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Spring 2003

The Hall of Fame Ballot results reveal members' views

Some time ago MPHS members participated in a survey selecting the leading Michigan political figures in specified categories for the last fifty years. Below are the compiled results of that survey.

Winners Categories Governor: John Engler; Runner-up: George Romney **DEM State Senator:** Bill Faust; Runner-up: Basil Brown DEM State Representative: Bill Ryan; Runner-up: Gary Owen GOP State Senator: Joe Schwarz; Runner-up: Emil Lockwood GOP State Representative: Paul Hillegonds; Runner-up: Bob Waldron Other Elected Statewide Officer: Frank Kelley; Runner-up: Richard Austin Federal Official: Gerald Ford; Runner-up: Robert McNamara Federal Lawmaker: Phil Hart; Runner-up: John Dingell

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Gleaves Whitney talks about writing his authorized biography of John Engler

by Delores Rauscher

At the MPHS sponsored booktalk held January 21, at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Gleaves Whitney overviewed his new book *John*

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Engler: The Man, the Leader & the Legacy. David Murley, secretary-treasurer of MPHS, introduced Whitney.

Whitney, outfitted in a western-style suit with bolo tie, said he got the idea for the book about ten years ago, shortly after he joined the governor's office, because he realized that he was "working around an extraordinary human being." He said that regardless of whether or not one agrees with Engler's politics, "the man has remarkable leadership qualities."

When Engler was elected, said Whitney, re-elect numbers were about 18 percent. "No one thought that John Engler would be a two-term, much less a three-term, governor."

Whitney said he recognized that Engler was someone special. As Engler's speechwriter, he was impressed with the way Engler would re-work and make them his own speeches; "he is not just a man who takes whatever is given him."

He recognized as early as 1991 that the speeches would be a good record of Engler's accomplishments. The governor, however, originally expressed no interest in Whitney's plans to collect and compile

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Hall of fame Continued from page 1

Categories continued

Winners continued

Jurist: Dorothy Comstock Riley; Runner-up: T. John Lesinski

Conservative: Jack Welborn; Runner-up: Bob Huber

Liberal: Lynn Jondahl; Runner-up: Zolton Ferency

African-American Political Leader: Dennis Archer; Runner-up: Morris Hood

Female Public Official: Debbie Stabenow; Runner-up: Mary Coleman

Department Director: Bob Bowman; Runner-up: Glenn Allen

Press Secretary: George Weeks; Runner-up: John Truscott

State Party Chair: Elly Peterson; Runner-up: Neil Stabler

Local Elected Official: Coleman Young; Runner-up: Jerome Cavanaugh

Labor Leader: Gus Scholle; Runner-up: Bill Marshall

Democratic Campaign Manager/

Political Consultant:

Republican Campaign Manager/

Political Consultant:

Hell Raiser: Zolton Ferency; Runner-up: Bob Tisch

Multi-Client Lobbyist: Jimmy Karoub; Runner-up: Jerry Coomes

Labor Lobbyist: Al Short; Runner-up: Daryl Tennis

Association Leader: Jim Barrett; Runner-up: Mike Franck

Single Issue Group Leader: Tom Washington; Runner-up: Sister Monica Kostielney

Rick Weiner; Runner-up: Adelaide Hart

Dan Pero; Runner-up: Joyce Braithwaite

Business Executive: Max Fisher; Runner-up: Richard Headlee

Political Lawyer: Tom Downs; Runner-up: Richard McLellan

Political Pollster: Bob Teeter; Runner-up: Walt DeVries

Political Reporter: Bill Ballenger; Runner-up: Tim Skubick

All Other: Dominic Jacobetti; Runner-up: John Hannah

Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Library

Gerald Ford, chosen Michigan's leading "Federal Official." President and Mrs. Ford wave from the rear of the train during their whistle-stop campaign tour of Michigan. May 15, 1976.



Senator Debbie Stabenow,

chosen Michigan's leading "Female Public Official."
Before her election to the U.S. senate in 2000, Senator Debbie Stabenow served in the Michigan House for 12 years, the state senate for 4 years, and the U.S. Congress for two terms.



