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Twenty Five Cents

Hartsock seeking change in ways of picking mayor

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington City Councilman William Hartsock has advocated a change in the method through which the city's mayor is chosen.

To voice his objection to the present system, Hartsock abstained from voting on the mayor and mayor pro-tem positions at last week's council session. Under the City of Farmington charter, the mayor is chosen by his colleagues.

John Richardson was elected mayor and Richard Tupper as mayor pro-tem.

"I don't want to appear as if I were voting against the persons who were elected. Abstaining was my way of protesting against the system," he said.

Hartsock objects to the present method, saying there is a lack of clear-cut guidelines by which the mayor is elected. He said the selection is predetermined months beforehand, with a lack of debate during the nominating process at the public meeting.

The nominations at last week's meeting were devoid of debate. Only Richardson's and Tupper's names were put in nomination.

HARTSOCK WOULD like to see the mayoral position determined by merit and number of votes cast in the previous election. Hartsock was the high vote-getter in this past election, but denies his objections are based on his wish to be mayor.

"The decision of who should be on the council transpires for a couple of years ahead of time. It's discussed who would fit in on the council. I think this perpetuates the idea of the club."

—William Hartsock

Hartsock says the mayoral issue was discussed during a closed session of the council at 7 p.m. The open meeting began at 8 p.m.

Hartsock objects to what he calls the club mentality among some council members who perpetuates the idea of the club.

"The decision of who should be on the council transpires for a couple of years ahead of time," he says. "It's discussed who would fit in on the council. I think this perpetuates the idea of the club."

"I just can't buy these things that are predetermined."

During the 7 p.m. session, Hartsock suggested that Tupper be nominated for mayor and himself nominated as mayor pro-tem because Tupper received the most votes two years ago and Hartsock was the high vote-getter in this past election.

"I don't think a person's eligibility should be determined by saying he should be in training for so many terms," said the 35-year-old councilman, who has just been elected to his second term.

Councilman Ralph Yoder, who

stepped down as mayor last week, disagreed with Hartsock, saying the system as now established is equitable.

"I'm pretty well satisfied with the way it has been," he said. "Everybody would like to be mayor. But it all depends on where the votes lie on the council."

Yoder denies that the council met at 7 p.m. to decide the mayoral position, saying it was an organizational meeting. Representatives from the beautification commission also were present, he says.

"I wouldn't have any problem in discussing this in public. But it may have been embarrassing for some of the councilmen," he added.

YODER, WHO HAD been mayor for three years, says the mayoral position should be passed around on a regular basis so that everyone gets a chance. He objected to previous practices where mayors served for eight or 10 years. He advocates a two-year term.

Tupper agrees with Yoder that the system is proper as it stands.

"I think everybody should have the

opportunity. The limited term is a good idea."

He disagrees with Hartsock's contention that the high vote-getter should be considered for the position because of the system of electing some councilmen for two years and others for four years.

"What would happen in the off year? Some guy may never get the high vote and never be mayor," he says.

Experience, says Tupper, is important in selecting the mayoral candidate.

"Bill (Hartsock) is a good guy, but he doesn't have the background. He isn't familiar with the things that happened four or five years ago. We need somebody who is articulate on what's going on," he said.

Tupper says that doing a good job for the residents of Farmington should be foremost in every councilman's mind.

"Everyone would like to be mayor, but when that is put first, I question a councilman's motives."

Tupper also says he would be willing to discuss the decision of a mayoral candidate in public.

Newly-elected councilman Al Bennett says he would like to see the council use a ballot in determining who is mayor so that a choice wouldn't be "steamrolled" through.

"After the nomination was made there should have been further discussion. But I hadn't any objection to any one of them being elected," he said.



Jack Cotton, Michigan athletic director of the year, sits in his office and discusses the future of physical education and athletics in the Farmington school system. (Staff photo by Harry Mauteh)

Cotton is state 'athletic director of year'

Jack Cotton, Farmington School District athletic director for the past 20 years, has been chosen "athletic director of the year" for the State of Michigan.

Cotton was awarded the honor by a committee of principals and athletic directors who represent the Michigan Association of Directors of Physical Education and Athletics.

LIKE MOST recipients of a special "winner of the year award," Cotton was quick to thank his entire staff and say his award belongs to the whole athletic program.

"First of all, this award is not pre-

sented just to me but to the entire Farmington physical education program. It is an award that honors the success of our schools, coaches, teams and everyone who has taken part in our programs."

"I want to thank everyone for their cooperation and helpfulness in getting things done for our schools," said Cotton. "And it is a good feeling to know my colleagues, who did the selecting, thought enough of me and what is being done in the Farmington physical education program to present me with this award."

Two major programs Cotton looks back on with pride during his tenure

as athletic director are the physical education and aquatic programs.

