

Festival Speaker Is Political Pro

Sen. Philip A. Hart, who will be the main speaker after the Founders Festival parade Saturday, July 29, is a soft-spoken, easy-going sort of chap. You'd never think he would even be involved in some of Michigan's and Capitol Hill's toughest political brawls, let alone win them.

Yet that's the case. Most recently, Hart was in the center of the so-called "consumer protection" bills

controversy in the U.S. Senate. There is still disagreement over how much Congress accomplished, but Hart is satisfied that the little guy will get a better break now in the marketplace.

When Hart got into elective politics, he was in the center of a battle for control of the Michigan Democratic Party that shook it to its foundations.

That was in 1954. Hart, then legal adviser to Democratic Gov. G. Mennen Williams, was Williams' choice for lieutenant governor in the Democratic primary, and he had the backing of United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther. In the struggle for the nomination against a "Teamster"-backed candidate, Hart came out on top.

Hart went on to win with Williams in the Democratic sweep of 1954 and was re-elected in 1956. In 1958 he was tapped to challenge incumbent Republican Senator Charles Potter and succeeded. Seeking his second term in 1964, Hart over-mentioned his opponent (GOP State Chairman Ely Peterson), and campaigned only against Republican presidential nominee Barry Goldwater. He finished behind President Johnson at the top of his party's ticket in Michigan.

Born 54 years ago in Bryn Mawr, Pa., Hart earned his bachelor of arts degree cum laude at Georgetown University in 1934 and his juris doctor (law degree with honors) at the University of Michigan in 1937.

He did his World War II service (1941-46) in the U.S. Army and was wounded in the bloody D-Day assault against Utah Beach on the Normandy coast of France.

After the war, he rose swiftly as a government lawyer--state corporation and securities commissioner (1949-50), director of the U.S. Office of Price Stabilization (1951), U.S. Attorney for Eastern Michigan (1952) and legal advisor to Gov. Williams (1952-54).

His wife is the former Jane Briggs, daughter of the late industrialist and Detroit Tigers owner. They have four sons and four daughters. His official Michigan residence is Mackinac Island.



THE AMERICAN LEGION'S Gala Days held in Farmington for 20 years had their share of beauty queens, just as the Founders Festival has. The first one, chosen by popular acclaim Aug. 28, 1928, was Grace Gillis, the present Mrs. Howard Middlewood, of Livonia. As queen, Grace perched, dimples and all, on the railing of the Bob-Lo boat to have her picture taken. In addition to queens, the old Gala Days used to feature greased pig races, baseball games, rolling pin throwing contests and Charleston exhibitions.

Festival Has Early Origins In Gala Days

For something like 20 years Farmington was the place to come for a good time over Labor Day.

During that era, thousands of people jammed the town for the Gala Days staged by the local American Legion Post. The days always took place over Labor Day, with the first being held in 1922.

The EVENTS started out bright and early Legionnaires fired a salute at 7 a.m. This was followed by a baseball game, a children's parade at noon and another ball game in the afternoon.

Carl Goers, 22720 Brookdale, who remembers the events vividly, says there was always a little on-the-side betting as to who would win the games.

To stage the various activities, Farmington Rd. was closed from Oakland to Mill. Ladies of the Legion Auxiliary always had a stand set

I-96 Was Originally Territorial Hwy.

I-96, the federally-sponsored superhighway connecting Farmington to Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids, was originally a territorial road, according to historians.

The first, the federally-built Chicago Military Road, followed what is now US-12 from Detroit to Ypsilanti and then through the southern tier of counties to Coldwater, Sturgis, Niles, New Buffalo and Chicago.

THE SECOND, sponsored by the Michigan Territorial Council, branched off the military road in Ypsilanti and then went through the second tier of counties to Ann Arbor, Jackson, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph. It was called the Territorial Road; its route is now approximated by I-94.

Grand River, also a territorial road, was called the "Michigan: A History of the Wolverine State." describes the territorial roads as in much poorer shape than the federal military road.



SENATOR PHILIP A. HART

Optometrists Offer Visual Screenings

Founders Festival visitors may take a visual screening in the Michigan Optometric Association's trailer, which will be located in Farmington Center July 27-29. Hours the mobile unit will be open are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. each day.

The service provided will be a free visual screening and not an eye examination. People screened will be given a card indicating whether or not they have passed. Those who do not pass will be advised to consult their own optometrist.

Performing the screenings will be members of the Women's Auxiliary of the Oakland County Optometric Association and Farmington Lions Club. Sponsors of the service are the Oakland County Optometric Association, Farmington Lions Club and local optometrists.

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Farmington Founders Festival

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FARMINGTON Founders Festival Days

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