Tom Downs is a founding member of the Michigan Political History Society. He served as Vice President of the Michigan Constitutional Convention of 1962. He was a presidential elector in 2000. He has led the largest number of election recounts of any attorney in the U.S. In 1948 he led a campaign to require the election of precinct delegates. With the ACLU he fought and won the battle

to stop the practice of maintaining "Red Files."
Appointed by Governor G. Mennen Williams in 1949,
he served for twenty-five years on the Michigan
Employment Security Commission. He has also been
active in the Democratic Party and the CIO.



Coleman A. Young, chosen Michigan's leading "Local Elected Official." Young, elected mayor of Detroit in 1973, served for an unprecedented 20 years.

Gleaves Whitney Continued from page 1

speeches and documents for a later biography. He only agreed to Whitney's request to write the authorized biography in 1999.

Whitney said he cautioned Governor Engler in advance that he planned to call on both those who aligned themselves

Courtesy of Delores Rauscher, MPHS News editor

Gleaves Whitney discusses the trials of writing a book about the governor.

with the governor's politics and those who did not. Whitney noted that the governor agreed despite the forewarning, a testament of his character.

The author said that, once he began compiling information for the biography, he was struck by the breadth of information, "the extraordinary stories," about Engler's political years, college years, and even childhood. Unfortunately, so much information meant that some had to be left out.

"Once I talked to his mother," Whitney said, "I knew we had to go to the womb; we had to go all the way back, because this man's formative years, in that conservative German farm-stock community, up there in Beal City, Isabella County, tells you so much about who the man is. . . . To know the family, advised Whitney, "is,

in a large way, to know the man."

His account should begin, he finally decided, with Columbus Day, October 12, 1948, Engler's birthday. Readers should consider what Michigan was like during those days when Engler was growing up.

Sifting through over tenthousand newspaper articles, editorials and commentaries and interviewing more than 150 people offered Whitney an array of stories.

For instance, one story went that when Engler was only in the second grade at a Catholic school "he was very quick to do his assignments." Then, after patiently waiting for others to finish, he was noted to "stand up and try to organize the other kids, and get them to do their assignments the way that he thought



MPHS Secretary-Treasurer David Murley with author Gleaves Whitney.

they should be done." Once, when Sister Ramone threatened to move him for talking too much, Engler looked up at the sister and responded, "I'm happy where I'm sitting; you should move the other children."

The stories, said Whitney, "go right to the heart of Engler, revealing his strong attachments, his sense of duty, his sense of giving so much to the party, and many, many difficult moments" as well.

Of all the people interviewed, Whitney figured only about twenty-five of them were adamantly opposed to John Engler, through all or much of his career.

His interviews with people such as Al Short of the Michigan Education Association and Lansing's Mayor David Hollister-despite marked differences in

The stories 'go right to the heart of Engler, revealing his strong attachments, his sense of duty, his sense of giving so much to the party, and many, many difficult moments' as well.

> political perspectives—revealed aspects of Engler's compassionate character. What Whitney found out through his interview with Hollister and others, is that, at a personal level, "John is a wonderful, wonderful man."

"I found myself really swept away with the perception of a man that was emerging that I did not think was in the newspapers," Whitney said. "I came to the conclusion that there are really three John Englers in perception."

The first perception comes from the Engler supporters, who call him Governor John. They see him as a governor who is "a common man, a man who understands your situation."

The second perception derives from those who disliked him intensely. They perceive him as "King John, imperious, nasty, Machiavellian, going back on his word."

Despite their perceptions, Whitney claimed that-with the exception of one person-everyone he interviewed reflected the David Hollister view of the governor, that, although one might disagree with the governor, he always kept his word and he was always fair.

The third perception of Engler comes from family and close friends. Although John Engler strikes a lot of people as distant and aloof, Whitney found in the stories of those closest to him a "very warm man, a witty man, a caring man, a man who asks you how your spouse is."

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Gleaves Whitney Continued from page 3

In conclusion, Whitney assessed his work as positive because, even though he had admired John Engler from the start, his admiration of him had increased by the time he finished researching the book.

David Murley then opened the floor up to questions by posing his own. He

Engler's philosophy is to choose really good people to do a job; then let them do it.

asked Whitney what the governor looks for in his staff. Whitney replied that Engler's philosophy is to choose really good people to do a job; then let them do it. Whitney said that Engler believes that "you don't micro-manage them." Engler chooses people with character and integrity, who work hard and get the job done. "You just have to realize he's the governor; once he makes the decision, that's it."

