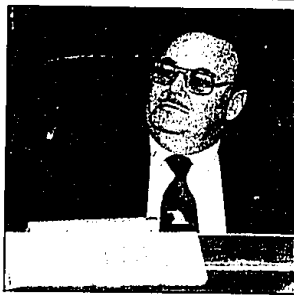


Dan Dobbins, a Taylor insurance agency manager and representative to the electoral college from the 15th Congressional District, writes his ballots by hand.



It was the thrill of a lifetime for Henry Dodge (right), an immigrant from Austria, to cast one of the nation's 538 official Electoral College votes for Reagan and Bush.



Alan L. May, 18th District Republican chairman from Bloomfield Hills, takes the oath of office as a presidential elector. The oath includes a promise to vote for Reagan and Bush.



Electoral College is thrill for the voters

By Kathy Parrish
staff writer

THEY WORKED extra hard to get out votes for Ronald Reagan and George Bush. As a reward, 20 Michigan residents got to vote twice for their favorite candidates. Meeting Monday in the state Senate chamber in Lansing, the dedicated Republican volunteers met to cast the final ballots assuring Reagan's re-election.

'Millions of dollars are spent to elect candidates, and their fate is in the hands of 20 people.'

—Alan May
college elector

It was a quiet, solemn ceremony with no media hoopla, but an event Electoral College members won't soon forget.

"IT'S QUITE something for an immigrant boy to become a presidential elector," signed Henry Dodge, an Austrian-born Detroit resident who represented the 17th Congressional District, which includes bordering Oakland and Wayne County suburbs.

"It's one of the things I really wanted to do in my lifetime."

"It's a rare privilege, a once in a lifetime event," said Peg Rapson of Leslie, swiveling contentedly in an

oversize leather chair usually reserved for a senator. For Deulah resident Inez Zaring, the experience ranked just behind marriage and giving birth. "I'm excited as a child," said the history buff, who was Benzie County's Reagan-Bush chairman.

"It's a thrill to vote for the president again — he's so super."

EXCITEDLY GATHERING in the State Capitol Building with family members and friends, the presidential electors were congratulated on being their party's choice for the national honor.

Nationally, there are 538 electors. In Michigan, the political parties chose electors at their state conventions, but only the winning party gets to show up when it's time to cast the state's votes for president and vice president. Because Reagan carried the state, all 20 of Michigan's votes went for him and his vice president.

While in some states electors may vote their conscience, in Michigan they are legally bound to vote only for the winning candidates.

"It's a role that doesn't receive much attention from the media but ultimately elects the president," said Spencer E. Abraham, state Republican Party chairman.

"Those of us who are active certainly know how critical this role is. I'd like to congratulate you."

Outlining the procedures, state elections director Chris Thomas also applauded them. "Contrary to what the news media and everyone said, the election isn't over until you people take care of business today."

MEETING FOR an hour in the Senate chamber, the presidential electors nominated and voted for president and vice president.

Then they signed certificates which were sent by registered mail to the president of the United States Senate, Chief Justice Wendell Miles of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Michigan Secretary of State Richard Austin, and the General Services Administration.

It's a "fail safe" system that assures votes from all states will be counted at noon Jan. 7 in Washington, D.C., explained Thomas.

PLAYING AN important role in the proceedings was Livonia resident Michael Legg. An attorney in Birmingham, the chairman of the 2nd Congressional District was unanimously elected Electoral College chairman.

"I've been a longtime supporter of the Electoral College," explained Legg, 32.

"On top of the mere tradition, it assures we always have a majority president. I think the idea of winner-take-all by state is a meaningful cornerstone in our process."

Even Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths, a

Democrat who opened the session, said she really enjoyed playing a part in it.

"I've never attended an Electoral College. I enjoyed it and wish you well," she said, handing the gavel to Legg.

Electors took their oaths of office from state Supreme Court Justice James L. Ryan of Redford.

WHATEVER THEIR role in the ceremony, being an elector was excitement enough for those on hand.

Bloomfield Hills resident Alan May, active in the Republican Party since he was 8 years old, was pleased to be part of the proceedings. Author of an unpublished novel about political skulduggery in the Electoral College, the attorney sees the almost invisible body as an "anachronism."

"Millions of dollars are spent to elect candidates, and their fate is in the hands of 20 people," said May, 42. He chairs the Republican Party's 18th District which includes Birmingham-Bloomfield, Farmington, Rochester, and most of Troy.

Taylor insurance agent Dan Dobbins was chosen to nominate Reagan fund-raiser Paul Gadola of Flint as honorary chairman of the Electoral College. Dobbins, 32, admitted to "butterflies" in his stomach at the prospect.

"I just thought this would be a nice way to cap off the campaign," explained Dobbins. He was chairman of the Reagan-Bush effort in the 15th District in southern Livonia, Garden City, Westland, Canton Township, and Ypsilanti.



Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths and Birmingham attorney Michael Legg confer about the order of business. Griffiths, a Democrat, opened the electoral college session and handed the gavel to Legg, a Livonia resident and chairman of the 2nd Congressional District Republican Party. Legg was unanimously elected Electoral College chairman.

