

## OBSERVING the Scene . . .

By MYRA CHANDLER

No self-respecting columnist lets an election slip away without a hindsight comment or two. No exception here.

In the final analysis those of us that belong to the Back-to-Africa-with-Soapy fan club have to allow this is a kind of old world in many ways. If Williams had lost the election he could only be content with coupon-clipping. He might not even have been asked to call a square dance, march in a parade or run for precinct delegate. This is too cruel.

Where, Irish Jerry, on the other hand, is on the brink of a six-year Mayor term of dynamic Detroit. He can now call back all the fellows that have been on leave of absence pushing "the boss" and life goes on. He really had everything to gain and these are the odds Cavanagh likes.

President Johnson may not be quite the people's choice this minute, but as the election clearly pointed out, voters will support the moderate as opposed to the conservative, right down the line.

The closest race, and the one that was really a test to me, was the race of Jack H. McDonald (R), youthful Redford Township Supervisor, fair-haired darling of the metro press, the 19th District GOP, the Governor's office, 4,070 voters in Redford Township (as opposed to 827 for Richard D. Kuhn) and even voters in the northerly part of the 19th District in Oakland County, where he was relatively unknown as compared to conservative-labeled Kuhn. Kuhn had advantages. He had run before, he was really better known and he had the hardest working, most dedicated, never-late crew I've ever seen. But he was a clear-cut conservative and dared a time or two to disagree with George Romney during Con-Con. As a result Jack McDonald will face another conservative, but this time a Democrat, a seasoned politician, with a record of high level state-manlike activities at the State and National level, Billie Sunday Farnum.

The Senate race was erratic. In the 14th District (Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington), Earl Demel spent a lot of money, time and effort and took a trouncing to unknown Louis C. Odette and winner Paul F. Livingston who was nominated with 3,483. Probably because Demel wasn't known in Livingston's Oakland County and couldn't build up any lead in his home town of Plymouth, GOP stronghold. In another case of a moderate taking the strong lead, Robert Anderson handily beat Ronald C. Rice, an ultra-conservative and unknown Eugene Melnick for State Representative of the 34th District. He will face popular incumbent John Bennett in November.

In the 64th District, including Farmington and Farmington Township, incumbent Raymond Baker running unopposed pulled 5,977 votes, and will face Leonard P. Baruch who polled 2,508 votes. The prospects for the Democrats are dismal in this area because if every Democrat voter casts his mark there are still far more GOP in this area.

Perhaps the greatest victory for those of us that consider ourselves moderates was in Redford Township where the racial issue was an undercurrent. Or, never out in the open, mind you. But whispered in the bowling alleys, ladies teas, tabloid press, and up and down the avenue.

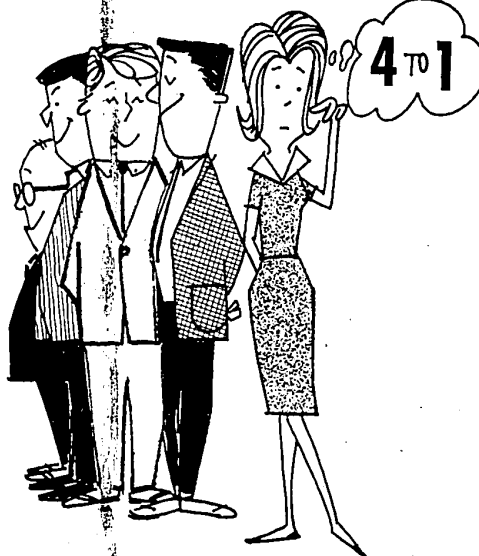
It was interesting to note, those who laid their careers on the human-relation line like Gene Duston (R) incumbent for Trustee, won his seat even though there was much tongue-clucking.

On the Democratic side of the ballot a slate of candidates supported by many in the local human relations movement walked away with the selection from the old-line party hacks who used race-baiting, name-calling techniques against them. Owen P. Cummings, attorney, was the supervisor candidate against Harvey P. Beadle. Cummings will face Alrick Bellaire in November.