Another audience member said that he was nearly finished with the book and had found only two references to Colleen Engler. "I wondered, what might be the reason for that."

"I had a thousand-page manuscript that I turned in to the publisher, and I had to cut it back to 420 pages. The emphasis on his family today is much more instructive, I think," Whitney said. Then he added, "I did attempt to interview Colleen, and she declined."

Considering the political circumstances when Engler entered politics, one audience member wondered if John Engler was destined to get into politics. Whitney explained that Engler's father Matt Engler had run in 1968 for a House seat that John Engler, himself, won in 1970. Whitney turned to audience member Bill Ballenger for "an observation." Ballenger gave an extended reply, outlining the complexities of the races. He noted that Matt Engler had

"run a hell of a good race," and he might have won had Lloyd Walker not come in as a third candidate and split the opposition vote.

Someone then asked if there "was a cause or group or person that John Engler particularly enjoyed opposing?" Whitney responded that "it is fair to say that Jim Blanchard ran highest in terms of Engler going against the Democratic governor and believing that he had the skills and legislative contacts to outmaneuver Governor Blanchard on many, many issues. I think that in the chess match of politics, John Engler enjoyed that very much."

Whitney was

not signed the

would sign it.

though he said he

MSU President Peter McPherson during the then questioned as question and answer to why Engler had segment comments on what makes a good historian. DARTA Bill, even

outwork and outsmart the opponents." He siad that someone once pointed out that, "if you want to go up against John Engler, you had better have your ducks in a row."



Whitney said that he did not know the answer to that question, since he wasn't privy to the personal negotiations on the bill.

A A

Engler is 'an estimable man' who 'has a remarkable ability to outwork and outsmart the opponents.'

Tom Downs asked, in Whitney's opinion, what is a professional historian? Whitney answered that a professional historian's work bears out primary research. "One of the hallmarks of a professional historian is the willingness and the love to go into archives and to deal with primary sources." He then pointed to the many primary sources he had used to write his book.

Whitney said that he did not want to give the impression that Engler was a god nor that this biography is a "puff job." Engler is, however, "an estimable man" who "has a remarkable ability to

When asked if he thought John Engler feels he accomplished all he wanted to while in office or could he have done more, Whitney said he thinks Engler looks back with a great deal of satisfaction, especially given the condition of the state when he came into office. People at that time thought he would not succeed as governor, sort of like what Churchill said about Dullas, some thought "he was a bull who carries a China shop around with him." But Engler, he said, proved himself a leader and handled the job admirably.

Gleaves Whitney was speechwriter for Governor Engler. He is currently completing a Ph.D. in European intellectual history at the University of Michigan.

The DARTA Bill was designed to create a Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority.

John Engler: The Man, the Leader & the Legacy

By Gleaves Whitney Chelsea, Michigan: Sleeping Bear Press, 2002; 421 pp. \$24.95

This MPHS News book review presents excerpts' from Gleaves Whitney's authorized biography of Governor John Engler (see related story covering booktalk event, this issue). Whitney describes his compilation as a "documentary biography." Although it covers Engler's life from his birth through his years as Michigan's governor, the book is not in narrative form. Instead, along with Whitney's commentary and analyses, the book contains excerpts from oral interviews with people who have interacted with Engler—Republicans, Democrats, liberals, conservatives, family, and friends-"a distinguished and diverse lot," says Whitney. Other sources include John Engler's private papers, contemporary newspaper articles, editorials, letters, and book passages.

The book is divided in to three parts: Part 1, "Years of Preparation: 1948–1990;" Part II, "Governor: 1991–2002;" and Part III, "What Kind of Legacy?" The chapters in part one deal with his early life and his legislative and senate careers. Chapters in part two cover his governorship. The last part contains interviews with supporters, opponents, journalists and analysts. The use of headings, sub-headings, and names listed above quotes, makes the book easy to skim. However, there is no index, making it a bit difficult to pinpoint a specific reference to a person or an event.

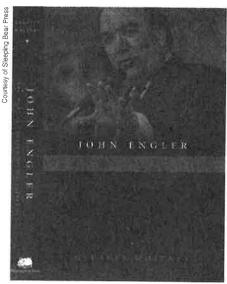
The book also contains photographs of Engler's public and private life, several of him as a child. For the readers' convenience, a Who's Who section lists 107 "frequently encountered names" from the book. Roughly two-thirds of those listed are Republicans who have worked closely with Engler. Family, journalists, Democrats, and educators make up the other third.

