



THE DETERIORATING CONDITION of the state capitol in Springfield has caused some wags to suggest that it someday may collapse under the weight of oratory.



Mrs. Cleveland Others have speculated that the combined weight of the coats of all the lobbyists who descend on the statehouse might bring the building tumbling down.

Signs of deterioration pop up frequently. A marble step will suddenly crumble. Once, a whole stairway had to be replaced. Air-conditioning strains the electrical system of the 19th Century building, making the elevators cranky. Frustrated legislators have found themselves imprisoned between floors while on their way to important committee meetings. Members of the executive branch and newsmen have been similarly booby-trapped.

About two years ago, the secretary of state's office, which maintains the building, hired a team of architects to rehabilitate the structure. The architects began a thus-far fruitless search for the original plans, which they hope might provide the answer to some of the mysteries of the capitol construction.

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION began in 1867, but was stopped the same year when the appropriation for the work ran out. Not till eight years later did the voters approve the additional million dollars needed to complete the project. But then, the original architect had died. A new one was appointed and the building eventually was completed—21 years after construction began.

Built in the shape of a Roman cross, the capitol undoubtedly is a handsome building, but its age has made the present structural survey necessary. Lacking the original plans, the architects are clambering over the building photographing and blue-printing as they go along. They had high hopes that the plans might be found in a box sunk in the capitol cornerstone Oct. 5, 1868.

When the box was opened recently, 79 items were found. There were newspapers, legal tomes, histories of Lincoln and Douglas, coins, the works of a watch, and even a silver and leather covered flask of "pure spirits of Illinois" that the inscription said had been distilled expressly for Abraham Lincoln. But no plans.

To Sen. W. Russell Arrington (R) of Evanston, Sen. Robert Coulson (R) of Waukegan, and Rep. Harold Katz (D) of Glencoe, however, the most interesting item found in the box was the copy of an 1867 manual containing the rules of the 25th General Assembly.

All three men are serving on the Commission on the Organization of the General Assembly, which has been studying ways to modernize and improve Illinois legislative procedures.

"THE RULES, IN MANY RESPECTS, proved to be surprisingly modern," Rep. Katz said. "There was a provision in the rules then for joint committees of the House and Senate—something that has been abandoned largely here, but now is a new idea throughout the nation.

"The lineage of the present rules is there," Rep. Katz said, "as are many of the same traditions. For instance, there's one that says no member shall name another member present in debate. And even today, we would not refer to Sen. Coulson, but to 'the gentleman from Lake County.'"

While the cornerstone opening proved of historical interest to the Katz commission, it failed to help those concerned about the capitol itself.

Sen. Arrington is a member of the Legislative Space Commission, which originally was going to try to find room for much-needed additional office space in the capitol itself. Now the commission is considering recommending construction of a new legislative office building. One proposal suggests that the present building be preserved as a historic monument and used for large committee hearings.

Whatever its fate, the old capitol always will contain two intriguing reminders of romance contained on two cards found in one of the law books in the cornerstone box.

One card, dated Oct. 3, 1868, reads, "to the best looking man in the crowd;" the other, "Dearest, meet me at the gate. Yours—"

Here's What County Voters Will Face in Nov. 8 Election

Voting has come a long way since the days of the town meeting when everyone gathered in the meeting hall and raised their hands to elect the village blacksmith town crier.

Cook County voters will be greeted Nov. 8 by the completely dehumanized voting machine.

If they wish to vote a straight ballot, they may pull one lever and cast their votes for a total of 40 candidates. If they wish to vote a split ticket, they have two choices.

They may pull the party lever at the top of the machine as if they were going to vote a straight ballot, then lift individual levers for candidates from the other party. Or, they may lift the individual levers for all 40 candidates.

They may vote for a write-in candidate by pushing to the right a release lever (located between rows 13 and 14) to open slides next to the office. The voter should write the name of the candidate on the white paper beneath the slide.

Twenty offices and the banking amendment to the state constitution will appear on the machine ballot.

The offices, in the order which they will appear, are:

- U. S. Senator
- State treasurer
- Superintendent of public instruction
- Trustees of the University of Illinois (elect 3)
- U.S. Representative
- State senator
- State representative (elect 3)
- Judge of the Illinois Supreme Court (to fill a vacancy, term expires in 1974)
- Judge of the Illinois Supreme Court (to fill a vacancy, term expires in 1970)
- County clerk
- County assessor
- County sheriff
- County treasurer
- County superintendent of schools.
- President of the county board of commissioners.
- County commissioners from towns outside of Chicago (elect 5)
- Trustee of the Metropolitan Sanitary District (elect 3)

—Trustee of the Metropolitan Sanitary District (to fill vacancy)