CAMILLE MCCOY
staff photographer

memory lane

MEMORIES, MEMORIES . . . have we got the memories. And we'd like to share them with you. Using local newspaper files, we're dishing up generous slices of life in the Farmington community from 40, 30, 20 and 10 years ago.

DEC. 21, 1944 —

AT THE FIRST meeting of the newly formed Farmington Consolidated School District, Dr. R.H. Aschenbrenner was named president. Other school officers named were Paul Schreiber, secretary; Guy Gurgan, treasurer; Isaac Bond, and Jess Early, trustees.

"WAR STILL NEEDS the wires this Christmas," said an advertisement for Michigan Bell Telephone Co. "Please help keep Long Distance circuits clear for necessary calls on December 24, 25 and 26."

"THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS party for children of the community will be held Saturday afternoon at the Civic Theatre," noted an item in the Around the Block column on the front page of the Farmington Enterprise. "The Goodfellows will see that each child receives a bag of peanuts — sorry, kids, but there just wasn't any candy to be had this year — and the theatre management has planned a big program. It's expected a large crowd of children will attend."

"SEASONAL DECORATIONS at the Farmington State Bank are most attractive," said another Around the Block item. "The large holiday pictures are gay and colorful, and the poinsettias — well, see for yourself."

SHORT ITEM: "The strange motion felt while riding a camel produces in some people a sensation similar to seasickness." Another short item: "Bleeding from small cuts can be stopped by applying a piece of raw potato."

CLASSIFIED AD: "FOR SALE — Jersey Cow, 8 yrs. old, 20743 Lincoln, near 9 mile. EV. 1292."

DEC. 23, 1954 —

THE FARMINGTON CITY Council, meeting in regular session, unanimously supported the decision of City Manager James Tennant and Chief of Police Joseph DeVriendt not to reinstate Robert Cox, a police officer who resigned from the force following a dispute with Chief DeVriendt.

LOCAL POSTAL OFFICIALS estimated that they will have handled 900,000 pieces of incoming and outgoing mail by the end of the Christmas rush of 1954.

CLASSIFIED AD: "LOST — All the water in my well. Flinder may have it but warn that it is easy to loose. Don't depend on it. Farmington Township Water Development Association."

"SEVEN BRIDES for Seven Brothers" starring Jane Powell and Howard Keel was playing at the Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington.

SHORT ITEM: "Washington, D.C., produces

100,000 tons of waste paper annually."

BUD JONES SCORED 19 points and Bruce Shogquist added 14 as Farmington High bested Walled Lake, 56-42, in high school basketball action. In another area prep game, Don Hanaford's 15 points couldn't save Clarenceville from being beaten by Brighton, 40-39.

JAMES READ, ASSISTANT superintendent of the Farmington Schools, was installed as president of the Farmington Exchange Club at a recent meeting. The club's other officers were Jim Burns, first vice president; Norman Lawton, second vice president; Emory Hutton, treasurer; Claud Goodes, secretary. The officers will serve until June of 1955.

DEC. 23, 1964 —

A CATHOLIC HIGH school, Our Lady of Mercy, was expected to enroll 1,500 young women for the fall term of the 1965-66 school year, said the Sisters of Mercy. The school was to have been located in a new building at 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads in Farmington Township.

FARMINGTON'S CITY COUNCIL, acting on a suggestion made by Councilman Henry Forrest, voted to seek to have a taxi stand located in downtown Farmington.

THE METROPOLITAN NATIONAL Bank billed itself as "the only bank in Farmington paying 4 percent (interest) on regular pass book savings accounts" in its advertising.

THE ONE-TWO PUNCH of Rick Lorenz and Rick Schultz made North Farmington's final basketball game before the holiday break a pleasant experience. Lorenz scored 21 points and Schultz added 20 as coach Dick Wilson's Raiders romped past Oak Park, 77-54. In another area basketball game, Tom Doyle scored 21 points to pace Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows' 74-55 win over Redford St. Agatha.

DEC. 23, 1974 —

IT WAS A BILKAR Christmas for a Farmington Hills family of four. They lost most of their presents after a Dec. 19 fire damaged their house of Flanders. According to police, the fire started in a pickup truck camper parked outside the house and then moved up the side of the wood-frame building. There were no injuries, police said.

SNOW BALL FIGHTS, skits and a hike were some highlights of a weekend spent camping by 26 members of Scout Troop 48 of Farmington Hills. The youngsters were accompanied by scoutmasters William Wright and Richard Zeck. The site of the campout was the W.J. Hayes State Park near Oxted.

IT WILL TAKE a tax boost of an additional 2.09 mills for the Farmington School District to maintain its present services and programs, said Supt. Marinus VanAmeyde. Expenses have gone up, making additional millage necessary "just to hold the line," said VanAmeyde, who cited rising costs, state aid cuts and a recent grievance settlement as current problems.



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Part of the pleasure in giving our Perry Ellis shirt is knowing it will be worn in a pleasant and dignified way. Hudson's Oval Room is a place where you can find the right shirt for the right occasion. Total with no return. Hudson's Oval Room is a place where you can find the right shirt for the right occasion. Total with no return. Hudson's Oval Room is a place where you can find the right shirt for the right occasion. Total with no return.