

Michigan Political History Society NEWS

Vol. 7, No. 3

Michigan Political History Society • P.O. Box 4684 • East Lansing, MI 48826-4684

Fall 2002

Event will feature Michael Barone

The Michigan State Museum has a fascinating collection of political buttons. To commemorate the collection, the Michigan Political History Society and the Michigan State University Museum Development Council will host an event featuring *U.S. News and World Report*

Birmingham, Michigan, and graduated from Harvard College and Yale Law School. He is co-author of *The Almanac of American Politics* and a regular panelist on "The McLaughlin Group."

Light snacks will be served.

The MSU Museum is located on the MSU Campus, West Circle Drive, across from the Main Library and next to Beaumont Tower.

For more information call (517) 355-2370.

JOIN US!

MPHS/MSU Museum Development Council Special Presentation

Michael Barone, *U.S. News and World Report* Senior Writer

Thursday, September 26, 2002
5:00-7:00 p.m.

MSU Museum, East Lansing

Michael Barone, well-traveled, well-informed

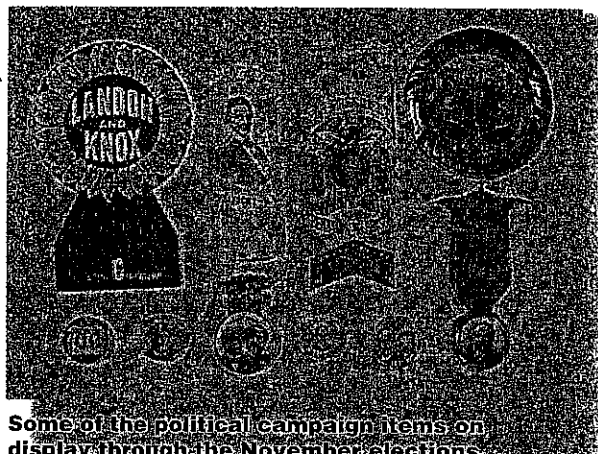
Michael Barone, currently *U.S. News and World Report* senior writer, grew up in Detroit and Birmingham, Michigan. He graduated from Harvard

College (1966) and Yale Law School (1969) and served as editor of the *Harvard*

Crimson and the *Yale Law Journal*.

He has served as law clerk to Judge Wade H. McCree, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (1969-71), as a vice president of the polling firm of Peter D. Hart Research Associates (1974-81), as staff member of

Continued on page 2



Some of the political campaign items on display through the November elections.

senior writer Michael Barone, on Thursday, September 26, 2002, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Barone will discuss national election trends, and a small panel of state legislators will comment on the upcoming state elections. Barone grew up in Detroit and

At a Glance

MPHS/MSU Museum Event	1
MPLP	1
President's Letter	2
Labor History	4
ConCon Debate	5
Four State Stewards	6
Paul Bagwell	7

MPHS applauds the Michigan Political Leadership Program

by David Murley

The Michigan Political History Society (MPHS) is dedicated to preserving the memories of our political past and promoting fellowship among persons of all political persuasions. As such, it seeks to cooperate with other organizations, such as the Michigan Historical Society, having objectives that overlap its own.

The vision of the MPHS is not limited solely to the past and present. Our members

understand that the future of the political system is also vital. With that in mind, it has also sought partnerships with organizations that seek to shape the future. With the Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP), it has found such an organization.

The MPLP was formed in 1992 on the initiative of Bob Mitchell, an official in the Blanchard administration.

Continued on page 3

Courtesy of the Michigan State University Museum

The MPHS President welcomes you

Welcome to the fall edition of the *Michigan Political History Society News*. We are pleased to share political retrospectives just as new history is in the making. Michigan government will, following the November 2002 elections, experience the largest turnover of elected officials in our state's history. Amidst the current gloom of the economy and international affairs, we encourage those who seek leadership roles to recall John W. Gardner's words: "The prime function of a

leader is to keep hope alive."

We invite you to enjoy the several articles provided by Michigan authors who share your interest in political history. We thank them and ask you, our readers, to let us know of others who may wish to contribute articles to future newsletters. Personally, I look forward to writing the story of my grandfather, the only Democratic legislator in either the Michigan House or Senate in 1919. Perhaps the more interesting story would

be that of his mother, who was a community activist when she wasn't skippering a logging schooner between Menominee and Chicago in the late 1800's. We encourage you to write about your own family's political histories and consider submitting them for publication with our newsletter. Let us all enjoy and become a part of Michigan's political history.

