



Silver Taps — shared experience

By DONNIE SCOTT
It began at 10 o'clock. The weather was warm but comfortable. A bright September moon shone down on the campus to create a solemn and serene atmosphere. As I sat in the front steps of Hart Hall I wondered how many Good Ags would find the time to honor those that were no longer with us.

At first just a few began to arrive but as the moon rose higher, more and more people began to show. Slowly and silently they came, just as many Ags before them had followed this old and hallowed tradition.

Meanwhile at the Peanut Gallery things were really swinging. The regular Tuesday Night Special had attracted a large crowd of Good Ags. Yes they are true Aggies. They wear their Aggie T-shirts and they display the Aggie stickers boldly on their cars. On any Saturday during the fall you can find them cheering their team on to victory. Yes these are true

Readers' forum

Aggies but where were they during Silver Taps?

As the people gathered around old Sully Ross, the MSC chimes echoed their lamenting tones across the campus. At first the sound was faint but slowly it grew louder as the Ross Vol. stepped out their eerie cadence. As I looked around I saw the shaven heads of those honorable C.T.'s. Yes the Corps was there. God Bless the Corps.

I saw several large groups of non-regs moving together. The dorms around campus had found the time to organize themselves and make their appearance. I even saw a married couple with a young child. I know how hard it is to stand there and we all get tired. It really must be hard with a baby in your arms. To you I extend my heart for you signify

the true Aggie Spirit.

As the R.V.s marched into place a silent mood fell over the already hushed crowd. Three times they fired and three times the shots echoed across the campus like many times before when the Aggies paid tribute to their former classmates and friends.

Meanwhile at the Sports Club things were really rocking. The disco-music had everybody in a boogie mood. The bartenders and waitresses just couldn't serve the drinks fast enough. This was a common scene at Aggeland and these were good Aggies. You know they are Aggies because you see them in your classes and around campus.

At a nearby location members of an elite fraternity were enjoying one of their finest pledge parties yet. The actives were teaching the pledges the finer aspects of college socializing. After all what is a social fraternity but besides socializing. They feel they should be allowed on campus because they're good Ags too! But where were they during Silver Taps?

As the Taps began to sound I felt the true meaning of being an Aggie. These people had found the time because they cared.

Care, the work that symbolizes the true Aggie spirit. Aggeland is where people care about people and traditions are honored and upheld. This is Aggeland and these are the true Aggies. The Corps, the non-regs and the people who care. They would probably have enjoyed being on a dance floor or enjoyed a drink at a local club but they found in their hearts a stronger call than that of a drink or a dance. They heard and answered the call of Aggeland.

To you that made it, I extend my friendship and admiration. To you that found the local bars and clubs more appealing than the honored tradition of Silver Taps I strongly recommend that you re-evaluate your priorities. If you desire to be a true Aggie and love A&M and all that it stands for you must go a little farther than T-shirts and bumper stickers.

I know many could not make it due to legitimate reasons but I know more could have made it with a little effort. I hope in the future more can find the time to be a true Aggie.

Grand Rapids is not so bad

GRAND RAPIDS — Worse things could happen to Gerald Ford than to be retired to his old home town. Grand Rapids is a city of enormous vitality, with a knack for recycling experienced men into useful careers of public service.

A year ago, on a visit here, this reporter was captivated by Harold S. Sawyer, then 55, who had just given up his position as the senior partner in the city's most eminent law firm to become the Kent County prosecuting attorney. After 30 years of law suits, Sawyer had built his firm to the largest in Michigan outside Detroit, achieved a degree of financial independence and realized "I was starting to get bored."

So when a vacancy occurred in the prosecutor's job and a circuit judge asked Sawyer to take the appointment, he agreed to take a two-thirds pay cut and accept the \$31,700-a-year position. When I saw him, just a few months after he'd started, he said, "I feel ten years younger," and talked enthusiastically of his plans for prosecuting consumer fraud and other projects.

That was not Sawyer's first break-out. A year earlier, the lifelong Republican and close friend of Mr. Ford had broken publicly with his party to support Democrat Richard Vanderveen for the House seat Mr. Ford vacated to become Vice President.

The reason: He was "really upset" with Richard Nixon over the Vietnam war, his Supreme Court appointments and, of course, Watergate. Electing Vanderveen, he figured, would send a message to the Republicans in Washington.

This year, he is one of four Republicans seeking the nomination to oppose Vanderveen. His complaint with Vanderveen is that "he has been voting the UAW (United Auto Workers) laundry list." But his hankering to go to Congress has deeper roots.

In his time as prosecutor, Sawyer has come face to face with some of the federal bureaucracy. And he is as enraged as he was with Nixon.

"I had a couple guys in here last month from LEAA (the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration)," Sawyer said, "offering me \$80,000 a year if I would set up a 'Rape Crisis Center.' I told them we



David S. Broder

were having considerable success handling our rape prosecutions, but we could use about three more lawyers if they could finance it. They said they were sorry but their directives only allowed them to finance Rape Crisis Centers. Well, I'd like to go down to Congress for a few years—especially if I had some leverage with the White House—not with the idea of making friends, but raising hell about that kind of nonsense.

That's one story. The other, even more remarkable in some ways, concerns Grand Rapids' new mayor, Abe Drasin, who is 67.