This first excerpt comes from the introduction to the book. In it, Whitney attempts to encapsulate an image of Engler. "Who is John Engler?" he asks. During his researching and interviewing, he found three different perceptions of the governor: Some perceive of Engler as sympathetic. Known as "Governor John" to his supporters, he was "the most effective chief executive in Michigan history." Others perceive of him as "a calculating political machine," a "King John," consumed with desire for power. The third group knows him privately and intimately. These people perceive of him as generous, thoughtful, devoutly Catholic, and fiercely loyal to friends.

From the Introduction

Three distinctly different views of John Engler—is there an "image problem" here? In one sense, not at all. Engler has won 20 races straight in a very tough state. He has one of the best electoral records in the U.S.; most pols would die to have such an unbroken record of success. How can a guy who has never lost an election have an image problem?

... And yet-and yet-there is an image problem. Engler is a public man with a public record going back more than three decades. People close to him are dismayed by what political opponents, reporters, and editorial writers have said on the record. One top aide (formerly a political operative on the East Coast) opined that there is not another major American political leader today for whom the "disconnect" between perception and reality yawns so large. "There are many paradoxes surrounding John Engler," this aide said. "Maybe the biggest paradox of all is that the most public man in the state is the most private man in the state. People just don't know who he is. That has sometimes made it hard to sell his politics." (14)



The book's cover.

From "The Campaign That Launched a Career: 1970"

Agnes Engler [commenting on her son's race for the a 1970 House seat, a seat his father Matt Engler lost to incumbent Russell Strange in 1968.]

One of the things John learned from Matt's race was this: If you're the underdog, do not attract attention to yourself too early. He remembered how his father would have won if that third candidate [Lloyd Walker] had not also entered the race. So John decided to keep a low profile until the last minute. He turned in his forms to the Secretary of State just 15 minutes before the filing deadline.

Russ Strange was also there, at the very same time, and John later said Strange's hand was shaking so bad he could hardly sign his name. He knew he was in trouble because Matt's son was taking him on.

I told Matt, "You know, I think John's going to win."

Matt said, "He's too young."

"Matt, he's *going* to win." He was working so hard—I just knew that he was bound and determined to win. (49)

From "Senate Majority Leader, 1984–1990"

Jeff McAlvey [McAlvey was on Engler's senate staff and legislative director in the Engler administration.]

In early 1984, when I was offered a job in Engler's office, a woman who was a friend and staff member in the legislature called me and said, 'I hear you are

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John Engler Continued from page 5

considering working for John Engler. Don't do it. Nobody can work for him. He's a tyrant. Don't do this to your family."

I did not take her advice. I worked for John Engler for 14 years. He is a political genius, he is my mentor, and he has taught me just about everything I know about politics. (94–95)

Lucille Taylor [Taylor was on the Michigan House and senate staff, was director of the governor's legal department and wife of Cliff Taylor, who was himself an attorney, a supreme court justice, and long-time friend of Engler.]

During the years that John Engler was Senate majority leader, we had a Democratic governor, a Democratic House, and a Republican Senate. It was a difficult situation for a Republican leader to be in. The role of the Senate leader was twofold. It was the leader's job to inject some Republican or conservative ideas into the larger framework. But he also had to deal with 18 Democrats. This is where John Engler's knowledge of the rules, his wonderful negotiating skills, and his ability to build up the party were really honed. He could not afford to make a mistake. He had not one vote to spare. (97)

Gary Owen [Democratic Speaker of the Michigan House from 1982–1988, when Engler was minority and then majority leader.]

John Engler was not conservative. He was not ideological. He was not dogmatic. He was not guided by philosophical principles. Or, to put it another way, his philosophy would change depending on his constituency. (100)

From "Democrats and Opponents" Frank Kelley [Michigan's attorney

Write for the News

For detailed information on submissions, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the editor, Delores Rauscher, 412 Marshall St., East Lansing MI 48823. If you prefer, send an e-mail to the editor at rausche5@msu.edu, and she will send you the guidelines as an attachment.

general from 1961–1998, a Democrat, and the longest-serving attorney general in the United States.]