—Barbara J. Sawyer-Koch

Michael Barone *Continued from page 1*

the *Washington Post* editorial page (1981–88), and as staff editor at *Reader's Digest* (1996–98).

Barone is the principal co-author of *The Almanac of American Politics*, published by *National Journal* every two years. The first edition appeared in 1971 and the sixteenth edition, *The Almanac of American Politics 2002*, appeared in August 2001. He is also the author of *The New Americans: How the Melting Pot Can Work Again*

(Regnery, 2001) and *Our Country: The Shaping of America from Roosevelt to Reagan* (Free Press, 1990).

His essays have appeared in several other books, including *Our Harvard* and *Beyond the Godfather*. He has written for many publications, including the *Economist*, the *New York Times*, the *Detroit News*, the *Detroit Free Press*, the *Weekly Standard*, the *New Republic*, *National Review*, the *American Spectator*, *American Enterprise*, the *Times Literary Supplement* and the

Daily Telegraph of London.

He is a contributor to the Fox News channel, is a regular panelist on "The McLaughlin Group," and has appeared on many other television programs.

Throughout his career he has traveled to all fifty states and all 435 congressional districts. He has visited 37 foreign countries and has reported on the most recent elections in Russia, Mexico, Italy, and Britain. He currently lives in Washington, D.C. ■

Write for the News

The MPHS Newsletter invites writers to submit articles for publication. We are looking for well-researched Michigan political history pieces. Excerpts from book-length Michigan political histories or biographies are fine. We also appreciate book reviews for newly published books on political history or past political personalities.

For detailed information on submissions, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the editor, Debrae Rauscher, 412 Marshall St., East Lansing, MI 48823. If you prefer, send an e-mail to the editor at rauscher@msu.edu, and she will send you the guidelines as an attachment.

Membership recruitment and historical events are future goals

The Michigan Political History Society held its annual meeting on March 2, 2002. Members set goals for future events and elected new officers.

Some of the goals set for the near future were to develop new membership promotional materials and brochures, to conduct a legislative staff recruitment event, to record five new oral history videos, to host a series of events around various historical themes, and to continue publication of the newsletter three times a year.

The members agreed that one important goal should be encouraging membership in the organization. Tentative plans were made to host meet-and-greet events for legislators and to solicit members by distributing membership materials and information.

Michigan history events tentatively planned include histories of the environmental movement, the Michigan Supreme Court, the 1982 recall, and busing in Michigan.

Members are encouraged to volunteer their talents to assist with the programs and projects and to provide writing contributions to the newsletter.

Newly elected officers are as follows: Barbara Sawyer-Koch, President; Kevin Kelly, Vice President; and David Murley, Secretary/Treasurer. In addition, several new board members will serve for three-year terms: Gary Buckberry, Dennis Cawthorne, Thomas Cleary, Douglas Drake, Elizabeth Homer, Peter Kuhnmuensch, Kirk Profit, and Barbara Sawyer-Koch. ■

MPLP *Continued from page 1*

Mr. Mitchell believed that a political leadership program could increase citizen participation in politics, provide them with leadership training, and prepare them for future duties in politics.

Since Mr. Mitchell resigned his position in 1993 (to run for Congress), a number of distinguished individuals have directed or co-directed MPLP. These individuals include Kathleen Schafer, a noted political consultant; the late Bill Snow, former Secretary of the Michigan Senate; Lynn Johndal, a former state representative; Anne Mervenne, special advisor to John and Michelle Engler; and Colleen Pero, an attorney and former Engler administration official.

Every year, the MPLP interviews hundreds of applicants to fill its class of 24 fellows. The political orientation of the fellows runs from the far Left to the far Right, and includes everything in between, including Libertarians. The fellows may be political novices or may be political veterans.

The MPLP program consists of ten monthly sessions, held in various locations throughout the state. Each session has a theme, such as understanding leadership, campaigns and elections, politics and the media, and effective governance.

