

# Old Guard Says--What Happened?

**WHAT HAPPENED** in Farmington Township? That must be the question that the township officials are asking themselves in the light of Tuesday's election returns.

Township voters turned their backs on two entrenched incumbents — with the backing of the township hall machine — and nominated three "unattached" candidates to run on the Republican ticket in November.

**GRANTED** the man who lead the ticket — Fred Lichtman — announced that he would run only after incumbent Township Trustee Earl Oppertbauer said that he would not seek re-election.

Lichtman was the man the township administration wanted to run.

The officials didn't want to see either Charles Williams or Margaret Schaeffer

nominated over their proteges — Peter Klopp and James Skillman.

**So what happened?**

Proposed as answers to that question are as many possibilities as people giving the answer.

**A THOUGHT** might be that the township official's nice strategy of making appointments to fill vacancies and then having incumbent members of the Board run after a time in office has failed.

Both Klopp and Skillman were appointees. Neither had ever faced the voters before.

Both are nice guys and were not the worst possible choices as trustees.

Their political heads rolled.

**Why did it happen this year instead of in the past?**

Maybe the answer to that question is the fact that this time the voters felt that they had a choice in the primary.

Previous Republican primaries in the township had pitted the mildly progressive township administration against the old-guard moss-backs.

This year that wasn't the case.

The voters had a choice and they made it.

One thing is certain — the voters are not satisfied with the township administration.

That's the one message that should be clear to all the officials.

—Sue Shaughnessy

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## Romney Group Retains County Party Control

The Romney forces seem almost certain to retain control of the Republican party organization in both the Oakland County portion of the 11th congressional district and county-wide.

At issue was the election of precinct delegates for the 408 voting units throughout the county.

IN FARMINGTON Township the Romney forces swamped the anti-Romney group by taking 13 of the 16 delegate posts. One precinct—5-4—had a tie between the candidates for the two forces.

This is settled in the county elections office with the two candidates drawing straws or flipping a coin.

In the City of Farmington, however, the anti-Romney group fared better. With four precincts the dissidents took three of the spots. In fact, in the one contest won in the city by the Romney organization candidates there was no opposition.

County-wide the trend seemed to hold.

Rod Tolman, executive secretary of the Oakland GOP organization, estimated that the organization candidates won about 300 of the precincts throughout the county. An additional 20 precincts have no elected delegate, but the group controlling the organization will appoint people to fill these spots.

In the 19th district there are about 100 precincts that went to the Romney forces while 47 went to the dissidents.

THE BATTLE for control of the Republican organization dates back two years.

Just prior to the Republican State Convention in February, the district delegates met to choose a local chairman and elect the delegates to the state convention.

At the 1966 meeting a vote for chairman was held and the incumbent chairman Christian Powell ruled that he had won.

A request for a roll call vote was not honored and the more liberal forces supporting Romney recovered and elected John Cartwright as chairman.

During the 1967 state convention the credentials committee voted to seat the Cartwright group as the official delegation.

Powell's group, however, formed an organization called the Republican Citizens Committee and operated for the two-year period. This group called itself the official Republican organization.

The battle for control goes to the group which has the greatest number of votes among the precinct delegates. Thus the primary opposition for the party post—which most people don't really think about—in Tuesday's election.

## Puzzlers Seen In Postal Idea

**By ELIZABETH WISSMAN**

There is strong support for changing the postal system to a corporation which would conduct business more or less as private companies do.

The results might be surprising.

First of all, post offices would have to install a complaint department, fully prepared to refund money on stamps with insufficient glue, and to take action against mailmen who insult customers.

Competition might develop between enterprising post offices—they might even advertise such items as "Special on 6-cent stamps, Friday only, 10 for 50 cents"—or maybe "get trading stamps with your regular stamps at the main post office."

**OR PERHAPS** individual post offices would advertise the comforts of their buildings, the courtesy of their clerks, and other retail attractions such as

"Wrap your parcel post packages in the cool comfort of our post office, and have them weighed on our new honest-weight machines by clerks who take time to be courteous."

And—

"Our postal clerks help you select the stamps that suit your personality and mail."

Or—

"Are your money orders scribbled in unreadable script and curled up at the ends where grubby fingers have handled them? Try our clean, beautifully written documents."

**THEN, TOO**, individual post offices are certain to copy the airlines in the matter of uniforms. Post office "A's" will surely try to outdo post office "B's" by dressing its mailmen in snazzier uniforms.

There's bound to be more style-consciousness and variety in stamps, too. There will probably be regular fall and spring showings of the newer stamp designs.

**PART** of the reorganization, also, would involve removing postal employees from civil service status.

This would bring common business practices to post offices. Maybe some clerks would work on a commission basis. "If you'll take another 50 stamps, I'll meet my quota for the month."

**THE President's Commission** on Postal Organization, which has recommended a government corporation to supplant the Post Office Department, may be opening up a whole new ball of wax with its suggestion.

## Farmington Agrees

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remains on the ballot. A hot race equally contested between Kuhn and O'Brien for prosecuting attorney. Kuhn held only 1,950 margin countywide, 208 in the township, and 172 in the city.

**THE TIGHTEST RACE** countywide was the Democratic sheriff's contest between McPherson and Phillips with only a 817-margin. The two candidates had only an 11-vote margin in the township and 31-vote difference in the city.

Another close countywide race was between Republicans Dobany and Sibley for treasurer with Dobany winning by 2,493. Dobany won comfortably in the township but carried only an 85-vote edge in the city.

If the general election follows the primary results, Republicans will capture all county-elected positions with new faces in four offices — prosecuting attorney, clerk, treasurer, and drain commissioner.

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Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties

Pursuant to State Statutes there will be a hearing on the proposed budget for the 1968-69 school year on August 22, 1968. The meeting will be held in the Board of Education office, 32215 W. 12th Mile Road, Farmington, Michigan at 8:00 a.m. Copies of the proposed budget are available for public inspection at the Board of Education office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**ROBERT M. ERICKSON, Treasurer**

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