



The Stroller:

By W. W. EDGAR

Stroller ponders crusade

For the first time in his life, The Stroller has developed an urge to launch a crusade.

Born and raised a "Blue Stocking" Presbyterian who was taught that if you live to drown you'll never be hanged, he always has taken things as they come—one day at a time—and has never raised a fuss.

But events of the last few days have caused him to weaken a bit and it all came about because of the outlandishly lengthy ballots that will confront the voters on election day.

For one reason or another the Stroller and his helpline are granted the courtesy of using "absentee" ballots. They save us a trip to the polls and the possibility of standing for long stretches in the line waiting to get a chance to go behind the curtain and pull the levers for our choices.

Election after election came and we used to sit at the kitchen table and smile at the ease with which we performed our duties as good citizens.

This year, however, when the ballots reached our home, there was a great change. Instead of a single sheet containing the ballot three sheets fell from the envelope for each of us. It seemed that the kitchen table was filled with them.

Then, for the greater part of an hour, we studied the proposals. We not only studied them, but we discussed them, and then voted.

"This is an outrage," we said to each other. "Three ballots for each of us and the better part of an hour in study before we can vote."

For a time we laughed it off, thinking that maybe we were getting a bit touchy as the years rolled on. The Stroller soon found out that we were not alone in our thinking.

An elderly gent in the adjoining booth at lunch the next day let the other diners know that he was mad about the same thing—the lengthy ballot.

"Worked at it for almost an hour," he said. "So how do they expect the voters who go behind the curtains to read all those amendments in three minutes? They just won't be able to do it. Then what happens? They'll either be told to hurry up or the lines will be voting for hours after the polls close."

After taking a breath he continued, "Don't forget, the law says that anybody in line at closing time must be given the right to vote. If the voters take the time to study behind the curtain the polls may not close for hours. There should be a limit to those amendments."

To quiet the old gent, The Stroller pointed out that these amendments are giving the voters the right to select which laws they want, to which the complaining senior citizen broke in, "What are those fellows in Lansing getting paid for? They're supposed to make the laws."

It didn't help when The Stroller pointed out it was Abraham Lincoln who, in his Gettysburg address, said, "This nation, of the people, by the people and for the people shall long endure."

"Okay," the old gent said, "But let them cut down on the amendments and those long ballots. Better yet, why not have all the elections with absentee ballots. Then we could study them and take time to vote. And think of all the money that would be saved. We wouldn't have to have those costly voting machines and all that help. Mailing us the ballots wouldn't cost near as much."

It was a convincing argument. The Stroller had to agree right there; and birth was given to the crusade for the overhauling of our election policies. Let's cut out the voting booths and have everyone do his voting at home after studying the ballot around the kitchen table—with no three minute time limit. What do you think?

Save-a-Life Day planned

In an effort to boost traditionally low donor turnout during the holiday season, the Southeastern Michigan chapter of the Red Cross is sponsoring its annual Save-a-Life Sunday on Dec. 31.

The Livonia Blood Center will be open that day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is located at 15457 Middlebelt.

"Industry is shut down during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, cutting off one important source of blood," said A.W. Shefer, M.D., director, Southeastern Michigan Red Cross blood center.

The holiday season also means there are fewer actual collection days and fewer people who are thinking about donating blood during this period, he said.

This year's goal is to collect 1,000 units of blood for patients in approximately 75 hospitals in the five county area which includes Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties.

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