

Couples from page A6

(Engler), but Kemp is wonder-
ful."

Added husband Art, who is
retired from Comerica Bank: "I
heard him do the economic plat-
form in '80 for Reagan. He made
a lot of sense to me."

Mrs. Manoukian, an at-large
delegate like the governor and
U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham, is
attending her third national con-
vention, the others being in 1984
and 1992. Her husband is an at-
large alternate, like House
Speaker Paul Hillebrands.

"We were for Buchanan," Mrs.
Manoukian said. "We (Buchanan
supporters) were allowed seven
of the nine at-large posts. They
(the Buchanan campaign) chose
us."

"I started with Barry Goldwa-
ter in 1964," said Berj
Manoukian, a Ford Motor Co.
manager. "We were looked at as

kinds funny and extreme back
then. I look at myself as main-
stream at this point."

"I've been a precinct delegate
for 20 years (in Farmington Hills
and now West Bloomfield), but
never a national convention dele-
gate or alternate," he said.

Manoukian agrees with the
Sipollos that Kemp "will energize
this campaign." Mrs. Manoukian,
a Kemp supporter in 1988, also was "very happy. I
thought I wasn't going home
enthusiastically, but now I am.
I've met Kemp several times."

Unlike first lady Michelle
Engler, a pro-choice Texas
Democrat when she married
John in 1980, the Manoukians,
married for 40 years, see eye-to-
eye on nearly everything politi-
cal.

"We debate things and develop
a consensus," said Berj.

"We vote almost identically
each time," said Nanig.

The Sipollos, veterans of 38
years of marriage, are just about
as close politically. Art was a
Kemp supporter in 1992, and
recently he has worked for
Wayne County Commissioner
Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia.
Peg is active for state Rep. Lyn
Bankes, R-Redford, and worked in
the 1994 congressional cam-
paign of John Schall.

Neither has sought public
office in Livonia or wants to. "No
way," said Art. "We had a family
to raise and an occupation."

Art noticed one major change
in convention procedure since he
first attended in 1980. "The
media are demanding shorter
speeches to keep the attention of
viewers. The long speeches have
been eliminated," he said.

The Manoukians and the Sip-
ollos gathered at sunset Sunday
with U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg,
R-Bloomfield Hills, at a Hotel
del Coronado beach party spon-
sored by Senate majority leader
Dick Posthumus. Press photog-
raphers and snapshooters took
many pictures in front of the
steel drum bandstand.

Schmoozing with delegates
and guests were Gov. Engler,
Sen. Abraham, Secretary of
State Candice Miller, nine of the
22 Republican state senators,
several members of Congress,
State Chamber President Jim
Barrett, Michigan Insurance
Federation President Doug
Cruce and others.

The four-day national conven-
tion was almost unnecessary
because Dole wrapped up the
nomination after Michigan's
March 16 primary, and tapped
Kemp as his running mate two
days before the festivities start-
ed.

But Bob Wyatt, an 11th Dis-
trict alternate from Novi, said it
was still valuable. "You meet
people from different parts of
the state. It's nice to get to know
them. You see them at state con-
ventions (a Friday night and
Saturday), but you never get to
know them."



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS ASHLEY

Thumbs up: Victoria Vestevich of Bloomfield Hills gives a
thumbs up sign of approval while on the GOP conven-
tion floor with Robert Gosselin of Troy.

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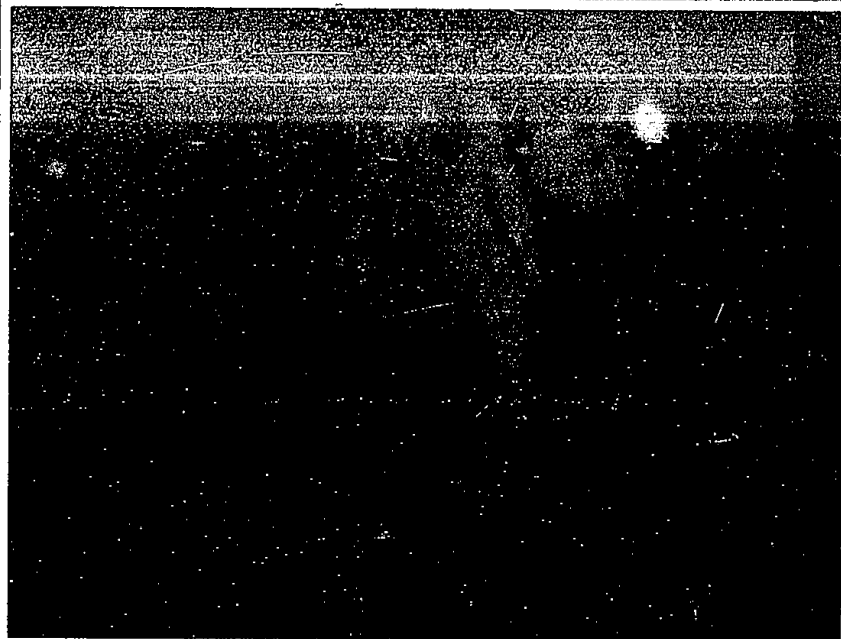
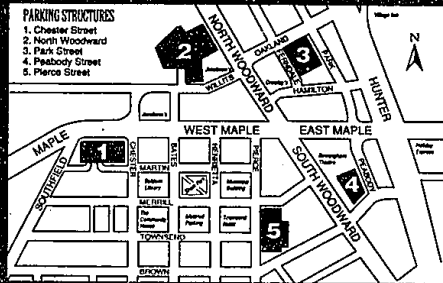
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