Each session is divided into several parts, including presentations and panels. For example, last year's fellows heard from Al Mann of the House Republican Caucus regarding public opinion research, and from Lynn Harvey, MSU professor and specialist, regarding taxation and revenue sharing. Fellows were also treated to debates about affirmative action, panels regarding the role of the media, and other topics.

The beauty of the MPLP is that the learning is not passive. Not only do fellows get to interact with—and challenge—the experts, but they also experience hands-on training. Fellows also create their own campaign commercials, learn to give announcement speeches, and practice interview techniques.

One would expect such a program, which also includes free lodging and meals, to cost each fellow thousands of dollars. Actually, the program does not cost the fellows one penny. The cost of the program is covered by generous contributions from individuals and the proceeds from the annual MPLP dinner.

Is the program effective? In its ten-year existence, three of MPLP's alumni have been elected to the state House and scores more have been elected to county, local, and tribal

office. The program has generated so much interest that the *Wall Street Journal* even featured it in a front-page story.

Beyond the accolades, however, the MPLP is providing an invaluable service. Term limits have virtually eliminated institutional knowledge throughout state government. The MPLP, by exposing fellows to such complex issues as revenue sharing, economic development, and urban growth, allows future leaders to understand the issues critical to Michigan's future before they are thrown in the political mix. The MPLP experience allows these officials to spend the first two years of their career solving political problems, rather than learning about the problems.

It is not often that one can observe "history in the making." With the MPLP, Michigan has a program which helps mold future leaders of the state. The future members of the Michigan Political History Society can thank the MPLP for helping to

JOIN US!

MPHS/MPLP post-election wrap-up event

Friday, November 18, 2002

Program: 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Reception: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Contact Shannon Horvath at
(517) 355-6672 or see the MPLP

Web site: www.ippas.msu.edu/mplp
for more information.

push Michigan political history in a positive direction.

If you would like any additional information about this program, such as how you can help or how you can apply, please contact Shannon Horvath at (517) 355-6672, ext. 116. You may also visit the MPLP website at www.ippas.msu.edu/mplp. ■

*Dave Murley is the MPHS Secretary/
treasurer and MPLP fellow class of 1998.*

Oral histories promote sharing of experience and wisdom

"Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave."

Like the author of this famous quote, the Michigan Political History Society believes education encourages civic responsibility. Educating present and future generations about Michigan's political history is an important goal of MPHS.

In addition, the organization believes that individuals who have dedicated much of their lives to Michigan politics and government have much to share.

To promote the sharing of wisdom and experience, MPHS has recorded several oral history interviews. To request one of the videotaped interviews listed below, contact Joyce Crum at (517) 336-5742.

■ Glenn S. Allen, Retired Court of Appeals Judge
Interviewed by Tom Downs
November 22, 1999

■ Ivy Bluestone, Retired VP UAW
Interviewed by Tom Downs
April 22, 1995

■ Judge Robert Daulton
Interviewed by Robert Labriola
September 20, 2001

■ Tom Downs, Attorney at Law
Interviewed by Robert Labriola
August 21, 1995

■ Douglas Houser, Former President, UAW
Interviewed by Tom Downs
April 3, 1995

■ Robert P. Griffin
Interviewed by Dana's Cavichione
July 25, 1996

■ Adelaide Herr
Interviewed by Tom Downs
June 26, 1995

■ Mildred Jefferys, Community Activist
Interviewed by Tom Downs
December 23, 1995

■ Billy Peterson
Interviewed by Bill Ballenger
May 11, 1995

■ Robert E. Waldron, Former Speaker of the House
Interviewed by John Karkes
August 11, 2000

*Authorship of this article is shared by
Beverly and I. I'm sharing with you
people who also shared the high-impact, simple,
four-phased program among 1836, which
could be drawn by anyone here.*

Michigan's labor history reaches back to 1818

This summer edition of the MPHS News coincidentally reaches our readers near the Labor Day holiday. So there seems no better time than now to review the political history of Michigan's labor movement. This article offers a brief look at the political history of Michigan labor through chronology and pictures.

Relative to the history of our country, Michigan labor has had a long history. Even before Michigan gained statehood, the Detroit Mechanics Society (1818), the Ypsilanti Workingman's Society (1830), and the Shipbuilders, Shoemakers, and Machinists Union (1830s) were created.

