

Just Chattin'!

Elections Prove Indians Weren't Only Barbarians

by W. W. Edgar

When I was a young lad going to school we used to listen in horror as the teacher told us how the Indians captured the white men, tied them to a stake, and then set fire to the logs at the bottom and burned them to death. "But what else could you expect from savages," she would say, "this barbaric treatment is the only thing they know when they stage a celebration. They let the man burn while they do their war-dances and dances around him."

I got to thinking about this the other evening when I dropped in on a so-called "political meeting" and while the candidates were not burned at the stake, the treatment they received was little less than barbaric.

I just sat there and couldn't believe my eyes or my ears. In my time I had been expected to be a lawyer, to call public service — serving in an official office to aid the community. And while we raced around to meetings we never were subjected to the kind of treatment the seekers of public office are getting now that another campaign is coming to a close.

At this particular meeting which had been advertised diligently for several weeks, less than 50 persons came to greet the candidates, among them our representative in the Congress of the United States and his rival.

This was little less than an insult as a starter. Why should a man who has spent two years in Washington be forced to race and chase around the country night after night fighting to hold his job and then meet so few voters. The whirlwind campaign he had been forced to conduct left him with a rasp in his throat and his remarks were scarcely audible.

In spite of this he was "literally" burned at the stake. He was bombarded with questions about the war in Vietnam, the spending policies of the present administration, high taxes, and the lack of service to the taxpayers.

Each question seemed like a dart being tossed by someone who came to taunt the candidate — not obtain information that would lead to an intelligent vote.

Mind you, this was only one evening — and one meeting. In order to meet the candidates, in our present election system, he must attempt to meet as many voters as possible. That means rising from meeting to meeting and evening after evening, to say nothing of being at shop gates in the morning and mingling with the crowds at supermarkets on weekends.

Trying to attend all these sessions — in many cases arranged by someone who is only attempting to build a personal image — is a battle in itself. Trying to hit upon an intelligent subject each evening to aid the voters is enough to test the most gifted of orators.

Then, answering the questions from taunting listeners, is nothing short of being brutal.

This is bad enough, but there is another side . . . and an even worse side. That's the terrific expense of conducting a campaign. Just travel alone is costly. Add to this, the need of a staff to conduct research and write speeches, the cost of literature, posters, bill boards and it becomes much too painful for the ordinary man — regardless of his standing in the area. In today's campaigns, if you haven't got a big campaign fund, you're lost.

For instance, I once heard Senator Phil Hart say that it costs nothing short of a half million dollars to conduct a campaign in this era of television, radio, etc. Yet, the position paid only \$32,000.

Why should a man be forced to spend a half million dollars to get a job that will pay him much less than that — \$192,000 — over the six year term.

It's even painful to think about it.

Observing the Scene

(Continued from Preceding Page)

don't have enough guts to pass an income tax, those of us living on fixed incomes will be forced to become cave dwellers. Ask anyone who is retired.

Never appearing to have strong convictions is the State Representative from the 64th District (Farmington) who is Raymond Baker (R). But he is not afraid to make Governor Romney look good and thus we will support him in the line for the needed fiscal reform for Michigan. We need his vote and thus we need him back in Lansing.

John Bennett (D), on the other hand, has been working like a fool representing Redford Township. We again give him support. He will support Romney in his efforts to relieve tax-weary citizens of their present tax burden for education.

His opponent Bob Anderson (R) would no doubt support the Governor's program also but as an incumbent Representative Bennett has been honest in all of his dealings, an independent voter and has supported good legislation including his spade work on lowering the fire insurance rate for this area.

There is a tough one going on in Livonia — the 35th District.

No one can quarrel with Representative Marvin Stempfen (D). He has been a diligent legislator. His legislation has not thrilled The Observer for his district — but as a good attorney he has upgraded judicial reform.

But now down the pike come a scrapper, Louis Schmidt (R), former superintendent of Clarenceville School District. He is an old-fashioned desk pounder and is interested in doing something tangible about the educational problems — and financial relief of same. They are two good men. I hate to see an incumbent defeated but The Observer feels for Livonia. Schmidt would make the fur fly once he hits the Lansing scene — and we need it.

