



The Stroller... Old Days Of Politics

As election day nears, it is interesting to note the vast changes that have taken place in the candidates' efforts to lure the voters and have them turn the right levers when they get behind the curtain to make their choices.

And in the midst of it all, one never would think that the lowly pancake would play a major part in keeping a member in Congress for almost two decades.

Yet, that's exactly what is happening in the 17th District where Mrs. Martha Griffiths has been serving since 1954. And as long as pancakes hold out, she will be there.

In the old days—before women's suffrage changed things—it was the custom of candidates, especially in the small towns, to visit the saloons, walk up and down the bar shaking hands, and then buy a "drink for the house."

When the candidates felt that this alone wouldn't suffice, they always had an ace in the hole. They'd visit the volunteer fire companies, make a short speech, and then leave with the message, "Go down to the brewery and get a keg on me."

BACK IN The Stroller's home town, the brewery was only a few blocks from the volunteer fire station and it was an easy matter to take the old wheelbarrow and rush to the brewery. There was only one fear—that the candidates would double up and more than one appear on the same night.

With a bit of ingenuity and fast thinking, it was decided that this could be avoided by inviting the candidates on different nights. In this manner there was a keg of the amber fluid on tap most every night of the week—and sometimes on Sunday.

This all changed with the coming of women's suffrage, for then the male vote was not so all important. There had to be a way to attract the women. That's where the interesting phase started to take place.

And this is where Mrs. Griffiths began the move that now has become a tradition. She started with the rental of a trailer and visited up and down the streets of her district, having tea with the housewives.

She moved on the theory that if she could win over the wife, she would also have the husband's vote, too. And it worked. Martha never has any trouble in her district.

THEN, ABOUT a dozen years ago, when Congress no longer could get its work done to allow for a lengthy recess at election time, Martha came up with the idea of the pancake supper.

When it was first announced, many voters expressed surprise, saying, "Pancakes for supper? Who ever heard of that?"

Down in the Dutch country, pancakes, or flapjacks as the home folks called them, were strictly a breakfast dish. "Flapjacks and molasses" became a by-word down there in the foothills. No one ever thought in those days that they would play a part in an election campaign.



FOUR INJURED -- When the driver of this bus-type car apparently lost control, causing it to skid off the road and roll over, four Farmington youths were hospitalized. The accident was on Six Mile Rd. east of Haggerty Rd. in Livonia Wednesday afternoon. Police said the driver, Keith Michael Simon, 18, of 30651 Rochelle Farmington, was taken to St. Mary hospital along with his three companions. The other youths are Michael P. Rupert, 17, of 28510 Greening; Scott C. Hasting, 14, of 27000 Greening; and Scott D. Raby, 14, of 29114 Greening. (Observer photo)

How wrong! The other evening, The Stroller visited Mrs. Griffiths' pancake supper—and had his eyes opened more than they ever had been.

Not only did her own constituents attend, but voters from all districts and all walks of life came to call and wish her success.

PRIOR To Martha's pancake fund-raiser, Mary Beck, long time member of the Detroit Common Council and used a novel method.

Noting that there were more than 100,000 women bowlers in the metropolitan area, she joined a bowling league, became active in the affairs of the women's bowling association, and became their "queen."

Mary didn't have to sponsor any dinners or breakfasts. The bowlers, always a loyal lot, kept her in common council for years.

Then came Councilman Ed Comors' "clam bake," which was another tradition until he departed.

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In Sororities

FARMINGTON Two Farmington coeds have pledged social sororities at Hillsdale College.

Jacqueline Ansteth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Ansteth of St. Marys Court, pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Katherine Ash, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allan T. Ash of Forestbrook Drive, pledged Chi Omega.

Head Start Initiated In Oakland County

PONTIAC School started this fall for 540 four-year-olds in Oakland County attending Head Start classes who will engage in a learning experience as well as receive health and care.

Their low-income parents will be offered a chance to learn about early childhood development by participating in the program, funded by the federal government.

There are 12 full-year Head Start programs in the school districts of Southfield, Avondale, Berkley, Farmington, Oak Park, Hazel Park, Huron, Waterford, West Bloomfield and Pontiac.

In addition, there are summer programs in Madison Heights, South Lyon, and Holly.

FOLLOWING federal guidelines, the half-day classroom session offers music, art, science, math, social-dramatic activities, language arts, and large and small muscle activities.

Some activities are teacher-directed but most are self-selected to encourage the child's development of self-confidence and independence. The teaching staff gives individual attention where it is needed.

To ensure good health, each child is given physical and dental checkups at the Oakland County Health Department. Needed immunizations are taken care of, and nutrition is a part of the learning experience.

A mid-session snack and hot lunch are used as occasions to encourage sampling of new foods.

Head Start classes make use of space in public schools. The classrooms provide facilities for individual and group activity, outdoor play, and food preparation.

The staff in each class consists of a teacher, paraprofessional teacher aide, and a volunteer classroom aide who is frequently a Head Start parent. This assures a ratio of one adult to about five children.

PARENT involvement is structured into the program in a number of ways. In addition to those who serve as volunteer classroom aides, parents accompany their children to the health checkups and go along on field trips.

The teaching staff makes periodic home visits, and early childhood development workshops are offered by school district Head Start directors as part of the in-service training for parent volunteers.

A career ladder is established by which parents are encouraged to receive training and education to be teacher aides or child care workers.

Parents are also involved in the planning process. Each Head Start center has a parent committee which approves the program, staff, and location of centers.

Parent delegates are sent to the county-wide policy council. This council, made up of parents and community representatives, approves hiring of central administrative Head Start staff and sets policies for the countywide program.

THE OAKLAND County Commission on Economic Opportunity (OCCEO), located in Pontiac, is the receiving agent for federal funds allocated by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The OCCEO provides the central administrative staff which writes the over-all program, which is then implemented by the individual school districts.

The newly appointed education director of Head Start in Oakland County is Mrs. Brooke Dixon who joined the OCCEO staff in July 1972.

Mrs. Dixon has a bachelor's degree in history from Duke University and a master's degree and teaching certificate in early childhood education from Oakland University.

Volunteers are an important part of a Head Start program. Each classroom uses at least one volunteer each day. Some of these are parents while some are community resource persons who share with the children a job, skill or hobby.

Elementary school children, high school students, and men and women of all ages can offer the children a variety of social experiences. Some volunteers, like a retired wood-worker, make equipment to be used in the classroom.

Sometimes volunteers are recruited by parents while others are former Head Start parents. Others are just people who like to be with young children.

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TO VOTE for EARL TEEPLES for Farmington Township SUPERVISOR ...

1. Detach the above gummed sticker.
2. Raise the metal slide No. 19 at the top of the voting machine.
3. Firmly attach name sticker to the exposed paper under slide.

THANK YOU EARL TEEPLES

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PARKS ROADS SIDEWALKS RUBBISH COLLECTION YOUTH SERVICES POLICE FIRE BUILDING HEALTH ENVIRONMENT NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT	NO VOICE IN GOVERNMENT A SUPERVISOR WHO WILL PROMPTLY QUIT! McConnell then promised to resign the office if the charter went down to defeat. (Observer Article)

CALL: 474-6115 for further information
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