But it was not until the 1930s and '40s that Michigan labor unions began to become involved in politics to the extent that they threw their support behind specific candidates and parties.* The following chronology begins with those years.

Significant Political and Legislative Events**

- 1936 Michigan Employment Security Act:** This landmark legislation provided unemployment benefits for workers who lose their jobs.
- 1948 Soapy Williams elected governor:** An active cadre of union volunteers along with a re-energized Democratic party helped fuel G. Mennen Williams's surprising victory over incumbent Kim Sigler. That



Governor G. Mennen Williams speaks at a 1959 Michigan State AFL-CIO Legislative Conference.

same year Democrats Lieutenant Governor John Connolly and Attorney General Stephen J. Roth defeated two incumbent Republicans.

- 1958 Michigan AFL and CIO merge:** The national AFL and CIO



August (Gus) Scholle speaking with Walter Reuther at the AFL-CIO merger convention, 1955.



Walter Reuther at the Lear strike (UAW local 330), Grand Rapids, 1956.

merged in 1955, and Michigan followed three years later. National CIO President Walter Reuther played a major role in Michigan politics and labor. Reuther under-scored the labor movement's commitment to the political process when he said that "we are workers and we are citizens, and politics is the practical housekeeping of democracy and the American labor movement intends to help

keep that democracy in this country of ours."

- 1964 Minimum Wage Act:** An important step toward bringing fairness and economic justice to the workplace. Labor's support of this legislation showed a commitment to fight not only for union members but for all workers.
- 1964 One-Man, One-Vote Court Decision:** Due to party gerrymandering, legislative districting methods had given Republicans wide margins in the legislature. Michigan AFL-CIO President



Dr. Martin Luther King and Walter Reuther during the 1963 civil rights rally in Detroit.

Gus Scholle sued in court to have the system of creating legislative districts declared unconstitutional. In 1969 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor. The resulting change in the make up of the state legislature brought passage of many progressive laws in the '60s. (See Tom Down's article in this edition of the *News* for details).

- 1965 Enactment of Public Employees Relations Act (PERA):** This act gave public employees the right to collectively bargain. The Michigan AFL-CIO orchestrated a major campaign to get this act passed by the legislature and signed by Republican Governor George Romney.
- 1966 Prevailing Wage Law:** This act requires decent wages and fringe benefits for construction workers and is an important economic protection for the building and construction trade unions. The wage law piggy-backed on the federal Davis-Bacon Act.
- 1969 Workers' Disability Compensation Act Reform:** An overhaul of the 1940s Michigan Workman's Compensation Act. The 1969 changes helped workers receive compensation for injuries and industrial diseases.
- 1975 Michigan Occupational Health and Safety Act (MIOSHA):** Michigan enacted MIOSHA in

response to the federal passage of the Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1970. MIOSHA provided for more safety inspectors than the federal



(L to R) Secretary/Treasurer Walter Campbell, Paul Treska, newly elected President William C. Marshall, Tom Turner, and retiring President Gus Scholle at the Michigan State AFL-CIO convention, 1971.

government and featured citizen advisory panels to help draft Michigan specific rules and regulations.

1978 Bullard-Plawewcki Employee Right to Know Act: This landmark legislation gave workers the right to know what was in their personnel files and the ability to challenge and change false or misleading information.

1986 Right to Know Law: This important addition to MIOSHA gave workers the right to know about toxic chemicals in the workplace and the right to refuse

dangerous work. Important information on chemicals is now posted on MSDA signs across the state. ■

* Source—Doris B. McLaughlin, *Michigan Labor: A Brief History from 1818 to the Present*. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan P, 1970.

** The chronology is adapted from the partial list of significant labor events compiled by the Michigan State AFO-CIO and handed out at the MPHS event, October 2001.

All article photos courtesy of the Michigan State AFL-CIO Office.

(Special thanks to Mary E. Holbrook, Director of Information Systems, Michigan State AFL-CIO for helping select and provide photos for this article.)

Tom Downs reflects on the ConCon apportionment debate

by Tom Downs

The constitution of Michigan was approved in 1962 by the delegates to the convention and by the voters in 1963 by a vote of 810,860 to 803,436. Could this razor-thin majority of 7,424 have been avoided by adoption by a substantial majority? YES!

