VOTERS FOUND

Those missing voters in Greene County we wrote about in the April edition of Sherrod Brown Reporting have been found, and one of them was qualified to vote in Tuesday's presidential Primary Election under the federal Overseas Voting Rights Act.

The voters, Paul and Mary Bogaard, were located by Betty Kubik, an enterprising reporter from the Xenia Bureau of Dayton Newspapers. The Bogaards, U.S. citizens who live in Canada, are staying temporarily with a relative in Greene County.

In a letter to me, Mrs. Bogaard wrote: "My husband Paul and I are very impressed by and grateful for the extra effort put forth by the Secretary of State's staff and, we gather, by you personally to increase voter registration.

"Because of an article concerning your campaign in this area, we were encouraged to find out if we were still qualified to vote absentee. It turns out that we may vote, and we are very glad to do so. We are permanent residents of Canada."

The federal law permits citizens residing outside the U.S. to register and vote in the state where they last lived even if they don't intend to return to this country.

Juanita Gleadall, director of the Greene County Board of Elections, reports that Mary Bogaard was issued an absentee ballot. Her husband chose to vote in another state.

I am pleased to have Mrs. Bogaard on Ohio's voting rolls, demonstrating why I believe that every vote counts in every election.

A happy footnote to the story: It turned out that Mrs. Bogaard and Mrs. Gleadall formerly were back-fence neighbors in Beavercreek, Mrs. Bogaard's hometown. They hadn't seen each other in years. "It really is a small world," Mrs. Gleadall said.

SEVENTEEN-YEAR OLD VOTERS

A 17-year old voter who will be 18 on or before the November 6 general election may vote for all party candidates on the Primary Election ballot. This includes candidates for election to the party's state and central committees. (See Ohio Revised Code 3503.011).

The Primary Election is defined in Revised Code 3501.01E as an election held for nominating party candidates and electing members of party controlling committees and delegates and alternates to party conventions.

Since questions and issues are not a part of the Primary Election ballot, 17-year olds may not vote on any issues.