Id Garden City and Westland think the incumbents both deserve another crack at the job based on their voting record. In Westland's 37th it is Vincent Pettipiece (D) and James Tierney (D) in the 38th District which is Garden City and Plymouth.

We would urge you please not to neglect to cast a vote for the State Board of Education. There are two to be elected. One we recommend is a Republican and one a Democrat. The Republican is James O'Neill, Livonia resident. He is tireless in his efforts to upgrade education.

The Democrat is Donald Thurber who has served as Regent of the University of Michigan and understands well the problems facing the State educationwise.

The Observer would urge you to vote Nov. 6 — and to think — not take the easy way out and pull one lever for many who are merely "shirt tail" candidates.



THE OBSERVER pays \$5 for every picture printed on its Feature Page. Send in your entry to any Observer office with your name, address and phone number. The Observer reserves the right to title picture. Paul Lutscher, Public Relations Director took this Retina I of his German Secretary when he was attached to the U.S. Army in the Baltic (where there is plenty of cheese).

\$ Investing Inquiries \$

How Do We Start Investing?

(Laurence A. Wyson, who has a quality record in his service of corporate stockbroker, welcomes all inquiries on investing. Send your questions to The Observer, 33050 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The answers are the opinion of Wyson who is considered highly qualified on the subject.)

Q. For quite a few years now we have been thinking about investing in stocks, but just did not know how to go about doing it. Can you help us by supplying information on how to start investing?

A. First a number of questions must be answered:

1. What are your financial resources?
2. What can you afford to invest?
3. What large expenditures are you facing over the next ten years?
4. What is your investment objective?

The above questions, plus many more will be asked of you by any professional stockbroker before you venture onto the road of fruitful investing. Select your broker as you would your family physician or dentist. Judge him on his integrity, depth of training and education, and the quality of his firm. In judging his firm, please emphasize on: Are they members of leading stock exchanges?

Studies Whirlbirds

Marine Private First Class Rodney A. Durham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Durham of 27450 Sunnydale, Livonia, has completed the course Mechanical Fundamentals at the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Memphis, Tenn. He is continuing his training at the seven-week Basic Helicopter School, also at the training center.

Ready for Combat

Marine Pvt. Dennis J. Fitzgerald, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Fitzgerald, 33023 Oakley St., Livonia, has completed four weeks of individual combat training.

Airman Promoted

Dennis Nowlin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam W. Nowlin Jr. of 9163 Danzig Ave., Livonia, has been promoted to airman first class in the U.S. Air Force. Airman Nowlin is a radar repairman at Key West Radar Station, Fla. The airman, a graduate of Bentley High School, attended Electronics Institute of Technology, Detroit.

Becomes A Sergeant

Walter R. Bartel, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Bartel of 8829 Canton Center, Plymouth, has been promoted to sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. Sergeant Bartel, an air freight specialist, is on duty with U.S. combat air forces in Southeast Asia. The High School and completed requirements for his pilot's area after entering the Air Force.

Home on Leave

John Kenneth Findlay, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Guy Findlay of 20309 Maplewood, Livonia, has graduated from petty officer indoctrination school in Davisville, R. I. John is spending his 30 day leave with his parents prior to reporting to California for further transfer and assignment.

Wanted: 1 Tree 50 Feet

Do you have a 40-50 foot Christmas tree you would like to sell? If you do, Ernie Epps, Executive Secretary of Wonderland Merchants Association, is your man. Call him at KE 5-0373.

Awarded Air Medal

Air Force Capt. Norman St. Barikmo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Olav Barikmo of 30920 Hennepin, Garden City, has been decorated with the Air Medal and the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at New Mexico State University.

Capt. Barikmo was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight under extremely hazardous conditions in Southeast Asia.

The captain received the Commendation Medal for meritorious service as director of the pilots instrument school and as a flight operations officer at Clark AB, Philippines. This is the second time he has received this award.

He is now assistant professor of aerospace studies at the university.

A graduate of Lowrey High School in Dearborn, Capt. Barikmo received a B.S. degree in 1954 from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. He was commissioned in 1956 through the aviation cadet program.

Wayne State University assistant football coach Dave Hoover made the All-Big Eight Academic Team in 1963 as a senior at Iowa State.

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