This is how. The delegates had pursued a relatively harmonious bipartisan approach to problems until they stumbled on the issue of apportionment. The 1908 constitution as amended provided for a "balanced" legislature. By *balance* was meant State Senate Districts were frozen for all time. Kent County (Republican), with about the same population as Genesee County (Democrat), had two senators to only one for Genesee.

Delegate D. Hake Brake, a conservative Republican delegate, admitted in convention debate that "balanced" legislature was wrong. Gus Scholle, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO, had started a lawsuit challenging the "balanced" legislature. Republican delegate Hannah came up with a "rational" scheme that would reapportion the senate every ten years based on changes in the United States census.

The Hannah plan had an 80%–20% formula that would count people 80% in creating state senate districts and land 20%

(tree stumps, as Gus Scholle would say) in creating senate districts. Because Democrats tend to bunch up in urban areas and Republicans tend to spread out; the 80/20% formula would tend to guarantee Republican control of the state senate just as the "balanced" legislature did. The present Michigan State Senate is controlled by the Republicans, notwithstanding the Supreme Court one-person, one-vote decision.

The U.S. Supreme Court, during the Michigan Constitutional Convention, issued an opinion in *Baker v Carr* that congressional districts within a state had to be equal in population.

Democratic attorneys argued gleefully that *Baker* meant Michigan legislative districts had to be equal in population. "Not so," said the Republican ConCon attorneys. They were adamant the U.S. Supreme Court would uphold the 80/20% formula based on states' rights.

The acrimony resulting from different interpretations of *Baker* put a cloud over the collegiality of the delegates. The two-to-one Republican majority of the delegates was based in part on the fact that delegates were elected from districts created by the "balanced" (Republican) amendment to the 1908 constitution.

Another factor was that Democrats tend to "bunch up" and so dilute their strength. Republican delegate John Hannah, president of MSU, wisely, but unsuccessfully, urged the convention to recess until the U. S. Supreme Court had settled the question of apportionment of state legislative districts. The result was that both the 80/20% formula and the "balanced" legislature went before the U.S.

“ The acrimony resulting from different interpretations of *Baker* put a cloud over the collegiality of the delegates. ”

Supreme Court. The high court ruled 9–0 that the "balanced" legislature was unconstitutional and 7–2 that the 80/20% formula was also unconstitutional. Both the Michigan State Supreme Court and the Michigan Legislature were left dangling.

The highest court had said what was unconstitutional but did not set guidelines to

Continued on page 6

Allen, Austin, Brickley, and Ryan were all dedicated state stewards

by Kendall Wingrove

In the last sixteen months, we said goodbye to four outstanding Michigan stewards. The deaths of Glenn Allen Jr., Richard Austin, Jim Brickley, and William Ryan gave us another chance to examine their long and worthwhile careers.

Despite diverse backgrounds and allegiances to different political parties, all of them were models of integrity and intelligence. They were gentlemen even when fighting for causes near and dear to their hearts.

The energetic Glenn Allen Jr. was a respected aide and jurist for several decades. After serving as a legal advisor to General George Patton in World War II, he began a long career in local and state government. He was mayor of Kalamazoo, a key figure in the administrations of Governors George Romney and William Milliken, and a judge with the Michigan Court of Appeals. He also served as a delegate to the 1961-62 Michigan Constitutional Convention and was a key architect of the modern system of state government.

Another delegate to that convention, Richard Austin, went on to become Michigan's first black statewide officeholder. The durable Austin served with distinction as secretary of state for a record 24 years.

His legacy includes successful campaigns for mandatory seat belt laws and expanded voter registration systems. The soft-spoken, unpretentious Austin was one of the most beloved figures and consistent vote-getters in Michigan history.

It's hard to think of anyone who had more varied professions than Republican Jim Brickley, who seemed to hold every post except governor in his four-decade career. The former FBI agent was a prosecutor, president of Eastern Michigan University, lieutenant governor, chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, and a Detroit City Council member. His gentle, easy-going style won respect from colleagues at the municipal, county, state, and federal level.

