

In Garden City Politics And The Postmaster

By MYRA CHANDLER
You can never tell in an election year what is truth and what is fodder. Particu-

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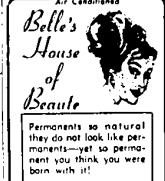
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larily do the issues become cloudy when the man under fire is a hard to beat, fisty individual like Congressman William D. Ford.

He is one of the hardest working Congressmen in Michigan. His record is unclouded and he is respected by his colleagues.

He is also respected by his opponents. I remember a debate between Congressman



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Ford, then a State Representative with my husband, the late Paul M. Chandler, also a State Representative at that time. It was a heated exercise and enjoyed by the radio moderator, the audience and most importantly by the two debaters.

Judging a man on his record and his performance when he is an incumbent, sometimes is tough when you want to unseat him. Unfortunately his position in the Aug. 2 primary could not find a real campaign issue.

But there is a power for these self-starters. It's easy to get a hard-working, seed reporter who learns to be a "force," put him on your campaign committee and behold, he'll come up with smears to discredit the man on top. He makes it easy to target.

The only thing the hayseed has to worry about is the man with the cigar in the front office doesn't approve and then hayseed is in trouble. But it's a calculated risk and worth the gains for the hayseed.

In this would be scandal on the Garden City Post Office, the matters did not count on the last action of Congressman Ford. When he first heard about the possibility of a bribe-taking for the postmaster, he immediately asked for an investigation by Postal authorities. An inspector from Chicago arrived on the scene Monday and has been looking into the alleged bribery charges.

Under investigation is a sworn affidavit signed by the opposing James Costello forces from Clarence Mace, a former Garden City acting postmaster stating he was harassed into paying money to Eugene Salvatore, not Garden City for the job of postmaster. In the sworn statement, Mace said he was approached by Salvatore and asked if

I would like to be Postmaster of Garden City." Salvatore stated that he was acting for Congressman William D. Ford, Congressman from the 15th District. "I told him I would and I was appointed acting Postmaster of Garden City in July, 1965."

"No sooner had I received my acting appointment, when I was approached by Salvatore and a James Plakas of Garden City."

"They told me that they had both spent some money to get my appointment and they expected me to return the favor. They said they needed money for Congressman William Ford and asked for a contribution. After being approached on another occasion by the same two persons I then contributed \$100 to the 15th Congressional District Democratic Organization."

Mace said he was approached again and said he was told he was expected to make periodic payments for the job. He said he resigned because of the pressure of this request for money and health."

He ended his sworn affidavit by stating "I am making this affidavit for the purpose of exposing the method by which Post Office positions are bought and sold by persons who state they are working under the authority of Congressman William D. Ford of the 15th Congressional District in Michigan."

Now this is supposed to take a man's record of eight years in government work and level him. And it could if people believed in and did not know the background. Because there is a new climate abounding in our communities which demands integrity from public officials and those who are dishonest, crafty and expedient are being unshowered out.

There are certain facts that must be judged.



MANIKIN AND TEACHER — Polly Cleo, teacher in Livonia's Hull School, cheerfully holds up a dressmaker's manikin at the Community Resources Workshop open house which attracted nearly 200 school superintendents, board members, fellow-teachers and parents. The group, which was headquartered at Franklin High School, spent four intensive weeks studying various aspects of suburban community life.

● Eugene Salvatore is a politician. He is a member of the officers—he is the iron hand in the velvet glove that keeps the party going. Every district, every party needs and has one.

They go after money, true—but they also must account for it. They wear the tag of Financial Chairman and there are more eyes watching them than the guy carrying the last pouch of water on a three day hike in the desert.

● Salvatore, at Mace's request had a political party in the community room at his restaurant. Salvatore didn't get paid and dunned for it. ● Mace's contributions always went into the 15th Congressional District Democratic Organization of which Salvatore is Financial Chairman. He stood in front of witnesses he wanted to have cognition in the party. Nothing wrong with that.

● Congressmen do not appoint postmasters. They can recommend, but anyone interested can take the competitive examination or a selection can be made through promotion of persons already in the Postal Service. The President makes the appointment, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Acting postmasters are without examination and only for a period of six months.

The present Acting Postmaster is John J. Shively, who may take the examination if he so desires. The other acting postmasters decided against taking the examination for the \$8,800 post office after serving for a period of time.

