

Primary battle

Republicans shoot for county seat

By TOM LONERGAN

A battle has been virtually assured for the vacant 25th district seat, an acknowledged Republican stronghold, on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

The board Republican caucus earlier this week decided against endorsing a Republican candidate for temporary appointment to the county board seat vacated by Robert McConnell, R-Farmington Hills. McConnell resigned two weeks ago, citing family and business pressures.

Republican Caucus Chairman Robert Gorsline, of Milford, said "it's (the election) a close time, so we don't have to get in and interfere with the process." However, one Republican commissioner said privately that it was a "good assumption" that there were major differences over the candidates.

Because Republicans enjoy a 16-11 majority on the county board, the caucus decision will not likely be overturned by the full board, even though Republicans were split on the appointment issue. The board of commissioners has authority by state law to fill vacancies in commission districts.

THE SIGNIFICANCE of the Republican caucus decision is that none of the five Republicans considering a bid for the commission spot will have the advantage of running in the special Oct. 5 primary as an appointed incumbent.

The district, which includes parts of Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield, is considered a Republican stronghold.

As of Tuesday, only Leonard Nathanson, of Farmington Hills, had filed with the county clerk's office for the special election.

However, Dorothy McIntosh, of West Bloomfield, a teacher in the Southfield School District, has announced her candi-

date. The filing deadline for the primary is 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Other possible Republican candidates include James Reid, White Lake Township supervisor; Geri Matkowski, a member of the Wolverine Lake Village Council; and G.W. Caddell, a chiropractor from Union Lake.

County Board Democratic Caucus Chairman Lawrence Pernick, of Southfield, said a Democrat would run for the vacant post, but declined to say who.

AL ZAPARACKAS, of Farmington Hills, a product design engineer for Ford Motor Co., dropped out of the race because of the Republican caucus decision.

Zaparackas, unsuccessful in the Republican primary for the 18th District Congressional race in 1976, said the county Republicans weren't "playing fair" with the electorate by remaining neutral in the primary.

"The commissioners can probably more intelligently pick a primary candidate and assist the voter to make up his mind," Zaparackas said.

"Ninety-five percent of the people in that district don't know who their county commissioner is."

He said county Republicans were "providing an opportunity for Democrats to take the seat."

Zaparackas and three other Republicans attended the county Republican caucus Monday expecting an appointment. The caucus decision has also caused Mrs. Matkowski to have second thoughts about running.

Assuming the Republican position prevails as expected, the 25th District seat will remain vacant until shortly after the Nov. 6 general election.

A tentative agreement was reached this week between Oakland Community College and the school's faculty union.

Among eight area K-12 districts, only two have ratified contracts and two of the other six have called in mediators as the critical Labor Day week-end approached.

Details of the OCC agreement have been withheld pending review by the OCC faculty association executive committee and college trustees.

The 300 full-time faculty are expected to vote on the agreement Monday evening. Classes at all four OCC campuses are expected to start Tuesday, Sept. 4. Registration began Tuesday and will continue through Friday.

IF RATIFIED, the agreement would replace a two-year pact which expires Friday.

Main issues during the negotiations were reportedly teaching and non-teaching job load, job security, economics and fringe benefits. The full-time faculty also work as counselors. The OCCFA, part of the Michigan Education Association, does not represent part-time faculty.

The college is negotiating a wage and fringe benefit reprieve with the 170-member classified union, part of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

The union, which includes secretarial, clerical employees and some computer operators, is in

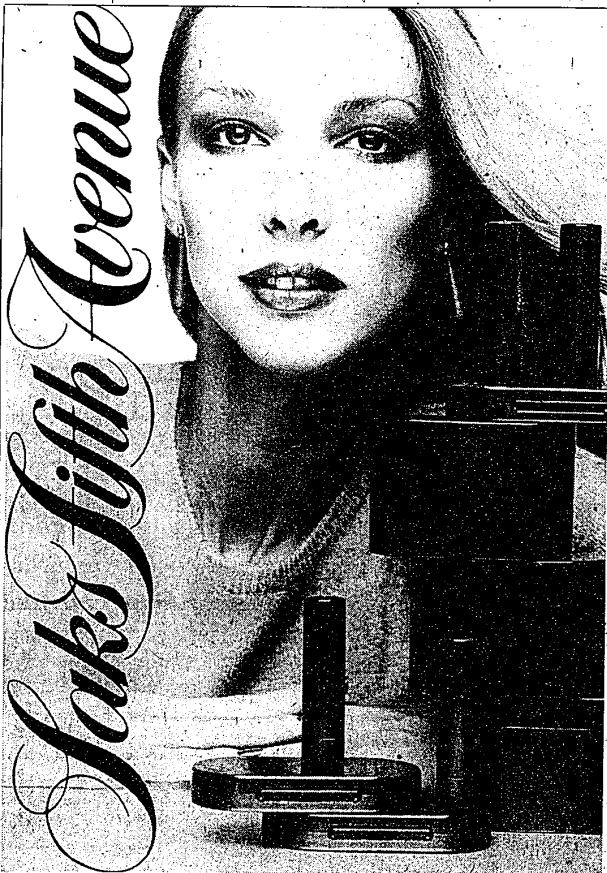
the third year of a three-year pact that expires next June.

A mediator from the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC), was assigned to the bargaining earlier this month.

HERE IS THE situation at a glance in Observer & Eccentric area Oakland school districts:

West Bloomfield teachers have asked for a state mediator, who came on the scene Wednesday. Union and board are reportedly 4 percent apart on the economic package. Teachers are seeking a two-year contract, as are most Oakland districts. The West Bloomfield district has 276 teachers and 5,600 pupils.

Area teacher talks slow; OCC settles



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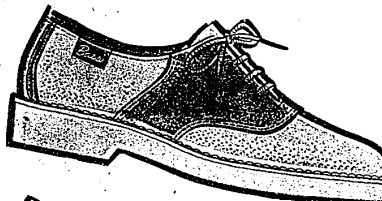
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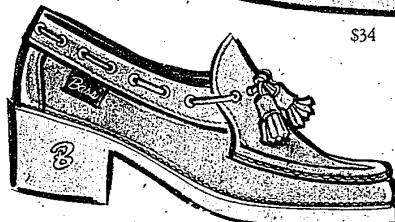
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