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No suspense

Paul E. Kasper, who is seeking reelection as 23rd district county commissioner, reviewed early returns Tuesday. Neither his quest for the Republican nomination nor Bernard Winograd's for the Democratic nomination provided drama. Both were unopposed. For the record, Kasper received 1,976 votes from Republicans and Winograd received 962 votes. The 23rd district includes Bloomfield Hills and parts of Bloomfield Township and Pontiac.

Michigan mirror

Family farms noted in state

By ELMER E. WHITE
 Even notice "centennial farm" markers as you drive through the Michigan countryside on a Sunday afternoon?

There's a wealth of history — and more than a bit of family pride — behind each of those signs.

The plaques designate those farms that have been in the same family for 100 or more years. And that's no small feat, especially in recent years when developers have gobbled up rural territory, and some farming families have abandoned their businesses in favor of more stable work.

IN RECOGNITION of this family stick-to-itiveness, the Michigan Historical Commission grants "centennial farm" status to those who can show unbroken family ownership for a century or more.

The program, which the commission says is unique in the United States, began more than 25 years ago. To date, nearly 3,000 Michigan farms have been certified and awarded plaques, which are paid for with the help of Detroit Edison Co. and Consumers Power Co.

"The value of this program isn't just in publicity," declares Jerry Roe of Lansing, chief of the Historical Commission.

"It brings our heritage to the forefront," he contends. "The marking of anything like these farms lets people understand it's part of history."

THINGS YOU WON'T get to vote for or against this fall:

- Election of 18-year-olds to state offices. A proposal to put that question on the ballot fell far short of the required two-thirds vote in the Michigan Senate and is dead for this year at least.

- Ban public ownership of handguns. Backers of that proposed constitutional amendment failed to collect the required number of petition signatures, coming up with only 200,000 of the needed 285,000 validated names. They blamed a late start in circulating petitions and inadequate funding and began talking about other ways to implement their plan.

- Capital punishment. Same problem here, with not enough petition signatures collected by backers of the drive.

ON THE other hand, it's likely Michigan voters will have an opportunity to decide whether the state should eliminate the four percent sales tax on food and the two percent on prescription drugs.

Supporters of that constitutional amendment handed in some 315,000 signatures earlier this month. Their issue will go on the November ballot if at least 265,000 of those signatures are found to be valid.

Douglas Ross, director of the Michigan Citizens Lobby, which sponsored the food and drug sales tax referendum, estimates adop-

tion of the amendment could save the average Michigan family up to \$70 a year.

Budget officials, meanwhile, figure it will take a 0.5 percent hike in the present 3.9 percent income tax to make up for lost revenue if the sales taxes are eliminated.

TWO OTHER issues destined for ballot spots this fall are a proposal to give up to \$600 case bonuses to Vietnam veterans and another dealing with use of motor vehicle fuel taxes.

The latter question, placed on the ballot by the Legislature, would ban use of motor vehicle tax revenue for highway patrol purposes by law enforcement officers.

GET OUT the cherry pie recipes — Michigan's crop looks like a super one this year.

The Michigan Crop Reporting Service says the state will grow some 95,000 tons of tart cherries in 1974, nearly two-thirds ahead of the freeze-damaged 1973 crop.

In addition, the service reports that the state will maintain its solid fourth place among the nation's sweet cherry producers.

Michigan's Agriculture Department, in a newsy publication touting agriculture as the second largest source of income in the state, says that "along the Lake Michigan shoreline are thousands of Michigan's cherry orchards thriving in the almost perfect climate and soil conditions which exist there."

The report says that Michigan grew 66 percent of the nation's red tart cherries last year, with a 58,000 ton crop worth some \$390 per ton.

The department says also that there was a 1973 sweet cherry crop of some 16,000 tons, valued at nearly \$4.5 million altogether.

Cities with heaviest cherry production are Grand Traverse, Berrien, Leelanau and Oceana.

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Hours: Daily 10 to 5:30 Thurs. & Fri. 11 to 9 Sunday 12 to 5 Never on Monday

Bike brunch set at 10 a.m. Sunday

BIRMINGHAM — A bicycle brunch ride will be held Sunday, beginning at 10 a.m. Families and other interested persons are asked to meet at the Birmingham Ice Sports arena, 2800 E. Lincoln. The ride will be leisurely, through Birmingham, with a stopover at a local pancake house.