● Congressman Ford's only involvement in this matter came as a result of several letters from folks back home in his district requesting a new post office for a new City of Westland. He went to work with the postal authorities to set up the new district. He was interested in seeing the Westland constituents.

● And last of all let us not forget the hayseed who is stirring the pot to conjure himself as a fearful force in the community. Hard working, deserving of his pay check and love of his family and friends, but in deep water when out of his community as far as Washington.

Airplane Repairman
Pvt. Patrick J. Monks, son of Mrs. E. Teresa Monks, 28495 Joy Road, Garden City, has completed a single engine airplane repair course at the Army Transportation School, Fort Eustis, Va. He was graduated from Bentley High School in Livonia in 1963.

Final Swim Call

Young Livonians will have one more chance to get summer swimming instruction at Bentley and Franklin high schools as the final two week training period starts on Monday, Aug. 1. The classes are offered one hour daily from 12 noon until 5:00 p.m.

Applications for the final sessions may be made through physical education coach Larry Joiner at Bentley or by phoning GA 7-1900 between 8 to 11 daily. The fee for the two week instruction period is \$5.00.

"Democrats Prefer Double Kuhn Billing," Says Hippler

Len Hippler, former Republican chairman of the Wayne 19th District, commented this week on the Aug. 2 primary and the Republican candidates whom they felt could be easily beaten in November. These leaders stated that they were pulling in particular for Richard Kuhn in the 19th District Congressional race and the brother George in the 14th District state senatorial contest, because of the Kuhn record for losing. Richard has been successful only once in his seven attempts at being elected to office. George's most recent defeat was suffered as a candidate for the State Senate in the 15th District where he lost to the democratic candidate by 19,000 votes.

Richard's support by the Young Americans for Freedom is a point the Democrats intend to bring to the attention of the November voters. Richard is being opposed for the Congressional nomination by Jack H. McDonald. McDonald has an established winning record, having been elected Redford Township Supervisor three times, chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors and outstanding young man of 1955 in Detroit. George is being opposed by Carl Pursell, successful Plymouth businessman, educator and recognized leader. Carl was campaign manager for Farrell Roberts in 1964, has proven that he is a solid citizen and a capable administrator.

The Democratic leaders say that they prefer not to face McDonald and Pursell in a general election.



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Move to Avoid \$54,000 Loss of Renewal Funds

Congressman William D. Ford (Democrat-15th District) reported preliminary success this week in efforts to overcome a technicality that could cost Garden City the loss of more than \$54,000 in federal aid.

The technicality arose in the city's Cherry Hill Urban Renewal Project, for which a Federal Grant of \$434,000 was approved in December, 1962. The city's share was to have been \$134,000, but of this a credit of \$54,292 was to be allowed for construction within three years prior to the date of the grant approval.

Because of a misdated inspector's report, it was first thought that the school was begun within the required period. The Urban Renewal Administration later determined, however, that construction actually began four days too early to qualify.

Faced with the unexpected expenditure of \$54,292, Garden City officials appealed to Congressman Ford, who offered a special amendment to the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. The amendment would give Garden City credit for the school construction despite the four day discrepancy.

Now that the bill, with the amendment, has been reported favorably out of committee, it will come to the floor of the House for debate and a vote.

"If the legislation, and the amendment, are not passed," Congressman Ford said, "the \$54,292 will have to be paid with local tax dollars. This will mean a big financial burden to Garden City and its residents. For this reason, I am hopeful that it will be approved."

The Housing and Urban Development Act was described by Congressman Ford as a piece of far-reaching legislation. Basically, it would authorize "city demonstration" grants for community renewal, land development mortgage insurance for developers of new communities, incentive grants for comprehensive metropolitan planning, mortgage insurance to finance and equip facilities for group medical and dental practice, and other programs providing urban aid.

Busy with Marines
Marine Pfc. Keith C. Foster, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Foster, 35580 W. Chicago, Livonia, has completed the Aviation Structural Mechanics School in Structures at the Naval Air Training Center in Memphis, Tenn.

Off for Scotland
Fireman Apprentice Larry G. Beyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Beyer, 14837 Park Ave., Livonia, has departed Charleston, S.C., for Holy Loch, Scotland, aboard the Submarine Tender USS Simon Lake.

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