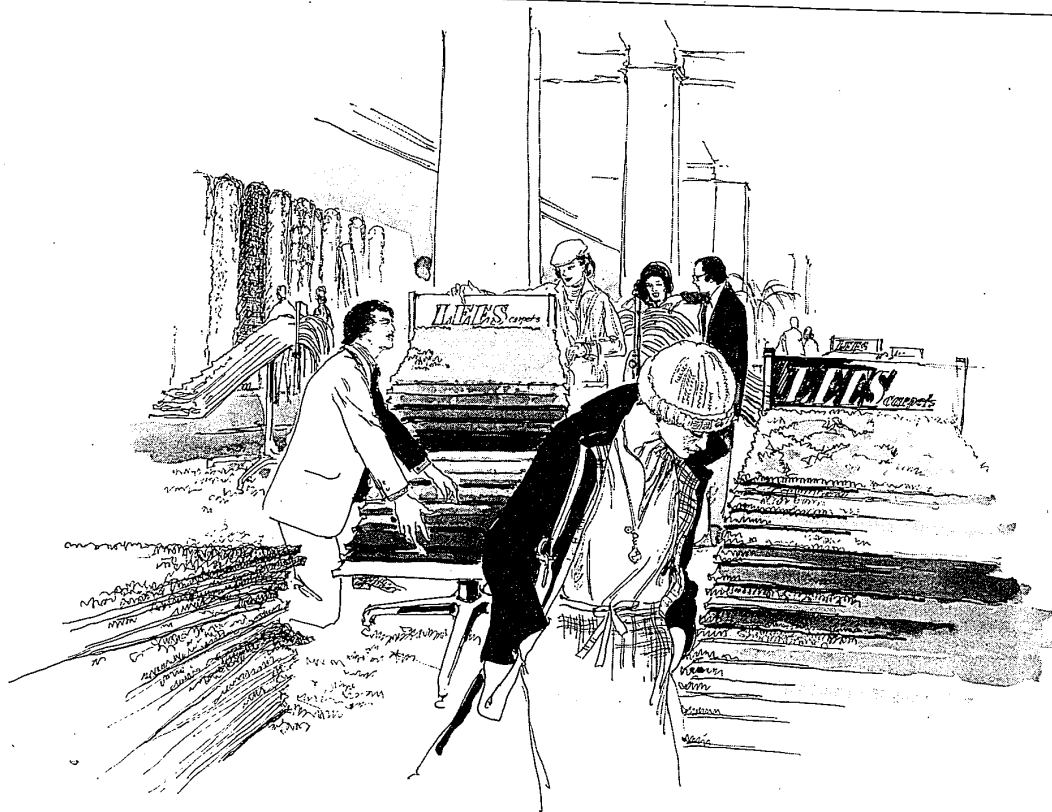
With Democratic Caucus Chairman Pernick and elder statesman Perinoff returning, Murphy can be prepared for much of the usual oratory, a few close battles and a majority of Republican-dominated roll-call votes.



HENRY HOOT
A thorn



JAMES LANNI
A farewell



Twelve Oaks only
Sale...Lees carpeting
15% to 30% off
 every Lees carpet in Hudson's
 entire collection for one week only,
 now through Sunday, November 19

Save on luxurious plush textures, twists, shags, loops and sculptured patterns. In more than 400 colors, including solids and multi-tones. All the latest styles, including new fall introductions. All the most popular fibers, including carpeting of DuPont's Antron® III nylon pile. All beautifully made, as you can confidently expect when Lees is the maker. All 15% to 30% off. You also save on sponge rubber waffle padding and Hudson's custom tackless installation—now through Sunday, November 19.

SHOP AT HOME: call Monday through Saturday, and we'll send one of our carpeting experts right to your home to show you samples, help coordinate colors, measure your floors and offer an estimate - at no obligation to you. Phone 348-3232, ext. 2443.

hudson's the Christmas store