"As I look back, I can point with pride to our elementary physical education program. We have one of the finest elementary programs in the state. We have full-time instructors and programs in every building and that is quite an accomplishment.

Eighty per cent of the elementary schools in the state cannot match that record."

"Another one is the aquatic program. When I first came on the job, I felt we needed a swimming program and worked for one. With a lot of help from the community and various

groups we now have three pools."

Cotton says he would not trade his coaching staffs for any other in the state, commenting that his relationship with them is flexible and very enjoyable. The Farmington principals are "some of the best around" which makes his job a little easier.

REFLECTING ON SOME of the major accomplishments Farmington schools have witnessed since he became athletic director, Cotton says one of his major prides is the growth of the physical education and athletics programs over the years.

"Over the years, we have really de-

veloped a wide variety of extra-scholastic activities for the students and we are making great strides in the area of girls' sports, even though some might disagree.

"One thing most people do not understand is that most of our programs begin at 2:30 in the afternoon. We are

so big that we must conduct our programs all the time.

"Despite our financial problems, we are expanding and are continually offering a wide variety of programs," said Cotton. "Our program is growing and our community is growing and I am glad to be part of that growth."

That Mr. Gobbler is a dumb old bird

By W.W. EDGAR

When you sit down to your Thanksgiving Day dinner, before you take knife and fork in hand to do justice to the richly prepared brown turkey in the center of the table, you should stop and give thanks to those who had the patience to raise it. For the turkey we know today is considered by those who should know as the dumbest creature that ever walked crawled or flew.

Our white feathered, squat bird today is a far cry from the dark feathered wild turkey on which the Pilgrims feasted on that first Thanksgiving, back in 1621.

That bird was a sleek creature that roamed the wild country and offered a great challenge to those who tried to track him down with their muskets.

The bird we have today has been crossbred so often to provide more white meat that its intelligence, and sharpness, along with its stately stature and dark feathers have departed. It is now just a "dumb" bird.

THIS DUMBNESS, so the experts claim, is shown right after being

hatched. For while occupants of every rung on the evolutionary ladder are born or hatched with the instinct to eat, this isn't so with the turkey. All the little "turks" do is peck.

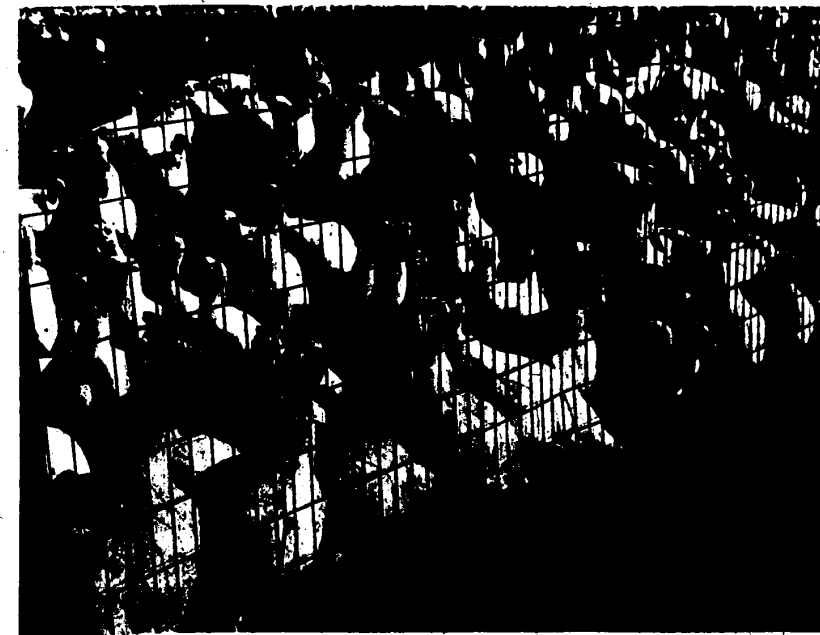
Many turkey raisers tell you that, in order to get the turkey to eat, you scatter marbles through the feed trough. In pecking at the marbles he'll accidentally feed himself until he learns that is what you wanted him to do in the first place.

The real fun of raising turkeys comes when they are old enough to be sent out to pasture in the big turkey yards like you see at Roper's farm on Five Mile Road in Livonia.

But you must have patience. According to the experts, like the old-time farmers who have long since given up, the turkey can fly like a goose except that he knows how to fly in only one direction. On rare occasions when he flies out of the yard, he doesn't have enough sense to turn and fly back. You never see them out of the yard at Roper's or at Gottschalk's on North Territorial Road in Plymouth.

And while the turkey on the outside

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Gobblers like these will be gracing thousands of tables this Thursday for the annual Thanksgiving celebration.

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Your carrier is trying to win a portable TV and when you pay him this month you put him a little closer to that goal. Remember to ask him for a receipt. It's good toward a classified ad.