



**Mike Scanlon**

## A glad farewell to the Republicans

The Republicans have packed their trunks and left town — which means the truth can finally be told.

I didn't say anything at the time, because I hate to see grown men from Dubuque cry, but the 1980 Republican Convention was even more boring than 24 hours of "Days of Our Lives."

It had all the pomp and circumstance of "Queen For A Day." I kept hoping Jack Bailey would come out and swing a natural fox stole over Nancy Reagan's shoulders.

The convention cried out for a change of pace — maybe Wayne Newton and Richard Nixon could have been persuaded to do a Busby Berkeley-style Watergate production number.

But they didn't, so the convention had everything but a surprise.

And not only was it boring, but the out-of-town visitors screwed up all my favorite downtown bars, put the waitresses in a bad mood, made it tough to find a parking place and clamped Cobo Hall and Joe Louis Arena with just about the kind of security curdential nomination.

There were more media people than delegates, and more cops than both those groups combined. At night, helicopters with spotlights bright enough to vaporize retinas circled the arena area.

Inconvenient at best, especially since my eyes were already glazed from the gleam off 8,000 pairs of white patent leather shoes. That's a risk you take when the town's full of Republicans. I just hope they didn't contaminate the whole city with polyester poisoning.

**WORST OF ALL**, there was one night when I couldn't even find a radio broadcast of the Tigers game — the airwaves were clogged with conservatives.

I had fun, though. I told one Florida delegate that despite the strike, he needn't worry about public transit in Detroit — all he had to do was find Six Mile and Woodward and start hitchhiking. Some friendly guy would stop and pick him up in a minute or two. He was relieved to hear it.

And speaking of strikes, I can't right off hand think of a more fitting cap to the irony of Republicans convening in Detroit than the rash of strikes that hit the city just as they started arriving. Walter Reuther is probably wearing a stupid grin from sheer joy.

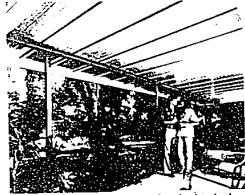
By now, the only Republicans left in Detroit are the half-dozen or so who live there, and the temptation is to say it's all over. Not so fast — it's just beginning.

We've got months yet to kick around What's-His-Name, that guy who's running against Carter.

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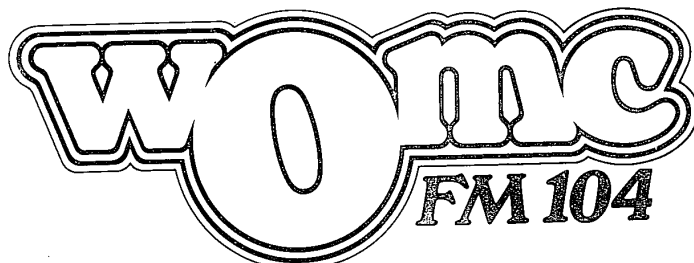
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Square dancing in style  
Wednesday, July 23  
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**Bronco Bust'n Fashion Show**  
Show'n off duds & denims  
Thursday, July 24  
3:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Center Court

**Fall Fashions—Come On Down**  
Corralled by August Max  
Friday, July 25  
7:30 p.m.  
Center Court

**Foot Stomp'n Jamboree**  
Young lads—too tapp'n & danc'n  
Saturday, July 26  
1:00 & 3:00 p.m.  
Center Court

**Promenade Your Partner**  
Western Square Dancing  
Monday, July 28  
7:00 & 8:00 p.m.  
Center Court

**Burger King Captures the West**  
Marvelous Magical Shows  
July 29-31  
1:30, 3:30 & 6:00 p.m.  
Center Court

**Out Draw'em Pards!**  
Burger King Coloring Contest  
Winners at every Magic Show  
Entry Blanks at Information Booth  
Center Court

**Root'n, Toot'n Sweepstakes**  
"King Mobile" Mini Car Drawing  
Thursday, July 31  
Entry Blanks at the Information Booth  
Center Court

**Sweet Adelines**  
Blue Ribbon Singers  
Tuesday, July 29  
7:00 p.m.  
Center Court

**Homs on the Range Harmony**  
Mitten State Barber Shop Quartet  
Wednesday, July 30  
7:00 & 8:00 p.m.  
Center Court

**Stroll'n thru the Mall**  
Mello Mac Quartet  
Thursday, July 31  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
All Around the Mall

**"Oklahoma"**  
Best live theater in the territory  
Friday, August 1  
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