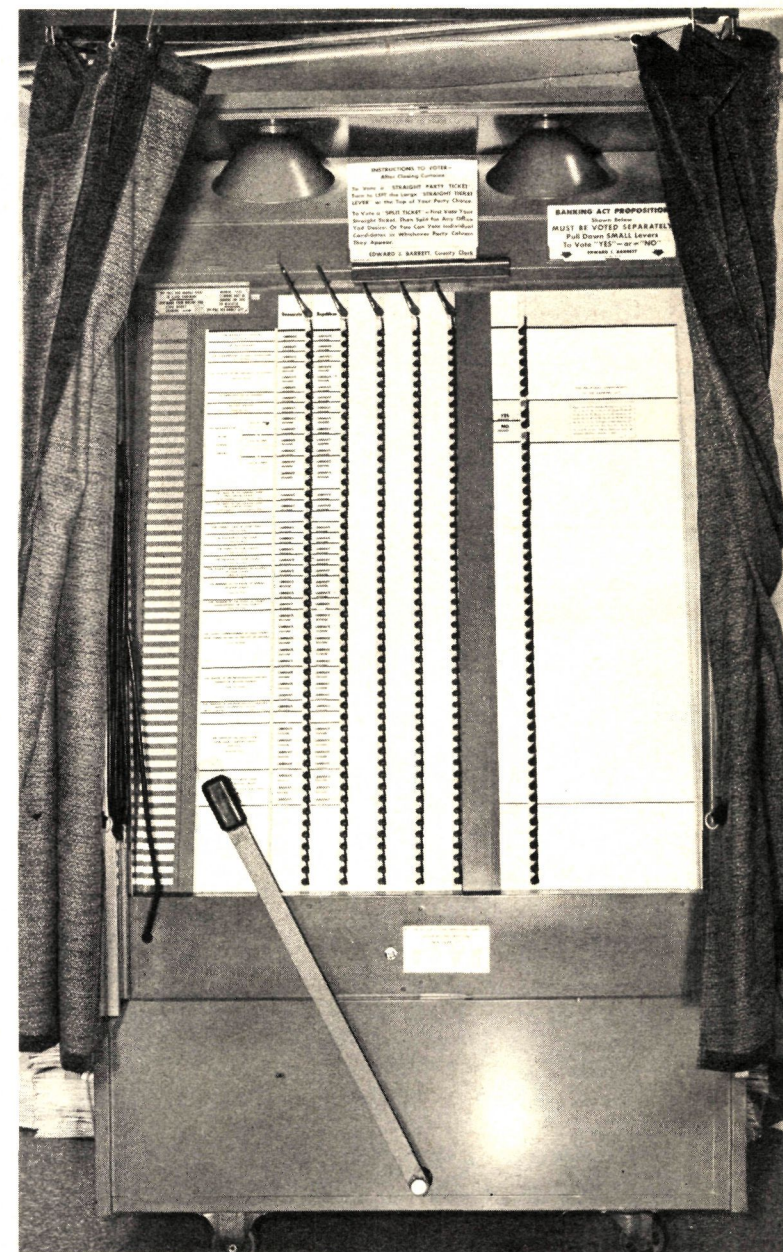
—Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court (elect 4)

—Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court (elect 3 to fill vacancies, terms expire in 1970)

The banking amendment to the

constitution will appear in the upper right-hand corner of the voting machine.

The revenue amendment and the amendment to allow county sheriffs and treasurers to succeed themselves will appear on a separate blue ballot which must be marked by hand.



This is the kind of voting machine that will be used by suburban voters Nov. 8. The machine ballot includes the names of 80 candidates for 40 national, state, and local offices, and the proposed banking amendment to the Illinois constitution. Two other amendments to the constitution will appear on a separate blue ballot, which must be marked by hand. (Lawrence-Phillip Studio Photo)

Glencoe Judge Criticizes Youth Plan

By MELINDA UPP

Juvenile court decentralization is vital, but the plan being studied by the Evanston Youth Commission goes too far. This was the opinion expressed at last Thursday's Glencoe Village Board meeting by Judge Joseph Schneider of Glencoe, one of those who helped draft Illinois' new juvenile court act.

Judge Schneider said that the Evanston plan, which calls for a juvenile court to serve Evanston, New Trier, Northfield, Niles, and Wheeling townships, would be economically and functionally impractical.

Favors Other Plan

He said that he favors instead the plan proposed by the Citizens Committee on the Juvenile Court, a permanent advisory body to Circuit Court judges.

The committee's plan, based on

the recommendation of a 1963 study by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, calls for two new district court facilities—one for all of the northern suburbs and one for all of the southern suburbs.

The existing court building and Audy Home would serve the care of Chicago and the western suburbs during an interim period, and eventually would be replaced by two additional new facilities.

Judge Schneider said that this sort of division would provide all the benefits of decentralization and ensure a large enough case load to warrant adequate staffing.

"The five townships in the Evanston proposal refer about 300 cases a year to the juvenile court—this is only one-sixth of the total juvenile case load," he said. "Should we have 59 other juvenile courts throughout the county so

that each area would have this select service?"

He explained that in order to operate with maximum efficiency, a juvenile court should have at least one full-time judge and the services of psychiatrists, social workers, and doctors.

Cites Problem

"A part-time or circuit-riding judge is bound to split his loyalties between his duties—and he loses much valuable time on the road between courts," Judge Schneider said.

He conceded that if better facilities were available, local police departments might refer more than the 300 cases to the juvenile court proposed by the Evanston group.

"However, I do not believe that our police hesitate to refer many juveniles to the Audy Home just because it is 25 miles away."