

No Deal — Yeager Edged Out

Ex-Local Men Both Beaten At GOP Convention

By TIM RICHARD

DETROIT — Two former Livonians couldn't make a political deal at last weekend's Republican state convention, and today neither is on the GOP state ticket.

State Rep. Waldon Yeager of northwest Detroit lost the nomination for secretary of state, and Kalamazoo County Commissioner Roger Kidston was defeated in his bid for the attorney general nomination. This is how it occurred:

YEAGER, WHO was a Constitutional Convention delegate and lived in Livonia as an adult, was closing in on Sen. Emil Lockwood of the secretary of state nomination. Lockwood had prominent backers and a well-financed campaign, but Yeager for months had been rounding up delegates quietly.

Lockwood was handily nailing down delegations from such rural counties as Alcona, Allegan and Gogebic, but Yeager was making it up in the

more populous places like Kent, Macomb, the 18th District (Oakland) and Washtenaw.

Yeager approached the Kalamazoo County group, which was backing favorite son Kidston, 38, for attorney general against William Farr, 35, of Grand Rapids.

Kidston, born in Detroit, grew up in Livonia in the days when it was still a township and graduated from Plymouth High School. He ultimately settled in Kalamazoo.

Two different Kalamazoo

County GOP leaders told the Observer that Kalamazoo offered Yeager a deal: They would back him for secretary of state if Yeager would throw some support to Kidston for attorney general.

NO DEAL, Yeager reportedly said. In the first place, he had already dealt with Kent County, which was supporting its Bill Farr. In the second place, Farr had been invited to run though never endorsed — by Gov. William G. Milliken, and Yeager didn't want to cross the governor.

So Kalamazoons went to Lockwood. In the final roll call, Kalamazoo county voted 38 for Lockwood and nine for Yeager, giving the senator from Elm Hall a plurality of 25.

In a lean county and recount that took nearly two hours, Lockwood defeated Yeager by a mere 10 votes out of nearly 1,600 cast. Yeager will have to go back to selling insurance when his term in the Legislature is done.

Despite the odds, Kidston put

up a fight for the attorney general nod. He campaigned on his merits, but it was apparent that a number of deals were made and that he got support from conservatives who, unlike Yeager, were eager to cross the governor by opposing Farr.

Kidston lost by approximately 1,000 to 600. Before the vote could be announced, he conceded and asked a vote of acclamation for Farr so that the record would look better.

THE CONVENTION was certainly pleasing to Gov. Milliken, who lost no time throwing Democratic candidate Sander Levin's chief issue — leadership — back in Levin's face. Items:

• The GOP unanimously nominated Milliken's choice for lieutenant governor, U.S. Atty. James Brickley, 42, of Detroit, after a token bid from and withdrawal by conservative Richard Durant. A week earlier, Levin's hand-picked candidate, Livonia Mayor Edward H. McNamara, ran into a fight from liberal backers of

Zollon Perency and was embarrassed by mishandled nomination procedures.

• Milliken got his way on the platform — confined mostly to state issues with a strong emphasis on urban and metropolitan problems. Levin had to repudiate a Democratic plank on amnesty for draft-dodgers.

• Milliken had the satisfaction of hearing 14th District leader Durant, a thorn in his and Gov. Romney's side for years, tell conservatives that their "home" is the Republican Party. Levin got no such satisfaction from the New Democratic Coalition.

ON THE OTHER HAND, Republican delegates in Cobo Arena were clearly unenthusiastic about the speech of Mrs. Lenore Romney. The only cheering done for Lenore, as she prefers to be called in order to establish a separate identity from George, was done by a host of red mini-skirted coeds who released balloons in the hall.



ROGER KIDSTON, former Livonia and Plymouth resident, concedes the GOP attorney general nomination to William Farr.

Kidston's Hard Run Too Late

DETROIT — It was no sentimental gesture when Roger Kidston stood in front of 1,600 Republican state convention delegates and thanked his mother for her political support.

Mrs. Arthur Kidston of 1107 W. Ann Arbor Tr., Plymouth, had hand-carried to many newspapers the announcement last week that her son would seek the Republican nomination for attorney general.

And another son, Brian of 650 E. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, had campaigned vigorously for brother Roger in his creditable bid for the No. 4 spot on the GOP ticket.

KIDSTON, 38, WHO grew up in Livonia Township and graduated from Plymouth High School, was defeated by about a 3-2 margin by William Farr, 35, of Grand Rapids.

"My mother may be 69 years

old, but she's a real ball of fire," Kidston told Observer Newspapers in the corridors of Cobo Arena between talks with wavering delegates.

The stocky, curly-haired Kidston lost, in a neatly-dressed, graceful to Farr after a campaign that lasted just a week. Farr was helped by the report that Gov. Milliken had invited him to run although Milliken hadn't publicly endorsed him.

ON PAPER, at least, Kidston had the stronger credentials for a fight against Democratic incumbent Frank J. Kelley in November.

Farr was president of his University of Michigan graduating class, and he's chairman of the Kent County Republican Committee and the State Tenure Commission.

Kidston graduated with honors from the U-M law school, once served as an assistant prosecutor in Bay County, and then settled in Kalamazoo County. There he served as attorney for a community college, several school districts and municipalities. When county boards of supervisors were forced into reapportionment on a "one man, one vote" basis, Kidston was elected to the Kalamazoo County Board and was its first chairman. He was the local Jaycee chapter's outstanding young man of 1966 and was active in many civic groups.

Brother Brian said that although Roger jumped into the attorney general race late in the game, he has entertained ambitions for that post for some years.

HERE IS HOW Observerland delegations voted:

18th District (Southfield and eastern Oakland County) — Farr, 88-26.

19th District-Oakland (including Farmington) — Farr, 48-14.

19th District-Wayne (including Livonia and Redford) — Farr, 29-0.

2nd District-Wayne (Plymouth and Northville) — Farr, 74-0.

15th District (including Garden City and Westland) — Farr, 43-4.

Kidston did better in rural areas, although he carried such places as Battle Creek and Flint. Kidston also was supported by conservative Richard Durant's 14th District, 65-0, apparently in an attempt to embarrass Milliken and Farr.

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