Detroit also sent Democrat William Ryan to the Michigan Legislature, where the quiet but persistent lawmaker served

for nearly a quarter century. The low-key Mr. Ryan eventually became Speaker of the House in 1969 and his six-year tenure as

“All ‘were models of integrity and intelligence.’”

leader expanded the role and influence of the Michigan Legislature. Decades later members from both sides of the aisle still describe the selfless Ryan as one of the most compassion-

ate human beings they ever encountered.

Former Gov. G. Mennen Williams once said that “each and every one of us stands on the shoulders of our predecessors.” Because leaders like Glenn Allen Jr., Richard Austin, Jim Brickley, and William Ryan stood tall in their leadership positions, our state reaped enormous benefits. Let's be sure to honor and emulate these dedicated stewards. ■

Kendall Wingrove is a press secretary with the Michigan House and a free-lance historical writer. He lives in East Lansing. His article formerly appeared in the Lansing State Journal.

ConCon *Continued from page 5*

hold what was constitutional. The Michigan State Senate, based on one-person, one-vote, remains Republican because Democrats “bunch up” and so dilute their political strength.

Could anything have been done by ConCon to create constitutional guidelines? Yes.

Since both sides were sure their position was right, the following could have been adopted:

Have the state senate created on the 80/20% formula and permit the Republicans to add any other provisions *provided*:

1) the U.S. Supreme Court finds the 80/20% formula unconstitutional, then the senate districts shall be created so no district, by population, is greater or less than any other district by more than ten percent.

2) the apportionment of the districts shall be done for the first two apportionments after the convention by the ConCon delegate that

was president of the Land Grant College of Michigan (Dr. John Hannah) during the convention.

These two provisions could have provided guidelines both for courts and legislative bodies. Dr. John Hannah, who would have been the apportionment person, was knowledgeable, having been chair of the apportionment committee in ConCon. He also chaired the President's Commission on Civil Rights. He was respected by both Democratic and Republican delegates. He would not have jeopardized his career stature as president of MSU by tilting legislative boundaries.

(The Michigan Congressional districts issue was still before the court at the time this article was written, January 10, 2002.) ■

Tom Downs is a retired election law attorney. He is also a lifetime member of MPHS. This article also appeared in the Ingham County Bar Association newsletter, Briefs, March 2002 issue.

MPHS News author dies

Maurice Hungiville, MPHS member and professor emeritus of American Thought and Language at Michigan State University, died July 5, 2002. Professor Hungiville wrote the Fall 2001 *News* article titled “Speechwriter Russel Nye expressed his

own views.” The article was based on his latest book *A Curious Career: Russel Nye and the Rise of Popular Culture*, published by Michigan State University Press and scheduled for release in January 2003. ■

Paul Bagwell left lasting impressions

by Marc Thomas

(Although William Jennings Bryan never landed the office of the presidency, he assured his place in history when he made his famous "Cross of Gold" speech. Similarly, Michigan's own Paul Bagwell missed becoming our forty-second governor, and yet he is remembered by many as a charismatic speech-maker with surprisingly progressive views for his time. Marc Thomas looks back at Bagwell's career. —Editor.)

Paul Bagwell earned a statewide reputation as orator, teacher, and unconventional politician. Bagwell, once head of the communication skills department at Michigan State, was the Republican candidate for Governor in 1958 and 1960.

Bagwell came within one percentage point of the Governor's Office on his second try. He lost to Democrat John Swainson in 1960, when Kennedy won Michigan and the presidency.

Maury Crane, hired by Bagwell in 1953, recalls his former boss with great affection. "He was a delightful, charming man. He was charismatic and had a euphemistic, flowery speaking style," said Crane, who directed MSU's voice library for a quarter century and who is now a retired humanities professor.

"He believed in oratory and he believed with all his heart that style was more important than substance."