John Engler was a very strong governor. He used the office and its powers to the maximum. He was adroit at knowing what he could do politically. He completely understood government, having been in the legislature for 20 years. And he was the first governor to fully use the executive powers given to the office by the Constitution of 1963.

Because of his knowledge, experience, and courage, he had some remarkable successes in accomplishing his agenda. (377)

Lana Pollack [Democratic state senator, 1983–1994.]

I think John Engler lacks soul. While he compensates brilliantly with his political agility, and has been recognized for his support of the arts, I doubt that he has the capacity to be moved by nature or human artistic creativity. His prodigious political accomplishments are achieved without ever really connecting to the God-given beauty of this splendid state or to the souls of the people who live here. Life for John Engler must be seen through some amazing three-dimensional chessboard with every element a potential political move, and none of them a reflection of nature's grace. (380)

Carolyn Stieber [Engler's political science professor from Michigan State University, for whose class Engler wrote a term paper in 1970 outlining how a challenger could unseat Republican incumbent Russell Strange of Michigan's 100th representative district, the House seat the twenty-two-year-old Engler, himself, won that year.]

I am a Democrat. I did not vote for John when he ran for governor. However, in the last election, I could not bring myself to vote for Fieger either, so I suppose my not voting for the Democrat was a vote for John. I have by no means agreed with everything John has done. But if I had to grade his 32 years in government, I would give him an "A." (385)

From "Journalists and Analysts"

David Broder [Washington Post,
"Conservative leaves progressive legacy: Michigan

governor led school finance reform seen as model of equity, innovation," July 28, 2002.]

As John Engler approaches the end of his 12 years as governor of Michigan, the great paradox is that this Republican, described by both friend and foe as the most conservative governor in a half-century, should leave as the centerpiece of his legacy a progressive reform in school finance that has become a national model of equity and innovation.

Interviews with Democrats and Republicans here confirm that Engler, who just stepped down as chairman of the National Governors Association and leaves office at the end of the year, also has, like his hero Ronald Reagan, set a model of strong executive leadership his successor may find it difficult to match . . . [Whitney's ellipses].

That leadership has helped reshape the Michigan economy from its dependence on the auto industry to a much more diverse and growing mix, and it has brought significant change—much of it still controversial—in urban, welfare, and environmental policies. (387)

Matt Davis [Detroit Free Press reporter. Covered Engler in 1994 and 1995.]

John Engler is not a slap-you-on-the-back, press-the-flesh, glad-handing politician. He keeps his personal life and even his personality private. During the time I covered him, he only joked with me once, and then with such sarcasm that I thought he was being serious. I didn't get the dry humor. . . . [Whitney's ellipses].

He has such a profound grasp of issues that he can speak with authority. There is nothing anybody on earth can tell John Engler about Michigan government that he doesn't already know. (397)

From "Republicans and Supporters"

Dan Pero [Campaign manager 1990–1994, and longtime friend of John Engler.]

In Michigan, John is the tide upon which all Republican ships have risen. He gained control of the Senate. We have control of the House of Representatives. And we have control of the Supreme Court. He's a living legacy. (408)

Members discuss several issues at annual meeting

Society President Barbara Sawyer-Koch welcomed a sizable group to the MPHS annual membership meeting, called to order at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, March 22, 2003, at the Michigan State Medical Society Building, East Lansing. "This is one of the largest turn-outs we've had in some years," she commented. She gave the president's report, overviewing the MPHS sponsored events.

During the past year the society has developed a promotional brochure for member recruitment; held a legislative staff reception in the Anderson Legislative Building; held a national election trends event featuring Mike Barone, cosponsored with MSU Museum Development Council; co-sponsored with the Michigan Political Leadership Program a 2002 Election Wrap-up (250 attendees); and held a booktalk and book-signing

John Engler

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Paul Hillegonds [Republican Speaker, Co-speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives.]

John Engler will go down as one of Michigan's greatest governors. Of all the people I've worked with in politics, he is unique in a great way: he combines principles and pragmatism, he is strategic and the master of detail. It is such a rare combination. (418)

*Gleaves Whitney worked with Governor John Engler for eleven years, as chief speechwriter and historian. He served on a 1993 task force, which brought about Michigan education and school finance reforms. He is also author of American Presidents: Farewell Messages To The Nation, 1796-2000, edited, 2003 and Colorado Front Range: A Landscape Divided, 1983. He is currently working on a book Wartime Addresses of American Presidents, published by Rowman & Littlefield, due out later this year.