There is one disappointing note however. THE OBSERVER learned in the final panic of winning the fear of backlash brought out the "sunshine liberals" of the winning slate. On one occasion they struck the name of a precinct delegate from their literature because they thought the candidate's civil rights record would hurt their slate.

As it turned out they had nothing to fear but it is always sad to me when potential statements are intimidated into compromising their principles to win votes. Usually if they can hang in there the fears prove to be unfounded. But it really gives the world a look at the fortitude of a candidate and with this reporter it always rings like a clarion call. I am sorry their leader Cummings didn't show away the bogey man and stand pat. So be it.

## How About It, Ladies?



Even The Score Through  
The Red Cross Blood Program

## Who Is Farmington Republican Assn.?

Editor:

The writer is deeply grateful to the voters of Farmington Township, who on August 20 so graciously cast their votes in my favor for the office of Township Supervisor. Since I had not been a candidate for 1955 election, when I was elected to a four-year term as a Township Trustee, and many, many new people have since moved to our Township—I am particularly pleased with the results of the August 2nd Primary Election. I am also greatly appreciative for the fine support which the voters gave to the "Wendell Brown Team"—none of whom, I believe, had ever before run for Township office. Some of our candidates, I believe, had never before run for a public office. All of our candidates had worked diligently, all winter and spring, to preserve our Township form of government. The August 2nd election results were most gratifying.

In view of the election results which nominated all incumbent Township Officials, we will, with great interest, await their future attitude towards preserving Farmington Township under the Township form of government. This will be a complete reversal of their unsuccessful attempt last winter and spring, to dissolve the Township in favor of a Home Rule City Government. Apparently the incumbents are now convinced that the residents of our Township want the Township form of government continued. Our Primary Election fight, I believe, had strengthened their resolution in that regard.

In the last few hours of the recent campaign, the writer was scurrilously attacked by an unsigned, anonymous letter, obviously it was authored by someone (or more), unfamiliar with my record as a member of the Farmington School Board for six years, as President of that Board for four years, and as Township Trustee for four years. Had the vicious letter been signed, the voters might have evaluated the opinions therein expressed, particularly the quoted material, the author(s) of which also remain anonymous. A n o n y m i t y upon sweet anonymity! Has anyone ever heard of the Farmington Republican Association? The Oakland County Clerk advises me that there is no such name registered with his office. I'll appreciate hearing from anyone who may know of such an organization in our Township. Sniping from the sidelines, junglestyle from behind the bushes, may have been fun for whoever indulged in it, but in this instance the author(s) did not have the intellectual fortitude to sign the letter, or give a return address to the missile of attempted character assassination, or to mail it to our electors sufficiently in advance of Primary Day to permit clear answers to unjustifiable charges. He, she, it, they were unwilling, to

stand up and be counted. My record of 10 years of public service to our community is open to all for inspection. Many people have told me they like that record. The vote of the people on August 2nd would seem to be their stamp of approval. The author(s) of the letter in question found two things in my public record to object to, to each of which there is a valid and convincing answer. In one of the Zoning Cases referred to, I was subpoenaed as a witness. Again, —time after time, Township Officials have given in to rezoning requests, because zoning could not be sustained, if taken to court. I'll happen again. Regarding agendas, many, many times they were tardily prepared and delivered to Board members. Then between 1959-1961 there were secret meetings of some Board members, which were finally brought to light and to full participation. The contents of the letter clearly indicate to me that it was utterly unfair, and was contrary to the express provisions of the corrupt practices section of the Michigan Election Laws, which reads as follows:—

"Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it" reads the old saying.

For the past few months in Farmington we had the feeling that the statement could apply to consolidation of the City and Township.

First proposed during the incorporation campaign in the Township, the idea and term has become something of a political football. The Township Democrats started beating the drums and the Township Republican administration reacted in the expected manner.

Members of the City Council denied that anyone had ever approached them on the subject of consolidation and promptly shut its collective mouth about any such move.

Last week, however, the Farmington City Council voted to meet in an executive session to determine how to handle any requests for information and speakers about the possibilities of consolidation.