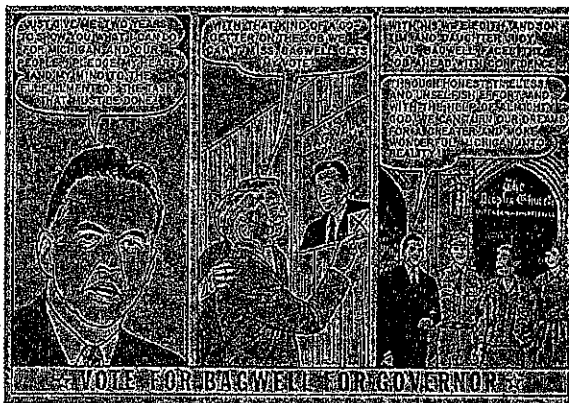
The professor-turned-politician began fighting uphill battles early in life. According to his campaign literature, at age 18 a football injury left Bagwell with two dislocated hips. While still in a body cast, he developed polio, which left him using a cane for the rest of his life. He joined the college faculty in 1938 as an instructor in speech and dramatics, later serving as department head. He also devoted much time to civic duties, including serving as chairman of the Michigan March of Dimes and as president of the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

"I knew Paul fairly well," said David Ralph, retired MSU communications professor, in an interview with the East Lansing Historical Society's newsletter,

Lampighter. "He had an ebullient personality. His style was open and free. He was a politician. If you met Paul Bagwell, you would not forget him. When he walked into a room, you knew he was there even if you didn't see him. Some people are like that. John Hannah also had that quality."

Bagwell entered politics in 1956 as a candidate for state auditor general, then an elective office. He did not win but ran well ahead of the rest of the Republican ticket. Bagwell promoted what he called "Respon-

Courtesy of Marc Thomas



sible Republicanism," a philosophy that often put him at odds with other party leaders. The *Detroit News* in 1958 reported this sentiment from a state senator from Coldwater: "He said the GOP nominee should 'represent the true conservatism of the Republican Party,' as contrast to Gov. Williams's 'irresponsible spending policies.'" This senator preferred the more conservative Speaker of the House George Van Peurse to Bagwell as his party's candidate for the state's chief executive.

The 1958 election pitted Bagwell against a popular Democratic incumbent, G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams. "We need less partisanship and more statesmanship—less political soft soap and more political responsibility," Bagwell told the *Lansing State Journal* in 1958. The *Detroit Free Press* that year reported that the candidate did not "intend to conduct any pantywaist or pussyfoot campaign."

"I'll face every issue," Bagwell said. During his two campaigns for Governor, Bagwell went on record as supporting extending unemployment compensation benefits, implementing an income tax to

solve the state's revenue problem, revising the state's tax to support education, implementing property tax relief, expanding civil rights protections, restructuring Michigan's juvenile justice system, and creating new jobs.

"Michigan will be bankrupt if we continue to lose jobs at the present rate," Bagwell told the UAW membership in 1958. "If I am elected, I will not seek a second term if I fail to create at least 100,000 new factory jobs during my first two years."

Many of Bagwell's ideas—from taxes to civil rights—were implemented by Republican and Democratic governors, but long after the candidate proposed them.

(Paul Bagwell died at his Grosse Pointe home on October 23, 1973, after suffering a heart attack. Within a few weeks, his wife, Edith, also died.) ■

Marc Thomas is a member of the East Lansing Historical Society board and a researcher and political science instructor at Lansing Community College. He served as a writer for former Governor James Blanchard. Marc's grandfather, former East Lansing Mayor Gordon Thomas, was hired by Paul Bagwell as a communications faculty member at Michigan State College.

This article was published previously in the East Lansing Historical Society Lampighter.

Term limits create an extraordinary era in Michigan political history

In 1992 the Michigan voters widely approved a constitutional amendment enacting term limits for state offices. According to the amendment, House members can serve three two-year terms, with members of the Senate, the attorney general, secretary of state, and governor limited to two four-year terms. These amended changes have resulted in significant political turnover. In 1998 some 64 House members lost seats due to term limits.

In addition, the Michigan Legislature redrew congressional district maps last year in order to accommodate population shifts and the loss of one seat due to the 2000 federal census.

This year's elections are especially historically significant:

Up for election, state executive/legislative/judicial:

Governor
Lieutenant governor
Secretary of state
Attorney general
All 38 state Senate seats
All 110 state House seats
Two state Supreme Court justices
Eleven state Court of Appeals judges

Up for election, federal:

One U.S. Senate seat
Fifteen U.S. House seats

Also, many circuit and district judges and other local officials

Three other Michigan history-making facts:

- First time in 20 years no incumbent running for governor
- First time in 32 years no incumbent running for secretary of state
- First female nominee for governor

Michigan Political History Society

P.O. Box 4684

East Lansing, MI 48826-4684