**Permission to quote excerpts granted by the publisher, Sleeping Bear Press, and the author. featuring author Gleaves Whitney discussing John Engler: The Man, the leader, & the Legacy.

David Murley gave the secretary-treasurer's report, noting that the society's biggest expenses are the production of the newsletter and creating the oral history videos. Kevin Kelly proposed that the organization consider seeking sponsorship of the newsletter.

Kelly gave the membership report, reporting that the organization has, at last count, 346 members. Ways to attract new members, especially new members of the legislature, were considered.

Barbara Sawyer-Koch noted that Delores Rauscher will no longer edit the newsletter after the spring issue and that Mary Anne Ford will take over as editor. Sawyer-Koch and Peter Kuhnmuench offered their praise and expressed their appreciation for Rauscher's work on the newsletter.

Delores Rauscher reported on the newsletter. She outlined possible articles for the upcoming newsletters. She suggested that the organization keep an index of newsletter articles so that future editors and researchers can easily locate past articles. She also suggested that the organization keep a record of its photo holdings.

Emil Lockwood

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Bill Ballenger, who reviewed the manuscript, commented: "I take my hat off to you. . . . It provides a lot of insight into legislative leadership that I don't think anybody would ever really know about, or see or understand, if it wasn't for you."

Co-author Stan Fedewa covered the legislature for the Michigan Catholic Conference, served as chief of staff for both Speakers Ryan and Crim, and headed up Governor Blanchard's legislative efforts. Co-author Marilyn Fedewa spent ten years at MSU in supervisory positions within the Development Office and served as Vice President of Olivet College. The authors now manage Cambridge Connections, a writing and consulting firm in Lansing.

Officers and board members were then nominated and elected by acclamation: President, Barbara Sawyer-Koch; Vice-President, Kevin Kelly; and Secretary-Treasurer, David Murley.

Board members elected, with positions expiring in 2006: Carol Conn, Kevin Kelly, David Murley, Sharman Moore, John J. H. Schwarz, Roberta Stanley, and Monica Zuchowski.

Standing committees were appointed for proposed activities and functions, including events, oral histories, membership drives, and newsletter publication. Several oral histories were reported to be in the works. Among the proposed topics discussed were a Democratic Primary Event, Veteran Feminists of the 1970s, A History of the Michigan Supreme Court, The Recalls of 1983, and A History of Busing in Michigan. Some members expressed concern that the Recall issue should be handled with the greatest sensitivity. Kevin Kelly proposed that the event focus on historical facts and be viewed as a "civic lesson."

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



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Join MPHS!

For membership information contact Joyce Crum, at (517) 336-5742.

Legendary Senate Majority Leader Emil Lockwood to be honored at event

Emil Lockwood, Michigan's legendary Republican Senate Majority Leader (1967 to 1970) and pioneer multi-client lobbyist in the 1970s, will be honored at a special MPHS book-signing event on June 9. On hand to guide the audience through Lockwood's multi-faceted political and entrepreneurial life will

be Stan and Marilyn Fedewa, co-authors of Man In Motion: Michigan's Legendary Senate Majority Leader Emil Lockwood.

This official biography, relying on a treasure trove of Lockwood's personal



Emil Lockwood.

files, picture albums, and newspaper clips, as well as extensive interviews by the authors, took over a year and a half to research and write. It chronicles
Lockwood's colorful life from small town Illinois, through his perilous WW II service in the South Pacific, his rise to success as an entrepreneur, community leader, Senate Majority
Leader—and never to be forgotten in the Michigan

Capitol—a popular and gifted lobbyist for a host of blue ribbon clients. Lockwood was able to review a close-to-final draft before he died last year.

Lockwood presided over the Senate in the turbulent late 1960s. He provided

BOOK-SIGNING EVENT

Stan and Marilyn Fedewa offering signed copies of *Man In Motion:*Michigan's Legendary Senate Majority Leader Emil Lockwood

Monday, June 9, 2003

Michigan Catholic Conference, 510 South Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 5:30 p.m.

the leadership to pass such landmarks as the Michigan income tax law that finally put the state on firm fiscal footing. He also spearheaded passage of the Open Housing Law which was the first state law to address the civil rights inequities highlighted by the city riots of 1967.

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