The impetus to the action was a letter from the Township Democrats asking the City's participation in a program on the future of the community — both city and township. Such a letter was reportedly sent to the Township officials, but they declined to attend. Monday night the Township Board

stated that it would cooperate in an impartial study of the question.

We applaud these actions as the first step down a very long road.

Consolidation of the entire community won't be easy. Many things must be examined, its effect on residents in both the City and the Township must be studied carefully and the complete information must be made public.

The Observer hopes, however, that the City Council can come to some sort of meeting of the minds on the question and set a policy on how consolidation talk should be handled.

We hope that the decision will be favorable toward the eventual unification of the two governmental units for the greater growth and benefit of the entire 36 square mile Farmington community.

The Farmington Jaycees are eyeing the question, the man in the street is talking about it, the business community is talking about it, the local Democrats are talking about it, and now the City Council is also talking about it.

Perhaps action is in the works for the future growth of the community.

We hope so.

SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Editor:

any person or his agent who knowingly makes, publishes, disseminates, circulates or places before the public, or knowingly causes directly or indirectly to be made, published, disseminated, circulated or placed before the public, in this state, either orally or in writing, an assertion, representation or statement of fact concerning a candidate for public office at a primary or general election in this state which is false, deceptive, scurrilous or malicious, without the true name of the author subscribed thereto, if written, or announced if un-

written, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Personally, and on behalf of "Wendell Brown Team," may I again express our, and my, appreciation for the fine response we received at the hands of the voters at the August 2nd Primary Election.

WENDELL BROWN  
Farmington

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To the voters of the 27th Precinct of Livonia: I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for me and a special thanks to all those who helped make my election as precinct delegate possible.

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## OMBUDSMAN

(A new feature in The Observer Newspapers — we will do our best to be a go-between, a red-tape cutter as the name indicates. When you have exhausted all other measures on a problem write to us (keep it short, please) and we'll see if we can help. Yes, John Q, you can fight city hall — with your own Ombudsman!)

Dear Ombudsman:

It is a very well that we are dedicating a new Livonia post office this month, but what will it do to get us dependable mail service. I have occasion to use the drop box in front of the branch post office on Middlebelt in Seven Mile, and I am convinced that the pickups are not made as often as is shown on the legend. Last night I dropped 10 pieces of important mail in the box at 5 p.m.

The next pickup time was scheduled to be 5:18. At 5:20 the truck (it may have been the one to have made this pickup) rolled on up north on Middlebelt without stopping. I returned again at 8 p.m. and found that there still had not been a pickup. How do I know? When I dropped these important letters into the drop box, I put a small piece of newspaper near the lock which the postman must unlock to take out the mail. It was still there one hour after the mail had been dropped into the box.

This is not the first time I have tried this experiment and have found that one cannot depend on this box in front of the post office for reliability.

I recall that on a Friday afternoon around 5 I dropped four special delivery letters to be delivered in Detroit to offices where people were waiting for the material for a Saturday delivery. The letters were finally delivered on Monday afternoon long after the regular mail had been dropped off in these downtown office buildings.

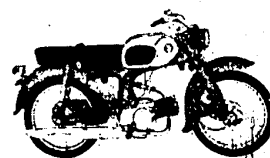
The same is true of special delivery letters coming into Livonia. Many times the regular deliveries beat out the special deliveries mailed at the same time and in the same post box.

What can the Ombudsman do to improve mail service in Livonia and what do the post office officials have to say about this? Perhaps Frederick C. Belen, Deputy Postmaster General, can include firm promises of improved services in the letter he will make when the new Livonia post office is dedicated on August 13, T.M.

Dear T.M.: A check with the Livonia Post Office reveals the following: the carrier making the collection at Northeast on Aug. 4 states he pulled the box at about 5:31 p.m., he was running late due to traffic.

The truck seen going north on Middlebelt makes collections in the northeast section on Livonia and then returns to the Station and drops off mail for return to the Main Office with the MVS run.

Test Collections are called for quarterly by Postal Regulations. As for the special delivery letters mentioned, they are postmarked at the mailing office and are back-stamped by the receiving office upon receipt. If the service is questioned an inquiry is suggested by the parties concerned to verify cancellation and back-stamp date and time.



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