As gentle a spirit as Sawyer is combative, Drasin spent his life building a successful business trading in hides. It was not a boring job; it involved frequent trips to Europe and the Far East and contacts throughout the United States.

But eight years ago, when he was 59, Drasin said he realized he was "not getting the intellectual stimulus I needed." So he sold his business and — of all things — became a high school civics teacher. He had played an important role, as a private citizen, in the desegregation of Grand Rapids' schools, and the problems of discipline did not disturb him. "It's just like labor negotiating," he said. "You don't put the union guy in an impossible position, and you don't do that to your students."

But while Drasin found the teaching stimulating, confinement to a classroom eight hours a day proved too much of a shift for an executive who had controlled his own schedule. "It became like a prison," he said.

In 1971, Drasin had allowed some friends to put up his name for the city council and he became the first Jew elected to public office in Grand Rapids in 103 years. Last year, he was elected mayor, defeating a Dutch Reform minister with 61 percent of the votes.

Now, he finds himself working 70 hours a week at what is supposed to be a part-time job. His concerns, like Sawyer's, center on Washington, but they are of a different nature. He faces a \$4.5 million budget deficit, with no way to raise the city income tax and stiff resistance to any other tax boost in a city still suffering more than 10 percent unemployment.

So Drasin is agonizing over the prospects for the extension of revenue-sharing and the possible passage of a "counter-cyclical" assistance measure for areas of high unemployment. Otherwise, there will be cutbacks in pay and hours or layoffs of city employees and further reductions in city services.

"Our fate is in the hands of Wash-

ington," the mayor says. But his own heart and hopes are right here. Walking a visitor back to his office, he detours to show him a small miniature of the giant Calder sculpture that dominates Vandenberg Plaza in the city's center.

"We just dedicated the miniature last week," the mayor says, "so our blind citizens could feel what the rest of us see."

A city that finds such products use for people like Harold Sawyer and Abe Drasin, and that can pass in its fiscal crisis to think about sharing its community's artistic treasures with the blind, cannot be a bad place even for a President to contemplate retiring.

(c) 1976, The Washington Post

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"It's just a dummy name tag that they gave me to wear until mine came in, but I've sorta gotten attached to this name!"

Watermelon Bust after the stomp Baptist Student Union (behind Loupots) 8 p.m. — Saturday

Carter campaign pace continues

Associated Press
While Jimmy Carter trekked through a Polish neighborhood in Pittsburgh, in the White House, President Ford also was seeking the ethnic vote, and former Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy was appealing to Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. to order his name placed on the ballot in Texas as an independent candidate for President.

McCarthy said he plans to appeal to the full court from a ruling of a three-judge federal panel in Austin last Thursday.

The three judge court ruled that a Texas law barring independent candidates for President and vice president from the ballot was unconstitutional. But it also said that McCarthy had filed his suit too late to permit the court to put his name on the

Texas ballot "without substantially disrupting the entire Texas election scheme."

McCarthy filed suit July 30 challenging the Texas law, which was enacted after he announced his candidacy.

In Pittsburgh, Carter donned a T-shirt emblazoned with "Polish Hill" and toured the heavily Polish neighborhood of the same name. The Democratic presidential candidate was greeted by enthusiastic crowds as he posed with parochial school children on the steps of a Catholic church and received a ceremonial kiss from a priest.

Later, in a speech in Washington to the national convention of the Jewish congregation B'nai B'rith, Carter said the Ford administration often has "ignored basic American values and a proper concern for human rights."

Carter said the United States has "responded inadequately to human suffering" in Bangladesh and other undeveloped nations.

As Carter continued his hectic campaign pace, Ford generally fol-

lowed his campaign strategy of re-maining at the White House.

But before unveiling Casimir Pulaski memorial day, Ford called a hasty outdoor news conference to accuse Carter of a lack of compassion for FBI director Clarence Kelley.

Carter said Tuesday that if he were president he would have fired Kelley for receiving gifts and favors from FBI subordinates. But Carter declined to say if he will fire Kelley if the Democrats win the White House in November.

The memorial day celebration was in honor of Casimir Pulaski, a Polish general who served the colonists in the Revolutionary War. Ford praised the general for his "heroic sacrifices."

At present, Kelley has repaid \$355 to the FBI for material and labor used to make improvements at his home. Kelley said he had not known FBI money was used to make the improvements.

Carter's press secretary, Jody Powell, said, "Ford's comments are a cynical distortion of Gov. Carter's

remarks and an apparent attempt to skirt the real issue involved."

In other developments this morning, Claude Wild Jr., Gulf Oil Corp.'s former chief lobbyist, repudiated his claim that he had given \$2,000 in 1970 to Sen. Bob Dole, the Republican vice-presidential candidate.

"I have been in error and consequently have done a serious dis-service to Sen. Dole," Wild said in a statement.

Dole immediately accepted Wild's apology, calling the matter "an unfortunate incident." The senator added: "We're moving ahead with the campaign."

At issue was Wild's claim to reporters earlier this week that he had given \$2,000 to Dole in 1970 to pass on to other Republican Senate candidates in that year.

Dole earlier had acknowledged that he had testified before a federal grand jury last March on the question of Gulf contributions, but that he had received no such funds from Wild either in 1970 or 1973.

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